



K14

May 14, 1996

DRAFT

Mr. Edward B. Smith
2236 South Rice Road
Ojai, CA 93023



Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your interest in Stones River National Battlefield. We appreciate your donation of the pictures of your great grandfather, Peter Fitzpatrick, of Battery "H" 5th Artillery United States Regular Army, and the copies of the letters written to his fiance in Long Island, New York. We will include the pictures and letters in our regimental files. Do we have your permission to make this information available to visitors or researchers? Occationally we need good quotes for use in publications and museums exhibits.

Again thank you for the information and the addition to our primary research materail.

We are glad you enjoyed your visit to the battlefield and hope you will visit again soon.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Cook
Park Ranger

Original supports due
LCS

Edward B. Smith
2236 S. Rice Rd.
Ojai, CA 93023

Sincerely yours,
E.B. Smith

I hope you will find them of
some interest. I can't tell you how
much I enjoyed my visit to your park.

23 years old, the other, shortly before
the two photos are taken he was
Chickawunga, and took-out "Marston".
Peter went on to serve at "Shiloh",
in Long Island N.Y.
The letters were written to his fiancée
more has been published as of now.
fought at "Star Line". As far as I know
letters, photos, of my great grand father who
ago, I promise to send copies of the encloses
While writing "Star Line" several years

Wear line :-

Chief Ranger	5/10
Staff Ranger	5/10
ENP&MA	
Adm Off	
Adm Clerk	
Chief Maint	
Maint Wkr-7	
Maint Wkr-6	
File	
Library	
Remarks:	

Franklin D. Roosevelt
5/14/96

Apr. 24, 1996.
E.B. Smith



DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, *Peter Fitzpatrick* desiring to ENLIST in the Army of the United States, for the term of *3* YEARS, Do declare, That I am *thirty three* years and *six* months of age; that I have neither wife nor child; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for five years.

GIVEN at *New York N.Y.*
The *8* day of *December*, *1864*

Witness:

Chas. Wallace

Peter Fitzpatrick

enlistment; last served in Company ()
Reg't of _____
Discharged _____ 18__

Peter Fitzpatrick
Enlisted at *New York N.Y.*
December eighth 18*64*,
By *Chas. Wallace*
Smith Regiment of *Canada*

No. *3*

632 444

CONSENT IN CASE OF MINOR.

I, _____ of _____ Do CERTIFY, That I am the _____; that the said _____ is _____ years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a SOLDIER in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES for the period of FIVE YEARS.

GIVEN at _____
The _____ day of _____

Witness:

STATE OF

New York



TOWN OF

New York

I, *Peter Fitzpatrick* born in *Mayo*
 in the State of *Ireland* aged *Twenty three* years,
 and by occupation a *laborer* DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have
 voluntarily enlisted this *Eighth* day of *December*
 18 *61*, as a **Soldier** in the Army of the United States of America, for the
 period of ~~FIVE~~ ^{three} YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also
 agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, estab-
 lished by law. And I, *Peter Fitzpatrick* do solemnly swear,
 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the **United States of America**,
 and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or
 opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President
 of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according
 to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at

this

New York
day of *December* 18 *61*

Before

Wm M Webb *Peter Fitzpatrick*
1st. of Cavalry

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Recruit, agreeably to
 the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental
 infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

J. D. ...
Ass't Surg. ...

EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Recruit, *Peter Fitzpatrick*
 previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my
 judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties
 of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.
 This soldier has *Blue* eyes, *Black* hair, *ruddy* complexion, is *five feet seven* inches
 high.

Wm M Webb
1st of Cavalry

RECRUITING OFFICER.

Dear Bridget I am sorry
that you have been sick
this summer yet glad that
you have recovered again
Remember me to George
Shickan Johnny Wags and
Mary tell them to get
apliced at once and not
lose their pleasure until
I go home for the time to
long and the night have
half a dozen children about
them by that time I have
reconciled you a few lines
before but I was in such a hurry
that I fear you cant read it
we lost 144 men and three
officers more or less
from our true love Star Light
Direct Battery 4th Artillery
Regular Brigade Rousseau's Division
Chattanooga Tenn

we are determined to fight
here until the last man
die at his post - the men are
in good spirit and ready
for another fight - all that
troubles us is the short
rations which is rather
scarc at present - I am sending
you few Colmans about how
the fight went ^{symmetrical} and
General Baird, our division
win the absence of Rousseau
we blame him for the loss of
our battery and our brave com-
rades for he marched us in
line of battle ⁱⁿ to the very
jaws of the enemy without
without a single infantryman
to support us our guns were
recovered again and two of
them marched with what

was left fit for Duty
on Saturday the 19th we lost
our piece on Sunday the 20th
I was of those who endured
the dreadful fire of that day,
and was halcy engaged in
that never to be forgotten
struggle of Mission ridge was
where dead rebels lay in prof-
ful heaps. You will see the
particulators in the columns I
have sent you. Sargent Erwin
of our Battery was wounded
and taken prisoner in their
pursuit he is now gone north
and perhaps might go to New
York if he does he will go to
see you. And tell all about
our travels he is one of my
Best privates and I have
Saladier he was sent without
Army
The whether I am necessary for

October the 6th (63)
Chattanooga

Dear Budget I received
your welcome letter of the
2nd of sept. About the 5th
But had no time to answer
it. Before now my duty
being to serve and Cavalry
there is now little dull
in our operations so that we
can breathe again. I wish I
were not. At the moment the
fight will of us against the
Rebel army has been cut
up as bad as not withstanding
their superior numbers. But
they have been strongly re-
inforced since the battle it is
reported that we are getting
reinforcements too but we
have not seen them yet

It would be but the
the others the papers I get
regular and am very thankful
to you for the trouble you take
in sending them I wish you
would send me the photographs
one in which the two other feet
is very small and pleasant to be
sometimes we have very hard
rain with a little frost and
no snow no more at present
from your affectionate son
Peter F. Plunk

Direct to me

Battery W 3rd Artillery

1st Deposition

14th Army Corps

Chattanooga Tenn

Reasons is kept to
for some other department

Chattanooga

Nov. 28th 1863

Dear Bridget I received your letter
in the 27th instant which gave me
great pleasure to hear that you
in good health as this I was
at present thank god for his
mercies sake

Dear Bridget don't let you will
hear of the battles fought in front
of Chattanooga before this reaches
you. Nevertheless I shall let you
know the part our Battery took
in it on the 23rd we were ordered to
the front and hold the center and
Chick and to prevent them from
reinforcing their left while
was driving them from lookout
mountain the fought from daylight
till our men driving the rebels before
them in gallant style that is
I was beyond the river

mission ridge and attacked them
early on the morning of the 24th
pressing them very hard until
about three o'clock in the evening
when the order was given to the
whole army to advance. The army
was over with great spirit
and alacrity and the infantry
charged the heights in the first
style I ever saw while we
poured shells and solid shot
into them in a destructive manner.
The mountain was nearly a mile
long and almost perpendicular
to climb. Those was altogether the
greatest achievement of the war
we captured from sixty to seventy
pieces of artillery and and
report says about 25 thousand
prisoners we had barrowed
Horses during the fight from
another battery those we had

we had to tobacco on the morning
of the 25th and during our search
camp in consequence of our horses
dying of hunger therefore we
were unable to follow the river
up like the rest, the whole
army is hunting them down
and fetching them by thousands.
I can assure you Bragg's army
is completely destroyed we have
ample satisfaction for our loss
at Chicanawga. Our battery is in Chattanooga
waiting for orders before
we can go any further.
Communications is opened between
here and Nashville we shall soon
have plenty of provisions.
Dear Bridget I feel very kindly
feel to you for thinking so kindly
of me. But it is useless for you
to send me anything for I know

I would not But he should
Keep Close About the Money
Kelly got Dream on the money
that I had given him, and who
stole it from me he reported
the man to the Commanding Officer
and had J. Ball and Chain put
on him the Captain put me
under arrest & Confined Kelly.
At here I am as yet as comfortable
as possible waiting my trial doing
Nothing in my tent, I received
your papers for which I am very
thankfull I would send you ^{and} But
there is no news of any consequence
I hope Dearest you will never
show this to anybody else because
I dont like anyone should know my
affairs But you I must now finish

By sending you my sincerest love

I will tell you I remain your true
lover untill death

Peter Fitzpatrick

Camp
Red Nashville Tenn

March the 25th 64

Dear Bridget I received your well
come letter on the 23rd which
made ^{me} very happy hear that you are in
good health which this leaves
me in at Present hearts good
for his bindings to us all

Dearest you want to know where
My Brother lives the man what
I mentioned is gone to the front
for the last six weeks I wrote to
him for his address But got no
Answer to My letter as yet he
gave me his address before he left
But I lost it for which I am
very sorry for Perhaps poor
Birmingham was killed in one
of those Battles under Sherman if
the Poor fellow is so unlucky I fear

I shall never be able to find him or Pat and fell asleep I can
yet I am not over anxious for around to Post the Repair and
he is only a half Brother and found him stiff without a move
I never liked his mother yet you know the Parish must for
Believe he is a good Natured Boy such a breach of duty is death
himself you tell me that you we all got Paid off on this day
are not going with your sister this so Kelly had a Hundred dollar
summer I think your acting wise, in his Pocket one of the men
for not going at least tell your sister that was with me went to his Pocket
gets well settled here for you dont and took the money and gave it
know what sort of a place it may to me for safe keeping I had a
be or what kind of a man your Corporal to assist me to do the night
New Brother in law is yet Dearest duty which was rather laborious
I would stop you from doing I felt rather sleepy About three
as you Pleased select in the morning so I gave

Dear Bridgett Promis the guard in charge to the oldest
to let you, my trouble in this letter Private for two hours while I fell asleep
I will do so now I mounted guard at any rate while I slept Kellys
on the 20th day of May I was money was taken from my Pocket
Sergeant Commanding the guard the next morning I gave Kelly
on that occasion I had an Irish a Hundred dollars of my own
man on guard with me by the money he begged of me not to confine
name of Kelly and he got drunk for ^{him} sleeping on his Post I told him

July 14th (63)

Dear Bridget I take this
advantage of our late hour
and active times to let you
"that" that I am well for the
present thank god for his
mercies to us

Dear Bridget twelfth November
on the 26th day of June
and engaged part of Bragg
on the 25th and drove them
from their strongholds on
the 26th and 27th we routed
them completely we follow^{ed}
them through Blanchester
while McCook drove them
from Tullahoma were it
not for the perpetual rain
and deep mud we have not
experimented since we left
Blanchester we would

have captured and demerged
the greater Portion of Bragg's
Army we were likewise short
of rations we had to live 15
days on 5 days rations the
Roads were so bad that the
Wagons could not come up
so, with mud rain and the
want of Provision you may
Judge yourself what sort of
a Condition we were in for
traveling and fighting
we are much better now
with in a few Miles of detour
Creeker Station the weather
is still so bad and I don't
know how soon we may
leave in
Dear Bridget Received your
letter on the 11th which
always so heartily welcomed
by me Dearst you need not

be sorry for speaking
freely to me for I wish you
would always do so for I
like to be acquainted with
your troubles as well as your
joys I Don't hold any of
my troubles from you and
as to Inquire Hart or or me
that is the last thing I ever
thought of Dear Bridget
I must now conclude for
I must get ready for a three
days scout the order came
in since I began to write
this letter
Direct to Mrs. Prescott
as before
No more from you ever
affectionate lover
Peter Fitzpatrick

front of our lines with his hat stuck on the end of his sword, cheering his men on to death or victory. The lads of our battery swore that they would never leave the field until every man should drop at their guns. And so did every man in the regular brigade for which reason they got so fearfully cut up. The next day, New Years Day, was nearly all artillery fighting. On Friday morning there was heavy cannonading until about 3 o'clock P. M. Then a regular engagement ensued. You would think the world was coming to an end from the dreadful roar of cannon and musketry. We were often forced to run over the dead and dying with our guns. We cared but little for their cries for there was nothing in our thoughts but death or victory. One would think that nothing but God's will could save a single man from that dreadful charge. The rebels at last could not stand the dreadful fire of our superior artillery so they had to fall back. Our troops raise a deafening cheer. Our infantry charged on them with desperation and drove them back with dreadful slaughter for a distance of about 2 miles and were it not for the darkness of the night we would have drove every Rebel in Murfreesboro to hell that night or else they should have surrendered. On Saturday, by daybreak, they were rallied again and took position in their entrenchments and held it all day. About 9 or 10 o'clock at night, we drove them out with a heavy loss on both sides. Our guns told fearfully among them in this last struggle. It was reported that we killed General Cheatam and two colonels at this time. I did not hear the estimation of our losses on either side.

But according to the appearance of the Battlefield, ours must be 10,000 or more killed the, the Rebels, 15,000 killed. You shall see a more correct account of the killed and wounded yourself in the papers, than I can tell you. We know but very little about affairs in the North owing to the reason that papers are so very scarce in camp lately. Dearest you can show this to Patrick, so that it will give him an idea how affairs stood in the part of the field that I was fighting in. I thank my God that he has spared my life thus far through so many dangers.

Dear Brigot, I know that you will laugh at my weakness when I tell you that I carried your likeness next to my heart and clung to it like a living thing through the whole battle. Oh, it is so much like you that I can't help looking at it often. I forgot to tell you the reason why our men were starving in the battlefield. Our communication was cut off between Nashville and Murfreesboro by Morgan and Forests cavalry, burning our wagons and all our provision train. They could not carry off much because our cavalry used to be on them too quick. Yet part of them used to fight while the remainder did the burning skedaddled but of course with a great loss of life on both sides.

I must now conclude, dearest, wishing you all a happier New Year than I had. Be more at present from your ever affectionate

Peter Fitzpatrick

5th U.S. Artillery

Dear Bridgit,

You wanted to know how I spent the 14th. I was on guard all that day and night and killed a large copperhead that was coiled up in my blanket. You said you could tell more than you wished. I wish you would let me know what it is in your next letter. I fear that I cannot post these letters until I reach Louisville for the mail is stopped from there.

Dear Bridgit,

You wanted me to send you a likeness so I will, the first civilized place we settle down at. I must now conclude for it is late.

But I remain forever, your true lover,

Peter Fitzpatrick

Direct to me, Captain Terrells Battery

General Cook's Division, Nashville

General Buell is under term arrest, the son of a B--I wish I had the job of hanging him.

H S 405

General Rosecrans wisely refrains from commenting upon the alleged letter from Garfield to Chase, in which the late President, while acting as Rosecrans Chief of Staff, is said to have severely and wantonly denounced the competency and conduct of his superior officer. Our Representative feels that it would be premature in him to utter a word of reply to or comment upon such a letter, so long as there remains any doubt of its genuineness. If Garfield ever wrote it, it must have been in a moment of anger, when smarting under some supposed neglect, for we cannot believe that he would deliberately, while professing a regard amounting almost to affection for his commanding General, attempt secretly to stab him in the back - to discredit him with one in a position to secure his removal, if he so desired. Everything that is on record of Garfield's utterances ^{regarding} ~~against~~ Rosecrans tends to the advantage of the General. It may be said that everywhere and at all times, in his public addresses and in his private conversations, Garfield spoke excellently well of Rosecrans. This letter to Chase, now for the first time published, is the first evidence of any unkindness on his part. It is proper therefore to await the verification of the letter before accepting it as the genuine work of Garfield. And even if it should be shown to be genuine, it will be charitable to suppose that it was a single and unaccountable act of bad faith, which its writer sought to atone for by frequent subsequent praise of his old commander.

There have been many things published at various times that showed the great good feeling existing between the two men. Perhaps nothing can more clearly exhibit Garfield's real sentiments than an extract from his speech in the House of Representatives on the 17th of February, 1864. There was pending at the time a resolution voting to General Thomas the thanks ~~in~~ of Congress for his gallant service in the Battle of Chickamauga, and in discussing it Garfield said:

"No man here is ready to say, and if there be such a man, I am ready to meet him, that the thanks of Congress are not due to General W.S. Rosecrans for the campaign which culminated in the Battle of Chickamauga. It is not uncommon among the press of the country and among many people, to speak of that battle as a great disaster to the arms of the United States and to treat of it as a defeat. If the battle were a defeat, we may welcome a hundred such defeats. I should be

glad if each of our armies would repeat Chicamauga. Twenty such would destroy the Rebel army and the Confederacy, utterly and forever. What was that battle, terminating as it did a great campaign, whose object was to drive the Rebel army beyond the Tennessee and to obtain a foothold on the south bank of that river, which should form the basis of future operations to the gulf states. We had never yet crossed that river, except far below in the neighborhood of Corinth. Chattanooga was the gateway of the Cumberland mountains, and until we crossed that river, and had the gateway, we could not commence operations in Georgia. The army was ordered to cross the river to grasp and hold the key to the Cumberland mountains. It did cross, in the face of superior numbers; and after two days of fighting, more terrible, I believe, than any since this war began, The Army of the Cumberland hurled back, discomfited and repulsed, the combined power of three Rebel Armies, gained the key to the Cumberland mountains, gained Chattanooga and held it against every assault. If there has been a more substantial success against overwhelming odds, since the war began, I have not heard of it. We have had victories, God be thanked, all along the line, but in the history of this war, I know of no such battle against such numbers; 40,000 against, not less by a man, an army of 75,000. After the disaster to the right wing, in the last bloody afternoon of September 20th, 25,000 men of the Army of the Cumberland stood and met 75,000 hurled against them; and they stood in their bloody tracks, immovable and victorious when night threw its mantle around them. They had repelled the last assault of the Rebel Army. Who commanded the Army of the Cumberland? Who organized, disciplined and led it? Who planned its campaigns? The General whose name is omitted in this resolution, Major General W.S. Rosecrans?"

This tribute was deserved but it was a graceful and gallant act for Garfield To pay it at a time when others were trying to belittle a great and patriotic soldier. It is most unfortunate if it is now marred by an exhibition of ill will and bad faith by Garfield toward the man whom he so highly praised. We should be glad to know that the Chase letter is not genuine. We have no sympathy with the

with the spirit which prompted its publication at this time, whether genuine or not. We do not doubt that the conflict between the two wings of the Republican Party is responsible for the disclosure. We fear that no good result can come from it. In their effort to show up Garfield's bad faith, the Stalwarts have unnecessarily and cruelly wounded the susceptibilities of an honored veteran who certainly could never have expected any unkind words from one whom he had implicitly trusted and of whom he had never spoken ill. It is a sorry business, and the memory of the dead man, whom the entire country has been so recently lamenting is being attacked in what should be the house of his friends, for this publication has evidently been inspired by Republicans.

The next day, we went back on our own hook and burned his house and barns. What do you think our brave officers did? They had us confined and was going to try us at court marshall. But they released us for the Northern papers might get a hold of it another time. Three of our men went into an orchard that was not fenced and took from it a few apples. They were marched under guard for a hundred and fifty miles. And the one to whom this orchard belonged was a captain in the Rebel Army. I believe in my heart that half of our officers are a dam site more dangerous than those who has taken up arms against us. I believe that they are now getting the best of us for we have fallen back several hundred miles and I believe we are going to fall back on (Louisville) or Cincinnati. If our officers had kept their soldiers together instead of having them scattered all over, guarding Rebel property and allow them to take what might be good to eat, they would have little reason to fall back or draft for more soldiers. As things stand now, I am glad that they are drafting and hope they may take every coward who would shrink from the call of his native or adopted country.

You can show this to Patrick, the waiter, if you like. It will give him an idea of how things are transacted in this part of the country. I forget his second name. He must excuse this. There was a great incident, which occurred which would be too tedious for me to mention especially since time is scarce. And the writer hears very little about the Army of the Potomac.

November 18, 1963
Bowling Green

Dear Brigit,

I take the opportunity of writing once more and for the last time if I don't receive an answer to this. I have written about the 9th of September and again about 2 days after the battle of Perryville and yet I have never received an answer to either. I received a slight wound in my shoulder in the Battle of Perryville which has left me indisposed as yet. But I am now nearly quite well and will soon be able to give them another hustle for it, if God spares me.

Dear Brigit,

If you have regard for me you will answer this and tell me the reason why you won't answer. I have written also to Hart and was likewise disappointed. I have no more to say until I receive an answer to this letter. But, I remain yours as usual,

Peter Fitzpatrick

Direct to me, Battery H

5th Artillery, U. S. A.

McCooks Division

Bowling Green, Ky.

Terrill was shot and within 2 yards of where I stood.

November 15, 1963
Nashville

Dear Brigit:

I received a letter about 10 minutes ago, which gave me great pleasure to hear that you are all getting on well. I'll excuse you at this time for your long delay because I know that you were busy all summer. But now winter has come and you won't have no such excuse.

Dear Brigit,

The day after I (shipping) the letter to which I now received an answer. On September last we were marched from Richmond to Green River ahead of Bragg. But he got there before us owing to the bad management of General Buell. Bragg took a good 2500 men and the same number of arms and 2 batteries of artillery. Buell kept us (10) days within 10 miles of Green River for want of provisions and wouldn't let his general's armies to fight until Bragg's army left. At this time we had moved between 500 and 600 miles and there wasn't a man but was keen for a fight. But alas! Buell disappointed them. When Bragg left it was supposed that he was bound for Louisville but we followed him up so close that he could hardly get out of our way. The second days march, our battery was sent out to attack his rear. We had 4 companys of the regular cavalry and I can tell you that we gave them hell for 15 miles. The road along the fences was lined with the dead and wounded. We made a fearful slaughter amongst their cavalry. That night

they gave us the slip and took another road. We went straight to Louisville but no Bragg came there to attack us. I forgot to tell you that we had only one man wounded in our battery, one killed and 5 wounded in the cavalry. Our captain was made Brigadier General in Louisville and got the command of a Brigade of Green Troops in Jackson's Division. I, of course, was an old orderly of the captains and he took me with him to do the same duty now that he was General. We then set out after Bragg and then came up to his rear.

No more at present from your ever affectionate lover,

Peter Fitzpatrick.

Direct to me in care of

Captain Guenther's Battery

5th Artillery U. S. A.

Sells Division

Nashville, Tennessee

Here ends the Battle of Chaplin Hills near Perryville, Kentucky.

MS. EVANS.
HANFORD
CALIFORNIA

MAIDEN NAME

PAT EVANS - SAN DIMAS

MATERNAL
GRAND
PARENTS

PETER FITZPATRICK (IRELAND)
BRIGIT KNEELY

Nashville
December the 5th/ 1862

Dear Bridgit,

I received your letter on the 9th instant which always gives me great pleasure to hear from you and my old friends. I can tell you that a letter from old friends gives a fellow great consolation in this desolate region. I hope you wont be so foolish as to have that likeness cased for it isn't worth a dam. I would rather hear that you broke it altogether. I intend to send you one with a case to it when I can get a chance to go to town but duty is rather hard as yet.

Dear Bid,

I shall be very happy if you send me your likeness. I have nothing to relate here of much consequence except a few skirmishes with guerillas. It don't amount to much. You made a mistake when you thought I was on of the men that fired the last gun in Chaplin Hills. But I was one of the two that fired the gun that Terrell was killed at for I was wounded bout about 2 o'clock and the battle lasted until dark. You must not think that I am brave, please. Fate has led me through the dangers of which I told you. For I can assure you that I didn't seek more of them. A great many of those little excitements is over now since the General is dead. There is a great many men in the service now that went through more danger than I ever did.

9/1

Dear Brigit, it is true about the soldiers being starving in Nashville but I didn't experience much of it for we were

hunting up Bragg. But after we booted him out of Kentucky we opened the blockade in Nashville and now we are getting plenty of grub and clothes but there was a time when we got it plenty hard.

Dear Eruit, You must be very particular about how you address your letter for your last letter was opened and I suppose , read. I kicked up the devils' row about it and got the postmaster into trouble. You have written Peter Fitzgerald instead of Peter Fitzpatrick. You ought to know my name by this time.

I have no more to say at this time but remain your ever affectionate lover,

Peter Fitzpatrick

In care of Capt. Guenthers' Battery

5th Artillery, U.S.A.

Nashville, Tenn.

General Sills Division

I hope you won't forget my name any more.

Nashville, Tennessee
September 9, 1862

Dear Bridget,

I received your welcome letter on the 8th instant, which has given me a world of pleasure to think that you have forgiven me for my abrupt departure.

Dear Bridget,

You want me to give you more particulars about my travels. Well now, I shall give you an outline sketch of them. Dearest, I first enlisted in the 4th regular cavalry and was sent to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I was then transferred to Terrell's Battery, and sent to Louisville. We were sent to Green River, Kentucky and there I experienced my first brush with the rebels. There we remained from the 19th of December until the middle of February, when we marched on Bowling Green. We made the Rebels skedaddle from there in double quick time. We had some difficulty in crossing the Bawn River for they burned both bridges. Captain Turrell was then made chief of Artillery in our Division of the Western Army. He took me on as his body guard. He was ordered to advance on Nashville with his Battery, ahead of the Army, protected only by one company of infantry and another of cavalry. At night of the first days march, about ten o'clock, we saw a party of Rebels cavalry in a field. We made after them, but they made their tracks good and escaped. About one hour afterwards, we saw lights about 50 rods in the woods. The infantry at this time was deployed as skirmishers

through the woods. The Chief ordered me to go and find out who was camped there. As I passed through the lawn of a beautiful mansion, I met the Captain of the infantry, and a party of his skirmishers. He challenged me and I answered. He asked me where I was going. I said I was going to see what the lights were. He said he would go with me and you better believe I was glad of his company. When we got in sight of their camp, I asked his opinion on what we should do. He told me to go to the Chief and report what I saw. I said I would find out about the men in the camp first. He took hold of my horse and said that he was my superior officer and I should obey his orders. I went back and reported it all to the Chief. In his rage, he ordered me back again. The command was by this time about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles ahead. You may judge of my feelings, when I had to retrace my steps again, alone. Their camp was situated in a very pleasant place in the rear of a mansion. I rode in through the thickest of the woods and took a good look at the camp. There were about a dozen fires and men were lying around them in a circle. I saw a solitary sentinel on the extreme right, sitting on a log, close to a large fire. I advanced towards him shaded by the trees from his view. I asked him who commanded the post. He told me that it was Captain Walker of the Texas Rangers. He drew his revolver and ordered me to dismount and consider myself his prisoner. I didn't believe in that logic, for I had my pistol ready primed. I aimed at his right shoulder.

The shot told and I trusted to Napoleon to carry me safe back to the Battery. I think I must have been about a half mile off when I heard shots whizzing through the trees. I had two railfences to cross before I came to the road but Napoleon crossed them like a brick. Both me and my horse was received with a shout of joy, when we came up. I suppose they did not deem it prudent follow up to close for we were not troubled again until we arrived in Nashville. We remained there for two or three weeks until the Chief got into another row with the Louisiana Cavalry. There, I got my left arm splintered, while defending the old fellow, who was attacked by four of them. I suffice to say that the four lay dead at our feet. There was a company of infantry on our side. The rebels ran and left seven wounded and five killed. There was two killed and four wounded on our side, including me. From there, we marched to Pittsburgh's Landing. On the night of the 6th of April, after the first days fight, the rain poured down on us as if the heavens was open. The next day, the 7th, the fight commenced at day break and continued until four. It was there the boys of our Battery bravely distinguished themselves. I could compare the bullets that were flying around us to nothing but a handfull of sand thrown against a window. But yet undaunted, we boldly stuck to our post, although 2 regiments of infantry ran away from us, which was supporting our battery. At last the 6th Ohio Volunteers came to our aid, and with their assistance, we repulsed three desperate charges that were made against us. Bareguard brought a brigade of Mississippians and offered every man \$100, if they could take TurrellesBattery. But the

Mississippians found the Tatchman at New Orleans

Murfreesboro
January 8, 1863

Dear Briget,

You will excuse my last letter, for we were ordered to harness up and move to the south side of Murfreesboro. In a hurry to finish, I suppose the letter is unintelligible. I believe I told you the battle commenced on Monday, the 29th of December, and continued until Saturday night, January 3rd. We were in front of the enemy almost the whole time. The three last days were stormy and cold with heavy rain and sleet. We were knee deep in mud the whole time with no covering to protect us but our overcoats so you may consider yourself if there was any chance to rest for a whole week, while the bullets, shot and shell were flying over our heads, bringing with it a death yell as it passed us. But such music is now familiar to our ears so that we mind it very little. I could hardly find room to tell you the hardships the whole army went through during these six or seven days fighting. I could take my oath that I seen men run and cut the flesh off a horse that was shot down and sweetly too. They used to send for corn and give one ear to each man to eat to keep them alive. Our horses didn't have a bite to eat for 4 days, which grieves me more than my own wants. I believe I told you that General Johnson ran on our right on Wednesday which nearly turned the scale of operations in favor of the Rebels. Were it not for the bravery of our troops in the center, the battle must be theirs. Our General Ransau was in