

Graysville, Ga., May 2nd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

The evening passed in playing a rubber at euchre with the Col., Major and George, after which for want of something better to eat, we indulged in a small piece of bologna, a glass of water and all have now gone to bed but me. I feel that I must have a short talk with you in hopes it may start North in the morning, for with the rising of the sun, comes the preparation for our Div. to be on the move to Ringgold. 'Tis but a short march, five miles, we moving at eight, so that the afternoon I think, will find us encamped in the neighborhood of my old friend Mrs. B. If she yet inhabits the mansion of former days I shall pay my distresses and perhaps come in for the last old hen. Perhaps if found I might persuade her to take boarders and send for you and Frank. Don't you think you would thus enjoy life on the banks of the Chickamauga?

Do not think our movement is yet the opening of the campaign in this quarter, though it may come at any moment. Of course our commanders will know the proper time. We expect to encamp at Ringgold and from there I shall write you next; perhaps often. Today no mail for us and disappointment of course; tomorrow we shall get it and I am very confident my dear wife has remembered me therein. I wrote you on the 30th, the happy anniversary or rather the anniversary of our happiness.

But I have some news to tell you; the 38th is no longer of the old and honored 1st Brigade, having been transferred to the 3rd, (Starkweather's old Brig.) this places Col. Scribner in Command of it and accounts for the change. 'Tis a very flattering testimonial to him certainly. The Brig. is a good one, stronger in numbers than this and of excellent material: in it we meet all of the old 7th Brigade of 1862, (Negley's) so we go not among strangers. Am glad for the Col's sake that the change has been effected; aside from this, our affections are with the old 1st; but soldiers have to take everything as it comes, making but little difference what we do or are, so that duty is the word.

George goes with the Col. as A. A. A. G. and Lt. Van Dusen succeeds him at these Headquarters. George enters into the change with much spirit and seems perfectly happy; strange what revulsions come over the minds of some people! But where the changes are for the best, I think it right to help advance them; better confess an error with a good grace than continue therein.

Hereafter you will address me in the 3rd Brig., 1st Div., 14th A. C., Dept. Cumberland.

Yesterday I did not write you, Sunday though it was, for my last was ailed to you that morning. I however, went to Church in brother Carson's big Meeting House, and in the afternoon with the Major, took a short ride, made a few calls, attended Divine Service in the 1st Wis., returning to camp in time for Parade; evening passed in the Surgeon's tent in general conversation.

Curry has not again handed in his papers, though his health does not improve. I rather think he has made up his mind to help us through the campaign.

Friends all well and Col. peculiarly satisfied with his new position. Remember me to Mrs. Scribner; the change will doubtless be very agreeable news to her.

The weather is yet cold for the season; today I have had fire in my tent all the time and tonight 'tis quite cold.

Hoping and praying that you are well and that the days of Rebellion may be nearly out, I am with much love,

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Ringgold, Ga., Evening, May 4th, '64.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you the night of the 2nd from Graysville, telling of our expected march of next day; which came off promptly as laid down in the "small bills", leaving our old camp at 8 A. M., and arriving here about noon; going into camp on the banks of the Chickamauga and in every way rather improving the camp and quarters although we miss much our friendly and cheerful fireplace, not having built one here, as during the day 'tis so very warm that 'it would be folly to commence such, and yet at night we are almost forced to go to bed to keep comfortable. The Maj. has now turned in, I think under that influence and Col. S., who was down from Hdqtrs., has left me saying I am no more comfortable than his cheerless tent. Our evening games are in consequence much broken into and I feel more like going up to join the boys in their dancing exercises than to do anything else, except write to you. By the way, that letter so sanguinely looked for on the 3rd has not yet come to hand.

But I know I am taxing your patience and womanly curiosity, for were I to join you now, your anxious inquiries would be as to the whereabouts of my old friend, Mrs. Brown. Alas! how long shall this desolating War wage over this once fair land! Today my search for the above mentioned persecuted woman resulted in total failure.

Approaching the site of her late princely mansion, expecting momentarily to see the droves of hogs and dozens of chickens and those two cows that had strayed in the woods, and then the beaming countenance of mine hostess; think of my feelings when I tell you that neither hog, chicken, cow nor countenance looked up at my coming, nor shouted at my approach. No, nothing but the third of the magnificent stone chimney remains to tell the story of her woes; of all else not a vestige remains. Gone, gone with the "Yanks" or the "nasty Rebs" I can't tell which. Suffice to say, no more Mrs. B. lives where Mrs. B. used to live and no Mrs. B.'s. house stands where Mrs. Brown's house used to stand, and no big mill stands where Mrs. Brown's good-for-nothing "wosser hall" used to "make more flour than any other man in Tenn." In short nothing remains to tell the story, not even a juvenile member of the Brown family. Thus are those happy associations forever rent asunder! Such is War in Ga!

Passing the ruins in company with Col. S. and George, we dismounted at Gen'l. Baird's Headquarters in the town and there met many of the notables of the Army, from Gen'l. Thomas down. Gen'l. Baird, having had a hasty introduction to your son Frank, toasted

to his health in the genuine article. I did not join in the drink as I use the article only in extreme cases, such as when, after my afternoon scout on White Oak Ridge without water and on foot, a mouthful was very acceptable. I believe that is the only occasion of my indulging since leaving you; a pretty good boy for the Army, am I not? You see I don't belong to the class that would fear to kiss their wives, I only wish opportunity offered to do so.

Met Major Lowry, you remember him as of Gen'l. Negley's Staff; also Capt. Stone with whom Mrs. Scribner is acquainted, and he by the way, came and took tea with us. Leaving the town, for there yet stand many houses but precious few inhabitants, we moved north about a mile to call on Dr. Payne, who is now Brig. Surgeon of 1st Brig. (Morgan's) or 2nd Div. (Davis'), but unfortunately on arrival missed the Dr., he having gone to his hospitals. Expect we shall meet him some of these days.

I wrote you somewhat of the concentration of a part of our troops in this direction; I could tell you little did I tell you all I know, but lest mismanagement or ill luck should befall this message, I will say nothing of numbers or position, only that we shall, when we do move, go with such strength and confidence as never before went with the Army of the Cumberland. So have no fears for the result; though the Louisville Journal and New Albany Ledger may croak terribly; pay no heed to them. The crisis must come and the sooner perhaps the better. I do not think we shall have much to do at an early date in the Center, even though we should move early for I have no idea that we shall "butt up" very hard against such positions as Rocky Face. I look for nothing short of Dalton and perhaps not much this side of Atlanta. Meantime when we do advance, have confidence in our strength and justice of the cause we uphold, to sustain you high above all fears; and should the mail facilities prove bad or even should they be broken altogether for a time, be of good heart for I feel that all will be well.

Now I am not writing this because of any orders to move, for such is not the case; perchance we may remain here weeks or months, though I think the latter improbable, but merely to school you to what may be expected in the transmission of mails after we do start that you may not meet with disappointment should the looked for letters not arrive on time. But rest assured of one thing, that you shall hear as often as opportunity offers.

Today the Paymaster of the Brigade made his appearance and is now working up the Rolls and I trust will be able to pay in a few days. 'Twill be a glorious good thing if it can be done before the campaign opens and I think the chances are all on our side. Should it prove so, you may look for a check within the next week. By the way, did you receive a \$20.00 note in one of my letters from Graysville? I sent it along thinking you and Frank would want it ere long.

Eliza writes that he is the "handsomest and sweetest child in the country"; but you must still retain a warm spot in your heart for your Soldier Man as well as your Soldier Boy. You will won't you ?

But I must think of saying good-night, go out to the Dr's. fire for I hear George and the Chaplain there, warm my feet preparatory to wakening the Major from his slumbers.

We are getting along nicely in the new Brig.; to old soldiers it matters but little where you place them, they are the same always. Col. and George are messing with us, though they will organize a mess at their Headquarters soon. We are encamped close along side of them and quite at home. Lt. Dewey has been appointed Aide-Camp on the Colonel's Staff.

Your friends all well and desire to be remembered; for myself you have my all, much love; while to your good, sweet boy, give many kisses from his soldier parent. Be of good cheer and write me of your rides and other pleasures.

Love to all at home.

Your loving husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Ringgold, Ga., May 6th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Your kind, good letter of the 1st reached me this afternoon just in the midst of Orders and preparations to move tomorrow morning. I am so glad it came, as it may be some days hence ere another mail will reach us. Your letter previous to it, has not come to hand, perhaps it will after a while.

We move tomorrow to the front, but others are there before us and I think the Rebs will soon have to vacate the famous Buzzard Roost. I think affairs are working in such a manner that we will gain Dalton with little else than a skirmish, and perhaps press on at once for Atlanta. If reports are true of the Rebs having weakened their force in front of us to go to the assistance of Lee, they had better look sharp for their Georgia Capital, for this Army is moving in such strength as it never before moved. I am almost as much in ignorance of the moves as you, but know something of the strength.

You will doubtless after a while, have many reports from this front; to all of which give but little credence; the sensation reporters are along and will have their say always. I am fearful I may not have chances of communicating with you often, as we shall outstretch the R. R. far, in our progress or I am much mistaken; therefore be not uneasy or cast down at not hearing from me. Ever think that there is a Providence that guides all things right and well; truly I feel there is much truth in this and that I have ever been an object of Divine care. I go forward now full of hope as to the future, believing our cause to be just and right, and hoping that advance may prove one of the speedy remedies of restoring peace to our homes.

We are just now sending to Ringgold for storage, our extra baggage and will move from here light, with no incumbrances; only one wagon to the Regiment and no tents. I take a tent fly and am rejoiced at this procedure, for in campaigning, I want to go for work and nothing else; that done, send for your comforts, even to include your wife and baby and take the world easy when you can.

I am hopeful that Grant may accomplish his ends, though the powers are massing against him, yet he has ever proved such a strategist for numbers, that my confidence is not in the least shaken.

We have here Sherman, and if I mistake not, you may look for some of the grandest moves of the War.

Should we penetrate the enemy's country far, of course mails will for some time be suspended; if so live in hope that all is going right, have not the blues but be ever cheerful, bright and contented: Frank will be your beau, take you to the country, out driving, etc, etc.

I receive with grace, your scolding about the money, but am not sorry I sent it; have got an ample supply to buy postage stamps and by the way, the Paymaster has been in the Brigade for two days, but not yet able to pay us. He has our Rolls and should we only move a short distance to the front, may follow us and pay there. I should like to have it to send to you, but if Orders prevent it, I know you will fare well with home friends.

Still continue your welcome letters, they will reach me in time.

My horse is improving all the time; health never better, weather fine, and everything in shape for a campaign. Expect I shall have much to write you if time and chance will permit.

Am glad you like that dress and admire my taste; was always noted for good taste; were it not so, I should not have had my little wife, should I? Wish I could join you and select another. In my absence you will have the duty to perform yourself or have Frank do it for you.

Remember me to friends and love to all at home. If you go see Sister, tell her I shall write her soon if I can, then you can give her all the news.

Now that the new habit is finished, I expect to hear much of rides. But the sun goes down and I must close, as the mail must be taken to Div. Hdqtrs. tonight.

Perhaps we may make but a short move tomorrow; other troops left here yesterday moving in the same direction but are not far to the front. I hear nothing of the enemy.

With much love, ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

I do want a picture of the seventeen pound boy: tell him I want it and I know he will be still and sit up like a man or soldier, as he is.

Dan.

Tunnel Hill, Ga.,
Sundown, Saturday, May 7th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you last evening from Ringgold of our expected march to the front, and here we are in possession of Tunnel Hill and Tunnel Hill Ridge, I think without the loss of a man, at least from our Div. The Rebs made some show at a stand but after a very light skirmish and a few shots from our Artillery, left us in a hurry. We entered the town about 12 M. and have possession of all the approaches to it; passing through their camp and halting, fed our tired horses from well filled troughs of corn that seemed to have been abandoned very hastily. Don't know what their losses if any. Are now bivouaced for the night, awaiting a light supper which will soon be announced. The day has been a terribly hot one, the men suffering much, and as the day wore on many threw away their knapsacks and blankets rather than carry them. We had a few shell sing over us during the day, nothing more. Cannot say what may be done tomorrow, but the fact of its being Sunday I hope may give us a day of rest.

I see by the papers today that Grant is reported moving, and I think the Confederacy will have much to contend with during the month. Possibly falling back may save them for a while, but the immense Armies now moving, must sooner or later make them feel the weight of their blows.

Col., George and Staff are well and doing well, likewise the same of these Headquarters. We are moving light with but one wagon to the regiment, and as Robert has arrived with ours, we shall sleep comfortably under a fly for the night.

All thus far has gone well and I trust may continue so: be cheerful, hopeful and happy as you can, for I feel all will go well with us; and I trust it may be to such an extent as will close up the War during the Summer. But I will not speculate on this, let us wait and see the workings of our present moves.

I wrote you of having received your good long letter of the 2nd and hope others may reach me while on the campaign. Our mail comes up today and I hope to send this to Ringgold in the morning.

I noticed the workmen building the R. R. this side of Ringgold; should we be fortunate enough to go into Dalton soon, which I think we will if we go for it, rail communication will soon be open. I wish I were to spend the Sabbath with you and Frank than as I will in these woods, but as it cannot be, I must be content as best I can. I know you will think of me often and forget me not in your prayers.

Love to all at home,

Ever yours, dearest,

Lt. Col. Dah.

Buzzard Roost, Ga.,

Tuesday Morning, May 10th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Seated on the north side of this, the most difficult of Georgia mountain passes, the sharpshooters from the summit and crags of which make bullets whiz above our heads in vain, we await patiently the movements on the flanks, which I trust soon may be able to turn this position. I do not look upon it as probable that a direct assault will be made on the front, as it would doubtless entail much loss. This mountain gorge passed, we shall have fair sailing for Atlanta, as the mountains cease in a great measure, south of here.

Until yesterday afternoon we were not under fire, but about 3 o'clock crossed the small creek to the support of Gen'l. Carlin's Brigade, who were to feel the enemy's position on the side of the mountain, crossing the creek in full view of the enemy from the mountain summit. The 1st Regiment had but just emerged into an open field we had to cross, when with two pieces of Artillery, they poured it in lively. We followed in the second line and had one man wounded; and Capt. Land received a slight bruise from a piece of shell; he remains with his Co. A few minutes placed us under cover of the mountain, but unfortunately they got the range on a Regiment on our left; and their second shell exploded on our left, killing Jesse B. Wilson, Co. C; and wounding Capt. Davis, Lt. Meranda and two others of the Company. The wounds are not serious. Since that time we have had, and I trust we will have no more. If we can but force them from their works at this point, my opinion is that they will be used up.

Col., George, Major and others are close around me, have just finished a cup of coffee; read the last paper and Official Dispatches announcing the success of Grant and are in tip-top spirits; likewise in the whole Army and in time will doubtless accomplish what all loyal hearts are wishing for.

The following in addition to the wounded already mentioned comprise our loss. Privates Joseph Baker, James Meranda, severely; James Mustain, slightly, of Co. C; Wm. Robinson of Co. K; James Cartwright of Co. D, slightly; privates Bishop and R. B. Harbrough, Co. A, severely wounded by sharpshooters today.

This morning all is quiet in a great measure, only the sharpshooters on either side having their fun without damage to any one. The weather which has been hot enough the past four days for the middle of August, is this morning comfortable, with indications of rain.

Our boys behaved handsomely yesterday under the terrific shelling; recruits and all.

I trust to be able to write you next without relating more casualties. You might send an extract from this to the Ledger if you choose, at any rate the list of casualties.

Be not uneasy, we feel here perfectly safe, while the same Protecting Power seems to be around us and I trust will carry us safely through the trials of the campaign.

We all hope that the early success of Grant may be followed up by other and more glorious results.

Our Companies just in from the skirmish line are now busy with their coffee and crackers; secure, but think the sharpshooters might at least cease firing until they finish.

Love to all at home, kiss our boy for me, and all be of good cheer and hopeful until the trials are passed.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Buzzard Roost, Ga.,
Thursday Morning, May 12th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have but just time to write you a few lines while awaiting the passage of a Div. of troops, which when passed, we take up the line and follow; whence, I cannot say but time will soon develop. Were relieved from the front line yesterday, or rather last night when we retired to the rear, had a good supper at 11 o'clock, a very good sleep and now feel much refreshed and ready for the march.

I wrote you on the 10th giving a statement of casualties up to that time, since when we have had no others. Have not yet made an assault on the position of the Rebs here as I think everything desired is being accomplished in a better and more satisfactory manner and no signs of weakness that we should pass around the troops of the enemy.

Think it very doubtful about your receiving this very promptly but 'twill be the latest dates when arrived, and at which time all your friends are well and in good spirits. Was considerably refreshed yesterday by the arrival of yours of the 8th and hope to get other mementoes of remembrance soon again. Am thankful indeed, that you and Frank continue well and don't want you to worry about our position as all is going well. My dear, I think you should by all means have some one to help you take care of our boy, 'tis too much for you. 'Tis far better that you should have a nurse than that you should make yourself sick. Do act on this and by all means take such measures as will best secure your health; this, you know is true economy.

You know we got started from Ringgold just on the eye of payment and will now have to wait the result of the campaign ere the Paymasters can follow us. Meantime you had better see Mr. Mann about the time you might procure the first interest on the 5-20 Bonds in his keeping, or what might be still better, have him sell for you one or two or as many as necessary of the \$100.00 Bonds; this will perhaps be the best plan for you to pursue and this letter will be sufficient authority on which Mr. Mann will act for you. Do not hesitate a moment but secure what you want to make you feel perfectly at ease until I can forward other supplies.

Col., George and all are well. My love to all at home; remembrances to friends; and above all, be cheerful, hoping soon to hear of the best of news from us.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Resaca, Ga., May 16th, 1864.

My Dear Wife!

Here we are at last after four days skirmishing and fighting, in possession of the entire line of Rebel works and they gone for a more genial clime, followed closely by our pursuing forces. What may be the swamping up of the victory I cannot say, but this much has been done, they are driven from the strongest position I have ever yet met or seen them in, with better works and more of them; leaving with us some artillery, small arms and some 500 or 600 prisoners, that we know of now. What they may sum up to by the captures of the pursuing forces, we cannot yet guess.

Had they remained a day longer they would have been pressed more closely, but running has saved them for the time being to make I presume, another stand this side of Atlanta. But the Army is in excellent condition to pursue and find them a second time. The country has been terrible to operate in, and 'twas only by fighting and pressing that any knowledge could be gained; hence our losses on the field may prove even more than the enemy, in killed and wounded; although for the force engaged and time employed, the losses are small.

Our Brigade and our Regiment have been extremely fortunate and I again thank a Divine Providence for bringing us safely through these terrible days of strife. Acting as reserve to our Div., the 3rd Brig. was not on the first line until yesterday and then 'twas to hold our position and not advance on their works at that point. True the shell, balls and bullets were continually whistling above and around us, but due care prevented casualties of any extent. Since I wrote you from Buzzards Roost, at which point we had some losses, the Regiment has had but two slightly wounded.

Am now sitting at Col. Scribner's quarters where all is well; George is busy writing, Col. the same, though all think it doubtful if the letters go further north than Chattanooga; in fact, I hear, such are the orders until the 20th. I guess 'tis best it should be so, at any rate we can suffer much for success and I know you at home can submit cheerfully, though the task be hard, to wait. Therefore my dear, do not feel uneasy about us if we again advance but believe that all is going well. The fact is, our Army is so large that it seems hard to use the whole of them in an engagement, and one wing of the Army must fight for days ere the proper time arrived for others to take a hand. I know you will look on the bright side, hoping and believing that a Divinity will shape our ends rougher than we will.

Our old Brigade suffered considerably on Sat., losing some 328 men in killed and wounded; the majority in attempting a daring and somewhat useless charge on the enemy's works. I have much to tell of the campaign but not the time to write, as the mail will start from here in a half hour; will do it at my leisure after we gain a permanent encampment. Was delighted this morning by receiving your letter of the 9th; good and cheering news and a fit accompaniment to the victory the Army had just achieved. Am so glad that you and our dear boy are getting along so nicely, I begin to think you feel very proud of him and I guess I do the same. Of course he must have the carriage and all else you deem necessary.

You will keep Sister informed of my movements as the time and chances to write just now, are scarce indeed.

Tell Eliza I have not forgotten my indebtedness to her.

Everything seems to go well in the East and I yet trust that the Summer may close over the ruins of the Confederate Government.

Col. tells me that he has telegraphed today to his wife, and as George and I are included in the family, the "all is well" must always be considered as meaning all of us.

The R. R. is in operation here today, in fact we had scarcely taken possession of the Rebel lines ere the welcome whistle was heard close in the rear; so our communications are yet perfect.

Our Cavalry are operating on the front; you will hear from them ere long; we anticipate the same.

Love to all at home, kiss our boy, be of good heart and happy. Kind remembrances to friends.

Ever yours devotedly,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Near Kingston, Ga., May 19th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

You will see by the heading that we are making good progress into Ga. and that without a great deal of opposition. Joe Johnson is still retreating, keeping out a heavy rear guard, with which our advance is daily contending, always driving them. Thus far our Corps and our Div. have not had the advance, so that we get along very quietly; only a little night marching to worry the boys occasionally. We have possession of Kingston and we must I think, have Rome, as the Rebs can't stay there. They may however, make a stand this side of Atlanta to try and save that place; whether they can prepare to receive us as well as they were at Resaca, I think doubtful as we push them very close. Yesterday we dined on the same premises that Johnson took his early breakfast from, and we moving in the rear.

The country since passing Calloun has opened out handsomely; elegant houses and magnificent plantations, but the majority of the people have cleared out as though they expected us to butcher the whole of them. This campaign, the wealthy aristocracy of Ga. will feel for the first time the effects of their Rebellion 'tis just it should be so. Yesterday we passed the smoking ruins of one of these fine buildings that had been used by the enemy's sharpshooters, killing quite a number of our men; the boys closed in on them rapidly, captured part of them and then fired their hiding place as a warning.

All friends well and everybody in good spirits, cheered much with the news from the East. I trust the good reports may continue coming in, as in it I see the mightiest struggle of the Rebellion. I trust also that this Army may be able to deal a heavy blow in the good cause.

Yesterday brought me your letter of the 13th, the very latest date from home. Am so thankful that all keep well and that our boy Frank proves a source of pleasure rather than annoyance. Am daily looking for his photograph. Am rejoiced that you get my letters occasionally though the opportunities for sending, are rare. Expect the R. R. train will be down this far in a day or two which will help matters much.

So your present habitation has been sold and you think the prospect of boarding, good; am sorry, but at least it may result in pleasant neighbors. Don't know what to advise on the property question; I had not thought of buying, in fact don't see that sufficient funds can be raised for the purpose; yet if you think property cheap, and could buy so that the payments could be made in installments, it might be the best investment that could be made

and doubtless would. I will leave the matter in your judgment, saying buy, if you can reasonably and you think the payments can be made; it might be the means of giving your mother a home just now as well as yourself; something most desirable and that I would much wish for. I leave it with you, knowing you will act wisely and well, with the advice of your father; and I think Lt. Kalso would advise you correctly in the premises. I should like much to have a home to go to on leaving the field, although my future business operations are all in the dark, not knowing what I shall turn my hand to. I hope however, the opportunity for the change may be given ere long.

Would like to take the four days' visit you suggest but can't hope for it just now.

Col. George and all are well. Don't fear to take the responsibility of buying what you think best. Mr. Mann will dispose of the Bonds for you at any time on this authority, and I feel will assist us all in his power.

Love to all. No order of march yet this morning; now 8 A. M.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Six and a half Miles Southeast of Kingston
On Road to Cassville, Ga.,
10 O'clock A. M. May 20, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Following your good example, I propose writing a P. S. inasmuch as my letter of yesterday could not be forwarded. Soon after closing it, our Div. moved to Kingston, which we found occupied by our troops; the Advance hammering away at the Rebs on the Cassville road. Soon after our arrival, came the report of a Rebel Div. of Cavalry being cut off, and our Div. with Wilder's Brigade was hurried toward the river (Etawah) to save a fine bridge and cut off their retreat in that direction. The bridge was saved, the enemy cut off in our direction, but they seem to have found some hole to get-out at; not however, without losing some 500 prisoners that I hear were taken in, yesterday. This morning we have changed position, marching some five miles and have taken position with a prospect of remaining all day. I trust we will, as it is terribly warm, in fact hot. All seems very quiet on the front but I have not learned whether the enemy have abandoned this side of the river or not.

Everything thus far seems to be moving admirably; full supplies of rations are kept up, telegraph in operation to the front, and trains running into Kingston; in fact have just heard the locomotive whistle within a few miles of us. Rome was occupied yesterday by our Right column. All with us are well and we live in regular campaign style; rough, tiresome, but rugged and tanned. The country now affords some old corn for the stock while the wheat, oat and clover fields make excellent grazing. Some wheat is already heading and roses in full bloom; were the distance not so great I could send you a handsome bouquet, now they but "waste their fragrance on the desert air".

This morning, Lt. Redding made a dash upon us, surprising me with your letter of the 16th; has not yet had time to tell the news farther than that he "had a "bully time", has his commission, saw and nursed the boy but he would cry; thinks him a nice one nevertheless.

I wish you could receive my letters in the same quick time, but in these days of important movements, they stop all mails from the Army to prevent contraband news leaking out, believing it to be for the best. I guess you will have to submit to it with a good grace.

I wrote you yesterday on the property question and would again urge to invest if you have funds enough to do it with, counting on what may be in the future. I should like to make a home in New Albany if I can find business in that direction hereafter, at any

rate, I want a home with my wife and boy. I would be rejoiced much could I have it today.

So some of the good friends think ladies should not ride except they are attended: I can't see the impropriety of their having their pleasures even though it be independent of the gentlemen. Should you wait their good pleasure or their company, rides would be few, and besides the same good people would soon raise the cry of flirting with young men when they ought to be at home, etc, etc. My doctrine is to do right irrespective of the people, or that portion of them who busy themselves about other affairs than their own. At any rate, live just as comfortably as you can, always feeling that I am glad to hear of your enjoyments and to know that you can avail yourself of them.

Have not seen Dr. Payne but once this campaign, then met him near Tunnel Hill. Davis' Div. was yesterday reported at Rome, and I presume will move up this way today. The Dr. was well. Yesterday met Col. Jordan and Capt. Vail just for a moment, as their Regiment passed; had time to know that all was well with them.

But I must go look for the P. M. and see if I can't get this started. Everybody well. My love to all at home.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the Field, near Kingston, Ga.,

May 21st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have just time to say all are well, in fact, tip-top. Will probably remain here until Monday, when we start again for the Rebs and the South. We go light and in trim for duty; are sending to the rear all extra baggage. I take one set of under clothing, towel, soap and comb. Will write you when I can.

Love to all, kiss Frank. Will write you in detail tomorrow.

Yours, Dan.

Favor of Charlie Barker.

In the Field south of Etawah River, Ga.,
 May 24th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Here seated in the woods awaiting orders to move, and more particularly awaiting the coffee that Carpenter is preparing for our noon lunch, I find time to think of you, and thinking you can have time at least to tell you of our whereabouts.

Yesterday we moved from our camp of two days rest near Kingston, crossing the Etawah river at a ford and encamping last night on Euhalla creek. Today at 10, the march was resumed, but up to this time but little progress made; for what reasons I cannot say. It is now near I. P. M. and we anticipate going some ten miles tonight and consequently hope for an early resume of the march; this will bring us to or quite across the Allatoona Range of mountains, after which we find the Rebs on or near the Chattahoochee river this side of Atlanta. This is the current expectation and we shall see in a few days whether they are able to meet and stand the weight of this Army. I cannot say that I court the attack, yet such must be done, else the War would never close: some must feel the weight of it and some party cry hold, enough. I think can we but defeat them here and in Va. they would be ready to cry quits.

Am daily looking for more news from Grant, now that he has rested from the terrible ordeal of eight days fighting through which they have but just passed. I have yet every hope in his success; may the God of battles so will it, is my earnest prayer.

For us, we are doing well; plenty of rations and much to be had in the country, although the inhabitants are taking south all they can, stock, furniture and negroes. From the amount of wheat they have in, I would judge them tired of living on corn bread, as there seems to be a great disposition to raise wheat. Crops are tolerably good, the corn not large enough to judge of it.

As I expected, the order to move came just as coffee was made, but with all that, I have had my share; and now after moving a half mile, find another column passing on the road we have to take and in consequence, have to wait.

Hope I may find a chance to send this to you, though now that we have left the R. R. for a while, chances may prove few; although Gen'l. Sherman orders that every facility be given to correspondents to home and friends.

Have seen the Ledger as late as the 19th, containing Col. Scribner's telegram, so I feel that long since, you have been relieved of anxiety caused by our engagement at Resaca. Rebel Cavalry left here two days ago. Don't know how far our advance may be now. I fully expected they would dispute the passage of the Etawah river; but they did not; next I expected to find them in the Allatoona passes, but the information I glean today dispels that.

Guess they are digging their last ditch near Atlanta. Weather has been terribly warm and no rains for many days, the roads are consequently hot and dusty, though our marches are not long. Today I think it bids fair to reach into the night, but this will make sleeping more refreshing.

Your friends are well and all things moving smoothly and very light: nearly all the baggage gone to the rear. My wardrobe consists of one change of under clothing and one shirt, two pairs of socks, two towels and a piece of soap; all of which with two blankets and rubber poncho, are carried in two small rolls on my saddle. Our kitchen department, composed principally of rations and transported on our pack horse; medicines on our pack mule; while all other transportation is devoted to supplies and ammunition. This is my style of campaigning exactly and I find it answers every purpose. A few collars, envelopes addressed, with a few sheets of paper in side pocket; and thus we go flying light with plenty and enough to wear.

I enclose another Return from Ord. Dept., which preserve, it may prove useful hereafter; write me if it comes to hand.

When will you have to move, if at all? I wrote you about buying property some days since, leaving the matter entirely with you provided funds on hand were sufficient, which I think doubtful. Possibly it will help your father should he want to buy, and give you a home until my return. Anyway you will know what best to do. George says if you have to move remember his; that he has offered you his Summer residence on Main St. But it is almost time to move and I must hunt up the Postmaster.

I must tell you that there is in this Brigade, a Lt. Col. Given, 74th Ohio; in newspaper accounts, don't get names mixed.

Your letter by Lt. Redding is the last received; I shall look for others as the mail comes along.

My love to all at home, kiss our boy for me and tell him how much I want to see you both.

With much love,

I am ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. vet. Vol.

In the Field, West of Marietta, Ga.,
Daylight, Sunday, May 29th, 1864.

My Dear Wire:

For the first time in many days I have a bare possibility of sending you a line, as the Brigade P. M. says in half an hour he will start for the rear. He also notifies me of a small mail being at Headquarters, which I trust may bring news from you.

I wrote you last when moving on Dallas and cannot now give much information as to our exact whereabouts. Report day before yesterday was that our Right had swung into and around Dallas, while our Div. from the Center moved to the Left, supporting 4th Corps, and after manoeuvring all day had quite a fight in the afternoon; driving the enemy, establishing our lines and then holding them. Only two Regiments of our Brigade, 37th Ind. and 78th Penn. were heavily engaged. We fortunately had but our skirmish line in the fray, losing during the day, two slightly wounded. The day and night work was very severe and tiresome, but about 2 A. M. we were relieved, and all day yesterday lay in the shade in reserve. Last night we moved to the 3rd line on the Left and now lie in our hastily constructed works perfectly safe; nothing but skirmishing going on, but we have so much of that night and day, that we have in a great measure got used to it and sleep well though they do occasionally waken us with their clatter.

Don't know what they are doing on our Right and Center, though the report here yesterday was that all was going well. I trust we may soon hear of success on the entire line. We seem now to have the holding of this position, which with our works is an easy matter against all attacks should they be made, a circumstance I think very doubtful.

Don't be alarmed at our position as all is going well and I yet trust in that Power to save and that I feel will carry us safely through.

We hear but little from the East but that is good news generally.

Col. S., George and the Staff well, also Major Carter and all our Officers. The weather is delightful for campaigning, though during the day very warm.

I hope soon to be able to write you again, giving reports of our success. Meantime be cheerful and firm in your conviction that the Providence who has borne us safely through the perils of two and a half years, will continue so to the end.

I think much of you and Frank and would wish a thousand times daily to be with you, but now the voice of the Nation calls on us

to save, and I trust it may not be a call in vain. This accomplished, all will be peace and a happy, thrice happy home for the future. I know you pray for it thus.

Good spirits prevail: plenty of rations for the men and though the Army moves slowly, 'tis with surety and an immense movement that must of necessity be slow and we all trust, sure.

Love to all friends at home and elsewhere: kiss our boy and be of good cheer.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the Field, West of Marietta, Ga.,
Sunrise, Monday, May 30th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yesterday I wrote you a few lines, the first chance of sending mail to the rear since crossing the Etawah river; today another mail is reported to be started for the rear and I shall try again. Nothing like having them en route though it may take long to reach now that we have for the time being left the line of the R. R. For this reason you must not feel uneasy at not hearing regularly from me as we progress South the difficulties and time will be prolonged; so make up your mind that I am always well and that should it be otherwise, then you will hear at early dates. Therefore remember that non arrival of letters means that our communications are slow and that I am perfectly well; should it be otherwise I will telegraph you if possible. So drive away the blues and feel that our good cause and those engaged in it are prospering well.

Yesterday I told you of the arrival of our mail and sure enough I had hardly sealed my letter when yours of the 20th and 21st was handed me; a perfect stream of sunshine in these days of trial. I know well your feelings of suspense and am so glad the telegram of the Col. so soon relieved you of anxiety; and also the reports through Gen'l. Starkweather. You see that we move along quite smoothly and that a kind Providence yet maintains a watch over us; may it ever be so I know, is your prayer.

Yesterday was to us a day of rest; lying as we are in reserve we were not even troubled with the bullets of sharpshooters, and spent the day lounging around our works reading, talking and thinking of home and the loved ones there. Nothing of consequence seemed to pass on any portion of the line, though we heard the Rebs had made an attack on our extreme Right, either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning and that they were handsomely repulsed with a loss of over 400 capped. They have not attempted a dash on our part of the lines yet; should they, the result will be to only weaken their Army considerably and I don't think they have any men to spare.

Last night an attack was commenced (about ten o'clock) on our extreme Right or Right-Center, which is many miles away, and for some hours the cannonading was very heavy: passing thence toward the left, the Rebs made an assault on the Left of the Corps to our right but were quickly sent back. Skirmishers then took it up along our line and during the entire night kept banging away in the fog and darkness to no effect whatever. Since daylight they have subsided and we are now having comparative quiet.

Our weather continues excellent for campaigning and from my observation I think all is going well; though you must not become impatient at our not marching directly into Atlanta; it requires much time to handle and manoeuver an Army like this, over and around the bad and dangerous places.

I see that Grant is yet progressing well before Richmond, and I hope to hear soon of further and more decisive results.

I have forgotten to tell you of another hole in my coat for you to sew, this time my dress coat. Yesterday afternoon Col. S. came up and together we walked down to the right of my line in the direction of the front, and while standing at Headquarters 21st Ohio, talking with a group of Officers, a ball well-spent struck me on the left shoulder and fell at my feet, cutting through coat and lining and making a little blue or red spot on my arm. We decided 'twas some awkward fellow who didn't know better than to fire his ammunition over a hill and would at once have taken his gun away had he been close around. George, to whom I had loaned my overcoat (his being lost) wanted to know if I didn't want my "Iron-clad". I have the cape which answers every purpose, but didn't have it on, else it would have counted hole number 8.

Am so glad that you and Frank are getting along so nicely and that the boy has his carriage to ride and sleep in, 'twill serve you very much indeed. Guess you have ere this made a visit to Corydon and almost look for your next letter from there with "lots" of news from the little folks.

Don't know what you will do at home should you not be able to procure another house, but trust for the best in this as in all else and should it be impracticable elsewhere, I know Sister will always have a spare room and knife and fork for you; the spoon can go to Frank. I will look for the promised picture, but think you had better go to Louisville for it than try Mr. Pritch; to the Gallery where little Nelly's was last taken.

I would dearly love to have you join me but cannot hope for it until we become settled somewhere; then if possible I will meet and bring you down. Just now with the forest trees my only habitation, two blankets and an oil poncho my bedding, to which I often retire with boots and spurs, coat and hat on, would hardly prove agreeable to yourself and master Frank. But we will hope for that good time coming and let us be cheerful, even though 'tis hard to do, in anticipation of the happy days yet in store for us.

Col., George, Maj., Charlie, Robert and all friends are well. Carpenter, who from his position half a mile to the rear, sends us daily our supply of soldier rations, while we have appetites capable of doing the dainty viands ample justice.

I fear you may have some wants for money ere I can send you some; if any is wanting, don't hesitate a moment about the Bonds as I wrote you; but should you want to use them entire for the other purpose, think Doc or Tom; or your father I know would supply you

until I can relieve your wants.

Am glad you are able to take your occasional rides, trust they may be pleasant and numerous ones. Write me when you ride with Mrs. W. I have never yet met her, but expect you will find her a pleasant lady and companion in your excursions.

But I must now close. All quiet, and my opinion is that for the present we will have but to hold our works, while other portions of the line swing.

All well; love to all at home; I know you will kiss our boy for me.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the Field, 5 P. M. June 1st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Another reported chance of sending a mail North, this evening and having plenty of leisure, will devote the intervening time in writing you, though I can give you no news farther than related in my last, of May 29th, as since that time we have lain still in our reserve line with nothing to do. And yet we do not feel like taking time to look around us to see what movements may be going on elsewhere.

Our whole Army seems to be quiet, doubtless awaiting movements elsewhere, and meantime throwing up such defences as we should only be glad to have the Rebs make demonstrations upon. This they have done frequently, but only to be shot back to their works in a hurry. Our several days of rest have quite revived us all from the fatigues of the past weeks and leaves the men in good condition for duty. The news so far as heard yet, comes good from the East and I trust all may go well in both Depts.

For our Headquarters we have a small work of logs, rails and earth and have partially enclosed and covered it with boughs, so that we have a comfortable place to lounge during the hot hours of the day. Our culinary dept. is located some distance to the rear and three times a day Carpenter sends up the good things the country and commissary may afford. He has surprised us with an occasional chicken and yesterday actually sent a couple of warm peath pies; doing well for the field is it not?

Reading matter is quite exhausted and we look forward to the arrival of the next mail with interest, but don't know when it may arrive; possibly in a day or two. I wrote you of having yours of May 27th, this is the latest any of us has had.

As that contained the good news of all being well at home, I yet live in the full belief of the same continuing and that you are enabled occasionally to take your rides and drives, and Master Frank the same in his new carriage. I do wish I could join you in them but 'twill serve to make them all the more pleasant when the happy day arrives. I could wish now a thousand times it were at hand, but yet a little while our country claims my poor services, and they must be given else I should feel unworthy of a claim upon it or a home therein.

I am yet sanguine that the mighty effort now being made by the Government will result in much good and I trust, the complete overthrow of the Confederacy. Yet do not despair at home, if this work is not done in a day, a week or even months. Do not set down army movements as failures because they do not keep pace with your sanguine hopes and wishes; these immense movements must have time, as

it takes days, even after finding an enemy, to make all the proper dispositions to meet them. But I know you hope for the best even as your good heart wishes for.

Major is with me, well. Col. S. and George have Headquarters close by and are doing likewise, well. Robert is half a mile to the rear with his Dept. and stores. In fact all friends well and doing very well for campaigning.

Love to all at home, and friends; and do not worry at non arrival of letters as it is only a chance that we get them off occasionally; depending somewhat on the movements of supply trains for transportation. But we will do the best possible, and meantime believe all well when mails are delayed.

Kiss our "sweet boy" and think of me,

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the Field, Six Miles west of Acworth, Ga.,
Sunday Morning, June 5th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Good news this Sabbath morning, did not come single handed, for I had scarcely finished reading your good letter of May 31st, seated in my fortified house with Rebel bullets whistling above my head, when lo! the word from the Brigade on our right comes that the Rebs are leaving or have left our front.

Very soon our skirmish line was in motion and sure enough they had gone, we entering their first, then their second line of works without opposition, finally coming in view of the fleeing lines, but too late to overtake them. Where they have gone to, or where going 'twould be hard to say; but I guess, toward Marietta, where I think they will make another stand ere falling back on Atlanta. Our movements on the Right and Left while we held the Center, have doubtless caused the evacuation of the lines here.

Yesterday I understood that our Left had reached the R. R., occupying Allatoona and Acworth, so that as we move in that direction 'twill soon give us direct rail communication. By observing the map you will see that this detour to the west was made to flank the enemy's strong position in the Allatoona Mts., which they discovering, moved their whole Army in this direction to meet us. Which they did, but it only served to detain us for a while, they losing more in men than we have, in the movements.

I presume our next concentration will be in front of Marietta unless they should fall back at once to the line of the Chattahoochee river or to Atlanta. Be that as it may, we move right along in due time.

I wrote you last on the morning of the 2nd, we being then in reserve; that evening we moved to the front line to relieve troops that had been in position for some days, and since that time have been close to the work, where every man must stick close to the lines or suffer himself to be made a target of, at from 3 to 500 yards. The Rebs have not essayed a charge on us; had they, 'twould have been a sorry charge for them.

We have had since I wrote you last, one killed, James E. Gresham Jr., Co. E; and 2 wounded, Wm. Alexander, Co. D; and Ira H. Breedlove, Co. H.

We are now enjoying quiet and will eat our dinner very soon in peace and quietness. The balance of the Sabbath I presume, will be devoted to cleaning up and resting, and for one, I am truly thankful for the opportunity.

Will write you of our next move as soon as practicable, but you have ere this, learned that our mail facilities are very poor indeed, therefore be not cast down on non arrival of news from me.

Noliz:

* DIED IN JEFFERSONVILLE IND. ABOUT 1891

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I judge from an expression in it that you had made a brief visit to Sister, but no particulars.

Our good boy yet comes up to your ideas of goodness; how I should like to be with you to enjoy his childish pranks; am so glad that he gives you comapratively so little trouble, and that you find in him a sweet object of your love.

And friend Mahan has at last shuffled off the coil of bachel- orhood, sensible boy that he is; tell my friends Maginness and Weir to do the same. Congratulate the happy couple for me. I shall listerl with much pleasure indeed to all you have to tell on the subject, when our happy days begin.

Have had rain for two days and nights and the men present a sorry picture indeed, of rags, mud, gunpowder, etc, etc, and as we have no supplies of the Q. M. Dept. with us, we shall look in worse plight ere the ending of the campaign, than we did on our memorable arrival at Louisville in 1862. Still with stout hearts and strong nerves we jog along pleasantly.

Shall write you more ere the mail closes this afternoon.

Ever yours,
Dan.

5 O'clock, P. M.

My Dear:

Nothing further of importance to write. The Rebs have left all their works on our front, so guess we shall have some days of rest. Guess we will move in a day or two, toward the R. R.

All well and in good spirits. Have just left Col. S. He, George and all are well. Met an Officer from Davis' Div., who told me he saw Dr. Payne three days since, in good health.

Love to all, kiss Frank for me.

Ever yours,
Dan. F. Griffin.

I have today, papers of the 2nd and 3rd and see that Gen'l. Grant is still making excellent progress toward Richmond and that he generally succeeds in worsting the rebellious subjects in all his engagements. I trust the good work may still go on, that peace and union may again prevail and that the deluded people of the South may see the error of their ways and repent thereof. Truly, I have no desire to see their blood poured out as it is being done, but it seems nothing else will bring them to terms.

I know in your devotions of today, you will think of us in the field; perhaps more than think of us and in return, we shall pray for the loved ones at home. Your letter of the 31st gives much news but I think there is yet en route, one written before it, for I judge from an expression in it that you had made a brief visit to Sister, but no particulars.

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Love to all, kiss Frank for me.

Ever yours,
Dan. F. Griffin.

In the Field,

Three Miles southwest of Acworth,
Wednesday, P. M. June 8th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Today we are in receipt of some fast mail and with it comes yours of the 23rd, telling of your visit at Sister's, your mother's illness, the usefulness of yourself and Eliza as housekeepers, with many other items, not forgetting Frank's good behavior while from home, etc. Am real sorry to hear about your mother's sickness, but take it for granted she is long since well as your P. S. made her better and your letter of the 31st says nothing of it.

Do you like our California sister much; thank her for me for her genuine Union Sentiments: although I think Morris is no Rebel but that he hangs on to old party ties altogether too long; so much for accepting favors at their hands. Now my case is different: I cut loose from the Breckinridge wing at once, as soon as the cloven foot was discovered and am now vigorously for sustaining "old Abe", and hope ere today the Baltimore Convention has done justice and placed him in nomination for the next term. He deserves it and will in my opinion have it.

So Grand-ma thinks "Frank does not look a bit like Dad", next time have her readjust her spectacles and at least attribute his good behavior to me. Should like to have seen the old lady with him. By the way, how is Tillie G., the children where; the Gen'l, and so on? Have been expecting that I might meet him again this way ere long as we have rumors of the arrival of the 17th Corps, or part thereof.

I wrote you last from the field on Sunday just after the receipt of your letter of the 31st and the hasty departure of the Rebs. Since that time we have slept quietly and long and I must say, have rested up. Monday marched to this point and yesterday and today, have done nothing but rest. Are bivouaced in the woods, plenty of shade and army rations full. Yesterday A. M. had an excellent bath, put on my clean clothes, at noon pulled off my boots and lounged, slept and read until bedtime. Today I have shaved, had my boots blacked, visited Brigade Hdqtrs., then rested and now write.

Expect we may move further to our left soon, perhaps tomorrow; and how soon again commence active operations, I cannot say, but think we shall go for Marietta soon. R. R. is being rapidly repaired and trains will be with us in a few days. Meantime all is going well, we have succeeded in flanking their strong position in the mountains, then drove them from their next position, and are

now ready to move on Marietta, preparatory to the advance on Atlanta.

With Grant, we hear, all yet goes well and I have high hopes that all is as we would wish for, though the Rebellion is yet formidable in its proportions, but we are now gaining their fertile and producing lands, which if we but hold, will drive them to the wall ere long.

Col., George and all are well and in the midst of the strife, we have leisure to think of home. Love to all.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin.

Have just seen a boy of the 23rd Inf. in our camp, he tells me they arrived at Acworth today; Lt. Col. Davis, Comndg. Regiment, Col. Sanderson, Comndg. Brigade, and Gen'l. Gresham, Comndg. Div., in the 17th (Blair's) Corps. I shall go see them tomorrow if we do not move from here. All are reported well.

Yours, Dan.

Send me one dollars worth of stamps in your next letter; they are very useful, and hard to procure here.

Yours, Dan.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
 Sunday, June 12th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

'Tis now about sunrise, had not the clouds and rain obscured that luminary; have just concluded my breakfast of corn cakes and coffee, and have ten minutes before the mail closes to tell you all are well; and though it has showered rain on us for some days we stand up under it fully as well as under showers of bullets.

Wrote you last on Wednesday afternoon; an hour after was surprised by the welcome countenance of friend Babbitt. Their Corps had but just arrived at Acworth and he hurried over to find us. Next morning, George, Robert, myself and others returned with him as no move was to be made and we had one grand visiting day. Found Gen'l. Gresham very well and looking exceedingly well; Col. Sanderderson the same; Col. S. is commanding a Brigade in Gen'l. G's. Div. (4th Div. 17th A. C.) . Met there Dr. Payne in his usual good health, and called on Col. Davis and most of the Officers of the 23rd, all doing well. After dinner, Gen'l. Gresham came back with us to our camp; and thus ended a day very pleasantly spent amongst old friends. Next morning our Army moved a short distance and yesterday, the same, as we go into position in front of Marietta for an advance. The Rebs are in front of us but not yet close enough to our immediate front to bring on any skirmishing. Don't know anything of their strength this side of the Chattahoochee river, will only find it out by a careful advance and perhaps some hard knocks.

I see Gen'l. Grant still progresses well; that is good and the renomination of old Abe suits me equally well. We must sustain him or give up the contest at once; and then would come such carnage as would end only by the Rebs having all or more than they started with. The banks of the Ohio and bayonets only, would stop them.

By the way, I see that Morgan is again in Ky, and moving briskly. Turn out, Home Guards and receive him! We will see what Col. Frank Wolford and the Louisville Journal and others of that stripe, propose doing about it: to stop them, I mean. He will get many good horses, many recruits and much to steal; may cut our communications, but can't injure us much if any.

Am looking for a mail today and with it a letter from you. All quiet on the front. Love to all at home, kiss Frank for me, keep your good spirits and all will go well.

Your devoted husband,
 Dan. F. Griffin,
 Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

I asked in my last that you send me one dollars worth of postage stamps and repeat, fearing it may be lost.

Dan.

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In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
June 14th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Last night yours of the 6th arrived after we had retired, but I got up and read by the camp fire; feeling much better thereafter and slept soundly, dreaming of you, and of home.

Am so glad you had received mine of the 30th, though I see the letters reach you very irregularly and I think some that I write do not reach you at all. Yet in these times, if but a part get through 'tis doing well; therefore be not cast down on their non arrival, but think and believe that all is well.

Have but time this morning to tell you that all is well as we are under orders to move in half an hour. Not far, I anticipate, but to change our position a little. Everything has been rather quiet for some days and I cannot even give you correct rumors as to movements or position of the enemy.

It has rained on us for four days but this morning is clear and cool. Fortunately for us, we have moved but little during the rain but have lain quietly, sleeping, reading a little, and wishing for the mails and papers.

I wrote you last of my visit to Gen'l. Gresham, meeting Dr. Payen, Capt. Babbitt, Col. Sanderson and the 23rd generally, besides having a good time. The 17th Corps is now in position on our left, near the R. R. and we daily hear the music of the locomotive whistle.

You asked some time ago, of a man named Hearn of Co. B. He has never joined the Regiment from Indianapolis yet, though I think came as far as Nashville and was left there sick. I can give no further information of him now. Guess he will be along here after a while.

You make me wish always that I were with you to enjoy the childish sports of our boy and I would gladly accept your offer of a visit, could it be done; but I have already in my letters to you given you items of my present mode of living; not exactly suited to a mother and child. I hope for better things however, and trust that circumstances may allow of such this Summer, though I think it doubtful. At any rate, the time is flowing swiftly to an end when I may and will, be able to join you at home. Meantime be of good cheer, happy and not blue.

Love to all at home.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
Thursday, June 16th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yet moving slowly but surely on the Rebel works, apparently taking things very leisurely, as well as taking their works when we come to them.

Their position has all appearances of great strength, the Kenesaw Mt. looming up grandly in their center, while to either flank, stretches of hilly, wooded, rough ground, apparently capable of being rendered very strong. To flank this position seems to be no easy matter, though our lines for the past three days have been swinging closely upon them. One result of which is that we, the Center, occupied yesterday, and now occupy, their first line of strong works which they had to vacate on the night of the 14th to prevent being flanked in them.

So far I can hardly say that we have been under fire, nor do I think an assault will be made on the central portion of their lines but I have every confidence that we will be able to work them from here as we have from their other strongholds. And then there will remain but the Chattahoochee river and works around Atlanta to keep us back from the position. Altogether I think the campaign is working well, cautiously and with small losses on our side.

Prisoners and deserters begin to report growing demoralization in the Rebel ranks, but I place but little faith in any of their reports, although to be driven from post to pillar after doing so much manual labor as their works evince, is almost sufficient to demoralize any one.

On the 14th, the Rebel Lt. Gen'l. Polk was reported killed by one of our shells, which report prisoners have since confirmed; and this morning I saw a record of it cut on a tree in the Rebel works, evidently done by Rebel hands and near the spot where he fell. So fall their great lights, and a few more extinguished, will leave the deluded people to think and act for themselves. Could they do this now, peace would soon be with our banners.

News from Gen'l. Grant yet continues good; may it continue so, is our fervent prayer. A crushing blow there, if it can be dealt, will stagger the Confederacy and now with the hearty endorsement and renomination of Lincoln, they will begin to think we are in earnest. Should the Chicago Convention do much it may yet feed them on vain hopes until after the election. But with that, I trust will perish their last vain hope; as I trust the American people will sustain the Administration and Government as becomes them in these troublous times. Success for our arms here and at Richmond will insure success and I trust the country will not be disappointed.

Again, I see that the celebrated horse tamer and guardian of Ky. chivalry (John Morgan) has been defeated and his forces scattered to the winds. I trust we may find no disappointment in this

but that the reports may prove true.

Gen'l. Burbridge has the thanks of this Army for his good work; may he continue therein. My only regret is that the thrashing was not administered to him by the Ky. negro troops now being organized.

I wrote you of receiving yours of the 6th, of my having met Gen'l. Gresham and others of the 17th Corps, having a pleasant time etc, etc: after the campaign closes here we shall have a chance to come together.

The rain of which I wrote you, ceased two days since and we are now having very pleasant weather, bright moonlight nights, and good times for operating. A few more days will put the roads in good condition again.

R. R. communication is open close to our lines and we look for a mail today, and who says but I may be the recipient of one of your good letters.

Love to all at home, not forgetting our baby boy Frank, by any means.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

June 16th, 4 O'clock P. M.

My Dear:

Yet remaining idle and will probably be so for the day. Occasional cannonading along the lines wake us from quiet slumbers, though no Rebs have shown themselves to our view here. When all things are ready, guess the lines will again swing forward.

Mail arrived at noon, bringing sister Eliza's welcome letter of the 9th, the latest news from home and that good. I see she yet entertains her good opinion of our good boy Frank, but it could not be otherwise, could it? Don't know what is to be done about getting a house. George was talking this morning on the same subject, says he has offered his summer residence on Main St. but as yet the offer has not been accepted. Wish I could help you out of the dilemma. Eliza asks about my shoulder; that is well and forgotten long ago. The ball only cut through the coat and lining; 'twas well as ever in two days. And my health continues good, in fact the campaigning seems to agree with most of us. Have Chattanooga papers of the 15th, see that Morgan has been whipped; I trust his gang may be broken up and captured. No further news to write you.

Ever yours,

Dan.

In the Field in Front of Marietta, Ga.,
June 19th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Another few hasty lines this morning, to tell you all are well and that things are moving well enough with the Army so far as I can judge.

Day before and yesterday, we drove them in our front into their heavy works, and last night, took position not more than 800 yards in front of them and placed everything in readiness to open lively this morning; but lo! the birds have flown again and gone. Where, I cannot tell yet; suffice to say they left their works in our front and we now occupy; consequently I anticipate a quiet Sabbath. At least no fighting.

Friday morning our Regiment was ordered to the skirmish line to drive some sharpshooters that were annoying our Batteries and lines very much. Forming with two lines of skirmishers, we advanced on them through a dense wood, driving their lines and gobbling up 15 of the dirty butternut rascals.

Drove their lines about half a mile and skirmished all day and night, they trying two or three times to force us back but with no avail; before day it commenced raining and continued all night and all day yesterday, and is still wet and rainy. You can imagine our damp condition yesterday and today.

Early yesterday morning, we again advanced our skirmish line, gaining the position first mentioned, within 600 yds. of the enemy.

In the move yesterday morning, we captured 4 more of the wettest, muddiest and dirtiest butternuts you ever saw; making captures by our Regiment, 19 in all. Our losses are, 1 killed, and 7 wounded; your friends all well.

At noon yesterday were relieved but had just gained the rear when the Brigade was ordered to the front, and out we had to come; landing here just before dark, throwing up a line of works during the night.

I managed to dry out and with the aid of a shelter tent, had a good night's sleep, a good breakfast and am now feeling tip-top.

Friends all well. Am expecting a mail today and hope for news from you.

Again we have occasion for being thankful to a Divine Protector for our safety.

Love to all at home.

Ever yours, dearest,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,

June 21st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Just a moment to tell you all are well with us. No skirmishing by our Brigade since I wrote you last (on the 18th).

Last evening we moved into position here, just at foot of Kenesaw Mt., which is being flanked nicely.

Rebs are very quiet this morning; I think their main line must have again fallen back. Another day I think will give us Marietta.

Our Regiment on the 3rd line this morning, have breakfasted and are enjoying quiet, or at least rest under our fly, while the rain comes gently down.

Col. S., George and Robert and all well. Received yours of the 13th; will answer soon.

Love to all, kiss our boy.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
June 24th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

After partaking of our dinner of oyster pie, black-berry pie, etc, etc, and there being a lull in affairs on the front I shall write you while I can, for fear the cannonading may begin, as it usually does for an afternoon spree, at about 5 P. M.

Yesterday you were cheated out of a letter on this account for just as I was ready to begin, the Rebs commenced from the top of Kenesaw Mt. and the whole line seemed to take it up, so that in half an hour there was such a roar of artillery and whizzing of solid shot and shell as has rarely been equaled. Three Batteries, 12 guns, of ours replied to about the same number of rebellious guns, immediately on our front, at a distance of from 8 to 1000 yds. and yet strange to say I have heard of no one being hurt on our side, though escapes were many and narrow.

Our Regiment is on the front line, but with our earth works and the shape of the hill whereon we lie, are perfectly safe and fear the whizzing missiles but little. Thus far today, but few shots have been exchanged, just enough to show that both parties are yet in position; and I look for another artillery duel ere the sun goes down. Our skirmishers are within from 2 to 400 yds. of the Rebs and from their rifle pits and trees keep up a continual banging, without however, any material damage being done to either side. Yesterday our Right advanced some, in fact it has been daily doing the same, until we have about developed their last position in front of Marietta, which if they leave or are driven from, will cause them to halt again only on reaching the vicinity of Atlanta.

Cannot tell you how the campaign is progressing, as I know and see but little except the part we take in it, but I know 'tis going well; and we advance more in the manner of a regular siege than of a hasty campaign: driving in day and fortifying at night. In fact the whole face of the country is but a series of rifle pits and earth works of large magnitude erected by both parties.

We have now passed to the right of and getting almost to the rear of Kenesaw Mt. and are not more than two or three miles from Marietta. Wednesday night we moved into this position from near the right, and front of the mountain; but feel quite at home most any place as all are much alike. Wednesday afternoon, we lay under one of those terribly noisy artillery duels from the mountain, and had the shot and shell flying around us in profusion, but nobody hurt. One solid shot struck our little Headquarter field work, penetrating about two and a half feet and throwing more dirt on our supper table than we deemed either polite or agreeable.

Another striking within a few yards of us, passed through both of my blankets that were hanging in the sun, making four large holes for which I shall claim damages from the Confederacy.

Still our work goes on and I trust it may result in something decisive, as I believe it will. We had one man severely wounded yesterday by a stray shot from the enemy, he being at the time away from the Regiment; this is the only casualty since I wrote you on the 13th.

Our cooking and household depts. are in the rear, the boys not fancying the close proximity to the front line; though yesterday the shelling was quite as, or even more, dangerous that far to the rear than with us. Wednesday afternoon they were with us and partook of the friendly shelter of our works. Carpenter will have much to tell of this campaign on his return and I think he is getting quite ready to go, as he asks me how soon I shall be going. I have no idea however, but that he will stay with me provided the campaign closes soon or at least for a brief breathing spell.

Our communications are kept open with but little trouble, though the Rebs have destroyed a few trains within the week. It would be strange however, if they could not accomplish this occasionally.

Your last letter received is of the 13th, but I look for another by next mail, perhaps today. You, Frank and all were getting along so well at that time, that I have every hope 'tis so yet, and consequently live with an easy heart on that score, though I tell you I can heartily wish for the time to come when I shall be able to remain with you at home. One year ago yesterday our first parting since marriage and then how hard it was; 'tis even now as hard though absence may have taken a little of the sting away; yet my desires to be with you are stronger than then, could such a thing be. You remember the long rainy day? I do, I assure you, as I do many of the dreary days of that campaign; but then as happier days soon followed, let us hope the same may be repeated this year and if it be not at "father Anderson's" in Aug., I trust it may be at home shortly after.

I look anxiously for further developments in Grant's campaign; thus far all seems to go well and I have faith in his being able to carry out his plans. They are certainly bold, but if successful will prove decisive.

Col. S., George and your friends are enjoying their usual good health and fair share of shelling. All quiet thus far today, and resting, sleeping and reading the order of the afternoon.

Love to all at home. How are the prospects for procuring a house? Did you get my letter from Kingston, telling you to buy if you thought best, provided you had sufficient funds in the Bonds and in what I might soon furnish?

With much love,

I am yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Sunday Morning, June 26th, 1864.

My Dear:

This morning I can report all quiet on the front except the usual amount of picket firing. Yesterday we were not troubled by the daily Artillery duel and for a wonder, had a quiet afternoon, last night, a good sleep and this morning now that breakfast is over, feel quite comfortable.

Have no Army news or rumors to give, all being dark outside our own lines. Our flanks are stretching out nicely and any day may bring them in collision unless the Rebs clear out.

Your friends all well. Love to all; kiss our boy for me, be of good cheer for all is going well.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin.

In the Field in Front of Marietta,

Sunday Morning, June 26th, '64

My Dear Wife:

George is going to start this morning for Chattanooga to order up the Regimental baggage, and I shall start this note en route that far by him, with the old story that all are well and yet in the same position as when I wrote you last.

I see no indications of a move for perhaps a day or two and then 'twill be to change to some other part of the line.

Our front has been quiet since I wrote you, save the usual picket firing without damage.

The Artillery has not opened and we enjoy comparative quiet in our hot camp; for the weather during the past three days has been of the warmest kind.

Can't tell you anything of the prospect before us; both armies apparently resting in and strengthening their positions.

Yesterday our heavy guns toward the left, opened on the Rebel Batteries on Kenesaw Mt., and made the shelling lively for an hour in that direction; finally one of our shot exploded a paisson for them, which brought a loud cheer from the lookers on, and the Rebs soon dried up for the afternoon.

This Sabbath morning everything is quiet and I trust may remain so for the day.

George says his time is precious and he must be off; so wishing you the pleasure of a quiet Sabbath,

I am ever yours devotedly,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
June 28th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yet in position where I wrote you on Sunday, without doing or attempting to do anything but hold our lines at this point. Have had no losses, though the shells have whistled around and above us on several occasions; but our Battery with our sharpshooters having gained the advantage of the Rebs, they trouble us very little with their compliments.

The weather is intolerably hot and just now while the sun shines in a temperature high up in the figures, even the skirmishers seem to have quit firing and silence reigns around.

Our Corps is under orders to move, may perhaps tonight or tomorrow, but don't know in what direction; at any rate which way it may prove, we go in force. Yesterday the enemy's position was felt on the Right and Left, with some considerable success; the Right swinging forward; and I hear the Rebs made a charge on the 23rd Corps and were driven back with considerable loss. On the Left, I hear not much was gained, a heavy skirmish only, being sent against Kenesaw Mt. and by some mishap, parts of three Companies of the 53rd Ind. were captured. This I hear as rumor; guess they must have advanced beyond their line of support.

We are lying rather comfortably than otherwise, on a side hill and would be glad to have the Rebs make a dash this way. Can't give you a correct idea of the campaign, as our lines extend for miles, gradually surrounding the Kenesaw Mt., behind which lies Marietta. The result will be, that the Rebs will soon have to right or clear out for Atlanta. Meantime, all here are well, the Army in good spirits, with plenty of rations and rail communication close at hand.

I wrote you by George who started for Chattanooga for our baggage, you will doubtless hear from him there. Don't know when to look for his return. In his absence, Lt. Dewey is Actg. A. A. G. of the Brig.

Col. Scribner's Headquarters are on the next ridge in rear of us (we being on the front line), behind our second line of field works and all shot and shell fired at us that go sailing over our heads, wake the inhabitants in that quarter to a realization of what is going on. All that is required for safety however, is that all lie quiet in our dug-out quarters until the shelling ceases. 'Tis fun more than anything else, to see them pass harmlessly by, watching the explosions in the rear. The men behind their works, most enjoy the consternation of the weak-kneed stragglers; Doctors, quartermasters and others who congregate some distance to the rear of the front line. On the first day the Rebel Batteries opened on us

here, these individuals of the rear were taken quite by surprise, and as the shells lit in the woods around them, a general stampede took place, much to the merriment of the boys behind the second line of works. Dr. Surry tells a good joke on himself; he was dressed in a long white duster and as the demoralized crowd began to scatter, he struck out with them, the boys greeting him with "go it old Christian Commission man, look out there comes another, now you're killed, etc, etc." Doc has been with us at the front ever since, says the rear is no place for him.

A good one is also told on two of our worthy Staff Officers, who had gone to the branch close by, to bathe and put on clean clothes; but the shells had no regard for their position but cut them off from their clean linen, they making tracks for the 2nd line of works en dishabille, under such salutations as "go it circus man, go it".

Such scenes enliven us and make the lines ring with shouts and laughter, while the death dealing missiles are flying close at hand. Such is War. But out of such I would that we all were, and that we could evn now return to our happy homes and happier families. May it be so ere long, is my daily prayer and I know you join me in it fervently.

Yours of the 21st, with postage stamps enclosed came to hand yesterday, in ample time to prevent my using the franking privilege. Am indebted to you much.

You speak in it of Frank's picture; now is it not provoking that it has not arrived? Have heard nothing of it; but I shall expect by next mail perhaps; or did you send it by Sergt. Teague, of Co. G. I hear he has a letter for me, but he is detained at Chattanooga; if that is from you, perhaps it may contain the picture. I am more than anxious to see it.

Three O'clock, P. M.

Our mail for the day just in, but the looked for letter not at hand. My love to all at home; had expected to write to Eliza from Marietta, but our Mr. Johnson has somewhat interfered with my plans perhaps a few days may change affairs and allow it.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,
July 1st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yet in the same old position, though I thought when writing you last we would hardly remain so long; but 'tis so and we occupy the same line of works with very little to do, the Armies being comparatively quiet. Nothing but a little picket firing and no Artillery firing on our front since I wrote you last. Last night and the night before, they raised quite a breeze a mile to our right, but it amounted to but little as neither party charged; in fact, there, the main lines are only from 75 to 100 yds. apart and something started them going. Of course we were all up and in our trenches, not knowing but a general attack was being made; but it soon died out and we returned to sleep.

I have been a little under the weather for the past three days and for fear some person may alarm you by writing of my being sick, I will tell you that it is a mere nothing and this afternoon, I feel much like myself again and think 'tis all over.

Yesterday, friend Babbitt made us a call and I prevailed upon him to remain and partake of our squirrel and blackberry pie, all of which he did. His Div. is on the left, at foot of Kenesaw Mt., and generally doing well; of the affair they participated in, a few days ago and of which I wrote you, their loss was principally in the 53rd, they losing in killed, wounded and missing, 52. They have since been doing nothing of consequence.

Don't know when our next move may be or where, but the closeness of the National Anniversary may forward movements to completion on that date. Can give you no idea of operations, only that we are strongly entrenched and the whole Army strong and in good spirits. The Rebs hold this front with much tenacity, but I have no doubt of our ability to drive them from it at the proper time by flank movements or otherwise.

Have received nothing later than yours of the 21st, enclosing the postage stamps; the pictures have not yet been heard of. Unless they were sent by some person, you will have to duplicate, as perhaps the Rebs on cutting into our communications as they do occasionally, may have received them. Have not heard from George since his departure for Chattanooga. Col. S. and your friends here are well and living quietly for this hot weather. Gen'l. Oresham, Babbitt tells me, is in very good health and still asks about that "little fellow I used to write to". Dr. Payne I have not seen; his Div. is on our right and lost considerable, some say 600 in the assault of Tuesday last. Dr. is no doubt well, as his position as Brigade Surgeon has nothing to do with the lines where the shot and shell are flying fast and thick. Today all is quiet on the lines.

With much love to you and Frank and all at home,

I am ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Four Miles south of Marietta, Ga.,
July 3rd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

After sundown, just nicely located in bivouac for the night and awaiting supper, I can yet write you a few lines before dark, the mail leaving early in the morning, (and early with us means from 3 to 5 o'clock) while candles are among the things that were. But here we are and another most formidable line of Rebel works in our possession and I think the only one this side of the Chattahoochee river, and when there 'tis but 8 miles to Atlanta, our destination. I have told you from time to time as much as I could of the position and today was to have placed us in such a position as you'd have made the Rebs look sharp for their Ga. center, but at daylight this morning, we find them gone; the huge Kenesaw in our hands, with miles of works and the pretty city of Marietta with their boasted Georgia Military Institute. At once the line of march was taken up and at 9 o'clock our Div. entered and passed through the town, a sorry picture indeed; although many females have remained and the faces of numerous ladies were seen, and it being Sunday, the remaining darkies were out in showy costumes, that is the females, as to the men and boys poor fellows, they go south as do the stock, cattle, goods, etc.

Our Advance is perhaps two miles beyond us, possibly farther and tomorrow may develop whether they will trouble us more, in the six remaining miles to the river.

But here 'tis both supper and dark, and I must quit for a while at least.

Dan.

Supper over and a good one at that; fresh beef, coffee, and "slap jacks" in Carpenter's inimitable style. He has found too, amongst his baggage, a piece of candle that will add much to finishing this note; as a recompense tell his folks when you see them that he is well and doing well and will be home with me in the Fall.

But another piece of good news was in store for me today, for just before entering Marietta and while marching along the road, your good letter of the 28th was handed me by an Orderly. 'Twas received in Chattahoochee from Capt. Huatt by George and he forwarded as above. 'Twas unexpected and a good accompaniment to our entry into Marietta, as it speaks of your good health and Frank's.

I take the Weekly Ledger and get the precious sheet quite often enough and like it best for the many local items it contains.

Would like the best in the world to be at home to accept such position as you say Mr. Devol indicated he might give me. 'Twould suit my tastes exactly besides being a business at home; but we will think of this in other days to come; perhaps something else may offer in due time. Should the matter be spoken of to you or your father by Mr. D., see if it can be retained: guess 'twould pay a living salary, as such business generally pays well.

This morning about 5 A. M. met Gen'l. Gresham at the head of his Div. moving to the front, in good spirits and very well. The redoubtable Babbitt was along, but owing to night duty looked as though he was about done for. Met your old friend, Capt. Bird today, he asked for you and the boy and promises to call on his first visit to New Albany. Col. S. in his usual good health. George is yet at Chattanooga waiting for transportation for baggage.

Frank's pictures have not yet been heard from; guess they are lost certain. Try again and we will hope for better luck.

I wrote you two days since of being a little under the weather; yesterday was some better; marched and moved last night until two o'clock A. M.; got up this morning, no appetite, commenced the march and improved from that on; tonight feel well as ever, though a little bit thin; ate a very hearty supper besides my dinner-lunch with fair share of green apples and blackberries; will soon go to sleep expecting a sound one, as not a gun can be heard, in fact a country stillness reigns, broken only by the frogs.

I wish all of you a pleasant Fourth for tomorrow and will in time notify you of mine.

Meantime love to all and success to our cause are the wishes of my heart just now.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.