

Camp Monroeville, O.

Sep. 12, 62

Dear bro.

It is with much pleasure that I for the first time in my life, embrace the opportunity in a regular camp to write a letter and it affords me much pleasure to know that I have affectionates which I have left behind at home who I trust are anxious to hear from me, though I can not promise much of a letter for I am sitting with my heels on a level with my body, up here in the second bedding of our barracks, and my paper on my portfolio, and the noise in our barracks is hard to be smothered by the beating of the drums in the next barracks. However I will attempt one at any rate.

We arrived at Clyde in due time after leaving Tiffin. Here we were detained about two hours until the train came from the west. This train had a number of cars in front filled with swine and next came sheep and next freight and next "soldiers". From Tiffin to Clyde we rode in and on grain cars, but when we came to Clyde we got aboard passenger cars, well cushioned. This went considerable better. I have no fault with any part of the ride except that it was too short. We arrived here about 4 P.M., marched to our barracks and "broke ranks". We had a pretty jolly time coming down. A large cheese was put in our car at Tiffin. We did not go far until we concluded to taste it. Accordingly, we "charged bayonets" and demolished it. At Clyde we were treated to apples and peaches. Good for Clyde.

We got no dinner yesterday and a late supper. We were marched up to town to the "Rail Road House" for supper, marched back again to our camp for the night's quarters. Marched through the rain coming back. It rained a gentle shower here last night, settling the dust. Took breakfast same as supper. It is about diner time but what the arrangements are for the future, I don't know. There are six cos. in camp now and all except one I believe, board the same as we. We have patient times in waiting for our grub.

I have had a chat with Lieut. Caldwell. I have seen Boyer, Kirkwood and Ambrose boys. Also our Col. Wilson. I don't like his looks. Our Q. M., Mr. Brown, is very busy now. Boxes upon boxes are piled up at the Q. M. Office. They contain haversacks, blouses, &c, &c. The boys all appear to enjoy themselves well. I enjoy myself better here than at Camp Noble. We drill from 5 to 6, 9 to 10 a.m., 4 to 5. At 9:15 P.M. all lights are to be put out and all quiet. I can not tell the extent to which this was violated last night. I was to sleep too soon. No card playing is to be allowed either, but I have been sufficiently convinced this forenoon that orders are not obeyed in all respects.

We have returned from dinner and I will now attempt a description of our new home. Our camp is about a mile from our boarding house, in a large field somewhat rolling. Our barracks are houses of pine lumber about 12 feet from ground to eaves, covered with boards slanting as other roofs. The houses are about 20 ft. wide and 25 long. On the inside about 4 feet and also about 8 feet from the ground are boxes, similar to a fruit box in a cellar, about 4 feet wide. These are on both sides and make one barrack hold 32 persons. Each company has three barracks. Our company reported 117 for dinner today. There are 33 barracks in 11 rows and besides each co. has an officers' barracks and then there is the Quarter Masters office and the sutler's store besides.

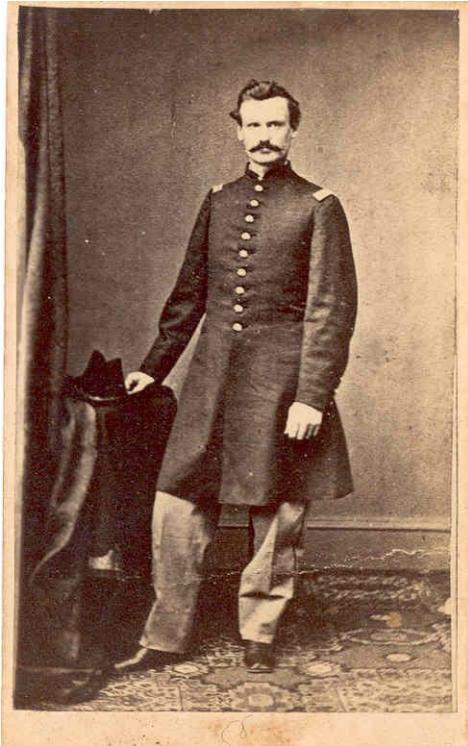
I forgot to say that our "bed and board" consists of the soft side of pine planks. Two or three persons lie together, laying one or two blankets down on the floor and then we [lay] on that and one or two blankets on us. I slept comfortable enough however. We pull off our boots and coats and take a coat or carpet sack for a pillow. There is a great deal of merriment in camp.

A goodly number of ladies are visiting us to day, but they are all strangers to me and consequently my heart don't pant after them much, no not any at all. The Rev. Mr. Swartz came down and will remain with us over Sunday. The surgical examination is now going on. Our company is not in yet. I presume we will be mustered in in a few days.

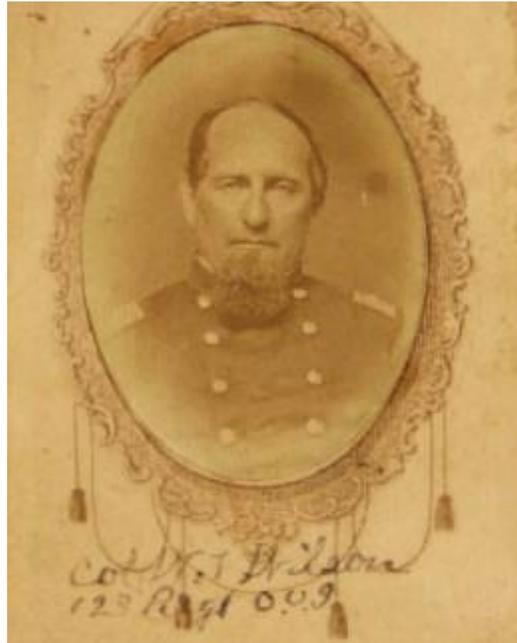
For this time I must close.

Yours most sincerely,
A. Powell

To the relatives at home
Reply immediately



Lieutenant David S. Caldwell



Colonel William T. Wilson

Camp Monroeville Huron Co. O
Saturday Sept. 13th 1862

Dear Sir:

This forenoon our company underwent its surgical examinations. Twenty two of our men were discharged. Some were disabled. Some consumptive. Some too small and some I nor no body else knows what. This examination was a little like that in Seneca and did not give universal satisfaction. Of the discharged, some were very much tickled over it, but a few appear to be [angry about it.] Our company now numbers 91 so we can pass any how. Daniel Rhodes appears to be a little sorry that he was not among the discharged. The examinations took until noon. This after noon we drilled as usual and this evening we received our army blankets. They are a heavy coarse blanket. We are very well satisfied with them.

Late evening. Ben Reeme is now in camp. He reports that Rexes boys went to Cincinnati this morning. Good for them once.

Monday Sept. 15th. I will now report yesterday's proceedings. Fell in ranks at 5 o'clock a.m. and marched up to town to breakfast and returned as usual. All the work we were required to do was to clean up around our barracks as we must every morning. Nearly all dressed, washed, fixed up a little for Sunday. At half past 10 o'clock we fell in ranks and marched out on the drill ground to attend Divine service. Rev. Andrew Swartz of Carey, circuit Evangelical Association, conducted them. He preached an excellent sermon to an attentive congregation. Marched up to dinner and returned to camp as usual. 4 o'clock P.M. we were marched out to hear a war speech by Rev. H. Farris. It too was excellent. Went to supper, returned and spent a great part of the time in talking with friends. Among the rest is Jacob Ditto. There was prayer meeting in the evening some six or seven barracks worth of men, but I did not know it until this morning. I heard singing in that direction but singing is not uncommon. There is so much noise of various kinds that there is no telling what is going on. In order to rightly satisfy yourself of how this is, you will have to come and see. This afternoon (Sunday) Levi Keller, esq. & wife, Hiram Hart & wife came in to camp and brought with them several baskets of dainties for their sons. They met a hearty welcome among the soldiers as does every body that comes here to see their friends. Levi Keller jr. is rather unwell. These folks staid up in Monroeville at night. Proceedings of today, Monday. Those folks are in camp again this morning but they leave again for home. Their advise to their sons is good, namely to refrain from card playing &c, &c. Allow me to say they found and left the boys in very good spirits. David Leaky and many other visitors were here yesterday but today most all are gone home. Today our guns and cooking utensils are come in camp. The boxes are piled up in front of the Quartermaster office as if a wholesale store was to open there. This afternoon several companies rec'd their guns. These guns are of the Austrian manufacture. They look dangerous with their bayonets on. Our captain went home yesterday and has not yet arrived and the captains are responsible for all these things until we are mustered in, so we have not yet got ours, nothing at all, except our blankets. The Rev. H. Farris spoke to us at 11 o'clock a.m. today on war matters. It was very stirring though brief. He as well as Rev. A. Swartz, is applying for chaplaincy. F is a Methodist minister residing in Crestline, Ohio. He said we should [do to] the rebels what paddy did the drums, "a thump every jump".

Tuesday Sept. 16th Our captain and H. Yerk returned this morning. Today noon, 1st Lieut. & A. Vogle went to Tiffin to recruit nine men for our company, the capt. got one. Look out for "recruiting officers" now. Our company officers are all chosen. John Reynolds is a corporal. This office compares to that of road supervisor. Philip Wall is a corporal, also.

Wednesday Sept. 17th Our recruiting officers did not leave till this morning and they took several others with them. Matthew Ulman is one of them. If you can send down a gum or oil blanket with him or any one else, to make it safe, you will oblige me, providing you can get them at a reasonable price, say \$2.00 for oil and \$3.00 for gum. (I prefer an oil one). Perhaps you can see Matt and send with him. I did not get to talk to him about it before he left. Or perhaps some of you Seneca friends (I mean any of my acquaintances) will come down soon and that will do as well, just so I get one before we get out of their reach. Lang* said when we were in Tiffin, he thought he could get them forwarded here for us, but Lang, you know, is not Col. any more and its look out for No. 1 yourself now. Wilson appears to be a bass wood colonel. We do not know any thing more about our departure from here now than when we came here. The boys are anxious for the officers to come around. I mean mustering officers and pay master, the latter is wanted

badly. The boys are all in fine spirits. I was up stairs at breakfast to see Louis Sloan. He is laying with the flux, though he was much better this morning. We board at the hotel yet, but sleep in our barracks. We sleep on "government (straw) feathers" now, in addition to our blankets. We drill in company from 5 to 6 o'clock a.m., 2 to 3 P.M., squad drill from 8 to 9 a.m., 4 to 5 P.M. We have good boarding. Five companies board at the same tavern. One or two companies have left here and went to Norwalk, five miles east, because they could not get boarding here to suit. So you see there was no urgent necessity for our co. to come here, but I am well satisfied with the change. There are seven cos. quartered here now. Capt. Kirkwood and Lieut. Caldwell went home to day to recruit, I suppose. We have the news that the rebels are advancing toward Cincinnati again and chasing our pickets. I expect the rebels won't leave there until the 123rd shows them its glittering bayonets. Well, we are ready to do our part in a short notice.

Mrs. Rhodes is in camp today. She came down at Davis' request as sent her in two letters written by myself.

I close in great haste as we have but a few minutes spare time before supper and mail.

Yours truly
Andrew Powell

***Judge William Lang of Tiffin was instrumental in raising the 123rd Regiment and was promised the colonelcy by Gov. David Todd. However, being a Democrat, some were unsure of his loyalties to the Union. A behind-the-scenes political scheme played out with Gov. Todd appointing William T. Wilson as colonel over Judge Lang.**

Camp Monroeville Ohio
Friday Sept. 19th 1862

Affectionate Bro. I.

I will resume my daily chronicle of events.

Yesterday morning I came among the detailed guard for the first time in Camp Monroeville. I had to report at the guard house at 8 o'clock a.m. The mail comes at 9 a.m. Wm. Bower came up to the guard house bringing me a letter.

With a gladdened and anxious heart, I received this first letter from home and with my Austrian rifled musket, with bayonet pointing southward, and gun leaning against my shoulder, I read your lengthy, interesting, and expected letter. I was very glad to learn the intelligence you have to communicate and several points deserve and shall receive my attention. First and greatest, your resolution on the day of my enlistment. That was one of the best resolutions, if executed, that you ever made, to my knowledge. My hearty advice is to carry out the resolution. It is just what I meant to advise you before I left but neglected it. You will find that to carry out this resolution you will have to face the storm and tide more than once, but be not discouraged. This is your duty to do, to do all in your power to make the declining days of your parents as well as your self and friends. But you will be well rewarded for performing this urgent duty. I pledge you my word for this. For the reason perhaps as much as any other, I was as hesitating in joining the army as I was. I dreaded very much to leave those parents which I know, and feel perfectly satisfied, done all, or nearly so, in their power to make me comfortable and happy. They subjected themselves to a great many inconveniences and took many things upon themselves what I know many other parents did not do for their children. My parents have always been very kind to me and I thank God for it. I do not forget them. I can not forget such a kind and good father and as

affectionate pious mother as I have. They are, shall I say, the uppermost in my heart and affections. Yes, allow me to say so. If words would suffice to express my gratitude and affection for them, I would try and fill several sheets on this very subject, but I am compelled to leave this subject almost as untouched as I began it.

I have said this much to tell you by way of encouragement that you have the same parents I have and I trust if you do your part as well as you can, you will find them the same as I have found them. This is saying much. It is promising you very much indeed and allow me to encourage you to do your part in its fullest sense. Show them every possible kindness, take them to the house of divine worship as often as they request. Be an obedient son, and the Lord will prosper you. May His blessing rest upon you.

You seem to think that you might have learned more if you had observed more previous to my departure. This is not an erroneous idea perhaps, yet as you are now "main mast" at home and have the resolution you have and also the mind you possess to practice your resolutions, together with that firm will and inventive genius, and a mind of discretion and judgment which you have, I think will enable you to succeed admirably. I hope and expect to hear such reports from you. Allow me to advise you to take advice in any thing from any body. Remember this through life.

I am very sorry to learn of the ill welfare of any of our good old neighbors, yet sickness in any of its forms, however dreaded, is not always to be avoided. I hope to learn of the speedy recovery of Aunt Betsey for my heart still yearns for the welfare of the friends of mine which have shown me such kindness in by gone days.

I am somewhat surprised at the domestic quarrel which you chronicle. May it result in much good. I spose Caroline put in her hand in order to practice and be skilled in the art, just previous to entering the married state. She and her husband came down on the same car Mrs. Rhodes did last Tuesday.

Perhaps this is a very design in not getting more ran at his needed time. Who will live to such a design? I hope you will keep me well posted on the events of importance in your community, especially in the religious and domestic times. Of course I want to know about the social, general and miscellaneous goings on that transpire, especially if I have any connections there with. In short I want to know any and every thing of interest to me what transpires. And in asking this of you, I promise to do the same for you. Whenever there is any thing you want to know of me, any thing whatever, just let me know what it is and I will oblige you to the best of my ability.

Israel, my papers, books, etc., I commit in your care. You know where to find them and how to keep them. My valuable papers are in my little box upstairs, locked up. You will find the key in the big box. Samuel's note for \$70 is in my old purse. I forgot to fix these things all right before I left, but you will please see to them. The war news is very encouraging now as we have them. There are a lot of daily papers taken in camp, and all especial news is brought to us by outsiders also. We too heard the report you mention of Stonewall Jackson. It was announced to several companies of us at the tavern on Monday eve at supper by Rev. Mr. Farris who lectured to us twice, and at the announcement, three cheers of the very heartiest kind was given, but it was thought too good news to be true, as it has since proved, but I hope that even better things than this will be true in six months hence. McClellan appears to be awake once in his life. Abe appears to be getting angry at the Rebels and good things are expected soon.

I intended to address this letter to the friends and make a daily chronicle of it, but I digressed from that, and direct this general import of it to you.

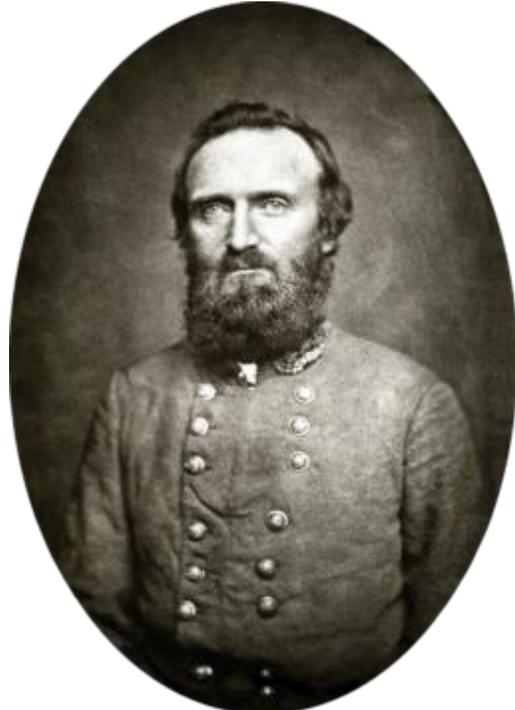
I remain you sincere bro.

A. Powell

To I. Powell



Gen. George B. McClellan



Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Camp Monroeville O.
Sept. 20th 1862

My dear friends,

I will try this afternoon to chronicle the events of the several past days. I will try and be interesting and leave you to judge of the success.

Thursday, Sept. 18th I stood guard. I had an easy and good place. We stand two hours on duty and four off. There are thirty beats. This requires ninety men for the three reliefs. They are formed in double rank, provided with guns and are marched to place of duty. Mine came in front of the Q. M.'s post and next the gate. Some kind hearted folks from a distance were on visit here and brought their dinners with them. They had some to spare and they shared with me to a piece of apple and another piece of peach pie and a good cake. As I feasted on these dainties at the hospitality of entire strangers, I was reminded of the good home I left and also the good things I left at home. Partaking of these good things while walking back and forth with gun and bayonet on my shoulder reminded me also of the days in which I carried the scythe, cradle, as well as the place at, and the purpose for which I carried them. Here the question spontaneously arises, will I ever re-exchange, and when? The Lord only knows. May a kind providence direct this as He sees fit and best. This I know, that the Lord doeth all things well and my trust is in His strong and able arm as much as ever.

I was not relieved from duty until Friday 8 o'clock a.m., so we all had to spend the night in the open air. I was on the third relief and had to stand on guard from 12 till 2 o'clock at night. The rest of the night we were at leisure, yet we had to remain at the guard house and lie out upon the ground. If you would throw a blanket upon the grass in your front yard, then two persons lie down and cover up with two more blankets, our head upon a

fence rail for a pillow, and soon get something a kin to the jumping tooth ache and then you would have about the same as I had Thursday night. I have been troubled considerable with the jaw ache occasioned by a hollow tooth and occasionally slightly troubled with the diarrhea, but when these subside I feel as content as I used to after a flea bite when at home. I counted the cost of all these things before I enlisted and we have to endure a great many hardships in order to come up to the standard of expectation. However, after the tooth ache subsided, I got to sleep and enjoyed a right comfortable sleep for the first time on the ground in the open air.

Yesterday about noon, the word came that we would have to get our dinner. Nothing was fixed. Every thing had to be brought from distance to fix up for hanging the kettles and tables. The provisions had to be brought from the Q. M.'s post and divided. Some had to do the cooking and the worst was we had only a few tools to work with, but by and by we ate our fixed up dinner. Since, it has been better. Yesterday noon then, we commenced boarding ourselves, and I prefer it to tavern board. We draw our rations now, but I can not tell what all they are yet. Several things I can mention, crackers, pickled pork from Cincinnati with fat on the ribs, about six inches thick. The ribs and lean part eats first rate. We draw sugar, rice, hominy, ground coffee, vinegar, pepper, potatoes, candles and soap. We draw more pork than we use. The surplus we will try and trade for butter and the like. Last week, peaches were plenty at two for a cent, peach pies nine cents a piece, but these are not to be had any more. Apples and apple pies have taken their place. We can get any thing almost we want at the sutler's, except strong drinks and cider. These are not allowed. The news was circulated that we were to be mustered in to day, and consequently, there are several hundred visitors in camp. There is an abundance of ladies here too. This is a little rare sight to us, as we are accustomed to see and be with men only, except for ten to twenty five are in here daily, but the number today far exceeds that and they are silked and feathered and ribboned up to tip top style so that they remind us of the gay around home and in Tiffin. There is also an extra band in camp today and their drums and fifes are in almost constant exercise. There was a sword presentation today to Capt. Kellogg, I believe. There are ten companies in camp now and about 30 recruits to the 55 Regt., so the place is somewhat lively now. I think we will be mustered in next Monday. Mr. Lang was down here and made a speech Thursday evening. The boys gave him three cheers. I was on guard. I did not hear him. He is not Col.

Monday morning 22nd inst. Yesterday Jno. Keller, Nelson Sams, Mrs. David Lectner and Emma Hart came down and they brought enough luxuries to give us all a good feast at dinner, supper, breakfast and more left. They brought roasted chickens, roasted ham, tomatoes, bread, butter, peach pies, apples, peaches, water melons, honey, etc., enough to accommodate 40 of us for three meals. We thank them very much.

We had preaching yesterday at 11 a.m. by Capt. Parmenter, at 4 P.M. by Lieut. Caldwell. Caldwell preached right well. We have no chaplain yet as I know of.

We can not tell when we will be mustered in nor when we leave here. Some of the officers think we will stay here three or four weeks yet. It depends upon the excitement when and where we will go.

I will send this letter to Tiffin by some of these friends who are returning today and I must hurry and close.

I remain your
Affectionate son and brother.

A. Powell

To my friends
Direct A. Powell

Camp Monroeville, O.
Co. D 123rd Regt. O.V.I.



Camp Monroeville O
Oct. 2nd '62

Dear friends

I am happy this morning to be able to hold converse with you, though this medium does not afford the consolation, the sweetness and joy, the one did which I enjoyed when with you. Yet I hope we will always be able to prevail upon this medium to a sufficient intent to answer all purpose, so long as it is our fate to be separated, and I will try and perform my part of the contract in order that this can be accomplished, especially so long as I have conveniences that will allow me to do so, for whatever degree of satisfaction it may afford you. I assure you in all confidence that a letter, especially from the good friends I left at home is one of the richest treats which I can

Capt. Horace Kellogg enjoy. It is second to the enjoyment of your person.

We arrived here about 7½ o'clock and found things about as we expected. It was somewhat awkward to take up with camp life again after enjoying so many good things in a good style while at home, but it now seems like the new home again, especially in point of noise and rowdyism. But we were disappointed in the paymaster not being here. He has not come yet and we do not know when he will come. The Seneca County bounty is reported to be here by the last of this week. That time will be here before the money will, I think.

Well, I presume the draft has come off at last. The report of Seneca township is received in camp. Among the O.D.M. of that township I notice the names of Iac. E. Myers, Jos. Houch, Ben C. Reeme and several others.

Our Captain announced to us the name of Dennis Maloy of Liberty tps. We raised a yelp of "good for Maloy". I am of the same opinion I always was in reference to drafting. There are only a few that I would not pity if it fell on them and they are exempted. We expect a number of the Hopewell friends down here on Sunday and they will report Hope well, I suppose. Try and come down too if you can conveniently. There has been considerable rain here the past few nights which makes our streets rather ugly for the time being. We can not tell any further about our leaving here yet.

One of our company deserted last Sunday. That Phrenologist and Hillerite preacher of which I spoke. He left on pretension to go to the river and wash some clothes. He is no loss but a gain to this company.

Our company got three new recruits during the furlough. One of Capt. Berry's men was extremely drunk in Clyde and another one nearly so bad as he pushed him off of a platform about three feet high, falling on the rail road iron. He got so badly bruised that he left for home, I suppose, this morning till his arm gets well.

Your affectionate son and brother,

A. Powell

To Home friends

3 o'clock PM Oct. 2nd

The report of Hopewell's drafted men is in now. Out of the 17 men I know 10 the following: J. P. Britton, Geo. Hundugler, Larry King, Jos. Sharp, I. Culbertson, Isaac Stambaugh, Wm. Reynolds, Geo. Walter, D. Schlect, Geo. W. Shaul. We gave them a loud, or as the saying is, a most thunderous hurrah. Some of our boys now feel much better than before you knew them.

In all candor, I very much sympathize with this class of unfortunates.

Some of them I very much pity, but I hope they will become reconciled to their lot for but few of them hate to be a soldier much worse than I did, but duty and conscience urged me and I am perfectly satisfied.

I hope they may all return again and in the main will wipe away the stain that their obstinacy has brought upon them. My best wishes are with them all.

A. P.

Monroeville, Ohio
Oct. 7th, '62

Affectionate brother,

By the request of his friends, Daniel Rhodes and myself are engaged to night setting up with Jas. Ambrose who is lying sick with the typhoid fever at Mrs. Morrison's, in town. He has been sick for three weeks, and very sick the last week, especially the last few days. His recovery is very doubtful. The friends became worried down and desired some of his acquaintances to assist, therefore I am in town to night and need not be tormented with the command "lights out" at 8:15 o'clock together with the confusion in camp at any time.

As Jas. rests very well in sleep now, I will improve the time and opportunity in writing for I have just returned a few minutes ago from the book store with six sheets of paper which I ought to fill, as I rec'd three letters today and yours besides, last night, each demanding a speedy reply. Your other one was rec'd soon after coming into camp, but of course needs no reply. I was very glad indeed to be made the recipient of another from the same kind brother brought by Mr. Reynolds. The boys returning brought the most interesting news relative to the departure of O.D.M. and two new recruits who were drafted into our company and Zimmer gets some also. F. C. Britt for one. A letter from Justin last week reported all well. Ella recovered from diphtheria. Also one from John today reported Mr. Chambers very sick. Viola was taking care of him. John did not go to Cincinnati but will visit you over next Sunday, providence favoring.

I cannot tell yet if I can be with you, too, or not. I hope I can.

Last Saturday Bowers and Poles brought us a host of refreshments. Jeremiah Matthews brought a lot to mess No. 8 who shared their grapes, pears and peaches with me. Thank them, and thank the original donors. I heartily do.

I went to Norwalk to church with Bowers on Sunday to satisfy their request. Our chaplain Mr. Ferris preached in camp, a good sermon. At night most of our company went to the Baptist church in Monroeville where we heard an excellent war lecture of about an hour and a half in length. We have it telegraphed that the Irish Catholic priest in Tiffin died Saturday morning very suddenly. It is talked strongly that we must go to Crawford county to bring in her 641 drafted cowards. There will be but little halting on part of 123rd to do so.

We have got our overcoats, caps and canteens this week.

We go out on battalion drill and dress parade from 4 to 6 P.M. daily, our regimental officers all being with us still.

There is strong talk of leaving here about Thursday. Today 24 cars full of Union volunteers went east. We expect to go south. I must close with my

love and best respects to all my friends, especially if I be not with you over Sunday.

A. Powell

Camp Monroeville, Ohio

Oct. 15th 1862

Dear Father

We arrived here at the usual time on Monday night. Our Captain came along down with us. The trip was very pleasant. The visit entire was a rich one to me as I enjoyed myself from beginning to end in a good measure of happiness.

The Colonel promised the boys on Monday at drill that they might all go home the next morning, but he had not more than told them when a dispatch of marching orders came to hand, ordering us to go to Parkersburg, Va. as soon as possible. Accordingly we leave tomorrow at 6 a.m. for Dixie.

Yesterday I was as busy as I could be enrolling the names of the company as each name had to be rewritten four times as the pay list and other things had to be written so as to be ready for the pay master.

This morning our company was paid \$25 per man. The other \$2 is back yet. It is to come from the Captain as it is a separate fund. By this you see we only got \$27 now, not being paid for a minute of our spent time, however we expect our first payment for time, all the sooner. The scarcity of funds is the cause of this. This arrangement does not give the best of satisfaction, but so much that I think there will be no difficulty in leaving. Each man gets a 20 and a 5 dollar bill U.S. paper currency. Enclosed you will find \$30.00. You may make any use of this you wish after reserving \$8.00 for yourself which I owe you and also all that I owe Israel, which I think is \$9.00. Israel knows.

We can not take our extra traps along, so I will send my blanket, carpet satchel with Mr. Whalons to Jacob Boner's where you can get them any time, sooner the better.

The boys have nearly all paid me back now, which leaves me some over \$14 besides what I send home. I am on guard today and we are all so busy packing up that I have to be in haste.

You may expect to hear from me as soon as we stop again in camp.

I remain your son
in much affection

Andrew Powell

To S. Powell

P.S. Dan Rhodes wants me to say he is well &c. Tell his wife so if you can get word to her soon. If not, all right.

5 o'clock P.M.

Father,

We have received those other \$2.00 from the Captain. I have concluded to send you \$30 instead of 20.

I send this by Jas. York. We are as busy as bees as we must prepare 3 days cooked and 2 days uncooked provisions. Some of our clothing we send [along with] the rest of our things. We must carry plates, cups, fork, &c. We go via Mansfield, Newark and Wheeling, Va.

I will write at my earliest possible convenience.

Yours in love

A. Powell

Camp near Clarksburg, Va.
Oct. 26th, 62

Dear Sir,

I will attempt to write you a few lines again this morning, not that I have made a practice of writing on Sunday, but do so in case of emergency. I have had no spare time since here, but what I had, I availed myself of. I wrote to John and Sam'l and several letters for Dan and attended to other matters of necessity which consumed my leisure moments. It is raining this morning and the guards need not stand today else I would be on duty this very disagreeable, wet, cold day.

Some of Co. G acted so mean when we first came here that the Col. had to set out a guard. We went to drilling on Wednesday and drilled six hours per day. We have a small field of uneven ground to drill on. We have been practicing with blank cartridges in the firing of arms. It is not a little deafening when all fire at once, but we expect to get used to worse than this and that before long too.

We were ordered to leave here today but the Col. got it delayed until tomorrow 5 o'clock a.m.

We go to a town south east of here 28 miles called Buckhannon, where it is reported there are 175,000 rebels and also a powerful army of union soldiers. We are to march there and that will be no play through the mud and over the high steep hills, but such is the lot of a soldier.

Today we get two days rations again. When we left Monroeville we had three days rations dealt out. The beef we boiled and took plenty of crackers, plate, knife, fork and spoon in our haversacks, tin cup on our canteen, blanket on our shoulder, gun in hand and off we went. Our shirts, etc. were boxed up and sent as freight, but now each one must carry his own of every thing, but we have our knapsacks which is quite a convenient article in the absence of our valises. But from Marietta to Clarksburg, I had to take care of another man's burthen, also my own. It was a load but I kept up. In the grub line we fared poorly till within a few days ago, when it came better than ever except the "extras" in Monroeville. We get a different and better kind of crackers or "hard bread" as they are called. We also get good loaf light bread almost as good as maam's, not quite though, and we got butter one meal for a surplus of coffee on trade, good pork and fresh beef alternately daily. The company eats together now. Rhodes is one of the cooks.

Our tents shed rain tolerably well, but not extra.

Yesterday the citizens living around here was in town mustering, as the country around here is under military law. A great many folks passed here. I drew two more shirts, as the Q. M. surplus goods are to be turned over to other reg'ts. I had to assist yesterday in counting out and boxing up this surplus. There is no telling when we can draw again as we are going to cold winter quarters for a while at least, how long I can not tell, but I think all winter. Our Capt. orders us to write our order for the county Bounty today and we done so. Enclosed you will find my order which some one of you will please attend to.

You may make what use of it you choose, like my other property. You will consider it as your own. Whenever collected, you will please inform me. You will please inform me with respect to the other I sent home, and valise. Also I sent my medicines home with Jer. Matthews as they were of no consequence to me and asides, I had no safe way of carrying it. I have enjoyed excellent health so far. We have a healthier air and better water here. Our water comes out of springs among the hills. The health is good in camp. I presume you have the report in Tiffin that the 123rd is taken

prisoners at Parkersburg. Mrs. Shawhan wrote to the Capt. to this effect. Of course you know this is a complete hum bug.

What our fate may be at Buckhannon or at Cheat Mountain where we expect soon to be, I know not. I hope if we get in an engagement, which is thought is quite probable, that we may bear an honorable part in the conflict. I would not now wish to be at home even though danger is staring us in the face. I feel very well contented under present circumstances.

I must close for the present with my best respects to all enquirers included. Write soon and often. Tell all my associates to do the same, and you will receive my heartiest thanks.

You will oblige me very much indeed if you will send me some 3 cent postage stamps. If you can get only one, send it. If two dollars worth, send them or any number at all as they are not to be obtained here, and I have borrowed already, so you must send me stamps or I must not send any more letters. What will you have done? You may soon expect to hear from me again if opportunity presents itself.

Excuse mistakes, &c.

Yours till death.

A. Powell

To Friends at home
Direct as before
A. Powell
Co. D care of Capt. Shawhan
123rd Regt. O.V.I.
Clarksburgh, Va.

Camp near Buckhannon, Va.

Oct. 29th, 62

Affectionate friends -

With pleasure I again resume my pen to communicate to you a few lines today.

Early on Monday morning we left for this place. The increasing rain of Sunday put the road in a miserable plight. Each man had to carry all things belonging to him, but the Col. made arrangements and secured an extra wagon for each company to carry our knapsacks. This was a very wise and kind move of him. In our knapsacks we carry all our clothing, books, papers, or whatever we may have to carry in them. They are convenient, but are made of a poor material, cotton cloth, oiled through and glazed on the outside. Some of them are torn already. But still we had a gun, cartridge box filled with 40 rounds of "blue pills", a haversack containing our rations and a canteen (3 pints of water) which soon felt somewhat heavy. We traveled through the mud over the stones and up and down the hills several hundred feet in height, but we were keen and sprigh and felt fine for taking our first march. We went two miles and struck tents for the night. We traveled about one half day. Next morning early we started onward. The roads were good in places and in other places very much the reverse. Nothing of importance transpired except the capturing of a man supposed to be a spy on horseback, but his trial cleared him today. We traveled 17 miles and again staked down for the night in a nice bottom field. As soon as we stopped, our Capt. brought a very large and extremely fat sheep. It took but a little time to have it in the kettles. Capt. paid \$2.50 for it. It tasted very good to hungry tired soldiers as we were. This morning we started on for this place 4 miles distant. We got here and fixed up to stay for a while and I think every one is satisfied to stay a day or two. We have camped in a very nice bottom on good sod. There are perhaps several thousand acres in this bottom. This is the nicest place I have seen in Va. This place looks

like home. I can not tell how long we will stay here, for there are no rebels to be found around here now. There was a skirmish here several weeks ago. A Regt. of rebels got on top a high hill to the south west of our camp and compelled two companies of union soldiers to retreat. There was only two cos. in camp then. The loss was light. The fence is full of balls, some rails have 16 balls of secesh lead in them. We do not know how close the rebels may be, but I guess there is little danger just now. The 116th Regt. O.V.I. is in camp here too. This is the place where the 86th O.V. three month soldiers were camped. In that Regt. was the Tiffin boys. It had the reputation of being the greatest pilferers ever known around here.

We have good news from the Potomac stating that McClellan has taken 200,000 prisoners. This is the telegraph and daily papers report for two days past. We don't give the report much credit yet.

Gen. Milroy is our General. He proposes to the President to divide the Southern Confederacy in districts and assign a Gen. to each district. Milroy offers to take any two states the President may assign him, and then as soon as he has finished cleaning them of Rebels, to allow his men to return home, and say if the President accepts the proposal his men will eat Christmas dinner at home. I understand the other Generals are offering to district the south also, and is thought that course will be pursued.

I don't want you to think I expect to eat Christmas dinner with you for I enlisted for 3 years unless sooner discharged, but I do think Gen. Milroy will do his part as soon as it can be done. His policy is to confiscate, destroy and every other way to make short work of it. The General was at Camp Mulligan the morning we left there. He is a good sized man with long gray whiskers and gray hair. A stern looking man.



Capt. Frederick K. Shawhan



Gen. Robert H. Milroy

We passed where a house was burned down by the rebels. The owner was a union man. Gen. Milroy gave orders that the neighborhood should meet the

expense or he would go through and utterly destroy all property not belonging to union men, but he was saved the trouble. By this you will understand we tread ground that was once in the power of rebels. There has been skirmishing in various places around through this section of Va. There are a great many soldiers mostly Ohio, in camp through here at different places.

I have sent you five letters since I was home and have not rec'd one. I hope you will not allow it to be your fault, but such is the case. I sent you an order for the county bounty in my last letter of 26th inst.

You will please inform me of all these things as soon as possible.

I remain yours as ever,

A. Powell

To Home friends
Direct as usual
A. Powell
Co. D 123rd Regt. O.V.I.
Via Clarksburgh, Va.
Care of Capt. Shawhan

Camp near Buckhannon, Va.

Oct. 31st, 1862

Affectionate bro. Israel -

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I am again permitted to bear in hand my roughly used, care worn pen to communicate you the intelligence that I am enjoying the very best of health and am as cheerful and gay as a bird among bushes in berry time.

The circumstances and scenery around me are so pleasant and inviting that they entice me to make some expression of my feelings and I give vent to them to one of those few who as a group are the highest in my affections. One of those who maintains that lofty position in my heart which none upon earth can possibly dethrone, and to one who is not the least in my affections, if any difference of esteem or love exist in my heart for my family relatives.

I am on beautiful Virginia sod in the cool shade beside my tent with two comrades, one on either side of me, who, too, are engaged in writing while the beautiful warm sunshine of noon day in Indian summer shines down warmly upon all around, which mother nature wears her loveliest vesture, and the scenery around on every point of the compass is charming and delightful. The natural scenery is, I think, the nicest I ever saw. Our tents are on a gentle elevation in a bottom of several thousand acres, mostly sod surface, with the Buckhannon River on the east and high hills covered with forest trees that are covered with a heavy foliage in every hue, made so by the heavy frosts. And the artificial scenery consists of the snow white tents of the 116th and 123rd Regt. of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, while the flying artillery is practicing in an adjoining field about fifty rods distant and just now Gen. Milroy advances among them on his white steed. This artillery consists of one battery that is 6 pieces of cannon and their ammunition, requiring 12 wagons and 6 horses per wagon. It looked like war to see their galloping across the field and fire, sending a volley of smoke like a cloud, and sounding a little like peals of thunder. The largest guns I have seen yet are 3inch caliber. Some were iron and some brass.

This is quite a military post. It is reported on good authority that there is between thirty and forty thousand troops (union) in a five miles circuit. We have a beautiful camping place here. We can see a great distance and by ascending to the top of a high hill forty rods south west from here, we can see Cheat Mountains and Rich Mt. 30 miles distance. They look like clouds. This hill of which I speak is the one on which the rebels

were when they fired on to our men and owing to the superiority of the rebels in numbers, our men had to retreat. If they would make the attempt such now, a different state of affairs would ensue.

I must draw out an other sheet of paper to finish the intent of this epistle, but perhaps it will not require all of it to contain all I have got time to scribe, but I will put the time in as best I can while the soldiers are lying around upon the grass, like sheep upon a hill side as we do not drill today for several companies are being vaccinated. I went through this operation and it was a trifling one, yet one of our co. fainted in the operation upon himself. A general inspection of arms, knapsacks and tents is to be had soon, for we expect to leave here in a day or two. We are to go on to Beverly, about 30 miles south east of this place. Our General precedes us to that place.

Nov. 1st Bro. Israel

Today we start out on a new month and quite likely an eventful one to the 123rd Ohio Regt.

Last night the cannon in town announced some news. I know not what, but it is reported that three states have come into the Union and 40,000 prisoners captured besides. We do not credit these reports. I give you them to let you know what can be reported in dixie.

What are the reports in Seneca?

Have you received any letters from any body since I saw you?

Have the Henry county folks been in? Did you get the money I sent with Yerk? How are you getting along with the fall work, clover, corn, apples, etc. Have you bought or sold any thing of importance? Have you written to Henry yet? Who teaches the schools, etc., etc., etc.?

I am so inquisitive not only for the present but hereafter, and even for the present too for I have not yet got a letter from any one since I was home, and nearly all the other boys have got a supply of them.

What are the general reports about the 123rd? How is S. Cad.? The 49th boys? We expect Evan Kirkwood in our Regt before long. The Col. gives Co. D the 1st Praise for men and behavior.

We are in Gen. Milroy's division. The 123rd Ohio, 87th Pennsylvania, 11th Vir. Regts form the 1st Brigade of Milroy's division. Col. Hay of the 87th Pa. is acting as Brigadier Gen. The battery I spoke of yesterday belongs to our brigade.

We are to march for Beverly on Monday. I suppose the roads will be better than to this place from Clarksburgh.

Israel, I want you to send me the address of John Culbertson if you can, and of William Leitner, also of Strausbaugh or Christ Mundurter.

You will please send the Tiffin Tribune to me for three months and take out of my "pocket" to pay for them and all the spare postage stamps, 3 cts ones, that you can get your hands on any where, for change is the scarcest article here that can be mentioned, almost.

I bought a pamphlet several days ago which I will send you soon. It is correct in part, if not all. I think all.

1 o'clock P.M Nov. 1st

The mail that was due last night did not arrive until this forenoon. I will proceed immediately to reply.

Some of the questions I proposed in the other sheet are answered in your first, and very welcome letter of 27" which contains so much cheering intelligence, which makes me feel quite good, after waiting so long so patiently and anxiously. It would have been quite a treat and a great satisfaction to me to have been home one week later than I was. True, I enjoyed one of the best times in my life while at home the last time, a

season that was soul refreshing and beneficial, one that I shall long remember, yet that visit would have been doubly sweet and pleasant had it been one week later. But while you were undoubtedly in fine enjoyments on that day, I was in the midst of confusion, labor, excitement and travel. But the events of that day you are acquainted with ere this I presume. But I must pass. I have long since lost considerable confidence in Mr. Myers but I hardly thought he would do as you say he did when applying for exemption. I wouldn't pity him much if he would have to suffer some for trying to deny the government a chance for his services when they are so much needed, poor fellow.

Woe to the old school house. I am not sorry I did not stay at home on account of school. What will be done for another? You are going to Henry county for to try your hand at farming? Well, try and do your best and then let me know of your success. Good for Duts. Present them my best respects, etc.

Well, I must close soon for we are to leave here tomorrow morn instead of next morning, for Beverly at Cheat Mts., 30 miles distant.

You will keep me posted in the general affairs at home in Ohio.

I may not get time to write soon again to you.

I remain your sincere and affectionate brother.

Andrew

To Israel Powell
Direct A. Powell
Co. D 123d Regt. O.V.I.
Via Clarksburg, Va.
Care of Capt. Shawhan

P.S.

Give my best respects to all who may inquire, for I presume no one inquires. I've got a few more questions. Do "those" folks report any more letters sent a certain one by me? I think not. How do times flourish socially? Who goes with who?

A. P.

Camp near Beverly, Va.
Nov. 4, 1862

Dear Father

I embrace the opportunity this morning of again recording my health as very good, with the ardent hope that you are in the same enjoyment of this rich blessing.

We left camp near Buckhannon on Sunday morning for this place. We traveled 13 miles, had good roads. In the evening we pitched tents on the ground where there was a skirmish in which the rebels were defeated with a small loss of lives on both sides. This was fought in July, '61. This was the first time we tented among rebel graves. Still, we slept comfortable.

It rained through the night, which made the road quite slippery travel yesterday, yet we traveled 18 miles in six hours over Rich Mountain, to which is three miles to the top by the road. We got here about 3 o'clock and staked down on a nice level sod just at the north side of town. Beverly is almost the size of Adrian only not so nice a town. On the top of Rich Mt. there was a battle fought in July, '61. Barnett was the rebel General in command and Rosecrans, then under McClellan, was the union commander. Our loss was about a dozen and the rebel loss about 200. I walked among the graves. The union men are buried tolerably decent, side by side, while the rebels were thrown in graves and covered up with nothing to mark their grave.

It looks pretty hard to see men buried in this style. I hope such may never be my fate. I can not see how they could fight to much advantage there for it is on top the Mountain, very uneven and heavily timbered. Some of the trees are badly marked. One, a dead sugar, two feet through has a three inch hole through it, put there by a cannon ball. Several miles before reaching this spot we passed the place where the rebels had prepared breast works for the contest, but in vain. A short distance on the other side of the town the 86th Ohio, 3 months men, cut down a great deal of timber and threw up breast works, as they expected Jenkin's cavalry to attack them, but this work proved to be vain as yet.

We do not know how long we will stay here, but we think not longer than Sunday, if that long, and where we will next go of course, we know not. Some say we are to go to Harper's Ferry and some say to Baltimore, but no one of us yet knows when or where. Our knapsacks was hauled for us again. This is quite a favor and advantage to us, for it is very tiresome to travel without them, and not a few fell back yesterday in ascending that slippery mountain. Of course some that fell back are too lazy to keep up. Some get tired out (town dandies) and some get sick. There is a wagon follows the regiment called an "ambulance" which carries all it can of those who get too sick to travel.

We rest occasionally when we are on a march. The Colonel is very kind to us. We carry our dinner with us still, but the rest is hauled. Our fare is rather poor still, while we are on a march and our rations were a little scant any how, but when we get warm meals and needn't travel, we fare very well. We get light loaf bread about half the time. This tastes very good.

You will perceive that a good deal of teaming must be done. There is one wagon to haul the tents, kettles, etc. of each company and one to haul the baggage of two companies, then the extras of Colonel and Commissary goods besides. This teaming is done in part by government teamsters and in part by independent teamsters. The teams are principally mules, generally six to a wagon. Some of them are as large as horses and are splendid pulling teams. All government horses and mules have the letters U.S. branded on their left shoulder. The wagons are heavy and well put up. It looks a little like business to see so many wagons and men and animals so busily engaged. Such is the result of war.

Traveling here is not very pleasant. We have to wind around on the hills going up and down about all the time and there is nothing attractive or interesting in the scenery along the road, generally nothing but woods to be seen. The soil on these hills generally is sandy and covered with small oak shrubs like the sand knolls in Wood county. The timber principally is oak and in the valley spruce pine which looks very nice being covered with a very thick foliage of a deep green color.

Occasionally a small patch is cleared off and a little cabin stuck up. I don't know that I have seen as much wheat in this state as you had out on your farm last year. When ever there is a chance to raise any thing, corn is raised and the gardens are filled with cabbage, so I would presume Virginians at the present day live on corn, cabbage and pork as a little runty porker is to be seen sneaking through the bushes now and then, here and there. And this is not a false presumption for at every house they say they have nothing but corn bread and this I guess is true for the boys offer good prices for bread and can not buy any but pone and at many places not that even.

Hay is raised in the bottom and sold to the government at \$5 per ton. There are very few nice houses to be seen, and we go along the principal road for there appears to be but one road from place to place. There are no cross roads at all, too hilly and thinly settled. Seldom a church or school house to be seen, few even in the towns and these are used by the government for

hospitals & commissary stores. I have seen but one frame barn yet and that is old enough to be set aside. There are five or six regiments in camp around here, though there is no danger here. I do not know the purpose of our coming here. It is reported we are to [march to] Webster on foot, thence to Baltimore on rail road where we are to remain. I hope we will soon leave this place and get to a better. The prices of things are pretty steep now. Flour \$7 per barrel, salt \$15 per bl., tobacco \$1.50 per lb., cheese .25 cts per lb. I bought a pound last night when we came here and I don't know whether it was the price or my keen appetite, but it was the first time cheese ever tasted good to me.

I have not bought a dollar's worth of eatables since I came to camp nor don't intend to buy much at the price asked.

For the present I must close with my love to you all.

Your affectionate son,

A. Powell

To S. Powell

Camp Beverly, Va.
Sat'y eve, Nov. 15, 62

Dear Sir

I will try and avail myself of a few moments time to send you a hasty note. I can not possibly write you a very lengthy letter this time. Yesterday one week ago we were ordered to follow up the rest of the Brigade who had just preceded us to the Cheat Mtn, so we packed up and went as far as Huttonsville, 12 miles south of here. (Beverly is the county seat of Randolph co.) There we pitched our tents in great haste for it commenced snowing just as we got to putting up tents. It was the intention for the 123rd Ohio to remain there as a reserve in case of necessity. Gen. Milroy was to see us the same eve we got there and ordered the roads to be repaired and the telegraph wire to be fixed for operation. (There is a telegraph wire running all the way from Clarksburg to H. running along the high way). This order was filled. The intention evidently was to remain there for a long time, several months or all winter, but yesterday Gen. M. came in camp again and we have to report at Webster 4 miles west of Grafton on the rail road for the rebels are making a dash in that direction to tear up the road, to fulfill the proclamation of the Gov. of Va. who in his last message to the rebel legislature of this State said that rail road must be taken. We came from Huttonsville today and tonight stay on the same ground we camped on before. Tomorrow at 3 o'clock a.m. Sunday we must start on a forced march for Webster 43 miles north of here. The rest of our Brigade have returned and are on their way there also. The 116th Ohio started this evening and I can not now tell how many more. There are 7 Batteries of cannon there now.

Going to and from Huttonsville we had to carry all our equipage and will have to do so here after. This went pretty hard at first but I don't mind it much tonight. I can go it if the rest can, if no misfortune happens.

We expect to guard the rail road down there for how long I don't know. We are to join the Army of the Potomac soon, so says our 1st Lieut. Our 1st Lieut. has been promoted to Brigade commissary. This evening we meet two of our co. who have just come from home - To. Boner & Howard Hartzell.

The 87 Pa. Regt took a lot of horses, several hundred cattle, and about fifty rebels prisoners beyond the Mts.

I must close for the present.

Yours as ever

Direct via Clarksburg, Va.

A. Powell

Camp Jessie, Virginia
Tuesday noon Nov. 25th, 1862

Affectionate Bro. I.

I will now reply to your very welcome and interesting favors received since I last wrote to you. Yours of the 3rd inst. came to hand on the 9th. Yours of 9 & 10th on 22nd. Yours of 14th containing one from Henry, on 20th. The one of the 9 & 10th I presume went the rounds while the latter came direct. I sent you a short one on 15th but I must review the three now. Allow me to say I would have replied before this but circumstances were so unfavorable and I finished one for Henry this morning, being the only one sent him since I was home.

I will now review our route since writing to you last and conclude in replies to your past favors.

We were at Beverly when I wrote to father, where we remained for several days when we was very unexpectedly ordered to go further on toward the Mountains for the purpose of being a reserve for the rest of the Brigade, which preceded us several days, in case of difficulty with the enemy. I was out on picket guard at Beverly when the order came and next morning when I came to camp I was somewhat surprised to see every thing ready for marching. We started as soon as practicable, carrying all our equipage for the first time. We went 12 miles southward from Beverly, which is the county seat of Randolph county, arriving at the place where a small town called Huttonville stood. Here we pitched our tents intending to stay and await further orders. In a few days Gen. Milroy came in camp and left orders to have the road and telegraph wire fixed up from there to Beverly, holding forth the impression that we were to take up winter quarters there, but after remaining there one week we were ordered to report at the nearest rail road station on the Baltimore & Ohio rail road line. This being Webster, a little town five miles west of Grafton, we had to take a back track. We started on Saturday morning 18th inst. and went as far back as Beverly where we staid over night. There I wrote you a letter. Next morning at 2 o'clock A.M. we were called out for to prepare for the day's march and about 3 o'clock we started and went five miles till day light, seventeen miles till noon and twenty six till night. This was the best marching we done and the citizens living along the road said that was the best marching ever done on that road and that road has been traveled by multiplied thousands. We had to carry all our equipage which weighs about 40 pounds, and we had to go over Laurel Hill which is a much larger mountain than Rich Mt. The road was good but the weather was pretty warm. A great many fell out as is common on marches. I kept up however, although I helped to cook till midnight on Friday and on Saturday night and Sunday I had a severe diarrhea, but to lag and get behind the column is no credit. At daybreak on Monday we started on for Webster 16 miles distant. After going a few miles it commenced raining and made the road slippery. We went on 5 miles and reached Philippi where we were halted for a half hour while it poured down. The first battle in Virginia in the present war was fought at Philippi in which Mc. completely routed the rebels. I saw the hill on which our cannon were then placed. They were so aimed as to fire direct lengthwise into the street through which the rebels had to retreat. Philippi is the nicest town in the state that I have yet seen. Leaving P. in the rain we started on for W. We did not go far until we struck a mudhole and we did not get out of it until we got into the cars. We traveled on till 1 o'clock P.M. and the Col. ordered us to stop for the night. It rained all day and the roads were miserable.

A march of three miles the next morning took us to the longed for town of Webster. The Col. led us through the fields as much as possible for the mud in the road was over shoe top and it was wretched getting along. About noon we started on the cars for the east, not knowing how far to go. We

traveled on till midnight when the cars stopped. We had to remain in the cars there the rest of the night and sleep the best we could. The next morning we were ordered to get out and pitch our tents on the south side of the rail road just a rod or two from the track, on the west side of a little town called New Creek Station, 80 miles east of Grafton. The object in coming here was to withstand Stonewall Jackson, who was then daily expected to come in here with his army. We expected to be in battle before last Sunday but we are yet strangers to war and quite likely will be for some time to come, especially if we stay here. There is no telling how long we will remain here. It is about time to leave again. We have been here about a week, however six of our men were sent out our company this morning on two days rations westward on the cars for some purpose or other, I know not what, nor they didn't when they started.

I will review our route briefly. The other Regt. passed on through the mountains unmolested. They went on so far as to take the pickets around Staunton, only three miles from the city. They could have taken the city but did not wish to. There were several rebel regts there and they were dying off rapidly with the small pox. Had it not been for this, our brigade would have taken Staunton. The 87th Pa. did very well at any rate. They took about fifty "gray backs". This is the name applied to secesh in this part of the country because they mostly dress in gray clothes. I saw them. They were miserable looking and wretchedly dressed men. Several of them were gray headed with furrowed cheeks. They have no uniform dress. They are like beggars, whatever they can get they wear for nearly every one of those I saw had different suits on and none of them had any too much clothing. They were scant in dress. Among the prisoners were several captains. They were taken to Camp Chase. They also captured several hundred head of nice cattle, about a dozen yoke of oxen and several bulls, one large white short horn said to be worth \$2500. They also captured a lot of horses.

Huttonville was burned to the ground several months ago by the Virginia Ringgold Cavalry because it harbored Jenkin's Cavalry. It is a desolate looking place but is a common sight to us to see the chimneys which were built up of stone, standing while the house has been burned to ashes. Fences, houses and towns have been burned away in that section without mercy. One day while at Huttonville, Co. D was called on by the Col. to go out on a scout. The Lieut. Col. went along out with us. We went as far south west as to the mouth of Elkwater Creek where it empties into the valley river. Up there is where the rebel Col. Washington, a distant relation of Gen. Geo., was killed. We took our dinner up there on the nice bank of Elkwater. We had to return without capturing any gray backs though we marched about 20 miles in the route.

We marched 144 miles from the time we left Clarksburg till we arrived at Webster and W. is only 18 miles east C. This will give you an idea of the progress of war. In those 144 miles I seen but a few places that I would live on if I could get a thousand acres for nothing. I would as life own the bottom of your well as the most of the farms in Va. that I saw.

The entire country is uneven, and the greater part unfit for cultivation. There are no cross roads at all, plenty of hills to go up and down, no school houses, few meeting houses and these are all occupied as hospitals, commissary stores, etc. At Webster we were packed in grain cars again, but no one complained about it. We've lost much of that complaining spirit which we had before the tramp on foot of 144 miles among the mts. After pitching our tents here in the morning I went down to the Potomac River to wash and as the water is low and the river bed stoney, I crossed over into Maryland and got some persimmons. Some of them were quite mushy and sweet but some others were a little puckerish, but they eat quite nice. I brought some along up for the Capt. who pronounced them good. We went through a part

of Md. in coming here and we are now about a half mile from the line which is made by the upper Potomac river. We get all our water out of the river. It is splendid water. This is the best thing this country can boast of for all the water is splendid, issuing from springs among the mts and flowing continuously along on pebble bottoms which keeps it clear and cool as well water and very wholesome too.

Our position here. We are now at New Creek 80 miles east of Grafton and 22 miles west of Cumberland, Md. Gen. Fremont named this camp after his wife's name, Jessie. There are several buildings in the town owned by citizens. One large store containing nearly all the articles of necessity, plenty of groceries too besides. There are a host of sutler stores keeping nearly every mentionable that will bring them money. There are so many government stores of commissary goods that it is quite a respectable little town. Then the cars passing back and forth daily makes things lively and a little like home. We are all very well contented here. I like it better than at Monroeville, Ohio. I don't think it as cold here as in Seneca county. We have good tents and got our stoves a few days ago, so we can make it as comfortable in our cloth houses as desirable unless the weather gets a great deal colder than it yet has. We are in a valley with high hills all around. The hills are covered with snow and it is snowing slightly in the valley but it is not very cold. We can get plenty of wood by cutting it which is all it costs us, together with hauling, but each co. now has a team and wagon so we do all our own wood. We get our water from the Potomac. We have to carry it about a half mile.

November 26th, 1862

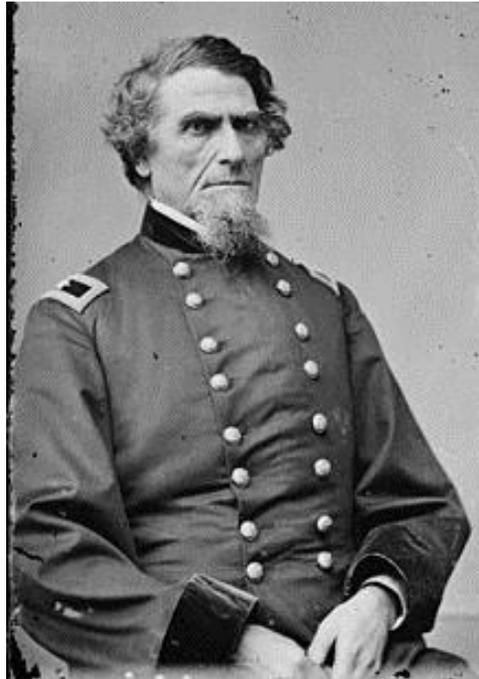
We don't go out on drill this forenoon. Our Capt. is unwell for the first time, and the 1st Lieut., H. L. McKee was promoted to Brigadier Commissary agent and consequently is not with us, and the other officers are too busy. To continue the other sheet: We draw an abundance of rations now, more than we consume. We trade our rice at 5 cents per lb. for corn meal at 37 cents per peck. Of this we make mush and then fry it. It is splendid you better believe. We get plenty of beans. These, boiled with pork or beef, are splendid. We get more beef than we need and plenty of coffee, sugar, salt, &c.

Position Militarily. There are about 15,000 infantry soldiers and two or three batteries of artillery of 12 small guns each and some cavalry besides in camp here. There is a fort on the south of town occupying about one acre of ground on the top of a hill sufficiently high to protect the town. There is a double breast work around the fort and the inner one is built very solid of hewn oak timbers and stone. It is made like a small dam in shape, the perpendicular side inward. There is a magazine in the fort well protected against danger. The magazine is built on the style of neighbor King's cellar or cave. The ammunition, especially powder, is kept down in the magazine where there is no danger of its taken fire in time of battle. This fort contains 3 guns now. 2 are siege guns, 12 pounders. They are pointed in the direction Jackson was expected to [be] in. There are several guns in different places on the hills so that Jackson, or any body else, would have to encounter some difficulty before taking this place. I believe 5,000 men could not now take this place if they would come from the south and there are only three valleys coming in here in which they could come in. I do not believe that we will be attacked here. We are too well fixed for them. Col. Mulligan, acting Brigadier Gen. of the Irish Brigade, is commander of the post here. We have no guards here besides the pickets, so we enjoy as much liberty as we please. This pleases us not a little, you better believe. Last Saturday our brigade was on review, as it is called. That is, the whole brigade was out in one line, the same as a reg't or

company. Major Gen. Milroy reviewed us. He has a voice almost like a cannon. Gen. Kelly was here too.



Col. James A. Mulligan



Gen. Benjamin F. Kelly

I will now briefly notice your favor recording the reception of an unexpected, very interesting, short epistle from you last night, mailed 22nd. I will reply to it first. Truly it does cheer my heart to get a letter from home recording the health of the dear ones at home and the respected in the vicinity as good. I like to hear of your good health if nothing else, but then again, your letters are always freighted with good news besides. I am happy to record my health as being very good still. I am well, comfortable, contented and satisfied as well as I could expect to be. Yes, even much more so for we have a quiet mess and plenty to engage my attention in the line of reading, writing and the like. I received 4 Tele(scopes) last week, came on Saturday night. I presume I will get them the same week of printing if we stay along the rail road, but the Tribune doesn't come. Will you please see to it for me? In reference to the case of Dan Smith, allow me to tell you that he is not considered as belonging to the honorable 123rd Regt O.V.I. He was not mustered into the service of the U.S., got no pay, is not wanted here unless Col. W. will accept him. Zimmer perhaps could use him, but Co. D has no claim on him nor own him.

Kind Brother, I am very thankful to you for your various kindnesses of the past. I can never forget you for the favors you have conferred upon [me] already. Be assured I do not forget them. You have done so much for me that it would almost make me blush, even though a soldier and far away from home, to ask you for further favors, but knowing the liberality of your large, good heart and of all the loved ones at home, I believe you would not refuse me any thing reasonable, but I have no favors to ask this time. I have been fortunate enough to buy \$1.00 worth of stamps and receiving yours besides I now have a supply. Therefore, you needn't send any more for the present until further orders.

I must close this for the present in order to mail in time, and Ira Baker, one of our mess, is in the hospital sick with the measles and sent for

me to go and see him, which I feel inclined to do for he is a very clever hearted young man who lived at Terry Matthew's.

Yours Truly

To I. Powell

A. Powell

I have just purchased the pictures of two distinguished individuals the Country is familiar with. I make presents of them to you. The lady I present to Ruth, the Gen. to you.

Price of them, 8 1/3 cts a piece.

I will try and write in a few days again.

Your affectionate brother,

Andrew Powell

I also send a list of the members of our company made out some time ago. Bartley Kinney has since been discharged.

A. Powell

Co. D Capt. Shawhan

123 Regt O.V.I.

New Creek Station Va.

Camp Jessie at New Creek Station Virginia

Dec. 1st, 1862

Dear Bro.

I again resume my pen to communicate you a few lines again informing you I am in excellent health on this rainy Monday morning, hoping this may find you all in the full enjoyment of the same rich blessing. The health here is good in general, yet there are quite a number reported sick of various diseases. The measles are prevailing in the hospitals now but they are quite easy. No one has died nor become very sick ever from them. Not near as much so as at home. Still, notwithstanding the treatment invalids receive here, for our surgeons don't know when a man has the measles till they come out or till some body tells them. Then the subjects are taken to the hospital in town till they recover somewhat and then sent back again. Previous, they have [to] lie around on the ground in the tents. Bad colds and rheumatisms and an occasional case of dysentery. I am on that list just now myself.

I will now reply to your past favors. I have received five letters from your pen. I sent you seven and father one besides this one. Well, I presume you about or altogether done with the fall work and can now begin to take times easier. You have performed a lot of hard work this fall, more than should be imposed on two like you and father to do yourselves justice, but I hardly know what is impossible for you that man can do in the line of hard work. But as the old saying is, the harder the storm the sweeter the calm. I hope it may prove so in your case. I would have much preferred to remained at home and had my full hand to exercise in all the work and would had I not felt it a duty to do as I did, and I am not yet convinced that I trusted to a misguided conscience and especially would I like to be at home through apple, cider, apple butter, molasses, the making times. I have always considered this time of the year as the annual jubilee and especially since I have been once denied it, which brings one to an appreciation of the real joys and pleasures of that season. I have found it such.

Though it would afford me unbounded pleasure to be at home and enjoy the blessings you are now enjoying, yet I would not accept a furlough to go home if one were offered me, as long as I keep well and can enjoy myself as well

as I yet do. So long as I am needed so much as my country yet needs my services, for I think there is work for us ahead before long in the neighborhood of Richmond or Fredericksburg. There are still more soldiers coming east. I understand they now go on to Cumberland. I presume they think there are enough soldiers here now. Though I shall be denied those autumnal luxuries and pleasures for one season at least in my life, yet perhaps it will be the only one on account of the present rebellion. At least such appears to be the general impression of the majority of the knowing ones here and all over the country, so far as we hear of and we get a great deal of news here along the rail road, where there are a number of daily papers read. We get very favorable news now from Burnside's command.

Last Thursday was Thanksgiving Day. It was observed as the most sacred day I have yet seen in the army. I got to hear a part of two sermons in the forenoon, and listened to a full sermon at night from Lieut. Caldwell, who preached in his tent. Yesterday our Regt had inspection of arms, knapsacks, tents, etc. It is the army regulations to have such an inspection on the last of every month. This could do as well be [it] attended to on a week day as on Sunday, but that you know would not be insulting to the Almighty, hence inconsistent with the general practices of the army. In reference to that money deposited in the bank, you can do as you choose, but I would prefer letting some responsible private individual have it even at the same per cent interest, but I commit it to you to do the best with it you can. I presume we will be paid up about the first of Jan. I receive the Telescope and Tribune now regularly. Did those boys join the 49th voluntarily?

Has uncle returned yet?

Yours in love as ever,

To I. Powell

A. Powell

Concerning those folks, I will say if they claim two of those profiles they take unjusted privilege. I had one taken for Fan which I gave her and that one was to suffice the whole family, and I had no idea they would play the squash over it or they would have begged in vain for that one. I hope there will be no malice created from it. If it is really desirable on part of you at home, I will have another one taken and send you. I bought two hymn books, one I send to Ruth. Tell her I weigh 162 lbs, a gain of 17 lbs since enlisting. Look for another letter soon.

I sent a letter directed to the three girls to redeem promises to keep peace in the family.

I did not intend to offend them by any actions or words, neither did I intend to secure their especial friendship for courtship purposes.

However, I hope all things will come out right yet if I do have to flatter them a little or send more than a letter. And besides, you are a favorite among them and of course you will keep all right with them. Please keep me posted on the proceedings.

Yours in love

To I. Powell

A. Powell

Camp Jessie, Virginia
December 8th, 1862

Affectionate Father

The present finds me in the enjoyment of good health as usual and I sincerely [hope] this may find you all in the full enjoyment of the same rich favor.

We are all still camping at New Creek with very fair show of leaving soon through there camp rumors of our leaving some time this week. Saturday there were three or four regiments here. I do not know, nor did they, where they to go to, but it is rumored they went to Petersburg, a town south east of here where rebels had gathered. Several regiments of our brigade went. Several companies of cavalry ordered from here to Fredricksburg, but they not got very far on the road when the order was countermanded through telegraph and a messenger sent after them to inform them to come back for were not needed there, for Gen. Sigel had overcome the rebels there. How true this report is I have not yet found out. But the cannons were fired today in salute to some good news, I think likely in honor of the Dutch General's victory. I presume our regiment would have moved on Saturday too, but the guns



no
are
Last
left
were

some
were
had

was
they

Gen.

Franz Sigel

we have are condemned and therefore it is not prudent to lead us in danger before we get better guns. We expect different and better ones soon. The ones we now have are poor things indeed.

Colonel Mulligan's men are busy putting up their winter quarters, little log shanties. They will remain here I presume until the war is over. They have been here over a year already. They can not be ordered into battle. As you know they were taken prisoner in Missouri some fifteen months ago and paroled, so they are now left to guard at this place for it would not do them justice to expose them where they might be again taken by the rebels and would have to suffer death. Their log huts are very warm and comfortable. They are also putting up a church of hewed logs 30 by 41 feet. They have a catholic priest for chaplain. I think a good deal of Col. Mulligan, their chaplain and men. They are doing all their country can expect of them. Levi Keller arrived here last Friday night. He looks stout and hearty again. He also brought a box of one thing or another with him. The sweet butter, canned peaches and strawberries, cakes, taffy and a lot of good things of various kinds reminds us of the good times we once enjoyed and the kind friends we yet have at home.

We can get trifling butter here occasionally for 25 cents a pound, but at home none of us would give five cents a pound for such stuff. Molasses at fifteen cents a pint, but not sorghum cane molasses by a long way. Honey can be had sometimes at 30 cents a pound. We are favorably situated here. We can get the daily papers and various other advantages arising from being at a rail road station. We have the President's Message. It speaks just the right language. We look for Jeff Davis message to night. It is reported here that Jeff offers to come in the Union just as he left it and each party pay half the expenses of the war, if the north and President Lincoln will conform to his message on the slavery resolution. This is only got on false report I presume, for I do not think that old Jeff would offer any such compromise.

Tuesday morning Dec. 9th, 1862

This afternoon we are to have another general inspection. We are to be inspected by a regular army inspector. This is done for the purpose of

making us keep all our clothing, guns, &c. clean and in proper order. The weather is tolerably cold here now. A snow fell several days ago to the depth of several inches, however it is not yet uncomfortably cold. The health is tolerably good here in general. The measles are still about. Complaints arising from bad colds is what ails the most of our sick. The Orderly Sergeant of our company was taken to the hospital yesterday. He had fever.

John Dice has not yet returned from the hospital.

I got a letter from John Powell some time ago. His family was well. I also got a letter from Israel last Wednesday.

We have prayer meetings on Thursday and on Sunday night. We are forming a Christian association for religious advancement. Quite a number of names are already enrolled.

Camp Jessie
Dec. 11th, 62

Dear Brother,

Amidst the confusion this morning I will pencil a few lines yet until daylight, informing you of the reception of your very welcome short letter of the 6th inst., which came to hand last night in which I was happy to learn you were all well. Such is my happy condition at present. I still enjoy good health. It appears you have not received many of my letters. I sent you three with this one and one to father and several to different other persons around home. I sent you a lengthy one since here.

Today we are to start on a five days march, perhaps even longer. We have 5 days rations issued to us this morning. As near as we can find out, we are to go to the town of Franklin, Va., 75 miles distant from this place and the same distance from the railroad. This we very much regret, yet I hope it results in good. However, we are all very well satisfied here and hate to leave, but perhaps we can do our country more good there than here.

I can not give my next P.O. address yet but will try and write at the earliest opportunity.

We have to march all this distance on foot and carry our knapsacks and equipage. This I think will be far the hardest march for us yet, but I hope I can keep up with the rest. The road is good, weather nice. Very fine indeed.

The boys of Hopewell are all well and in fine spirits.

Write frequently

to New Creek
till further notice.
Yours affectionately
in haste and love,

A. Powell

Camp at Burlington, Va.
Dec. 15th, 1862

Affectionate Bro.

This evening finds me with pen in hand and portfolio on my knee for a desk endeavoring to write a few lines for your perusal though I do not feel in a mood for writing any thing or to any body. I hardly know why, but I attribute it to the weather, for this is the laziest and most stupefying weather we have yet had in the Old Dominion and we do little else but lounge around and take times easy.

We did not leave New Creek till Friday, as teams sufficient to transport the regimental baggage could not be procured on Thursday. We came this far till 2 o'clock when the Lieut. Col. got a dispatch to halt his men and encamp and await further orders. So we had to stop 16 miles south east of N.C. on the Pike leading to Romney, 11 miles from here. We are just east of the town of Burlington.

I do not know why this is called a town for it only has several old houses scattered around. It has no store, not even a grocery in it, only one large brick dwelling house that is of any importance in point of a town. We are now in a nice agricultural country, the nicest farming land I had yet seen in the state. It is bottom and upland here both. The bottom land was worth \$100 per acre before the war. It is very rich, nice farming land having Patterson's Creek running through it here. The creek is about the size of Beaver Creek in Wood county. Perhaps you have read some about this stream as the 8th and 55th O.V.I. passed over nearly the same route we are taking and had the pleasure of retreating on double quick. I don't think such will be our fate, at least for a while yet. It is quite probable we will leave here soon. I do not know yet where we go to next. Quite likely back to N. Creek again.

The weather here is very similar to Indian summer in Seneca, warm and smoky. The boys are running foot races, wrestling, playing ball and the like for amusements. The boys of the 123rd are in fine spirits now, in good health and easy circumstances, taking times easy.

Well I must close for the present as it is near roll call and I want this to reach you this week. I will try and write at more length soon. I rec'd your welcome letter of the 8th inst. I will reply to it soon.

I am well as usual.

I remain your as ever,

Yours truly,

A. Powell

Direct as before to New Creek

Camp at Petersburg, Hardy Co., Va.
Dec. 23rd, 1862

Affectionate Friends

The present finds me in the enjoyment of excellent health except for a slight cold, but the complaint is so very common that I feel ashamed to complain of it. I sincerely hope that this will find you in the enjoyment of the best of health.

Israel, I wrote you a short letter about a week ago, expecting as I then did, to reply to your favor at length before this time, but the fate of man is uncertain and very uncertain in the circumstances of the soldier. After getting to bed the same night I wrote to you, the word came to get up and draw and cook two days rations. Jno. Reynolds and I took the task on ourselves which we completed about midnight. Next morning the 116th and 123rd Regts left Burlington for this place, a distance of 30 miles which took us two days to come. Next day we had to fix up and look around till noon, when the long roll beat and we fell in line of battle and had to stack arms and hold our selves in readiness to fall in again at any moment. We were ordered to sleep on our arms that night and next day our company went out on a scout. Next day was Sunday and next day I had to help cook and today I am trying to meet my promise, with what success I can not tell.

We came up a very nice valley to this place. We came through the nicest country we have yet seen in the State. Nice rolling land for miles, and where it is cultivated produces excellent crops, but there is scarcely one acre out of a thousand acres that is farmed. Field after field is yet covered with last years crop of grass and plenty of hay, rye, and wheat

stacks that are rotting in the stack. Not much stock is to be seen though some fine durhams are seen occasionally. Frequently we pass an empty house. There you see the fruits of rebellion are anything but profitable and pleasant. Some farmers own as much as 6000 acres of the nicest kind of farming land. I am beginning to form a better opinion of the old dominion as an agricultural State, yet she lacks in buildings.

We are in the land of secesh now for our scouts bring in some gray backs every day. Yesterday they brought in over a dozen, some of whom had just returned home on furlough and was at home but three or four hours. They are roughly dressed as a general thing, and some are hard looking cases. Our alarm last Friday noon was raised by the approach of several of Imboden's guerilla cavalry. He keeps around in the mountains about here and scouts are out continually in search of him. It is thought he has several thousand under his command. It took us six minutes to get in line of battle, ready for action from the beating of the drums for long role. Our Col. is not now with us, having went to Columbus, Ohio for other guns. The weather is comfortably warm now. Several days ago it was uncomfortably cold out of doors. The health of the regiment is none of the best now. There are quite a number in the hospitals now. Levi Keller and Con. Leahy who joined us at New Creek are now in the hospital sick with the measles. Our orderly sergeant is still at the Cumberland hospital. Dice and Bever also. One of our co. died there several weeks ago.*

I will now commence a general reply to your past letters as I have a bundle of them in my pocket which I must part with, which is a thing I really hate to do, but can't avoid it, but I will not do so until I read them again. Then to commence with the oldest first.

How does Jno. Koch succeed with his school? Several boys from that school are in co. D and if the whole community is like those boys, Koch will not be very likely to succeed. Also, how do the other teachers succeed and what is doing in our district in the school line? Where is the hog pen situated? What is the condition of the stock? Is the straw stack going to fall before John's cow? Before Richmond will? Before the federal army? Is Wm. Leitner at home? Does Thos. Briner live in the Docherty house? Is the road opening from our school house to the center? Your remarking of A. Rucks complaint reminds me of the exempted men. Well if all who claimed exemption last fall were at the same time afflicted with their complaints, Seneca would present a sorrowful aspect indeed, yet I wish all of that class well. I hope they will do their country some good yet in their present condition.

***This was most likely 1st Sergt. William Rullison of Company E who died at Cumberland Hospital on Dec. 10th and was buried at Antietam, MD.**

Dec. 24, 1862

But it is proven by actual trial that the stoutest and heartiest at home are not the best soldiers and that the puny and sickly are unfit for soldiers for some who were sickly and unfit to work at home thrive and fatten up and stand it well while some of the most hearty and promising in the regt have failed already, but then the days of exemptions are past and I hope a cause for another such a reason may never come and I feel confident that had we fit men to lead the federal army before the foe, there would no such cause arise, but I am hopeful of success at any rate. How soon I lay down no line, I appoint no time, yet I think it will be inside of the term bargained for. Upward of four months have passed away since I enlisted and those were the shortest four months of my life almost. I am well satisfied with my part of soldering and have no reluctance under present circumstances to enter upon another four months term, not expecting however that it will be as pleasant as the past

four were. The boys generally of your acquaintance in the 123rd are well and in fine spirits at present.

It would afford us all considerable satisfaction to be at home on the holidays, but as such can not be, we have not got the pouts about it. If we get home safe and sound to enjoy those days a year hence we will be very well satisfied. Of course we won't have so many good things, not times as we would were we at home, but we have very good times in general all the while.

Our stoves are very useful for warming the tent. They are conical shaped, 18 inches in diameter at bottom, 30 in. high and 4 inches diameter at top and two joints of pipe. "Fuller" is the name of the fort at New Creek. Col. Washburn of the 116th O.V.I. is promoted to Brig. Gen. of our 3rd Brigade. Well it is getting late and I must close for the present, hoping to write soon again. Tomorrow is Christmas and will be observed here the same as Sabbath. Write frequently.

Yours as ever
Israel Powell
Andrew Powell
Direct via New Creek, Va.

Camp near Petersburg, Va.
Dec. 26th, 1862

Respected Brother

In order to catch up with times again, I will resume my pen this evening to address one who holds and justly too, one of the most prominent positions in my affections. Your past favors and future promises are sufficient to call forth an extra effort whenever opportunity permits.

Your very welcome interesting and lengthy letter of 8th inst. came to had at Burlington on Sunday morning, 14th inst. It afforded me more satisfaction than a little. You do not know how much it rejoices my heart to get a letter from your pen. So, whenever you want to do a soldier an inestimable favor, just write your unworthy brother a letter, good lengthy ones, for you need not excuse yourself on part of a want of subject for I assure you that you can enter into minor details of incidents and times at around home for such as recorded by your willing, lively, cheerful pen meet a grateful reception and besides this, you can fall back and rely on your intelligent posted mind and give the opinions and general sentiment of the public mind and press and besides this even, you have still another source, which is to write something original. Let it be on any subject or matter what ever. But don't understand me to intimate that if you can't [write] big letters, not to write any at all, for I don't mean any such thing, but I do mean that I want you to write at least once a week and as much oftener as you feel inclined. Several things in your last deserve notice. The singing school. Whoever thought that such an institution could result in much or any permanent good? Not I. Neither did I think it would terminate as it did and especially that it should come to an untimely end by the ruffian hands it did. I didn't suspect such thing from the guilty party, especially J. N. and H., but its non existence matters me nothing where I am and the same I think would have been the case had I remained at home for I was humbugged to my satisfaction by the "famous thing". Candidly, I think it for the better that it is wound up. Such [is] my private opinion of it.

I am glad indeed that you did not disgrace yourself and friends by coveting a part of the honor which is of the kind suited to a secesh community, such honor as permanent as the Southern Confederacy. Mark the assertion. I do not approve such a method of terminating a civil institution, neither do I approve the course that widely known young man G.

V. Kime used. I read that part of your letter aloud to the mess and Jno. G. Reynolds said immediately I should tell you to just clean out that fellow G. V. K. or he would do so if he ever gets home again, but I would not advise you there.

In relation to those folks it seems from your last that my desired aim is accomplished which is to hold friendship only between different parties and to hear their story of things occasionally besides, for I assure you in confidence that it is with no view to courtship that I hold correspondence with any one and for really interesting and intelligent letters I must rely on some other than them. By the way, I mean to find out the intelligence of some other of the fair ladies of Hopewell. If I fail, all right, but if I succeed, so much the better. May be so at least. This reminds me that you should inform me immediately who that "favorite one" of yours is, for fear I might intrude on your rights. However, if I do conclude to attempt the adventure it will be with no view to courtship or future marriage, but merely to hold a little communion occasionally with some who by their actions in my presence intimated such a policy as an agreeable one.

But thoughts on this matter don't trouble me much. Not so much as some of our boys for of course it would do me no more good under present circumstances than merely the pleasure of epistolary correspondence, and my past conduct with the ladies is still a proper index to my love at present, however I am ready and willing to correspond with either male or female so long as I think it agreeable.

But I have strayed from my subject. I am gratified if a reconciliation has been accomplished by my letter and your tongue and wit with those folks. Of course we will continue the same course for a while longer at least. Your expression of the effect produced is quite amusing. I want you to keep your self posted and if they go to extremes and you recommend some other course advisable for the respect of our family, I will pursue a different one. Yours in confidence and love, sincerely,

To I. Powell

A. Powell

Dec. 27, 1862

Dear Friends

I will endeavor to drop a few general thoughts today. Christmas was a dry, lonesome day here. We did not drill any and just laid around in the warm sun and hazy atmosphere. About noon our Captain left us here, to go home. He got a furlough of 20 days on pretense of sickness, but I guess it is home sickness more than anything else. He is a first rate Capt. and well liked by his Co. D. He offers to bring any thing desired to be sent, but I am not in want of any thing now, consequently, I don't send for any thing, but if there is any thing you desire to send me, just put it in the Captain's care. You need not trouble yourself to send me any thing at all. Do just as you please. You can just make yourself as free with F. K. as you please and it will be all right. We have the report that Capt. Zimmer is dead. If so, some of his company have their wish.*

We are informed that our Col. can not get other guns for us. If so, likely we will not go in any more danger than can be avoided, however we feel very safe here. I think we are in no great danger. We don't get so much news now as while at New Creek, consequently we are not so well posted. The reports of the Fredericksburg battle are extremely bad and produces an unpleasant feeling among the soldiers. It makes us feel just like taking affairs in our own hands and do the thing up to suit ourselves commencing at Washington and clean up as we go. I believe the President wants the war to terminate and from the aspect of the affair he is the only commander civil or

military that does want it to stop. If things do not soon change for the better I would not be much surprised a different course would be used by northern populace. Of course order should be observed, but the kind that is now observed is little better than none. It is also necessarily the case that we have leaders but I think there [are] as good if not better to be found in ranks inferior to the title General, however I am hopeful for a few more months yet at least. I hope the emancipation proclamation will take effect with the approaching new year and thereby put a better phase on the freeman's cause.

Yours very respectfully,
Andrew Powell

***Capt. Lewis Zimmer of Company K, died at Tiffin, OH on Dec. 23, 1862.**

Dec. 27th, 1862

Brother Israel

I will append a few more things before closing this stating I am still well except a slight cold, but such is a common complaint now days. Of course you need not place much stress on the import of the other sheet. I hope no harm will arise from it.

I would sincerely recommend that you attend the public sanctuary and profit as much as possible from the devotions on the sacred sabbath day. You can connect a due amount of earthly gratifications there with, and at the same time receive benefit more lasting than earthly or sensual pleasures. Try and establish a permanent character on virtue or on principles of morality and piety for you will find such a characteristic a boon well worthy of any one's possessing & besides you are as well aware of the importance of a firm permanent character upon proper principles. I infer by this that I have already realized a benefit from such an one myself. I find that Christian principles are a little difficult to maintain in my circumstances, but not so much so as if I had not established them as early as I did.

Then, Israel, I advise you to pay due regard to the opportunities you have and also the important object in view. But for the present, I must close. When you write please touch on the subject. Write often.

Yours

in brotherly love
To Israel Powell
A. Powell