

Louisville Ky Aug 13th 1861
My Dear Sister

Your kind letter came to hand several days since. I appreciate your kindness and your kind admonitions will soon receive their due weight and ~~and~~ kind consideration.

In reference to going South. it is true that I have been thinking something of it. but I hope the necessity upon which it is premised will not be verified. When thinking of it I have not forgotten you nor Ma nor any of my Sisters, but these are revolutionary times and it may be that I should leave you for your own good. for when the State becomes ~~this~~ Lincolnized those that sympathize with the South will be unsafe arrests will be part of their proceedings. We will be compelled to take part then why should we remain until we are bound hand and foot perhaps to be imprisoned for an indefinite period. The course that set off which George Jackson

Company is a part well if they
persist in carrying out this design
inaugurate a civil war in our
midst as bad if not worse than
the one in Missouri I think.
dire punishment should be inflicted
upon every participant in this
diabolical plot,

Mr R. - left yesterday
evening and will reach Winchester
by the time this does.

It is quite lonely here now,
I spent last evening very pleasantly
with Miss J. --- and dined to
day with Mrs Hamilton she has
two young ladies staying with
her. Times are getting no better here
continually. we have no news here but
war news and not much of that. You
see that in the papers. Lyon is dead
again. Write soon and tell me
what you are all doing at home.
I want to come up to the fair on
about the 1st September,

Yours aff Bro
D. L. Wheeler

body & spirit stronger than ever before;
wishing for peace now to be released
from this place where hours drag their
slow length along like a wounded serpent
and time seems to linger even the
moments seem to wait to be helped away.

When I am released from here and
find myself once more out where I can look
upon hill and dale valley & greenwood and
find that I am to some extent a free agent
I will do anything in my power that I
consider honorable to get home provided
I do not conclude to do otherwise.

I have written to the Sisters and
received responses but they did not mention
Jesse Brooks.

A request was sent over the other day
that we would not write such long letters
I don't know whether this will be considered too
long or not. One of the gentlemen that
examines our letters came into our cell
to see me being a namesake (D.D. Wholes) he
appears to be a very nice fellow is at Vt. Co. to
see Brooks and from Vermont.
Your aff. bro

J. L. Wholes
P.S. I have just heard that Miss Florence was
married about 8 months ago.

Do not write too long a letter for there are
so many things that I really do very much
them (copy respectfully) D.W.

Allegheny City, Pa
Aug 26th, 1863

My Dear Sister

Your long and very interesting
letter of the 19th came to hand to day also
one from Alice of the 20th I read one from
Heather of the 19th yesterday. I wrote Heather
that they had been writing about a box for
some time & so had Dr. Harkness & Mr. Taylor
been writing to Mother that they made
our month's wait writing about by hand quite
till but they could do so no longer for we
have come to the conclusion that they
were drawing on their imagination and
have more of these things they write about,
and that drawers & shirts would do us no
good in N.Y. I wrote for a draft for \$50.00
which seems a long time on the way
but letters are a long time on the road
from some causes, I will look for it now
every day. Heather sent me her photograph it
is very good but no one looks so well on
their cards as they do on glass the card
makes the complexion look rough I am
very glad to get it & would like to have
one of you & Lord Jimmie is a splendid scribbler
you ought to put him in the evening word,

Two or three days since we recd new orders in regard to clothing we are not allowed to receive outer garments under clothing and still permitted to come in visitors are required to get permission to see the prisoners of Gen Brooks in Pittsburg.

I had not heard before that John Mc. had moved to Illinois. I should think it would go very hard with him to be without help.

Ask Mr. B. what fair lady wears that diamond ring he bought at Louisville.

I am sorry to hear that the Pierce matter is so mixed it ~~would~~ seem now that the only alternative is a law suit and that is always bad enough. I was in hopes she would get enough of the iron to make her safe and her finances easy.

You ask if I correspond with Miss O'Connor — but she would never give me the advice you do if ever so anxious for my return.

You ask if I ever look back and sigh for the good old government our fathers gave us. I do and lament over the unhappy day when fanaticism superseded reason and that good old government was overthrown and the goddess of liberty cast down I fear never to be reinstated but hope

with the help of the benign omnipotent the people may be brought to their senses reason reinstated, fanaticism exterminated, and the angel of peace be induced once more to visit and preside over this unhappy Country. Mr. R. says in one of his letters he is sorry I was persuaded to espouse the cause of the rebellion, ^{I was not} but went for certain reasons of my own, not for fame for I am not ambitious, it is true I wanted to be in one fight & one satisfied my desire, for I am somewhat of the opinion of the fool "Better a fool at a feast than a wise man at a fast" and since I have been in the service I find that I have just about courage enough to do my duty and not a grain of surplus, and then have more than many who are vaunting valor exhibits itself only when there is no danger either before or after, and not for profit ^{you know} for my pay will not clothe, feed and mount me and I felt I had as great inducements to remain at home as any one my mother sisters and Dalemas all very dear to me but I was spurred and it was galling to me, so I took refuge with the oppressed, and after passing through hardships that you would scarcely believe, I find myself here enduring the hardest of all but in battle

This letter comes by the graphier & your
sister will tell you the propriety of not speaking
of it being for a means of transmission
S 26

24

I forgot to say in my description
that the front of our chapel is a
statue building of iron & stone in
which are the figures of Adam & Eve
of the garden. On the center of
the middle range of the structure
stands a statue of a figure of a man
surmounted by a cross

Albany City Penn 3
7th Oct 1863

My dear little Pet

I want to have a good old
fashioned talk with you. First you want to know how
I am on health. Thank you never better indeed I am
I seem to agree with me. I have not enjoyed such
uninterrupted good feeling for many years. Next would
you not like to hear something of my boarding house &
particularly my room & matos. Maybe I have given you
his description of all to Betty or Mary but I will wish
repetition for you my dear. Our ^{board} house is a long
massive row of building of 30 ft extending through
the middle of the enclosure which ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{long} ~~long~~ ^{extends}
& diagonally from one end of the pile to the sides of the
ground  in this form: down the middle of each of
these rows extends a corridor high & vaulted arched
& in each side of the hall are our rooms most of them
about 1 by 20 containing 2 men but I was fortunate to
get into one at least 20 ft square well lighted &
furnished along with 4 pleasant ^{small} ~~small~~ ^{rooms} ~~rooms~~. Capt
Cory, Dr. Hays Church & Brown. We have two
small tables about the size of your mother's candle
stand which serves for eating purposes & small tin
saws and a few tin spoons are furnished to each man
to which we have added by purchase & ingenuity two
little tin buckets, a mustard bottle salt box wooden & a
number of handkerchiefs, better knives & ~~reputable~~ ^{reputable} forks

whittled out of a strong piece of pine plank the
articles of table ware are simply arranged in two
shelves made in two separate corners for the purpose
while on two treacherous looking strings stretched across
so many roots hang a number of towels for dishes
& face (don't laugh for we really have a separate towel for
each) and in the windows & along the walls are
boxes of clothing which boxes once contained "Table
Comforts". The rest of our wardrobes are hung promi-
nently on the walls: Our beds are of straw spread on
the floor at night & piled in the corner during
the day: My room mates are all nice men & very kind
we live as agreeably as brothers could: St Brown
is a tedious tedious head it reaches almost to his
waist. He is always saying something which makes
us laugh & that too without seeming to try. You know
when a man is always trying to be funny or to say
smart things or to appear to great advantage
he not only fails but makes himself ridiculous: Let
us just go with my me: we should always be plain &
unassuming, just ourselves & no more! If you will
ask Kate she will bring the pictures of my friends
to school for you to see them! We have 3 hours playtime
every day & we improve it by lively games, just
such as boys play at school: do you see we are
not boys of larger growth? we have no scarcity
of the good things of life, we are allowed to
buy just such things as please our tastes.

So my room mates took dinner abroad to day
& you can guess how much was left of
a fine turkey as all present did. Equal justice
with respect & you know something of my eating
propensities! We could not be more comfortably
situated as prisoners if we could wish as often
as we choose! you are going to school to Miss
Sizzie Radwin! I want you all to like her
she is a good woman & will make you a valuable
teacher! Remember to do all you can to please her
& you will please me! I have a watchful eye
on my children & will be much grieved if they do
not conduct themselves as I wish! who are you
clashed with? are you studying? I have heard
from most of the girls & what they are doing!
So to be going to school. Tell him to be very kind to
Miss Sizzie & study well. He can learn as fast as
he chooses. it depends altogether upon himself! How
is Mary? Is she going to school? this is a shame & I can see you all
at playtime running in the house! Sizzie is in our corner chatting, & private
and you & Mary, Grace & Emily, Fannie & Kate are settling over
the benches keeping still with all your might & danger while a dozen
boys are plunging around & yelling to the danger of other limbs
& limbs while all around is chatter chatter once there's a
holiday! Give my love to my sweet heart when you see her
Can't write to Mary & Betty when I can. I could much
love to give father & mother & sisters & brothers! How
kind I offer the interest of a union & the love of friendship
Little Miss Willie Robinson
Lillian M. Johnson

My dear clay

Albany City 31st Jan 1864

Another one of your characteristic letters came by to days mail. I am always delighted to hear from you & to answer you. I accept the criticism & will look better to my spelling. I would say "tis" & "until" were according to Webster what do you think of it? Yes I fill my letters with counsel for I feel that this is a critical period in your life & I am very anxious that you should have proper views of the world & that your course shall be properly shaped. I have all confidence in the judgment of those around you but a word from me occasionally may serve to strengthen the impressions made by their advice. I would not have you too credulous or too skeptical. You will find those of both sexes who will affect eccentricity & perhaps to doubt all mankind. pretend to be sours with the world & sneer at every thing generous & noble. This proceeds from either want of brains or principle. It is either sanity or villainy. If the former the subject has failed to be interesting & seeks to be notations by railing at the heartlessness of mankind & displaying its want of appreciation. A great many young men with exaggerated notions of their talent fall into this folly. It is simply contemptible. If the latter there is a deep design in society & it becomes dangerous. I need not warn you that the former ~~is only to be ridiculed~~ & the latter shunned as a pestilence. Then you will find another extreme who believe go through the world blindfold believing all the world pure & every action disinterested & generous till bitter experience shows them their mistake. I would not have you consort with this class either. But there is a happy medium which I would like for you to find without having to pay the terrible tuition fees of that relentless school, experience. Believe that there is a great deal of good in the world but that it is never unmixed with evil. And it is a safe rule never to confide in any one till you know by trial that she is just what you would have her. Never trust to appearances till you have weighed character & then remember that all can be tempted. It has been said "there is no perfect" & it is true and you will find many excellent persons with grievous faults. You must not love them less for these. be charitable in your judgments & always think how you would have acted under similar circumstances before you condemn. And on the other hand never let your enthusiasm run off with your judgment & lead you to unqualified approbation of any person of whom your acquaintance may change your opinion; but I am satisfied there is little danger of your going to this extreme. I rec'd a letter from Mary Lou Hathaway to day containing a photograph of Uncle Miller. He looks quite old. Julia writes to me too occasionally. They make interesting correspondents. My album was made for 24 pictures. I have 20 in it. I would like to fill the vacancies. any of my friends would be gladly received. I was sick when I wrote last but am well again. I will try to answer Alice's letter very soon. She is a very regular & delightful correspondent. I am very much gratified by the fidelity you have all displayed in writing to me lately. I think I have the best sisters in the world. I am so glad to hear of Uncle Thomas's Convalescence. How all his family must love him. particularly Cousin Mary. Aunt Polly & the Capt Jim Johnson & Sally & Betty. Keep & cherish the same. What are you reading? I was pleased at your criticisms. don't fail to correct all my mistakes. And I will certainly take the same liberty with yours. I hope Mildred will be better when I hear from her again. take great care of your health. I don't like to hear of your coughs. hear of Father's letter. try to get his cursed job. with all the love I have for you all I am as ever your mother Leeland Hathaway

Tell father & sister I need two prs of
Cotton drawers & 2 brown or checked linen
shirts. and I will be allowed to receive them
Please send immediately.

W

Miss Mary Adams

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Head and Happy Family Point Lookout
Maryland March 21st 1864

Dear Ma

We left Allgheny on the 18th arrived
here yesterday evening after as pleasant a
trip as we could have expected, and were
at once quartered in tents which we greatly
prefer to cells. I am mixed with Hays. Hathaway,
Lynch, Dillake, Curry, McMichael. I suppose
from Matties letter she had sent me ten
dollars but it had not come to hand but
I borrowed ten on the strength of it which I
used, I will write again as soon as I learn
more. I hope we will soon be sent to City
Point but dont know any thing about it.

Direct your letters to, Lieut. J. L. Whelan
Prisoners Camp Morgans command Point
Lookout Maryland.

Your aff son
I left an order for ten to J. L. Whelan
be sent to you if none came
to hand,

Officers Camp

[1864?]

Hospital Officers Camp
Point Lookout Md June 27th

My Dear Sister

Your very kind and interesting letter of the 20th came to hand yesterday. I am glad to hear that you are all well and that quiet is restored to you again. This place seems quiet and lonely now to the few officers left here only those at the hospital about 50 or 60 and most of them do not get far from their beds, so they are not much company for each other now but most of the patients seem to be doing well and will soon be able to get together a number of them and there is some pastime, I have no idea what disposition will be made of us or

or how long we will remain here so our movements are just as uncertain as they have been for the last year.

We have not heard from the officers removed from here on the 23rd but expect to hear from them every day. My Convalescence is progressing finely I think there is nothing the matter with me except I am very weak. My strength is improving every day. I have heard nothing of the box Meolie & sent me I fear it went up on some train. Write after Love to all.

Your aff Bro
J. L. Whurler

P.S.

I wrote to Carrie yesterday.

My Dear Sister

Point Lookout Md July 27th 1864

I have recd no letters for several days the mail is very irregular owing to a recent change of route from via Balt to via Washington I understand, and I have written but few as stamps are scarce. I have not recd the ten dollars sent on the 18th but have no doubt it is here as the letter mailed at the same time has been here some days. but I have borrowed about that amount in small amts as I needed it and spent it. Notwithstanding my recent relapse I am feeling better than I have for. Since my 1st attack which I attribute in a great measure to a change of diet. I don't think anything ever tasted more delicious to me than some tomatoes did yesterday at dinner. they were canned and bought of the Sutter for fifty cents a can. I have been getting some black berries from the Sutter (see for a qt can) they have been very beneficial have done me more good than any medicine I could get. You know I was never fond of Cooked tomatoes but they seemed to be the very thing my appetite craved when I tried them. I ate heartily of them as many as I thought prudent. and could have eaten a whole can at once.

Well I guess you will think I am filling this letter about something to eat & that I think of nothing else. well the truth is we think a great deal about such things, did you ever see a convalescent that did not, especially if the quantity & variety of his food was quite limited. I am glad to hear that you are enjoying yourself & hope you will be allowed to continue so doing.

I have no idea how long we will remain here. the twenty removed on the 16th are at the old Capitol prison Washington. Best love to all. Yours Affly. B. W. J. Moulton
L. Riddell & Tribble are both quite sick. dysentery & fever.

P.S.

I wrote to Henry Kiel to day at
Rock Island. My shirt fit well.
The fish hooks & line suit first rate,
but we are not allowed to go to the
bay now.

Henry Kiel - P. Kiel
- (P. Kiel - P. Kiel)

My Dear Sister

Fort Delaware Oct 31st 1864

Yours of the 23rd & M^{rs} of the 25th were rec^d this m^{orn}
I think M^{rs} suggestion a splendid one, and of course
would be delighted to have the arrangement made, but
fear it would take too long to make it, if it could be
made at all, I am too long for Lewis, and will be under
many obligations to Dr. Delha if he can do anything for
me but guess that Gen Burbridge can accomplish more than
any one else if he will try. I am thankful for anything
that gives me hope, but I go down very hard when hope,
my main stay, ends in disappointment. The box of
clothing came in this morning all right, I am very
much pleased with them, the coat & vest fit beautifully
the shoes are one size too large but will do very well,
the hat 16th too small but will answer, I am very much
pleased with the shirts drawers & socks, I fear I shall
never be able to repay the debt of gratitude I owe you
and M^{rs}, You I know, have no idea how much you
have done to alleviate, & to comfort ~~me~~, during my long im=
prisonment. My prayer is that I may prove worthy of your kindness
and that heaven may reward you if I cannot repay.

I fear Lewis will find his trip attended by many difficulties that
she does not look for, a hard trip to take a young baby, to pass
through two hostile armies and the circumventions, causing delay
in disagreeable places. I wrote to M^{rs} yesterday & to you on the
26th acknowledging rec^d of draft for \$5000 the letter rec^d to day
will answer all purposes I hope I will not have to see it & fear
will have no opportunity to explain. Your aff. Bro. J. D. Whelan

Miss. Pratt, Whaler
Winchester
Kentucky



Woodford Jan'y 13th 65

My Dear Sister—

About a week since Betsy recd. a letter from Levi in which he said he had gone to the Hospital— I send you the Letter— I at once wrote to him to take steps to take the Bath and come home & that I would write you to urge him & make arrangements for him to do so— I think he has manifested his devotion to principle sufficiently and he ought to quit now before his health is entirely ruined— I wrote to him that Jimmy Robinson & Col Hanson could make arrangements & have the papers prepared & get permission for him— I had then heard that Col H. had been exchanged which it seems is not true— If you will write to him & get his consent I have no doubt the matter can be arranged— I hope you have already written him & will get a letter from him in a few days— I hope his health is improved and when you hear from him you must let me know how he is & what are his views—

We are nearly ready to leave here— I have a little corn to gather

yet & 5 or 6 ~~hot~~ hogs to gett off - a little
tobacco to prize & a load of wheat to send
to get made into Flour to Take with us
when we move to the west - I will leave
Betty & the children in Versailles to
board till I go out & arrange for them
to go - I will then return & take all
out - I will pack in Boxes & Hogsheads
all our house keeping goods & chattels
& place them in Warehouse on the
River ready to ship, & we will go
by water as far as can - It is probable
the family will not go out before April
or March at the earliest - I do not like
to leave ~~them~~ rather would not like it,
if by mere ~~chance~~ she were gone - But I
see nothing now to attach me to it
except it is the leaving behind our
friends & relatives - If we had there
any other place is as desirable and
I think more profitable - Abolitionism
has rendered it necessary for us all to
rely upon our individual exertions and
I am thankful I yet have a little
physical ability left and hope to have
health to use it. Macky our horse is better
we using a prescription by a Physician
in New York - He is now very well but
has often been so before & we do not know
what day or night his attacks may return.
Just about the time he gets fully re-instated
in health & full vigor of mind & body

My Dear Sister { Fort Del Jan 19th 1865

Yours of the 13th came to hand to day in a bunch with 8 stamped draft for \$25⁰⁰ enclosed. Please give Carrie my sincere thanks for this further and material manifestation of sympathy and love, the sincerity of which I have never doubted.

You and others suggest a move by which I can get out of prison and you ask in your last for my decision, well we are prisoners and have a very limited way of communicating with the outer world. I am very tired of prison and get so very rapidly when my health is bad, but when I get out of the frying pan I wish to avoid the fire, and if I should attempt to get out of prison I don't wish it to be merely a change of prisons as it would certainly be if I attempted it without the assistance of outside friends. Don't speak of these things, as it might be attended with ruinous results if known here that a prisoner harbored for a moment the thought of availing himself of the benefit of the amnesty, therefore if such an arrangement should be made it should be on the condition of immediate release. My health is very good at present but since the attack of pneumonia I am very much afraid of bad colds, fearing serious consequences. It appears that there is to be no general exchange, I wrote to Uncle Lewis to day. Best love to all,
Your affectionate Brother. J. P. Whelan

Miss. Mattie. Wheeler
Winchester
Kentucky

To Honble J. H. Kent
Honble J. H. Kent
Honble J. H. Kent

Honble J. H. Kent
Honble J. H. Kent

Paris 44. January 24th 1852

My dear Sir -

Yours of the 22nd was received today.
I think I will take your advice and write to
Judge Simpson about my money and when I find
out how much I have I will speculate a little.
don't you think that a brilliant idea? I dislike to
see it lying idle. I received three letters from
Mr. Hanson today and brother Dick one, they
were all written in October but they done me
a great deal of good. He says he has met with a
great many friends since he has been a prisoner
and who have extended every allowable courtesy.
he says he has received very kind treatment
from all, and he was improving slowly and
getting along very well. he said the hospital
was quite comfortable and the surgeons and
attendants attentive and kind. Ellen & Mr. Holm
were to see him and stayed several days. he says
they took him a great many nice things and he
enjoyed their visit exceedingly. he said he had
received a letter from Mr. Sheffy, his cousin who
offered him every kindness. he wrote quite cheerfully.

Honble J. H. Kent
Honble J. H. Kent

— 24 —

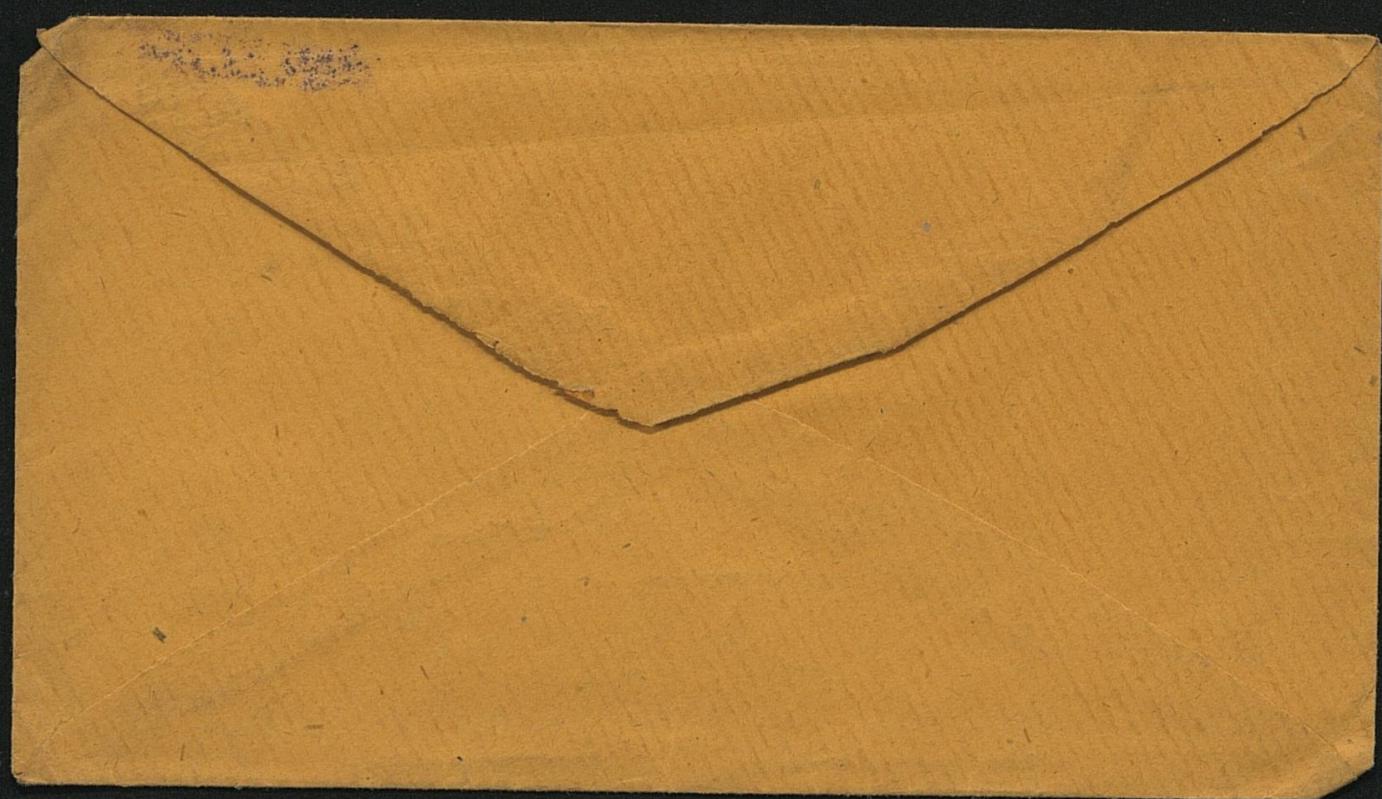
he wrote from Spackburg. I received a letter a few days since from Dr. Carrick, chief surgeon in Gillen's command, who said he had just returned from Libby where he had been confined seven days. he saw Mr. Hanson and promised him to write to me & tell me about him. he said he left him the 31st of December in pretty good health and spirits. his wound was almost healed and he expected to be exchanged or paroled soon. he said all the charges against him had been abandoned.

Oh how encouraged ~~to~~ feel and how thankful to ~~feel~~ him who doeth all things well, that is about all of particular interest I have to write. I'm moving along in the same quiet way as when I went last. being from day to day patiently & anxiously waiting for his exchange. I am sorry to hear he had to return to the barracks. I expect he is far more comfortable there than any where else. Dr. Carrick said the officers in the hospital at Libby were well cared for. he said Mr. Hanson did not receive the trunk of clothes I sent him, but he had been furnished underclothing there. I received a letter from Mr. Robinson today. he said Willie Burbridge had been quite ill for two days, but he thought was better. he said they expected to go to the Broadway in a few days. He says my sockaway

horse can scarcely walk. I think I am very unfortunate with my horses. Black Julia has got the scratches very badly. I am as sorry to hear such bad news from Aunt Sarah Mason. I think she has passed through ~~the~~ ^{a sea} ~~great~~ ~~possessor~~ of trouble in this world. Did you ever see as much bad weather as we have had this winter? I understand they had only had one snow in Missouri up to the middle of this month. I think we have swapped climates. poor uncle Luther I wonder where he will land next. My baby has a very bad cough yet but I don't think it is the whooping cough, but I can't tell yet. Carrie is well and as fat as a pasture pig. Mr. Hanson wrote me word not to let her forget him. I don't think there is much danger. she talks about him constantly. she was crying the other day and I shut her up in the room where his picture was hanging and when I went back she was standing under it begging him to come to her that Ma-ma had kissed her. Mr. Hanson says the fare is tolerable where he was. he thought it was the best they could do and that was as much as any one could ask but a great many complained very much. I must close my love to all. Write soon to your affectionate daughter Carrie.



Miss. Mattie. Wheeler.
Winchester
Kentucky



My Dear Sister

Fort Lill Jan 29th 1863-

I have a very sore boil on my right hand but as this is my regular day to write to you I will endeavor to write as well as I can. The weather has been intensely cold for several days, it was almost impossible to keep warm although we had plenty of coal and have fire all day and all night, to day is much warmer but still tolerable cold. I am very thankful to get through such a spell without taking cold. It Brown that was taken from the penitentiary insane, arrived here this morning from Washington, he appears to have recovered his balance. I rec'd a letter from Mallie ~~on~~ ^{from} yesterday, will write to her in a day or two. Rumors of exchange continue to come in, but judging from some of the debates in Congress, some of the M.C.s do not regard it as a settled matter at all. I understand that many of the privates here and at Camp Douglas are taking the amnesty and Allen Rankins rec'd a letter from his grand father stating that Capt Wm Conroy desired it, and that his wife (Mrs Conroy) was getting papers fixed for him to do so. I would like to know if this is true. I have just had a note from Col Coe man he is still doing well. Jack Church is recovering from his bad cold. Looks to be about sixty, with rheumatism and "no hair upon the top of his head". We had Episcopal service in our division this morning, the room was very comfortable and is kept very neat under supervision of our new Chief Dr Hays. He lanced my boil this morning and hurt me very badly, but consoled me by telling me that it would feel good when it quit hurting and would get well now. The spirit rappers here say we will have an exchange in two weeks (if all live), and peace in nine months I hope they are right for I am tired of everything connected with war. — Send stamps & write often.

Your Aff Brother J. L. Wheeler

Dear Clay

Fort Delaware 1st Feb 1864

The old story of making bricks without straw, I must write a letter & nothing to tell. We have had a very quiet day & darkness has come on with its lamps lighting & gathering round the fire. But there is none of the pleasure which attends the meeting of the family group after the cares of the day are done. We have been working with the day together & the question at night is always what shall we do till bed time. Did you ever in your copy-book days think what an awful old fellow "Procrastination" must be. He was published in every book in the school room as "the thief of time". I have altered my opinion considerably since those days & would welcome the old culprit right heartily if he would only take the surplus moments off our hands. But after all we need a complaint. We manage to get on right merrily, when we tire of reading talking & listening we have music dancing games of chess cards &c & the study of the characters around here affords much food for thought & no little amusement. There are all kinds of men here & not one without some individuality and prison life will bring out the latent characteristics of all. If a man is selfish he will show it here & if he has generosity charity true nobility that will be known too. Dixey wrote me that she had heard of the death of Etta Lander. I hope the report may prove false. She was a good woman, a true noble woman, but "death leaves a shining mark" says the poet. Lt Brown one of the old "happy family" & who was removed from the penitentiary a maniac, has recovered & been sent here. He has much of his old humor & social manners, but there is a change fancied or real in his look. His magnificent sweeping beard is gone which makes a difference in his appearance. I hope Kate will read this letter with you. And all others I may write love to Cousin George Elizabeth & children. With the most grateful affection for father you & Kate I am your brother Sealand Slattery

1 S. S. Lieut.

Div(2.7) Fort Del Feb 9th 1865

My Dear Sister

Your favor of the 2nd was recd yesterday finding us all on tiptoe with suspense & anxiety, which continued until this morning when Sgt Randolph made his appearance on the sentry walk on the fence and waved on high a roll of papers, which like a magic wand brought a large crowd to his presence consisting of nearly all the officers in the barracks (about 1200) who crowded up as close as they could get, with upturned faces and anxious looks, each and every one hoping to hear his name called out with those selected to go on exchange. Many hundreds were doomed to be disappointed. "Many came but few chosen", only about forty I believe. I hoped they would be taken according to date of capture but was disappointed in that. I don't think this is indicative of a general exchange but I may be disappointed. They have been paroled and we have a rumor that they will not start for ten days.

If I should ever get off I would like to have a little money when I go, if not, I will need more, so you can send the draft for \$25.00 at once, enclose in letter addressed to Lt James, L. Whaler, Col(1) 7th Ky Cav, 2nd Division Fort Delaware Del.

Among the number going are ~~Conrad~~ Warfield, Major and Lt Bullitt, John A. Tomlinson of Harborsburg, Capt A. Thomas, Lt Tom & Monland & Capt Boyd, of our Div. & Nellie writes that she has good friends in high places, I wish she would get some of them to persuade Gen Schoeff to let me go on the next boat, a letter from Governor Robinson or Gen Burbridge might suffice, that would be the greatest favor any one could do me now. Our division has settled down very quiet since their suspension has been relieved. Yours aff Brother S. S. Whaler

Miss Mattie Wheeler
Winchester
Kentucky

My Dear Sister

Fort Le Feb 12th 1865

Yours of the 6th is recd. In my last two letters to you and Aea I forgot to acknowledge recd of Stamps and Pardignass, Yours of the 2nd proposed sending a draft for \$25.00, as I wrote in my last, I think you had better send it at once, for if I go on exchange which I hope to do before many weeks I would like to have some to do me through to Dixie and if I remain here I will want some by the last of this month. The weather has not been so cold for a week as before but it is still too cold to melt the ice in the river. We are very anxious to see the river or the bay clear of ice for we are fearful it will impede the progress of the exchange.

We all believe that a general exchange has been agreed upon now, at last, and feel like the time for which we have waited so long is near at hand, and hope that the ice will soon be out of the way and a few more weeks will land us all within our lines. I believe it, yet, I can scarcely realize that I am actually to get out of prison again. The lot of paroled prisoners mentioned in my last are still here. I guess they are delayed by the ice about 70 or 80 officers & 3000 privates.

I mentioned in my last Aea's writing she had "good friends in high places" & suggested that she get some of them to persuade Gen Schoeff to send me on the next boat. On the 20th of this month I will have been in prison 19 months & have been in bad health for nearly a year and as I believe Gen Schoeff to be a courteous gentleman and very much inclined to oblige his friends, if any of them know him personally, and I think it very probable that Gov Robinson and Gen Burdett do, a letter to him may be of inestimable benefit to me, at any rate it is worth a trial, let her know, I would like to go with the first because I think I would have more time and better chance to recruit my health before I ordered to report for duty. Yours aff. Bro. J. S. Whelan

Miss. Patton. Winton
Winchester
Kentucky

Dear Ma

Fort Del March 2nd 1865

I recd your letter two days ago but have not written because I have been bothered; your letter stated that Abbott had written two days before enclosing draft for \$25.00 her letter did not come to hand until this morning and then had marked on it ^{checked} returned, this was done I understand by order of the Commanding officer thinking we would all have in a few days. I regret it very much for I am just out. I sat down and wrote to Messrs Billiss & Harney No 38 Broad Street New York asking them to send me a check for \$30.00 and draw on you on Briggs & Robinson for that amount, if they respond promptly I will get it - within a week. The prisoners paroled on the 9th left here on the 24th among them Garfield and others. On the 28th another lot were paroled, about 100 - taking about 40 out of our Div. 7 of my Regiment 4 of my Mass. Col Coleman. Capt Cole - Man, Hathaway & Mitchell. of my Mass. Allen Rankins are among the number paroled Dr Hayot myself & Dick Spurr are left. Jack Church too is among the unlucky, Capt E. C. Mullins who I wrote you was sick, died day before yesterday. A Rankins belonged to his Company wrote to his family, I am still hoping to get off some of these days. Love to all,
Your affectionate J. D. Wheeler

Mrs. Caroline. Whaler
Winchester
Kentucky

Office Commissary of Prisoners,

Fort McHenry, Md. July 14th, 1865-

I Seland Hathaway Prisoner of War do
hereby give my parole of honor to report
whenever called upon and until further
orders to report weekly by letter my whereabouts
to the Hon. Secretary of War.

Seland Hathaway

Witness
Frank H. Larned,

[EXTRACT.]

HEAD QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, VA. *March 17* 1862

SPECIAL ORDERS.

In obedience to instructions from the Secretary of War, the following named men (paroled prisoners) are granted furloughs for _____ days, (unless sooner exchanged,) at the expiration of which time they will, if exchanged, remain in their respective commands; otherwise they will report, in person, at the Camp of Paroled Prisoners, Richmond, Virginia, or Camp of Instruction, at Macon, Georgia, as may be nearest their commands. *Not to be set on the Mississippi River.* Quarter-master will furnish transportation.

Lieut. L. Hathaway, Capt. 14th Ky. Cav.

By order of Lieut. General EWELL.

Wm. H. Evans

A. A. General.

*Richmond
Virginia*

Head-Quarters, 2d Separate Brigade, 8th Army Corps,

Defences of Baltimore,

Fort McHenry, Md.,

186

Special Orders,
No. 136 }

(Extract)

1. In obedience to instructions from the President of the United States dated Adj. Genl. Office Washington July 14th 1865. St. Lee Hathaway, and John B. Grassick prisoners of war in confinement in Ft. McHenry are hereby released on their parole of honor. that they will report whenever called upon, and that they report weekly their whereabouts to the Secretary of War by letter.

By Command

Genl. W. W. Morris:

Arthur Morris

ASD & A

Assistant Adjutant General.

the greatest anxiety to know, and wish you would inform me when the boring is finished. All the time that I lived at the place there was gas coming up in the river at a point about where the tail race from where the old mill stood. There were two tail races originally one for the furnace and one for the forges, emptying in to the river. It was at or near the upper place that the gas was rising where the water never got less than 3 or four feet in depth. Several times I went out to the rising gas and caught bottles full of it and experimented with it. Some several years after I left there, the new company under Lowell Jackson & Wheeler wanted

1
Kansas City Mo
907 Prospect Av.
Capt L Hathaway
Winchester Ky

About a week ago I received two copies of the Winchester papers which greatly interested me by bringing up many recollection. I read the papers entire advertisements and all and felt like I had met an old friend and been posted on his arrival after a long absence. But I was

greatly surprised at the entire change of everything when I read the description of the old Red River Iron Works by that Tourist with the three young ladies. The old place is not named in the account except when it refers to the road by which they travel as ~~turning the Red River Iron Works Turnpike~~. And instead of crossing the Red River at the old ford you had to go up to the dam and cross on a bridge and get to a town called Clay City where once I lived when I was called Red River Iron Works, and was a wayward Post office, and I held the office of Post Master

The only bridge crossed from Lexington to our old residence house at that day was the bridge across the space about 50 feet from the forge house. Waterford and Clay City are now names in that locality to me. Black creek and Brush creek are names familiar to me. Black Creek comes to Red River from the direction of Mt Sterling and Brush Creek from the direction of Winchester. But in the 6 years that I lived there I never passed up the river from about what the call Waterford to get to the dam, for there was no road there. I have not learned where the rail road approaches the place.

Now about the gas you mention as they were boring on at the time of that excursion, I have

8 soldiers at Higginville
Mo. Thinking you might
be pleased to read
of the doings of people
of like antecedents
of your own.

You are all well.
here hoping you and
yours are improving
the like blessing

Love to the
family and would
like to see any that
might come this way.
I have now three
daughters keeping house
in this neighborhood.

The fourth one Fannie
Myers left her 3 days ago
she has lived at about
Springfield Mo for
four years.

Letter Mason

Stone coal to work
the rolling mill into
which they had changed
the manner of working
the iron. They thought
they might strike coal
by boring through the
slate formation which
which is iron that region
and underlies all the bottom
along that valley of red clay
and many hills of the country
surrounding. As it turned
they went to boring where
they thought it would suit
best and got down about
90 feet when from an ex-
plosion or from pressure
the auger or drill was
raised out of the hole about
half of it and got tangled
and they could not get it
out or let it go down.
The gas was ignited

6 and every one there thought they had struck a bad thing, and did not know how to manage it.

I have made many inquiries about in the last two or three years and I have no one who could tell me if there had ever been an attempt to open that strike. The first opening alarmed them so that they were afraid of it. The gyps came out with such a rush they thought it would

burn the whole place up. This occurred before gas was discovered to any extent any where else. Gas is being struck around and in Kansas

7 City. And in places around sufficient to do away with fuel by coal or wood in many houses.

I have thought of making a trip to try to go over some of the old tracks of fifty & 80 years ago for I began making some steps about 80 years ago. The people had most of the summer very pleasant weather today and for a few days past has been pretty warm.

I mailed yesterday two papers giving the speeches and proceedings of the reunion of the veterans of the Southern