

On Picket, Two Miles north of
 Chattahoochee River, Ga.,
 July 8th, 1864.

My Dear Wife!

No mails for us for several days; expect the Rebs have gobbled some of them as they did Frank's picture. But they will not do it always and soon I expect to hear from you. Had anticipated last evening to at least read a letter from you of old date, as Sergt. Teague came up today, but alas! he had to leave Chattanoooga in haste without a chance to return; and my letter went the way of all his good clothes, etc.

However we are all in good spirits, having chased Johnson from almost his last ditch this side of Dixie; and since your last letter closed with "all well" I am satisfied to think you so still! besides I rather think you are enjoying the hot afternoons at the Glade or vicinity; that Sister's grapes, currants, raspberries, sweet milk, etc, etc, are adding to your enjoyments and that in fact you and Frank are having a big time. Expect you find Dan a valuable assistant in taking care of our boy and he in turn, must take care of Zetta.

Have had but little to do since writing you last, as on this front we have not attempted an advance since our lodgment on the 5th, and by the way, the prospects seem good for staying here for several days with but little to do. If our books and papers only come forward, 'twill be a glorious time to work up our Records ere we move for Atlanta. Don't know what we are doing on Right and Left, only know that both rest on the river, and reports place both across in some force. Our trains run to our skirmish lines and could go into Atlanta, had they their proper passes.

On picket today is very different from the scenes at Murfreesboro when you would ride the lines fearless of all danger! here you would hardly venture on a horse close to the lines nor in fact, on foot without making divers and sundry bows and dodges to the Rebel bullets. After all they are harmless, not a single man injured to-day, though much ammunition has been expended: both sides dig skirmish pits for the men and the lines are held in comparative safety. My Headquarters inside of a log breastwork well shaded with boughs, makes a comparatively safe place to live in for the 24 hours. Tomorrow we take our position in the rear and if all goes well, may have some days of rest.

On the 5th, Col. Scribner was taken quite sick, having to give up Command of the Brig. and after much expostulation, was induced to go to a house in the rear, where he is now improving when I last heard from him.

My health is entirely recovered and I feel in my usual state of happiness, wishing the more every day that this was over, that I might join you in a happy home.

Have not seen Gen'l. Gresham since the morning of July 3rd; nor Dr. Payne for some time before, but all is well with this Army.

Have had no papers for many days and am in ignorance of how affairs are in Va. or how you good people of the North spent your National Holiday. Here we had plenty of music and gunpowder burnt to suit the taste of the most ardent; and 'twas to some effect at that and much to the discomfiture of the Rebs.

But the sun is nearly down, the P. M. waiting my good pleasure the Rebs sending an occasional compliment, overhead, yet with all I have time and find it the ruling passion of my heart, to send you and all at home my love. Kiss our boy and be no longer of the blues.

Ever yours,

Dan.

Chattahoochee River, Ga.,
July 10th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Your last letter of the 19th containing Frank's photographs came to hand this morning, much to my delight at hearing from you and seeing the features of our boy, though I must confess I would call him anybody else's boy as soon as ours, so much has he changed since I left you; of course I should not have known it as his picture and yet methinks could I but see him I should find some traces of what he was that would tell me it was Frank. He certainly looks fat and chubby and more expression in his face than I had looked for; would like to have seen the expression of the eyes but 'tis too dim for that. He seems to have lost some of his hair, which makes his forehead quite prominent. Altogether we pronounce him a fine looking boy and if he is as much handsomer than the picture as Eliza says and so good as you tell of, he must indeed be a model boy; I sha'n't say baby since his advent in boots and short dresses. The ambrotype you sent has not yet come to hand but perhaps it will one of these days. In fact the mail communications seem to be handled in a very bungling manner with but little certainty of arrival or departure. I see going North 'tis quite as bad, from the way my letters come to hand or rather don't come. Yet with so long a line of communication the only wonder is that we can keep them passing at all and should a break at any time occur, do not get the blues and fret into sickness for always rest assured that we on the front are in good business, well and doing well.

By the way, I have not told you that we are enjoying a quiet Sunday; no duty for our Regiment and no Rebs within rifle range. The fact is, that last night they transferred their bags and baggage across the river, vacating a line of extremely strong works, burned the R. R. bridge, and today we have undisputed possession, with our skirmish line advanced to the river on our front; while on our flanks, our troops have crossed over some two days since. This leaves us eight miles by rail from Atlanta, but when we shall advance from here I cannot say: shall write you as we go, from time to time.

Wrote you last Friday evening from the picket line; on Sat. morning just after being relieved, came orders to advance our lines and drive the enemy into their works. Wee being on the ground, were held as reserve to the line, which about 8 A. M. was advanced in good style, driving the Rebs from their pits and capturing 12 of them. But the Brigade on our left not advancing their lines, the Rebs rallied from their works, came onto the left of our lines (21st Ohio) in heavy force, driving them back. Altogether 'twas a wara little affair, the 21st losing pretty heavily. They did not

press back to our lines, so that we were not engaged, although five (5) of our boys were wounded by the flying balls that came around us rather carelessly. Only one of the wounds was severe. About 11 A. M. 'twas all over .

We holding an advance skirmish line, our Right resting in their rifle pits of the morning, our Regiment was relieved and we came back to camp where rest has been the order of the day since. Expect we may move closer to the river tomorrow.

Col. Scribner is yet quite sick. I went to Div. Hospital this morning to see him; find him weak though better and with orders to report to Med. Dir. at Nashville. He will go to Marietta in the morning and take the first Hospital Train for Nashville; from there I presume he will go home, if so he will tell you all the news to date. He hates to go to the rear, sick. I really believe he would prefer to lose a leg and go home that way than to have to go back sick. I should prefer the latter by all means and think the Col. had better go to the rear, for with his nervous temperament 'twould be hard for him to recover while on the front, fretting continually to be on his horse.

My health is good as ever; my few days indisposition was quickly cured when on the march.

Have not heard from George yet. No transportation for baggage yet, though I should like much to have our books and papers just now that we might get our Reports off our hands.

I find my limited stock of clothes on hand after the 62 days campaign, sadly in need of replenishing or necessary repairing. However, in a pinch I can stand it for yet 60 days more without further change.

Don't expect to see the Paymaster till this campaign is over and you may not want to call on your friends so often; but the mail is now ready to close and I must for the present quit.

See they are getting up a scare in Maryland; but expect the Loyal Home Guards and others will be able to attend to this side issue, while Grant continues hammering at Petersburg or Richmond and we at Atlanta.

Love to all at home. Don't allow the blues to get the upper hand of you. But with much love,

I am yours ever,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Chattahoochee River, Ga.,
July 13th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yesterday came to hand yours of July 5th from Corydon, the first news I have had of your carrying out your intended idea of a summer visit. However, I had anticipated you were with Sis, although I have continued addressing you at New Albany; shall now address to Corydon until you write me of your return or till I come for you, this latter I still hope to do.

I wrote you on Sunday, telling of affairs up to that date. There is now some prospect of the Paymaster visiting us soon unless indeed we pull up stakes some fine morning and start for Atlanta.

George came down today bringing our baggage and papers, etc; so that for some time business will reign supreme in camp. George having received pay while up, brings "a pocket full" to lend his friends, so that we are "all O. K." He recovered from his slight attack of sickness and is looking well. He met Col. S. at Big Shanty en route by rail for Nashville, quite sick.

Have had nothing to do since I wrote you last; only a small picket force required on the river bank, while we have gone into temporary camp, are resting and enjoying the hot days in shirt sleeves, and slippers under the forest trees. Our Army or a portion thereof, has crossed the river to the left above us and pretty soon I expect will be operating on the flank of Atlanta.

Yesterday afternoon with Robert and Lt. Dewey, started for Gen'l. Gresham's quarters on the extreme Right of the line and after much tribulation and trouble found them comfortably fixed, in good health and glad to see us. Alighted, soon had supper (a good one) and then came to the conclusion to stay all night; this I fear gave friend Babbitt some trouble as to hunting up the necessary bed clothes, but that was fixed comfortable, a pleasant evening passed in conversation till late at night, when we retired to forget the fatigues and trials of the day. After breakfast this morning accompanied by Capt. B. we visited the 23rd and then took our departure for home, well pleased with our stay and trip. The Gen'l. and all about him are in good health and spirits and appear always glad to see their Hoosier friends. The 23rd are busy on their books and papers, hurrying up Reports and Returns, as they expect to go home on or about the 29th ult.; that is the Officers and non veterans.

By the way, they have decided their preference for Capt. B. for their Field Officer and I presume he will be made Lt. Col. I am heartily glad of it as Babbitt makes a tip-top Officer. Scarcely any of their Officers will remain with them; however, I believe that was part of the programme of their reenlistment.

Came back for several miles along the line of abandoned Rebel works and was astonished to see how very formidable they were, by far the most complete and hardest to assault of any line of works I have ever seen. Here they had several thousand negroes at work for months and yet they have passed from them without our having to assault them at any one point. Thus have they left their strongholds again and thus may they leave till the "last ditch" is found.

I wrote you of having received Frank's photograph and what I thought of the boy, etc; just now I have received the ambrotype and am more than pleased with it, think it a good picture, far superior to the other. It shows the features, the eyes and expression of countenance so much plainer. I shall take care of the gem. But now he has changed since my leaving home, should never have recognised him; you certainly give him a full supply of rations.

But my dear, I must hurry this to a close, the sun is even now going down and I have Official Documents to write ere dark or supper overtakes me at the task.

Love to all at home, at the Glade, Tillie's and elsewhere; especially remembering Grandma, tell me how her health is. Has any late news from Lida arrived?

But for today, my dear, Good-bye.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Chattahoochee River, Ga., July 15, 1864.

My Dear Wife;

George goes North this afternoon to join Col. Scribner at Nashville or wherever round and I rather anticipate he will have to go to the Ohio ere he overtakes him. If so you will doubtless see him, as he says after looking at Frank's picture that he "must see that boy if he has to go to Indianapolis to do it"; at any rate his going will hasten this to you, although I can tell you nothing later than contained in my last from here, in which I gave you a brief account of my visit to Gen'l. Gresham, a ride with friend Babbitt, etc. On arrival from there I found books and papers on hand, since which time Returns and Reports are the order of the day.

I am now in the midst of my Return of Ordnance for 2nd Quarter 1864 and hope to finish it by the closing of the evening mail. Had I your valuable assistance, I doubtless would, as well as having it correct, although the temptation to have a play with Frank would be too great to resist.

Have been expecting Orders daily to cross the river, as our Army is moving in that direction; when we do go, the lines will be set for Atlanta, and unless the Rebs do far better than they have heretofore, it will be but a question of time as to our getting it, and that too I opine, without running full tilt against their heavy works, as the Army Commanders down this way always seem to think deliberately ere they order their troops to an assault. But push to the wall must now be played with our grand Armies while the raiders are harassing the lines of communication.

Am daily expecting an additional Call from Father Abraham for more troops and in my opinion the sooner the better as many of the non-veterans are now going home and many more will, during the Fall. We await with interest further news from Washington; in fact the news from there is so contradictory that I cannot gain a correct idea of the rebel forces or the danger to be apprehended. However, so close to the seaboard, large cities and fertile lands, I have no fears the raiders will soon be en route for south of the Potomac, while Grant will continue in the even tenor of his way and I trust to some purpose. Everything quiet with us, the Rebs not daring to attempt a recrossing of the Chattahoochee. I wrote you of receiving both pictures and of how pleased all are with the prototype. Maj. and Dr. Curry think him a "bully boy", as he is. What does Grand-ma think of him now? But I must to work on figures and Statements, else I shall soon be too late for the mail of today. Am expecting a letter from you soon, giving details of Georgian life and gossip.

I will for today, say good-bye.

Ever yours, Dan. F. Griffin.

Favor of Lt. Devoe.

Chattahoochee River, Ga.,
July 17th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yesterday your letter of the 10th from home reached me much to my gratification, for during these few days of idleness or rest from active field duty, we have more time to think and many more thoughts to direct homeward while the wishes for news increase in proportion. But I am not often left long to wait; in fact I doubt if any in the whole Command hear so often from home as I do. And when I think of this being done while you "talk to Frank, keep off the flies and write at the same time", I give you much credit for industry and perseverance. Expect you and Sister have your hands full of trials and troubles with all the juveniles around you.

That raid into Maryland seems to be on a large scale and from the newspaper reports that I have seen thus far, 'tis hard to determine anything of their numbers, designs, successes or defeats; however, I have not the least doubt but they will soon be en route south of the Potomac with their plunder, and if suffered to get off without a sound thrashing, I shall be mistaken as to calculations and disappointed in results.

Meantime let Grant hammer away at them, while we of this Army are not to be idle. My opinion is, that even let us do more than hold our present lines, reclect Mr. Lincoln this Fall and the Confederacy will die out ere another Spring rolls around. Yet we expect to do more than this, and first I should like to see a call at once for 300,000 to 500,000 men and ready for the field ere two months more roll around. Should like to see another Regiment raised in the 2nd District; but I heard that it was talked of by Will Tuley and others. Should this be so, I fear 'tis only an electioneering dodge for War votes, which when secured, the Regiment will be one of the things talked of.

Can give you but little news from here as I know little except what is going on immediately around us. Am satisfied that most of our troops are across the river, and we shall probably cross this afternoon. In fact had orders to move at 8 A. M. today ('tis now twelve) but afterwards countermanded. Expect we will get started today or tomorrow. The 17th Corps moved yesterday P. M., they will cross to our left.

Capt. Babbitt and Deyol left night before last for Marietta, en route North. Unless George is detained in Nashville, expect you will see him by or before this reaches you.

Gen'l. Gresham was well at last accounts: in fact soldiers are not much otherwise than well these times; no time for getting sick, while rations are plentiful with us.

Yesterday went over to 2nd Div. to find Dr. Payne; heard of his having charge of the Div. Field Hospital, and after finding that he had gone to Marietta on business expecting to return in the evening. Were it not for orders to move, should have seen him to-day; he is very well.

Have just completed my dinner, winding up with some of Carpenter's Hard Tack Pudding, and have just come to a realizing sense of this being Sunday. Have called the Chaplain up to lecture him, but he declares he knew all about it and will preach if we don't march very soon.

Should George visit you, I wish you would have bring me, on his return, all my Retained Copies of Ordnance Returns from 4th Quarter 1862 to 4th Quarter 1863. Bring all the papers in package with them; also all notices from the Ord. Dept. of receipt of Returns. The Retained Copy of Return made while at home, (for time as Ord. Officer Gen'l. Negley's Command) you need not send. But send the acknowledgment of its receipt and correctness from the Dept.; also the last acknowledgment I sent you for the 1st Quarter 1864. Also want my Commission as Adjt., Major, and Lt. Col. You had better write to Eliza of this, as George may not come to Corydon. I would write to him but the "general" has just sounded and we will be off to another camp in a few minutes.

I think all my Returns and the papers with the Acknowledgments are tied up in packages, one package for each Quarter.

But for today, enough. Will write you again, telling of our whereabouts soon as located.

Love to all at home.

Your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Three Miles southeast of Chattahoochee River,
July 19th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you last just on departure from camp north of Chattahoochee, on Sunday; since which time we have been on the front. Crossed the River on pontoon bridges without opposition, a Div. of the 4th Corps that crossed above, having come down to clear the front. 2nd Div. of our Corps crossed first; we second, taking position on their left, and moving forward our Brigade in line, drove the enemy's skirmishers about a mile; then halted for the night. Yesterday drove them near two miles, and now occupy the line of Peach Tree creek, on the other side of which they show some force. Our Div. has been relieved from the front this morning, and we are now enjoying ourselves resting, expecting to remain here until tomorrow.

Meantime our left is swinging around and pretty soon our guns will be making music to the Atlantans, music that they like little to hear. I expect we shall find them strongly entrenched somewhere between here and there; but if so, then we will doubtless operate on their flanks. So be not uneasy, for the Army is moving with much caution and unless they come out to meet us, I expect the campaign will assume more the character of a siege than of an assault on their lines. The reported captures of Atlanta that you read of, are all premature.

In my last I wrote you to send me my Commission and retained copies of Ord. Returns and the acknowledgments of their receipt and examination from the Ord. Dept. These to be sent by George should he get up as far as home; should you not see him or not receive the letter in time to send by him, don't be annoyed about it, I may have no use for them, but only desire them in case of contingency. Should you hear of any other person coming direct here, you might send by him; Col. S. for example on his return; but only do so if it is convenient; don't undertake to make a trip to New Albany for the purpose of seeing it done properly, as 'tis not of such importance to me to have them. I only thought 'twould be easy to get them by George.

Nothing later than yours of the 10th but I consider all well and enjoying yourselves as can be done in Hoosier. A few days will place us in such position that I can give you more satisfactory accounts of affairs, and write you a point closer to, if not in Atlanta. Thus far all has certainly worked well. Our forces all across the river, several bridges up, trains over and all doing well; with plenty of rations. But I must hurry to close, the mail starting in a few minutes. My love to all, kiss Frank for me; be of good cheer, happy and enjoy your visit.

Ever your devoted husband,
Lt. Col. Dan.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,

Two and a half Miles from the City,
Saturday Morning, July 23rd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

You will see from the heading that we draw close to the R. R. center of Ga., and well to the center of the Confederacy and still the work of approaching, goes on: while their roads south are being cut as bad if not worse than are Lee's lines from Richmond. The road east, to Augusta is in our possession, the road southwest to West Point and Montgomery, is badly cut up by Rousseau's forces; while the road to Macon is their only one open; and for aught I know, this may be damaged, as our Cavalry are operating in that direction. Advises Official are, that Rousseau has taken Talladega; and from rebel papers and prisoners we learn that he has taken Opelika, Tuscalooga and some say, Montgomery, and that he has thus far defeated and driven all opposition. Should the forces from Vicksburg and Natchez be equally successful and join him, I see no reason why Mobile should not be ours at an early date; for all agree that but few troops were left in that vicinity, everything available, even to "Joe Brown's Pets" (the Gov's. Ga. Militia,) as the Rebel troops call them, have been given to Johnson's Army to meet us. By the way, Johnson has gone to Richmond to take Command of the Va. Army, while Lee acts as Commander in Chief of the Confederacy, leaving Hood in Command of the Rebel Army here.

I wrote you from our last position, two miles in rear of this, on the 21st: that afternoon our lines advanced, the 3rd Brigade leading off, driving their skirmish lines, capturing 29 of their sharpshooters and establishing our first line of battle within 400 yds. of their main, heavy line of earth works. This was done under heavy fire, but our loss was very light; the 38th losing one killed and one wounded. The roughness of the ground protected our Advance from their Artillery, their shot and shell flying for the stragglers in the rear, far above our heads. At dusk our Brigade line was established and soon we had a line of works to defy them. About 11 P. M. their skirmishers (who were not more than 70 yds. in front of the 38th in their rifle pits) ceased firing; and continued silence led us to believe they were leaving. By one o'clock a continuous advance showed their rifle pits empty, and before two we occupied their main line of heavy works; they having cleared out to their last line in front of the City.

yesterday early, we advanced and by noon in position here, within Artillery range of their works; our next move will bring us doubtless in rifle range of them. Yesterday P. M. very heavy fighting was heard on the Left; we have not heard the result fur-

that than we were successful in holding all positions and making some advances. The worst we hear is, that Gen'l. McPherson was killed; we hear by a Cavalry dash on the road in the rear where he was moving. 'Tis a heavy loss to the Army of the Tenn.

My opinion is that we shall soon have Atlanta and I would not be surprised if they have not already made their last hard fight now ere they evacuate. Should my opinion prove true, I trust it may give us a short rest, although to keep this Rebel Army engaged is vital, as they might be spirited away to Va. But let that be done and we march through Ga. and Ala. with no resistance of magnitude.

I wrote you of receiving yours of the 15th with Master Dan's picture. We are enjoying today a cool, pleasant morning and one of rest; the men having completed their works yesterday, we are furthermore untroubled by rifle balls, our skirmishers being from 1-2 to 3-4 of a mile in advance and the Bobs have not deigned to give us a shell from their forts. In fact, all seems to go on well, while your friends and husband, go the same way.

2 O'clock P. M.

No later news to tell you. Rebs made a dash on our skirmish line but did not succeed in moving them; if they cannot do that, they had better keep clear, well clear, of our main lines.

Green grape pie for dinner today, sent up by Carpenter, who is in the rear 1-2 mile, doing good duty for these Headquarters.

Love to Sis and all at home.

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

In the Field,
Four Miles in Front of Atlanta,
P. M. July 27th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have just time ere the mail leaves the line to say all well and the campaign going on vigorously and well.

Yesterday the Rebs came out to meet us, hoping to find us in some confusion after crossing Peach Tree Creek the night before; but they calculated wrongly. They commenced the attack on 20th Corps, (Hooker's) extending to our Div., engaging and assaulting furiously Hooker's line and the lines of the 1st Brigade; but to no purpose, they were everywhere handsomely repulsed with much loss. Our Brigade was next on the right of the 1st, but having a good chosen position, they dared not try us, although giving us many and much Artillery practice.

Capt. Pfrimmer, Co. E, was badly wounded, but we think not seriously. Last night they withdrew their lines (the Rebs) with many sore heads. Today our lines have advanced half a mile.

My health good and friends all well. Have just received yours of the 15th, with Dan's picture; am glad to see the boy. Maj. says "how in the world did they keep him still long enough". I next want Tillie's, and when big enough to sit alone (like our boy) Zetta's.

Love to all at home. Am glad you are having a pleasant time.
Love to all.

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
July 28th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Two days ago our Brigade was relieved from the front line the first time since leaving the river and right good use are we making of our resting time; if you call resting, working for many hours per day on back Reports, Returns, etc., etc. Today will almost clear the record, just in time to commence Aug. 1st on a new lot. But for all this, 'tis preferable to the front, for we have none of the excitement that brings you to your feet instanter; in fact 'tis quite a relief to know you have two good lines in front of you to pay attention to the "Johnnies", while we enjoy our naps with boots, spurs and coats off. Close to our line was a vacated cottage house, which I have taken possession of and am now living in doors, annoyed almost to death by the flies, one of the followers of civilization or some civilization. Although close to the rebellious fort on our front, not more than a mile, the house is close to the Command. So near to the fort are we, that I imagine did they know the occupants, they would make us take to the works occasionally; as it is however, their attention is drawn to the Batteries to our left that pound away at them day and night, and they have no shell to spare in our direction.

This morning a citizen made his appearance looking for somewhere to place his family, his house being between the lines, and I don't know but I shall have to share with him the hospitalities of the country. He claims to be Union and of having hid from the Rebs etc; all of which may be true, though we look upon such statements with a great deal of allowance. He is the first able bodied man (citizen) I have seen this side of the river and he is perhaps forty-five years of age. In fact the country is perfectly barren of everything and the great proportion of the property going to wreck, ruin and waste. I expect did I not occupy this tenement, it would ere this have been transferred into sleeping apartments for the camps. Indeed, War in Ga. looks much as you might picture it after reading the histories of Conquests; and yet I believe 'tis best it should be so; these people must be brought to want, ere they acknowledge the Government; they must feel the full weight of their transgressions and perhaps it may not be more than a just retribution for their crime of treason. 'Tis really pitiable, when we think a readjustment of our difficulties cannot be effected without all this suffering; but so it is written.

By the way, while on the question of peace, I think the late proceedings at Niagara Falls were for no other than political purposes, hatched into existence by our Democratic brethren in league with the traitors of the Clifton House. Now I cannot say this of