

# "Gone for a Soldier": The Civil War Letters of Charles Harding Cox

*Contributed by Mrs. Caroline Cox Wyatt\**

*Edited by Lorna Lutes Sylvester*

In January, 1864, Charles Harding Cox wrote his sister in Indianapolis, Indiana: "Was it patriotism, belligerent spirit, or tired of home that induced me to enlist. I am sure it was not the last and for the life of me can not think why I came for a 'sojer'." Such a statement was unusual for Cox whose exuberance and enthusiasm carried him through almost three years of service in the Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, and a few lines later he reassured his sister: "Katie! I was a fool for writing the above and did not think while writing it . . . . You must not think I am having a rough time, as no soldiers have ever seen a more easy and pleasant time than the Seventieth Indiana . . . ."

Cox had thoroughly enjoyed his first eighteen months in the army. From August, 1862, to January, 1864, most of his time had been spent guarding trains and performing picket duty near Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Gallatin, Murfreesboro, and Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>1</sup> He had frequently received "bids" to dances and parties and thought southern girls "far more agreeable and sociable than those at home." Yet, as Cox warned his sister, the Seventieth Indiana in January, 1864, had been assigned to a new corps "in the extreme front" and the real "tug of war" was to come. As part of the First Brigade, Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps the Seventieth Indiana participated in the Atlanta campaign and Major General William T. Sherman's march to the sea in Georgia and the Carolinas campaign. After the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in April, 1865, the regiment marched with Sherman's army to Richmond, Virginia, and on to Washington, D.C., where it was mustered out in June, 1865.<sup>2</sup>

Cox participated in and wrote about the severe battles at Dalton,

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\* Mrs. Caroline Cox Wyatt of Atlanta, Georgia, is the daughter of Charles Harding Cox. The complete, original Cox correspondence and papers are in Mrs. Wyatt's possession. Microfilm copies of most of the letters are located in the Emory University Library, Atlanta, Georgia. All pictures are from the personal collection of Mrs. Wyatt.

<sup>1</sup> [William H. H. Terrell,] *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana* (8 vols., Indianapolis, 1865-1869), II, 646.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 646-47.

Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and the siege of Atlanta in Georgia with the same underlying excitement that had characterized his earlier letters home. He felt "bilious" when he saw his fellow soldiers slaughtered at Buzzard Roost and graphically described the carnage at Golgotha: "Several men had their heads shot off close to their shoulders, and men with arms and legs taken off was [*sic*] quite common." But, he told his sister: "such is the risk of a soldier and if they get hurt it is their ill luck." Brigade commander Colonel Benjamin Harrison cited Cox for "his coolness and his efforts to rally the men" at Resaca in May, 1864;<sup>3</sup> and of the young Hoosier's actions at Peach Tree Creek two months later Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Merrill, commanding the Seventieth Indiana, wrote: Cox "brave as a lion, rushes . . . to the hilltop, waves his hat exultantly, and beckons a command 'Forward!' . . ."<sup>4</sup>

An increasing maturity as well as a continuing enthusiasm are apparent in Cox' letters from January, 1864, to June, 1865. His descriptions of towns, officers, the southern people, and the war in general are far more perspicuous during his last eighteen months of service than was his earlier preoccupation with parties, girls, visitors to camp, and camp life. Cox, a Republican, supported Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton and President Abraham Lincoln, denigrated the Democrats and Copperheads—whom he often equated—and pitied the defeated southerners in a fatalistic kind of way. He rarely complained, and he never questioned what he considered the purpose of the war, the preservation of the Union. "'America' is a great word in the Army," he wrote, "and when the boys of *our* army wish to speak of home or the North, America is invariably used." Despite Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, however, Cox' obvious feeling of superiority over and his dislike of Negroes continued throughout the war.

Cox also remained "ambitious in the military line" during his sojourn in the army. Although he was not quite eighteen in August, 1862, when he entered the service, by January, 1864, he had risen from company clerk and orderly sergeant to second lieutenant of Company E in the Seventieth Indiana. After the death of his friend, Lieutenant Edward B. Colestock, Cox was commissioned first lieutenant on July 1, 1864, and was mustered into that position on September 1. When Captain William M. Meredith of Company E resigned due

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<sup>3</sup> *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (70 vols., Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 372.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Merrill, *The Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis, 1900), 142.

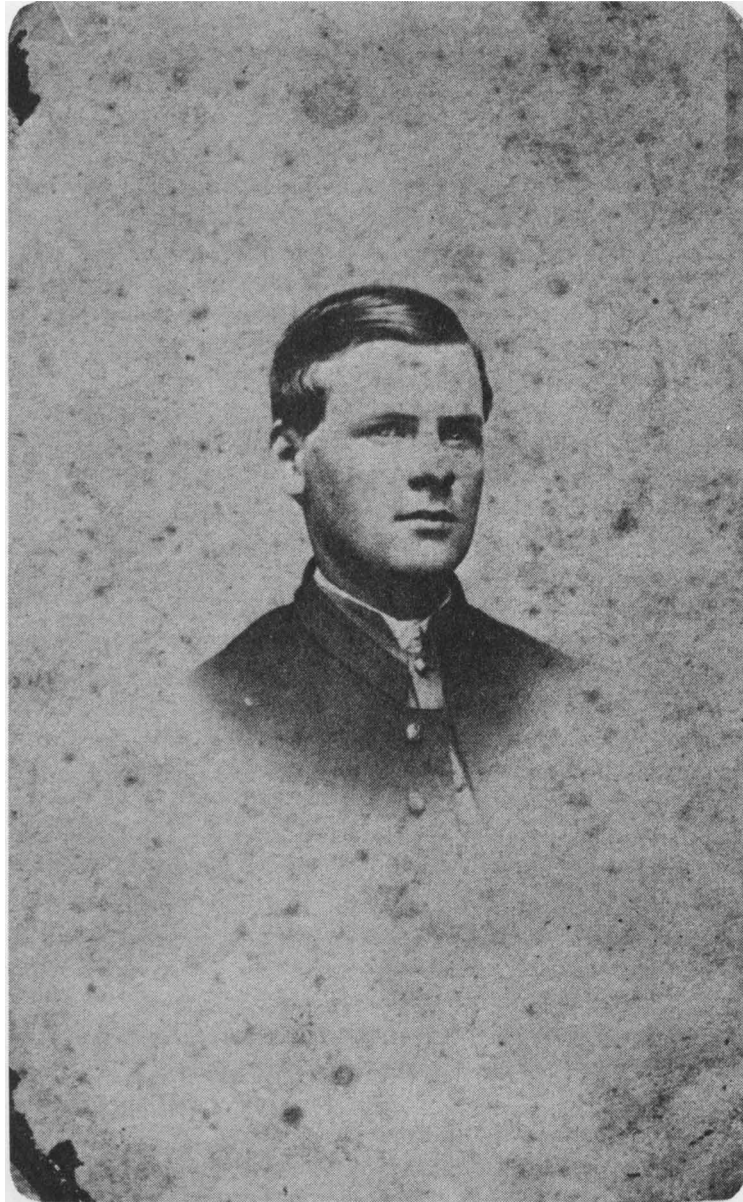
to ill health, Morton on August 13, 1864, commissioned Cox as captain. While the young Hoosier was on detached duty with the regiment, however, the Twenty-Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry was combined with the Seventieth, and an officer from the Twenty-Seventh assumed command of Company E. Cox was therefore never mustered as captain.<sup>5</sup>

In his final Civil War letter on June 1, 1865, Cox was again unusually despondent. He berated his sister for not writing and complained: "I am in pretty good health not the best as I have been working hard in the office lately & no exercise, together with ugly dreams and no letter from the 'Girl I left behind' has caused me to look & feel a 'little the worse for wear' . . . ." Cox' sister, Catharine Ward Cox (Mrs. Frank B.) Lord, whom he called Katie, was one of his most faithful correspondents during his three years in the army; the other was his stepmother, Catharine Leila Fitler Cox, the "Ma" frequently mentioned in his letters. The correspondence here published was written by Cox to his sister and to his brother-in-law, Frank B. Lord, and includes letters from January 14, 1864, to June 1, 1865. The Lords, who were associated with the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad, lived in both the Hoosier capital and Cincinnati while Cox was in the army, and letters were sent to them in both locations.<sup>6</sup> Cox' earlier Civil War correspondence, that from August 8, 1862, to December 12, 1863, was published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* in March, 1972.

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<sup>5</sup> Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 642, 643, 646.

<sup>6</sup> Much of the personal information about Charles Harding Cox and his family was supplied by his daughter, Mrs. Caroline Cox Wyatt. Other sources include a brief biography of Cox filed with the microfilm copies of his papers in the Emory University Library; a photostatic copy of the *Atlanta Constitution*, March 3, 1939, Cox Papers; and numerous letters and documents in the Cox Papers.



LIEUTENANT CHARLES HARDING COX.

Hd Qrs Co "E" 70th Ind Vol Infty  
Nashville Tenn Jan 14th AD 1864<sup>1</sup>

Katie!

My dear Sister!

I had intended writing to you to-day, whether I recd a letter from you or not, but as your last very kind letter came to hand by this mornings mail, it is just in time for an answer.

My last letter to Ma enclosed several photos of your little brother, I am in doubts whether they will arrive all safe as I am afraid they were miscarried to the office here. its makes but little difference anyhow as you at *home* are supplied with a view of the physiognomy of the only representative of the Cox family in the army of the U.S. I believe, and strange to me that *he* ever left the enjoyments and comforts of home, for a *soldier boy*. Was it patriotism, belligerent spirit, or tired of home that induced me to enlist. I am sure it was not the last and for the life of me can not think why I came for a "sojer". Do you Know? I[t] seems a person does not know when he *is* well off, and I am sure the greatest inducement known, would not enslave me for another *three years*, and may the day speedily arrive which will deliver me from my present bondage.

Katie! I was a fool for writing the above and did not think while writing it, *or*, my notions concerning the war, service &c change so often & quick that I hardly know my opinion myself. You must not think I am having a rough time, as no soldiers have ever seen a more easy & pleasant time than the Seventieth Indiana, still the tug of war is to come, and as we have been assigned to a new Corps (11th) which is mainly in the extreme front, we may look for our sojourn here near at a close and a few weeks will see us journeying still further into the "Sunny South".<sup>2</sup> Had the 70th been allowed

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<sup>1</sup> With the exceptions here indicated the Charles Harding Cox letters have been followed faithfully in this transcription. Spacing of headings, salutations, and closings has been standardized, but the punctuation originally used in these portions of the letters has been retained. Sentences added in the margins have been included after the closing. Cox seemingly used commas, periods, dashes, and equal signs interchangeably, whether at the end of or within sentences. Similarly it was difficult to distinguish between exclamation marks and colons following the salutations. Although an effort was made to determine Cox' intent, complete consistency was impossible, and the editor has been somewhat arbitrary in transcribing commas and periods in an attempt to make the letters easier to read. Equal signs at the end of sentences and paragraphs have been changed to dashes. It was frequently impossible to ascertain whether Cox meant to use capitals or lower case letters, to begin new paragraphs, or to write certain words as two words or one, i.e., today or to day. In such instances the editor has attempted to conform to Cox' intent or, when a decision could not be reached, has followed modern practice. Superior letters have been brought down to the line; flourishes and obviously unintentional repetitions have been omitted; incorrect spellings have been retained and have not been indicated by a [*sic*] or a correction except for a few proper names and for words which might be misunderstood.

<sup>2</sup> On January 2, 1864, the Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Eleventh Army Corps. Colonel Benjamin Harrison of the Seventieth Indiana commanded the brigade; Brigadier

to enlist as Veterans I am sure they would have went in en-masse, but as we have seen but 18 months service and *two years old* is the minimum time, allowed volunteers to become Veterans, we will be obliged to await our time.<sup>3</sup>

I was mistaken in writing Ma that Lt Tom Campbell was A.D.C on the Staff of Col Ben It was the rumor through camp that he had been detailed and I was aware he was exerting himself for the position.<sup>4</sup>

The Negro boy "Lewis" that we have had to wait upon us, took sick several days ago and layed in his quarters until yesterday, when I sent for the Surgeon to attend him, at the Dr's first sight of him he pronounced it the Small-pox, which created quite a hub-bub amongst the boys and some alarm to think the Small pox had been in their midst for so long. I ceased my calls on the nigger immediately, on hearing his disease and we had him dispatched "double quick" to the pest house. Should he die, he will be the second servant of mine who has *gone up* since we have been in Nashville.

I was sorry to hear Frank has abandoned his trip to the "Rock city".<sup>5</sup> I was in hopes of seeing his smiling countenance in this region and showing him around this part of the globe. My hand is so nervous I can scarcely write this morning, occasioned by over-exertion yesterday *chopping wood* or the coldness of my tent at present writing.

I *heard* about Miss Stretchers party, from a young lady who *might have* been there, and suppose they enjoyed a pleasant evening. Is Mr and Mrs Violland still at Indianapolis I have not heard a word about them since I was home.

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General Oliver O. Howard commanded the corps. [William H. H. Terrell], *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana* (8 vols., Indianapolis, 1865-1869), II, 646; Mark Mayo Boatner, III, *The Civil War Dictionary* (New York, 1959), 413. See also Samuel Merrill, *The Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis, 1900), 69.

<sup>3</sup> According to General Orders 191 (June 25, 1863), 305 (September 11, 1863), and 376 (November 21, 1863), veterans who had less than one year to serve would receive one month's pay in advance, a bounty and premium of approximately \$400, and thirty days furlough if they would reenlist. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (70 vols., Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. III, Vol. III, 414-16, 785, 1084. This set is hereafter cited as *Official Records*. The Seventieth Indiana had been mustered into service in August, 1862; thus, Cox still had eighteen months left to serve.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas S. Campbell of Indianapolis, a friend of Cox and his family, was second lieutenant of Company K, Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 645.

<sup>5</sup> Atop Lookout and Pigeon mountains and at other locations in nearby Tennessee and Georgia are a number of curiously shaped sandstone rocks, some as large as two story buildings. These formations have long been termed Rock City, Rock City Gardens, and similar names. Apparently one of the oldest such sites known to tourists is located on Lookout Mountain in Georgia, a short distance from the Tennessee line. According to one source written in the mid twentieth century, "This natural creation is known to have been attracting visitors for over a hundred years" and is considered "the most magnificent of them all." Robert Sparks Walker, *Lookout: The Story of a Mountain* (Kingsport, Tenn., 1941), 23-24.

I have a "bid" to a dancing party this evening and anticipate a pleasant time, as the young ladies here a[re] far more agreeable and sociable than those at home.

I will expect an answer to this sometime between this and 4th of July. So dont fail to write My love to the Folks, and with much love to you I am affectionately

Your brother,  
Charlie

Nashville Tenn.  
Jan 29th A.D. 1864.

My Dear Sister.

I am not much in a humor for writing this morning, still being the recipient yesterday of your last containing *Carte-de-Visite*<sup>6</sup> of your little self. I must answer and acknowledge its receipt. Katie I am much obliged for the same and think its is an excellent picture. The one you gave me several years ago, must be somewhere around the house, as I left it home when I came for a soldier.

We have had during the past ten days, as mild and pleasant weather as could be desired. Spring seems upon us in full force and the "fever" is prevalent throughout camp. Linen clothes would be a good institution during the day, but at night half-dozen blankets will hardly keep us from freezing.

Well, Katie we are now under "Marching Orders" for the *front*, and by Monday next we expect to start. we would leave immediately, but we have so many arms & accoutrements to be condemned & dropped and so much extra luggage and equipments to dispose of it will be impossible to leave before Monday Feb 1st. We have to *march* the entire distance over 150 miles, a pleasant little *walk* for the sake of getting to the front to be *shot at*.<sup>7</sup>

It has been over 5 months since our arrival at Nashville, long enough to be well acquainted and tired of the place, time begins to pass slowly and a change is needed to inspire us with new life. I like the moving part very much but the idea of *marching* is not quite so agreeable, when a railroad runs exactly where we are going. Two Negro Regts went to the front last week, they were taken on the railroad, but our white Regts have to walk. *Making a White Man almost as good as a Nigger*.

Our entire Brigade goes in a body commanded by our little Col Ben. I will write to Ma again before I leave.

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<sup>6</sup> A carte de visite was a photograph of a person, mounted on small card.

<sup>7</sup> The Seventieth Indiana did not leave Nashville, Tennessee, until February 24, 1864, when it marched with its division, commanded by Brigadier General William T. Ward, to Wauhatchie, Tennessee, in Lookout Valley. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646; see also Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 69.





Those SHIRTS have not yet arrived and unless they come by the evening of the 30th I am afraid I will not get them.<sup>8</sup> I have not time to write you more this time, so please excuse *shortness*. Direct your next *care* 1st Brig 1st Div 11th Army Corps Army of the Cumberland and the letter will come to me wherever we are. My love to all the folks and a good portion for yourself.

Affectionately  
Your brother  
Charlie

Nashville Tenn  
February 20th A.D. 1846 [*sic*]

My dear Sister!

By this mornings mail I was the happy recipient of your latest, also one from Ma of same date. I answer yours at once and write to Ma next week. I was sorry to hear of Father's illness and sincerely hope he has fully recovered ere this. My wish at least forty times a day is, that I were home to assist him in business and releive him of part of his duties.<sup>9</sup> I would rather be home than here anyhow, not that I am *homesick* but think my services would be more appreciated. I can see no way *now* of quitting the army but think by next fall the war will be sufficiently at a close to enable Officers to resign with ease. My patriotism and love of country is strong as ever, and to give Jeff [Davis] & his diciples a through thrashing and no compromise is my desire.

I suppose Father has recd the *two-fifty* I expressed home yesterday. I have just bought me a fine Dress suit and can put on the style with anyone now. Military goods being very high the suit cost me about \$75.00

Sunday: 21st: The foregoing was written yesterday & I was unable to finish on account of an *Inspection* which came off just as I commenced writing.

This morning I attended the Episcopal church and heard the Rev Mr Harlow preach, the church has a fine organ and choir which almost equals our church for fine music & singing. Many pretty girls attend the church adding to its attractions. I met Mrs Harlow after church and introduced myself, she introduced me to her husband with invitation to call at the parsonage occasionally, which is

<sup>8</sup> In a letter to his sister on December 18, 1863, Cox requested that "a couple *white shirts*" be sent to him. See Lorna Lutes Sylvester, ed., "Gone for a Soldier": The Civil War Letters of Charles Harding Cox," *Indiana Magazine of History*, LXVIII (March, 1972), 76.

<sup>9</sup> Charles Cox, Charles H. Cox' father, operated the Hoosier State Foundry and Stone Works on South Delaware Street in Indianapolis. Partners in the firm were Charles Cox, Frank B. Lord, and a man whose last name was Peck. See *ibid.*, 27, 48-49.



CATHARINE COX LORD,  
COX' SISTER.



FRANK B. LORD,  
COX' BROTHER-IN-LAW.

over the river in Edgefield. Mr Harlow starts for Indianapolis Tuesday (23d), she will not accompany him.<sup>10</sup>

We have *Marching orders* again to day, and will leave *surely* tomorrow or next day and join Maj Gen Hookers command at the front.<sup>11</sup>

My health still remains excellent. Mrs Harrison arrived this evening, just as we are about to start again, she seems unlucky in that respect.

I will write again as soon as we arrive at our destination, and if I have time will write Ma before we start. if I dont you will probably not hear from me again for some time.

I am, Your affec't brother Charlie.

Wauhatchie Tenn.

March 30th AD 1864 8 PM

My dear Sister;

Yesterdays mail made me the happy recipient of your latest dated 22nd inst which I answer immediately in my usual style. In the same mail with yours came also a good long letter from "The girl I left behind" and the two letters together inspired me with *new life* and it was a marked fact that I was in a better humor and more happy than I have been since our sojourn in this wooden country. so you see what pleasant effect the receipt of letters has upon me, and will take the hint and write often. I acknowledged the receipt of Socks &c in a letter to Ma and thought them really nice. I shall be obliged before long to make a requisition to you at home for several needy articles that money will not buy down here, in "Dixie". I am in hopes of being paid soon when I can furnish the *wherewith*. Prices are enormous and these Sutlers have no delicacy in asking a man five or six prices for their goods.<sup>12</sup> While writing this a telegram was handed Capt Meredith informing him of the dangerous illness of his wife—with *Spotted Fever*, he is very much excited in consequence and will endeavor to obtain "leave of absence" so as to start home on to-morrows train. His application has to pass through a long routine of *red tape* before arriving at the proper Authority to grant him leave.

<sup>10</sup> Cox was an Episcopalian, and his father, Charles Cox, had served as a vestryman and trustee of Christ Episcopal Church in Indianapolis. Eli Lilly, *History of the Little Church on the Circle: Christ Church Parish, Indianapolis, 1837-1955* (Indianapolis, 1957), 40, 46, 54, 92, *passim*.

<sup>11</sup> Major General Joseph Hooker commanded the combined Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps with headquarters in Lookout Valley, Tennessee. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 409. See also *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXII, Part II, 232.

<sup>12</sup> Sutlers, who accompanied troops in the field or in garrison to sell food, drink, and supplies, were required by the articles of war to "supply the soldiers with good and wholesome provisions or other articles at a reasonable price." Quoted in Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 822. The sutlers' wares, however, were usually offered at prices which placed them beyond the reach of the average soldier. Union troops frequently complained that sutlers were never around except for brief intervals after payday. Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Common Soldier in the Civil War*. Book I, *The Life of Billy Yank* (New York, 1951), 232.

It has to pass through the following hands to be signed, approved or disapproved before it reaches Maj Gen Thomas who has power to grant the leave, Viz—Maj Merrill, Comd'g 70th Col Harrison Comd'g Brig, Gen Ward Comd'g Div, Gen Howard Comd'g Corps, Gen Hooker Comdg 11th and 12th Corps and then to Thomas himself, it will then return to Capt through same Channel being appr'v'd or disappr'v'd.<sup>13</sup> There is no doubt but the Capt will succeed, he being an *Officer*. Now if it was a private soldier whose wife is fully as dear to him, he would stand no chance at all of visiting her while dying.

March 31st 1864: Katie! I was interrupted last night by business and have left your letter until this afternoon to finish. Capt M left for home at noon to-day. I am glad he got to go, as his presence at home will probably do good, he will arrive at Ind'polis Saturday Morning long before you receive this, he will probably call see you while there.

Wm R. Hushaw a private of Co "E" died in Brig Hospital at 10 oc'l'k this morning,<sup>14</sup> he was an estimable young man and a good christian. He will be buried with Military honors tomorrow and if his parents desire, his body can be sent home in a Metalic Coffin. Our Company has been the most fortunate of any in the Regt, only *three* men have died since in the service, while in some other companies near 20 have died.

Several Regts of our Corps went out yesterday on a Reconnoissance down near Trenton Geo. they anticipate a skirmish and will doubtless bring in several hundred prisoners or be taken themselves. Rebel deserters are continually coming within our lines, I have conversed with many of them, who think the "Confed States" will play out in a few months. I hope it may, as I am anxious to return home and assist father in business.

I must tell you a joke about a young Married Man in "D" Co who was lately promoted to "8th Corporal" from private. On receiving the promotion he wrote home to his wife abou[t] it, which tickled her very much at the idea of his being an *Officer*, and wrote him to *resign* and come home or else treat the boys well & with respect

<sup>13</sup> Captain William M. Meredith of Indianapolis commanded Company E of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 642. The line of command as indicated by Cox was Major Samuel Merrill, commanding the Seventieth Indiana; Colonel Benjamin Harrison, commanding the First Brigade; Brigadier General William T. Ward, commanding the First Division; Brigadier General Oliver O. Howard, commanding the Eleventh Army Corps; Major General Joseph Hooker, commanding the combined Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps; and Major General George H. Thomas, commanding the Army of the Cumberland. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXII, Part II, 285.

<sup>14</sup> According to the Indiana adjutant general's report William R. Hushaw of Indianapolis died of disease at Lookout Valley, Tennessee, on March 31, 1864. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, VI, 126; VIII, 607. The Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, April 11, 1864, reported his death as due to congestion of the brain accompanied by symptoms of spotted fever and listed his age as twenty-two.

Yesterday our negro cook went about 150 feet up the hill above our camp and cut a six foot log—from a fallen tree—which accidenatly got away from him & came down the hill at full speed, striking the Sutler's tent completely demolishing it and frightening the nigger so much he looked like a white man for a few minutes. The boys of the Regt despise our Sutler so much for his impositions upon them, that any accident to his establishment is their delight, his tent is frequently cut down at nights and often robbed by men mean & wicked enough for such business, who can be found in any Regt. Katie, I hope I can secure a "leave of absence" and visit you a few day in your new home, as soon as you get comfortably quartered. I have a great many items to write but have not the time just now. Give much love to all at home yourself included and write soon & often. Remember me to Aunt Ellies family. Mrs Violland especially.

My health excellent. Your affect brother

Charlie

Katie please excuse pencil, I am writing on my knee, and I upset so many inkstands I am almost afraid to look at one for fear it will tumble over.

Wauhatchie, Tenn.  
April 17th A.D. 1864.

My dear Katie!

Several days have elapsed since I was the recipient of your kind letter. The fact is I have not had time to write to you before now, it being a busy week with me somehow or other, besides a miserable tooth-ache lasting several days kept me out of humor and not inclined to write. It was a *regular old jumping toothache* and I wished a thousand times that Johnson Hunt or some experienced dentist was handy to extract it,<sup>15</sup> as I was not desirous of having my *head pulled off* by risking one of our army Surgeons (or butchers) at it. The tooth is over its *spree* and I am glad it was not pulled as I want to save my "ivories" as much as possible to grind "hard tack" &c.

The 14th inst we had a grand review of our Corps (I mean the old 11th) by Maj Gen Thomas.<sup>16</sup> It was the grandest military display I ever participated in and such as you never see at home. The Troops were all in fighting trim and looked handsome indeed. Three

<sup>15</sup> J. F. Johnston, sometimes listed as John F. Johnson, was an Indianapolis dentist with an office at 11 West Maryland. *Geo. W. Hawes and Co.'s Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1862 and 1863* (3rd ed., [Indianapolis, 1862 ?], 145; *Indianapolis Directory, 1871-72* . . . (*Bailey's Directory Series*; Indianapolis, 1871), 229; M. V. B. Cowen, comp., *Indiana State Gazetteer and Shippers' Guide for 1866-7* (Lafayette, 1866), 334. P. G. C. Hunt was an Indianapolis dentist located at 32 East Market Street. *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, March 30, 1864.

<sup>16</sup> Major General George H. Thomas commanded the Army of the Cumberland from October 20, 1863, to June 27, 1865. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 836.

Major and six Brigadier General were present on the occasion and our old hero Thomas seemed much pleased with the style our eastern chaps put on and the hearty appearance of us western boys. Your humble serv't commanded the first company in the corps and felt quite *big*, being the extreme right man of the Corps.

You are aware I suppose of the consolidation of the famous old 11th & 12th into the 20th Corps, under Major General "Joe Hooker" Col Harrison takes command of 70th Ind, Brig Gen Ward our Brigade and Maj Gen Butterfield our Division and the 1st Brig 3d Div 20th A.C. is what they now call us.<sup>17</sup>

I learn from Capt M that he has called at our house and seen you and Ma. I hope my boots will be ready for him to bring. We expect him to make his appearance amongst us on Wednesday, 20th inst. Tell father, if he cannot send the boots by Capt to express them to Chattanooga, as our wagon go down to the city daily and I will have no trouble getting them.<sup>18</sup>

We are looking for Lieut Mart[in] Ohr and his party to return to Regt this week. They are doing no good at home now and their presence in the Regt would releive us from a lot of duty.<sup>19</sup>

Cousin (Dr) Fitzgerald is the only Surgeon now with the Regt and I could myself do all the service he has to do *or rather does*.<sup>20</sup> A soldier is hardly better than a dog in a Surgeons point of view and no matter what his complaint is, dover powders or quinine pills are administered. Sick Call is sounded at 7 A.M. when the 1st Sergt of each Co collects the sick, blind and halt of his company and marches them to the Surg quarters, where the Surg has a stool and each man takes his turn to be attended to. The first man takes a seat on the stool, the Dr says, "what ails you?" "Pain in my side," he answers and a prescription is given him for *quinine*, when the man has to go to the Regm'l "shoticary pop" show his prescription and is issued his

<sup>17</sup> On April 4, 1864, a new Twentieth Army Corps, commanded by Major General Joseph Hooker, was formed from the old Eleventh and Twelfth Corps. Major General Daniel Butterfield commanded the Third Division, Brigadier General William T. Ward the First Brigade, and Colonel Benjamin Harrison the Seventieth Indiana. Later, after June 29, 1864, Ward took over the Third Division, Harrison moved to commander of the First Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Merrill commanded the Seventieth Indiana. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXII, Part III, 364; Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, 99.

<sup>18</sup> In letters to Katie on October 19, 30, 1863, Cox had requested his father to pick up a pair of boots which he had ordered from James Davis, a boot and shoemaker in Indianapolis. Sylvester, "Civil War Letters of Charles Harding Cox," 74, 75. According to the Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, April 16, 1864, Meredith had left for the front on that day.

<sup>19</sup> First Lieutenant Martin L. Ohr of Indianapolis served in Company A of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 641. He had been in the Hoosier capital for several months on recruiting duty but was scheduled to leave for the front on April 18, 1864. Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, April 16, 1864.

<sup>20</sup> Jenkins A. Fitzgerald, Cox' cousin, served as assistant surgeon of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 641.

valuable medicine, the next man takes the stool,—“Well, what ails you?” “Sore foot” he says, another prescription for *quinine* and off he goes. The third man takes his turn, says “Have the sore eyes” the Dr will look at his tongue, feel his pulse and prescribe *quinine* or *dover* powders, probably 50 men will attend Sick call and the Dr will look at every mans tongue feel his pulse and prescribe *dover* or *quinine* no matter what his complaint. No matter how sick a man is if he dont attend sick call in morning he cannot get any medicine untill the next morning. *Quinine* pills and *dover* powders have become such a common thing amongst the boys that every time the bugle sounds the sick call, half the regt will sing out “come get your quinine” until the bugle has ceased, keeping the words in chord with tune of the call.<sup>21</sup>

Fitz hears frequently from Mattie Flenner who is now living at his Mothers, at *London*, do you ever see her, she writes a splendid letter.

Katie dont be alarmed about my falling in love with any girls in this country. I have not seen a woman for 6 weeks, occasionally on “Refugee draw days” I see a piece of dirty calico—topped with an extra large sunbonnet and mounted on some old Govt condemned horse—standing in front of our Post Commissary to get the rations the Govt allows them—to keep from starving.—Some say they are women, but as I have never seen their features from under their monstrous sunbonnets, I cant say whether they are pretty or ugly, white or black.<sup>22</sup>

Katie, Write me all the news and write often. I will not write more this time as I must write to Ma today or to morrow. I have recd her letter of 12th inst. Much love to you all. I am as ever

Your affect brother

Charley.

Direct me 1st Brig 3d Division 20th A. C. Wauhatchie, Tenn.

Head Quarters “Seventieth” Indiana Infy Vols

“In the Woods” Near Dalton, Ga. May 8th 1864.

My Dear Sister!

I was just informed by our P.M. that a mail would leave camp for the north at 4 oc’lk this afternoon, and not wishing to let the opportunity pass without writing to some one I address this to you,

<sup>21</sup> Dover’s powder is a compound containing ipecac, opium, and sulfate of potash. Used as a sedative and sudorific, it was named after Dr. Dover, an eighteenth century English physician, who first compounded it. For a fuller description of soldiers’ opinions of medical treatment in the Union Army see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 187-212; Wiley, *Life of Billy Yank*, 124-51.

<sup>22</sup> In a picture first published in either *Harper’s Weekly* or *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, southern women are shown coming to the United States commissaries for provisions. The scene is similar to the one Cox describes. Fletcher Pratt, arr., *Civil War in Pictures* (New York, 1955), 143.

hoping you will take time upon its arrival to make a reply. We have marched since I wrote Ma at Taylors Ridge about 30 or 40 miles and are now southwest of Dalton as a flanking column and together with the 15th Corps which came over on our right from Huntsville, Ala, we will surely cut off the retreat of the rebels should they attempt to fall back to Atlanta.<sup>23</sup>

Johnsons entire rebel army is camped in and around Dalton only a few miles from us, our pickets & the rebs are in sight of each other and we are looking every minute for a fight.

The 20th corps is here en-masse commanded by Joe Hooker in person. The 15th corps (McPhersons) cooperates with us on this side of Dalton while the 4th & 14 A. Corps will attack from the North. I do actually believe before 24 hours a hard fought battle will begin and only a few miles from the tree I am sitting leaning against while writing this on my knee. We are now prepared to move on the enemy or they on us at a *minutes* notice, and if we do not have a brush soon the rebs are great cowards or we are not properly managed. Lt Hardenbrook with a squad of men of the 70th surprised a rebel picket post capturing several and a lot of horses. Capt Charlie Howard is now in our camp, he is Commissary Musters of XX A.C.<sup>24</sup> Col Harrison has been in very poor health since leaving Wauhatchie, he is still doing duty and will not give up at this time. My health remains good, having much nicer time Act Adjt than if I were with my company taking it on foot.<sup>25</sup> The general condition of the regt is unsurpassed and boys anxious to *go for* the rebs.

I haven't time to write but a word to day you may expect to hear from me at Atlanta next time.

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<sup>23</sup> In the opening moves of General William T. Sherman's Atlanta campaign Union troops engaged the Confederates in action near Dalton, Georgia. Sherman hoped to dislodge Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston who was positioned along Rocky Face Ridge covering Dalton. Participants in battles at Tunnell Hill, Buzzard Roost, Mill Creek Gap, Snake Creek Gap, and Varnell's Station included Hooker's Twentieth Army Corps; the Army of the Tennessee, commanded by General James B. McPherson; the Fourth Army Corps, commanded by General Howard; and the Fourteenth Army Corps, commanded by General John A. Palmer. Although the Union Army failed to cut Johnston's line of retreat, it did force Confederate withdrawal from Dalton. Sherman's next moves resulted in actions around Resaca, Georgia. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 189-90, 195, 538, 705-706. For a brief account of the Seventieth Indiana's part in battles near Dalton see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 83-84.

<sup>24</sup> First Lieutenant William Hardenbrook of Indianapolis served in Company H of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 644. Captain Charles O. Howard, Eighteenth United States Infantry, served on General Hooker's staff as assistant commissary of musters. Although Cox later speaks of him derogatorily, Howard's superiors apparently assessed his character differently. He is more than once cited in official reports for discharging his duties "promptly and faithfully" and "gallantly performing duties of aide-de-camp on the field." *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXX, Part I, 92; Vol. XXXI, Part II, 494; Vol. XXXVIII, Part IV, 335. See also Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, xv.

<sup>25</sup> Cox frequently served as acting adjutant general of the Seventieth Indiana in the absence of Adjutant James L. Mitchell.



Much love to all at home. I sent to Chattanooga for my boots, am looking for them this evening, to wear in the fight.

I am, Katie,  
Affect Your brother  
Charlie

Head Quarters Seventieth Ind. V. I.  
"In The Field" Near Buzzards Roost, Ga.  
May 10th A.D. 1864.

Dear Frank!

Having just finished writing a few Regm'l Orders and an extra sheet of paper left, a word to you concerning myself, yourself and matters & things in general. I wrote Katie I beleive on yesterday at a time when we were expecting to "engage the enemy" at any moment. The campaign has truly commenced in this Dept and active work must be done. All seem desirous to make the movement a decisive one. The country is perfectly alive with the stir of troops and positions for a hard struggle are now being taken. The XX A.C. having moved down from about Gordons Mill and Ringgold have formed a line immediately west of Dalton and Buzzards Roost, the 3d Div forms centre of our Corps, McPhersons Corps (15th and 16th) are still further south and in rear of Dalton while the 4th & 14th A.C's will cooperate with us from the North, so you see *Mr rebs* are snugly hemmed in at Dalton and must fight us or *cave-in*. Their fortifications are said to be impregnable but we are *going for* them before many hours. Part of the 1st Div XX Corps are now out on a reconnoissance and I think tonight the troops will be in position to start the ball rolling by morning. We were up under arms all last night expecting to take up a position for operations today but some hindrance prevented and we are now lying around the woods with 3 days rations in Haversacks awaiting orders to *do something*. Day before yesterday the 2d Division and 3d Brig of our Div were feeling the enemys lines near Buzzards Roost and in trying to take a gap in the hills ranging between us and the Roost—held by the rebels—were severely repulsed with loss of 400 men killed and wounded. The rest of our corps was lying within sight and almost in shooting distance of the fight but were not permitted to participate. It was rather bilious for us to look at those poor fellows slaughtered and not allowed to assist them<sup>26</sup> Joe Hooker is Comdg the 20th A.C. and now has his Hd Qrs at a house a mile from camp 70th. We all have great confidence in Hooker and esteem him highly, also Maj Gen Butterfield, our Div Comdr, but Brig Gen Ward Comdg

<sup>26</sup> For explanation of the action at Buzzard Roost see footnote 23. See also the official report of Major General Thomas concerning actions at Buzzard Roost on May 8, 1864. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, 140.

our [manuscript torn] Brig is the poorest excuse for a Genl I ever saw, he keeps eternally *drunk* and has no confidence placed in him either by his superiors or inferiors, the only reason our Brig has so long been in the rear I have no doubt but by the time this reaches you every thing will be changed here the rebs either captured or given us the *slip* and on their way to Atlanta.<sup>27</sup>

News of Grants late success on the Potomac reached us this morning in shape of an order from Sherman. It was read to the boys by Colonel occasioning loud cheers.<sup>28</sup>

Coburn with 33d Inda arrived yesterday from home they are in 2nd Brig 3d Div.<sup>29</sup>

I am having nice enough time Act Adjt in absence of Mitch—home disabled—Col Ben & I are Messing together, our baggage consists of one “dog tent”<sup>30</sup> a blanket apiece and one change of clothing all of which we strap on our saddles. Line Officers carry on their persons all their luggage to gether with 3 to 8 days grub in haversacks. Our valises & *store clothes* are stored at Wauhatchie Chattanooga and [manuscript torn] Tunnell Hill and I have no idea we will ever see them again.

Col Jim Burgess with his Regt of *boys* is somewhere near Ringgold. he was *sold* in leaving the 70th for such a command.<sup>31</sup> 400 of his *boys* “played out” on their march from Nashville to the front. The 70th is in splendid condition and musters 700 fighting men present—with an aggregate this morning of 857 present & absent.

It is now raining like the d—l as I am setting under my *rag* writing this. You can imagine the dimensions of my quarters, when I tell you, that when I set on my posterior my head touches the ridge pole of the tent.

Tell Katie her letter was received a few minutes after I mailed

<sup>27</sup> Actions around Dalton concluded on May 11, 1864. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 705-706. Other members of the Seventieth Indiana apparently also disliked Ward. See, for example, letter signed Bode to Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, April 19, 1864.

<sup>28</sup> From May 5-20, 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant was engaged in his “relentless hammering” of General Robert E. Lee at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 783-89, 919-25.

<sup>29</sup> Colonel John Coburn of Indianapolis served with the Thirty-Third Indiana from 1861 to 1864. He was brevetted a brigadier general on March 13, 1865. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 323.

<sup>30</sup> In his history of the Seventieth Indiana Merrill describes a dog tent as a “piece of light canvas about six feet square, with a row of buttons or button holes on three sides. . . . The soldiers usually united two or four of these pieces, then stretching them over a horizontal pole, raised in forks about three feet high, fastened the short ropes attached to the corners to stakes in the ground. The patriots entered this dwelling on all fours. The single piece of muslin and a small oilcloth was carried by each man . . . .” Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 69-70.

<sup>31</sup> Colonel James Burgess, formerly lieutenant colonel of the Seventieth Indiana, was mustered as colonel of the One Hundred Twenty-Fourth Indiana in March, 1864. He resigned his position on July 9, 1864. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 639; III, 241.

my letter to her—I will write her soon again—My health continues tiptop and since leaving Nashville have become an *unflinching teetotaler*. Much love to sister and regards to all friends. Was glad to hear of your success in obtaining the G.L.A. You are doubtless acquainted with the fate of “John Harrolson”, “Salt peter” cave &c, if not I will send you a copy of the documents.<sup>32</sup>

Write me the “signs” if you have time and direct 1st Brig 3d Div, 20th A.C. Dept of the Cumld

Yours  
Charlie

Hd Qrs LXXth Ind. V. I.  
Near Cassville, Ga.  
May 22th 1864

My dearest Sister!

Hardly 10 minutes after I mailed a letter to Ma day before yesterday I was made the happy recipient of your pleasant letter of 12th inst, also the package containing toothbrush, thread &c for which accept my heartiest thanks.

We are still in same spot from where I wrote Ma, something strange in that to us, but the troops were so fatigued and utterly exhausted from our late operations that Secesh bullets could not kill men half so fast, as they would have been if forced forward in condition they were in. The 18th we marched over 20 miles in heat of the day, each man being obliged to carry a heavy musket, Cardg box, 60 rounds ammunition, 3 day rations in haversack, knapsack, blanket, tent, and every thing he possesses in the army. I tell you it makes a heavy load for a man to carry, all day long on a force march.

I saw men fall in their tracks while trudging along, becoming so weak & powerless their legs would not carry them along. then after the labor of marching all day the night is spent in building defences and preparing for battle, the following day should we be in vicinity of *Mr Johnson*.<sup>33</sup> Tomorrow we start on a 20 days cruise with our smallest fighting weight and will live principally off the country, as

<sup>32</sup> No information regarding the G.L.A. has been located. The Cincinnati *Daily Gazette*, May 5, 1864, reported an item taken from the Chattanooga *Gazette* concerning a young man who had been confined in a saltpeter cave for 270 days. This is perhaps the story to which Cox refers.

<sup>33</sup> Following actions near Dalton, Georgia, Confederate General Johnston established new defenses at Resaca. Battles there concluded on May 16, 1864, when Johnston withdrew toward Cassville. Deciding not to make a stand, he continued southeastward and took up new defenses at Allatoona Pass. Sherman then attempted an envelopment of the southern forces to the west through Dallas, Georgia. Hooker's Twentieth Army Corps contacted the enemy in force and led the federal advance at Pumpkin Vine Creek on May 25, 1864. Action near Dallas concluded on May 27 when Sherman, frustrated in his turning movement, maneuvered back toward the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 219-20, 691-92.

eatables are in abundance here. It is a great mistake, to think the Confederacy could be starved out. Every family in northern Georgia have provisions enough to last them several years and plenty to furnish the army. Coffee is scarce for during the past 12 Mo not a grain have they had.

Katie! I met with quite a severe accident last evening by being kicked by a horse on my left arm. The Dr hardly thinks the bone broken, but a severe bruise on the muscle. It is quite painful and causes my arm to be of no use and utterly powerless for the present. A couple weeks will find it free & well again.

Col H is not at all well having got poisoned some days since in going through the woods and becoming entangled in a poison vine. He is not disabled from duty, though it is quite unpleasant.

I rode over to the 4th A.C. yesterday and saw many friends in the 79th Ind. the Abbott boys amongst them. Maj Gen Howard com'ds the 4th A.C. I see Capt Charlie Howard almost every day, but do not think him of much force in the army. he is C.M. on Staff of "Joe Hooker".<sup>34</sup>

It will be a rich joke on the 100 days men<sup>35</sup> when the[y] are sent to Nashville to releive Niggers to come<sup>36</sup>

Hd Qrs "Seventieth"

Near Altona [Allatoona], Ga. May 24th/64

It is now about dusk and in 5 minutes the mail leaves camp, and as the Col is setting by my side writing to his wife, I have taken the fever, and having no wife a word to you.

It has commenced raining and by morning we will be up to our necks in water, being in the woods, camped for the night with no shelter, but a "dog tent" which is no protection against a storm. We

<sup>34</sup> Captain William A. Abbett of Indianapolis served in Company A of the Seventy-Ninth Indiana. No other Abbett (Abbott) is listed with the Seventy-Ninth, but several men of that name served in other Indiana regiments. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, III, 24; VI, 277-91. Howard commanded the Fourth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, from April 10-June 27, 1864. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 413. For information on Charles O. Howard see footnote 24.

<sup>35</sup> In response to a desperate need for troops in the spring of 1864, Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton and Ohio Governor John Brough in cooperation with other midwestern state executives devised a plan to raise 85,000 volunteers to serve for one hundred days. These men were to receive no bounties and were not to be counted toward a state's regular quota of volunteers. President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton eagerly accepted the offer. Only 7,415 of Indiana's quota of 20,000 one hundred days troops could be raised. These men served their terms in Tennessee and Alabama guarding communications and supply depots, thus relieving older and more experienced troops—some of which were Negro regiments—for service with Sherman and Grant. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, I, 35-39. See also Kenneth M. Stampp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War* (Indiana Historical Collections, Vol. XXXI; Indianapolis, 1949), 228-29.

<sup>36</sup> The conclusion of this letter is missing.

marched 15 miles on yesterday crossing Etowah River and skirmishing slightly with the rebs, today we made an equal distance having slight "chipping" with their rear guard. A large detail have been throwing up breastworks since stopping for the night—which looks as though the rebs were about. I hardly think we will have another big fight this side of Atlanta, which place we *expect* to occupy June 1st.

My health is good and my arm improving, though quite sore from the bruise. We passed through the finest country I have yet seen in Dixie, this morning, splendid farms, spacious Mansions, but Nary Nigger, all having been run further south out of our present reach. A secesh lady, had the kindness to give me a canteen of Molasses to-day as we passed her house. It goes nice on *hard tack*.

It is so dark I can hardly see my hand. So with much love to you all, hoping you remain in good health,

I am affect  
Charlie

army is just "across the street" from us, continually exchanging leaden & iron compliments with us<sup>37</sup> and trading tobacco for coffee when there is a lull on the Skirmish line, here is the place I should love to see the redoubtable Col Vance with his battalion of "common school" children and let them feast on the pleasures of this campaign.<sup>38</sup>

We will probably advance to day, as the "Johnnies" are supposed to be retreating across the Chattahoochie River to make a determined stand.

They are showing a bold front to day, probably to cover their retreat. We will have hard work before celebrating July 4th in Atlanta (as we expect to do) Johnsons army now equals our own and the opinion is prevalent that Lee will spare sufficient men from the defences at Richmond to give us a hard *rub*.

The report reached us last evening that poor Ed has died from the wounds received at Resacca, it is a sad affair if true, a hard blow to his kind Mother and sisters and deeply regretted by his comrades in the 70th. Ed was a good boy, loved by his whole company, he was brave, and fearless and died from wounds received in serving his country. I last saw him the day after the battle in our Div Hospital,

<sup>37</sup> Since the initial page or pages of this letter are missing, it has not been possible to determine exactly when it was written. Internal evidence suggests that it was sent to Katie perhaps between May 24 and June 20, 1864.

<sup>38</sup> Samuel C. Vance served as major of the Seventieth Indiana until his resignation in April, 1863. He later served as colonel of the One Hundred Thirty-Second Indiana Infantry, one of the one hundred days regiments. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640; III, 297. Although Cox' reference to "common school" children seems to be a slighting remark about Vance and/or the one hundred days men, its exact meaning has not been determined.

he seemed cheerful and I had all hopes of his recovery though the Surg's accounts were gloomy indeed. I sincerely hope the report of his death may prove untrue and feel the deepest sympathy for his parents in their affliction.<sup>39</sup>

Little Katie West is also dead, what a severe blow to her mother at the loss of so bright a child.

Kate I am pleased to learn you are at last esconced in your new home—one of your greatest desires—I feel confident in your abilities as a housewife and shall be pleased to make you a short visit, should I be so lucky as to pass safely through this campaign & enter the civilized world again.

While writing this on the lid of an U.S.A. Regulations—sitting on a cracker box, in the “shade of an umbrageous” pine, but little musketry going on and the morning pleasant, my ears are *enchanted* by the music of at least a dozen brass bands of our division. Hardly 50 yards to my right the band of 33d Ind is filling the air with the sweet strains of “Sounds from home”, making me think of the times at home when I used to saw away on my violin at that air.<sup>40</sup> We have many excellent bands in our division and many poor ones. Almost the finest brass band I have ever heard is that of 33d Mass Vols. accompanied by several reed instruments. It almost lifts me out of my boots to hear them play. I shall be pleased to hear from Frank at any time, and you my dear sister write me as often as possible. My conveniences are not the best for writing, so you will ma[ke] allowances for any tardiness or neglect I may make. I wrote to Ma and Father the 7th. My health never was better than at present, and were I where I could get something to eat some clean clothes, a pair of good boots I would be all O.K. I will close Katie and beleive me my dear sister with the greatest amount of love to you and your husband.

I am Affect  
Your only bro  
Charlie.

<sup>39</sup> Edward B. Colestock of Indianapolis served as first lieutenant of Company E of the Seventieth Indiana. He died May 30, 1864, of wounds received during a battle at Resaca, Georgia. *Ibid.*, II, 643. The Twentieth Army Corps had participated in heavy fighting at Resaca on May 13-16, 1864, before Johnston withdrew toward Allatoona Pass and Dallas. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 691-92. Of Colestock's actions at Resaca, Captain Meredith of Company E stated: “Lieutenant Colestock . . . waved his cap and cheered. Then noticing I was bareheaded, he . . . picked up a cap from the ground, placed it on my head and began cheering again. A moment later he received the shot which in a few days terminated his life.” Quoted in Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 101.

<sup>40</sup> Before the war Cox had been a “member of a nice little Serenade band” in Indianapolis. See Charles H. Cox to Catharine Cox Lord, August 23, 1861, Cox Papers. Another member of the Seventieth Indiana wrote that music filled many of the soldiers' leisure hours and mentioned “Lieutenant Charley Cox, who wields the bow with great skill . . . .” Bode to Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, April 19, 1864.

Head Quarters Seventieth  
Line of Battle near Marietta Ga  
June 20th 1864

My Own dear Sister!

Having a leisure moment listen while I write—Truly we have been through exciting times since my last epistle to you. I shall mention Wednesday 15th of *June* for instance—one month previous to that date (May 15) the 70th entered her first real battle at Resaca loosing 156 men<sup>41</sup>—other engagements we have been in since then suffering greatly—but the 15th inst—never was a body of men in such a *hot* place as was the invincible 70th on that terrible day. We had been lying in our line of works some 10 days keeping up lively skirmishing and petty engagements continually, but the inclement state of the weather caused our supplies not forthcoming, thereby giving us a greater taste of hunger than Hard-Tack and inclining us into a mood rather unpleasant than otherwise, also rendering an advance impossible as well as impracticable, but the morning of the 15th opened bright & beautiful and the whole of Shermans army pushed over their works onto the rebs who with but slight resistance skedaddled leaving one line of their works in our possession, still our army pushed forward in line of battle preceeded by a heavy skirmish line and a little after noon the 4th corps on left of the 20th became engaged and as our corps gradually swung around it also engaged the enemy from left to right by Brigades. At 4 PM our Brig—on extreme right of corps and the 70th on its extreme right—came up to the Johnnies driving their skirmishers into their breastworks and arriving at an open field 100 yds wide—the double quick was taken up with a yell. Scarcely a man faltered and the 70th gallantly crossed the field firing as they went, entered the woods & pushed towards the rebel works over a troublesome abattis, but woe unto us, it was too hot a nest for Yankees at that time, for when within 200 yds of the rebel works two Batteries—8-12 pd guns—opened on us, making a further advance *impossible* as we had no support and not a dozen men would have been left to tell the tale had we continued the charge; but not a man flinched or turned his back to them, but sought such shelter as trees and the nature of the ground afforded and fought them behind their breastworks until 9 P.M before we were releived—It is said

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<sup>41</sup> The Seventieth Indiana had played an important part in Sherman's attack against Johnston at Resaca, Georgia. Leading the assault on the enemy's right, the regiment captured the only pieces of artillery lost by the Confederates between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646. Colonel Harrison, brigade commander, cited Cox in his official report of the engagement: "Lieut. C. H. Cox, acting adjutant, was conspicuous for his coolness and his efforts to rally the men." *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 372. For a fuller description of the Seventieth Indiana's participation at Resaca see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 86-112.

no troops were ever known to stand under such artillery fire before, and our Generals give us great credit. For 3 hours 8 cannon flung shot, shell, grape & cannister at us and sad was the sight of the many killed & wounded around us. Several men had their heads shot off close to their shoulders, and men with arms and legs taken off was quite common. Oak trees several feet in thickness were cut square into immediately amongst us, and many trees we shattered into splinters from base to top—More than 50 shells exploded within 25 feet of me and I was almost deaf when the battle was over—Our regt expended 10000 rounds of ammunition in less than 3 hours—I have visited the battle grounds of “Stone River” and “Chicamauga” neither of which exhibits near the “Scars of Battle” as does the battle ground of “Golgotha”. The 70th lost 47 men and 3 com off in the engagement. A loss of 8 officers and 225 men in the 70th shows whether she has done any fighting since the opening of this campaign.<sup>42</sup> My health never was better than now, and I am much pleased to learn you are in your new home. May the time soon come when I may visit you there.

The 70th has been in every fight of this campaign and while I write we are in line of battle not a stones throw from a rebel line—We lost 4 men in a small skirmish last night—The weather is quite fine today to cheer us up after soaking for 3 days and nights in the rain. I am still Act Adjt although Jim Mitchell is back—but came before he was entirely well and is now unable for duty—Katie—do you remember Hi Hand a former Lieut in my Co—he is now a private in the 13th New Jersey in 1st Div XX corps—I see him occasionally and think he is one [of] the meanest looking soldiers in the 20th A.C.<sup>43</sup> Genls Thomas, Hooker & Howard just rode past our line—I have almost fell in love with “Old Joe”—

We have driven the rebels 90 miles and taken 6 lines of their works since May 6th—The 4th of July is the time set apart for us to take Atlanta—I have great confidence in our success. But my paper is out and close I must—Write often to me. Is Will Elliott in 100 days

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<sup>42</sup> After almost two weeks of skirmishing around Dallas, Georgia, Johnston on June 4, 1864, positioned his troops on Lost, Pine, Brush, and eventually Kenesaw mountains. Although it is the disastrous general assault of June 27 with which the name Kenesaw Mountain is generally associated, a number of battles occurred in the area during the month of June. Included were Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church, Golgotha, and Mud Creek. Cox suggests that the battle at Golgotha occurred on June 15, 1864; other sources place it on June 16. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 452-53. For descriptions of the Seventieth Indiana's participation in these engagements see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 124-33.

<sup>43</sup> Hiram H. Hand was mustered into the Seventieth Indiana as first lieutenant of Company E on August 6, 1862; he resigned on November 9, 1862. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 643. According to the *Indianapolis Daily State Sentinel*, August 18, 1864, Hand was later wounded in actions before Atlanta.





HIRAM H. HAND, COX' FRIEND.  
(NOTE UNIQUE SIGNATURE)

service<sup>44</sup>—Much love to you Katie dear—

Affecty  
Charlie

Excuse writing, dirty paper & pencil, as paper is scarce and I am writing on my knee.

Our corps is on left of Kinesaw Mts

H.Q. 70th Ind. V. I.  
Chattahoochee River, Georgia  
July 10th 1864—

My darling Sister!

At noon to day a mail arrived and yours of June 28th was the only missive which fell to my lot. A very welcome letter it was and had I been the recipient of more than one document, the writers would not have been so fortunate as you, in so prompt a reply being sent. The slight warmth of the weather, down here in the Confed'cy makes the merest duty a hard task and if we can manage to prevent the operation of *roasting* being performed upon us or keep our carcass from "scyugling" into "Soap grease",<sup>45</sup> fortunate beings we are, and the frowns of "old Sol" will be welcome still during our sojourn in the Sunny South.

Katie I was truly pleased with your letter—as always,—and also that you are prospering so well in housekeeping affairs. You must have a pleasant little home on the river side and I know of nothing that would please me better than a trip up into the civilized world to spend a few days with you. Does Mr and Mrs President Lord reside near you, on the R.R. and do the trains pull up at your door—<sup>46</sup>

I recd a letter from Ma yesterday telling me of her trip to the residence of F. B. Lord; Esq. and she gave me quite a good account of your management and taste as a housekeeper—If it were not for Ma & your little self, I would be dumb as a mule (excuse comparison) about home affairs—I have written Father and Frank several times without response and I have concluded they are "played out" on the letter question—and shall hereafter rely on you females for Northern information.—

Occasionally I hear from "the girl I left behind" and *mighty* wel-

<sup>44</sup> No record has been found to indicate that Will Elliott joined one of the one hundred days regiments.

<sup>45</sup> "Skyugle" was a strange word which originated with the Union soldiers during the Civil War. It had not only a variety but a contrariety of meanings. Sir William A. Craigie and James R. Hulbert, eds., *Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles* (4 vols., Chicago, 1944), IV, 2137. Cox uses the word twice in this letter with apparently different meanings each time.

<sup>46</sup> Katie's brother-in-law, H. C. Lord, was president of the Indianapolis to Cincinnati Railroad. Frank B. Lord, Katie's husband, was also associated with the railroad. Clipping from the Cincinnati *Post*, May 27, 1931, Cox Papers.

come her letters are, full of news and nonsense, mixed with a little *love*, of course I have to return the compliment and we keep up a lively correspondence.

The 3d inst the Johnnies becoming aware Mr Sherman had played one of his pretty flank movements on them—packed up traps at daylight and “scyugled” from their works at Kinesaw Mt. and in and around Marietta—Scarce had they turned their backs upon and retreated from their splendid lines of works than us Yankees were at their heels—At 9 o’clk A.M. our Brig ran into a battery (1/2 mile from [M]arietta) which was covering their retreat, and the [way?] the shells “came for us” is unpleasant even to think about—We hugged the ground with all the grace of a pig for over an hour until Smith’s Bat of our Div silenced mr Rebs guns with a few solid shot from their rifled guns—We “tagged” after the rebs some 8 miles, taking prisoners and deserters to the tune of 8000. The gallant (as the papers say) 70th took 68 “in out of the wet”—and about sunset we found the enemy halted behind a splendid line of works previously prepared by “Mr Nigger” for their reception—and bidding defiance to Yankee invasion—Not anxious to get hurt so near 4th of July we concluded to let them “sweat” and threw up before us a line of works for protection while we celebrated on the morrow our national anniversary—<sup>47</sup>

At daylight on the 4th we were awakened to find our line of battle confronting with the enemy’s at a stones throw distance, and the entire morning was spent by us lying in the trenches listening to the patriotic music of the 7 Brass Bands of 3d Div—which must have fell heavy on the ears of the rebs and made their “dander rise” as “Yankee doodle”, “Hail Columbia” &c. &c. was discoursed by our timid “blowers”—

But “there is no rest for the wicked” and Hookers Corps was appointed to flank the enemy from their works and after a hard afternoons work in marching, making feints, throwing up works &c on the next morning we found the enemy had again evacuated their works and shoved out towards the Chattahoochee. Another tramp after them, with many prisoners we pushed them to the river—and now they are across—feeling rather bold, and not afraid to unmask their artillery and give us an occasional shot, they have confidence in the river as a protection against assault, which they so dread—Our skirmish line occupies the bank of the river, while our line of battle

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<sup>47</sup> After Sherman’s efforts to take Kenesaw Mountain failed, he again attempted a strategic envelopment of the Confederate forces. Johnston withdrew his troops to Smyrna, Georgia, between July 2-4, 1864, with Sherman’s army following. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 141, 453. For further accounts of these moves see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 132-37. Cox probably refers to the First Michigan Light Artillery, Battery I, Captain Luther R. Smith of the Third Division commanding. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, 100.

is a mile behind—Our Regt is to day at the river supperting the skirmish line of our division and is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in advance of the line of battle—Atlanta being on higher ground the city is plainly in view from our position, and with our Hd Qr glass we can count the panes in the windows—We expect soon to have possession of Atlanta, when I hope the campaign will close to give us a little rest, and wait until the hot weather is over—I understand Schofields corps is over the river on our right and it would [not] be at all strange if “Uncle Joe’s” crowd was over before I have an opportunity of mailing this—<sup>48</sup>

A portion of our Brig were the first Yankees into Marietta and two of our companies drove 1200 rebel cavalry from the place—Many were the pretty little countenances peeping from behind the blinds and doors at the first live Yankees they had seen. Some were bold enough to greet us with facinating smiles (when they were aware from observation that we were not adorned with “horns and claws” as they had been informed and thought true—) when not 5 minutes before tears were shed in profusion at the departure of the Johnny Cavalry—<sup>49</sup>

Camp Rumor says Hookers Corps is soon to be transfered to the Potomac Army, if Johnson attempts to reenforce Lee—From appearances I am inclined to think there is some foundation in the report. I am not anxious for the change, and think as much of Sherman as Grant. Should we go and pass through Cint’i on the route, I must see “You’ alls” at the depot—

As soon as hostilities cease for a time it is my intention to make a desperate effort for a leave of absence—Our boys are anxious to make home in the fall and carry the Lincoln & Co ticket—Soldiers are one and all for Abe—he is their choice and feel that his reelection will be a death blow to Copper heads and cause a speedy termination of the war—Whilst the election of Fremont or even McClellan will be the approval of a 4 years continuance of war—followed by ruination of our Gov’t. Try persuade Frank (if he is not already a Lincolnite) to vote and work for H.O. Abe—All good Union men will not pursue any other course—I am confident Father will look to the good of his country.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> On July 4-5, 1864, Johnston withdrew from Smyrna to his bridgehead on the Chattahoochee River. On July 8 a portion of Sherman’s army crossed the river despite limited Confederate resistance, and on the night of July 9 Johnston abandoned his bridgehead. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 141. Major General John M. Schofield commanded the Twenty-Third Army Corps, Army of the Ohio. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, 111.

<sup>49</sup> The engagements at Marietta, Georgia, are associated with battles at Kennesaw Mountain. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 453.

<sup>50</sup> In the presidential campaign of 1864 Republicans renominated Abraham Lincoln, and the Democratic candidate was George B. McClellan. A radical wing of the Republican party nominated John C. Frémont. Indiana’s constitution prevented troops from voting in the field; hence, Cox and other Hoosier soldiers

But dear Sister let me finish with what I have already said and if any news worth communicating reaches me I will write soon again—

My health continues very good. Write soon to me and excuse dullness & chiography—Remember me to Frank and tell him to open his heart and play the “Sanitary” by sending me by mail *1/2 lb good Smoking tobacco*—It cannot be had here for love or money—Let him direct it to “Sergt A. F. Schley, Co “E” 70th Ind Vols” and it will save near 50 cts postage—<sup>51</sup>

Remember me to all the Lords and enquiring friends—I remain with much love

Your affect brother—Charlie—

I am Act Adjutant of the Regt. and will soon be commissioned 1st Lt Co “E”

H. Q. 70th Ind V. I.  
Chattahoochee River—  
July 13th 1864

Dear Frank!

Only a word as I have no time, no news, no paper or no nothing wherewith to compose a letter.

I have been recommended to Gov of Ind for promotion to 1st Lt of my Co to date from May 30th 1864 (date of Lt Colestocks death) and will be commissioned as such I suppose—Several Officers of this Regt who have been recommended for promotion 2 & 3 months ago—are still awaiting their commissions, caused I suppose by Adj Gen Noble being overrun with business—<sup>52</sup>

Will you please on your first trip to Ind’polis [c]all at the Executive Dep’t and get my *Commish* [an]d forward it to me or have them do it at [on]ce—I am anxious to receive it and be mustered 1st: To “Soar above” the multitude of common [2]nd Lts to be found in the army—2nd: The “bigger” the Shoulder strap the better an Of-

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hoped to be furloughed home in order to vote. Despite the efforts of Governor Morton, however, the Indiana regiments were not allowed to leave the front. Stamp, *Indiana Politics*, 224-25, 235, 251-52. The terms copperhead and butternut were generally used during the Civil War to describe an opponent of the Union effort. More precise definitions vary greatly depending on the source.

<sup>51</sup> The United States Sanitary Commission and the Indiana Sanitary Commission were established to supply the soldiers’ needs and care for the sick and wounded. Members distributed clothing, sanitary stores, and other supplies; wrote letters for wounded soldiers; saw to the burial of the dead; etc. See *ibid.*, 123-27. Sanitary fairs were frequently held throughout the country to raise money for these purposes. Allan [Allen] F. Schley of Indianapolis served as corporal, sergeant, and second lieutenant of Company E, Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 642; VI, 126.

<sup>52</sup> Cox was commissioned first lieutenant of Company E on July 1, 1864, but was not mustered into this position until September 1, 1864. Lazarus Noble served as adjutant general of Indiana from May, 1861, to November, 1864. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 643, x.

ficer fares and thirdly it is due me and the influence of it will make my still higher promotion more easily gained—My health is tip top—Weather wonderfully warm—and campaigning most *played*. We are in sight of Atlanta and can see the people on the streets with our glasses—The city will be in possession of Sherman in less than a week I think.

I wrote Katie the 10th inst Will write you the *signs* if we take Atlanta—The latest Atlanta papers are at hand—They give gloomy accounts of the condition of the city—Many inhabitants have concluded to remain and be subjected to Yankee rule, with full confidence (so the editor says) the city will soon be wrested again from our infamous hordes. “I cant see it” in that light and what Mr Sherman takes he generally *freezes* to—Roswell Cotton factory was taken by our forces the other days—and with it 700 girls who were working in it—The girls were some what alarmed at first, but were soon pacified and seemed pleased at being transfered for the Confed’cy to Uncle Samuel—and said they beleived they liked the Yanks the best any how, as they wore the best clothes and were the best looking men—A dance was proposed by some of the boys, and agreed upon by the girls—who went to work and cleaned out and scrubbed the floor of the largest room—some of our *army* fiddlers were engaged—the dance commenced and all “was merry as a marriage bell”—when Mr Sherman put a finis to their fun by detatching a squad with a pocket full of matches and soon the buildings were no more. The factories were worth over \$1,000,000, and the British . . . over them—The girls were sent . . . to be shipped north I suppose . . . mostly are destitute of hom[e] . . . some lately arrived from England—<sup>53</sup> Some one proposed that they be issued to Officers on “Special Requisitions,” certifying they are for their own use—

Let me hear from you occasionally My love to [K]atie

As ever  
Charlie.

H. Q. 70th Ind V. I.  
In the Trenches—Near Atlanta  
July 23d 1864

My dear Sister!

<sup>53</sup> Roswell King, founder of Roswell, Georgia, opened cotton factories in the town in 1837 or 1839. Sherman’s army destroyed these factories and also the Ivy Mill which was established in 1858 for the manufacture of woolen cloth and which was known during the war for its “Roswell Gray.” A sign near the town states that women working in the mills were sent north to insure that their skills would not be of further aid to the South. Federal Writers’ Guide, Works Projects Administration, *Georgia: A Guide to Its Towns and Countryside* (rev. ed., Atlanta, 1940), 265-66. Ellipses in this letter indicate omissions made necessary because one corner of the manuscript was torn away and missing.

Yours of 10 days ago made its welcome appearance on evening of 21st inst \* \* \* Since my last to you we have fought *the* battle of this campaign and given the enemy the soundest thrashing they have yet had. It was a fair fight, neither side have breastworks and lasting 5 hours—Our Division fought in a large open field and have been complimented by the comdg officers as “saving the day”—A terrible slaughtered of rebels—800 were buried on the field where the 20th corps was engaged and 3 times that number wounded—Our hospitals contained twice as many rebel wounded as of our men—The 3d Div lost 500 killed and wounded—The 70ths loss was 1 officer and 4 men killed—2 officers, 26 men wounded—Total 33—Increasing casualties in the Regt to over 285 since the campaign—The regiment was in the hottest part of the fight and where it was, I was also—I shall give you no particulars for should I once commence 10 pages would not contain what I would like to say—Refer to Cin Commercial for information—It was a “big thing”—My captures are one Captain's sword marked C.S.A. Reb canteen, (cedar) haversack &c—We held the battle field and captured over 1000 prisoners and most all their wounded—<sup>54</sup>

It was only 3 miles from atlanta and the enemy being flanked by McPherson (who by the way was killed yesterday)<sup>55</sup> yesterday morning they fell back into their Atlanta works where they now are. Our army is again confronting them only 1½ miles from the city. Their works cannot be taken by assault and I have reason to suppose Sherman will administer one of his flank movements on them and have possession of the city before this reaches you—

Our guns can shell the city at their leisure, having fine range—A Battery of Parrot Guns,<sup>56</sup> of our Div has range of the main street and have been tempted to sent a little visitor down the street, orders

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<sup>54</sup> The Battle of Peach Tree Creek, a part of the Atlanta campaign, occurred on July 20, 1864. Although it was considered a Union victory, both sides suffered severe casualties. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 625-27. In his history of the regiment the commander of the Seventieth Indiana at Peach Tree Creek describes Cox: “Acting Adjutant Cox, beautiful as a girl, brave as a lion, rushes . . . to the hilltop, his form as he reaches the crest outlined against the sky, waves his hat exultantly, and beckons a command ‘Forward!’ for no voice could be heard in the uproar.” For a complete description of the active part played by the Seventieth Indiana at Peach Tree Creek see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 139-59; quotation taken from p. 142. According to the official records Cox captured one infantry sword and scabbard on July 20, 1864, at Peach Tree Creek. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 22.

<sup>55</sup> Major General James B. McPherson, commander of the Army of the Tennessee, was killed in the campaign before Atlanta on July 22, 1864. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 538.

<sup>56</sup> Parrott guns, invented by R. P. Parrott, were rifled, muzzle loading cannon varying in size from three inch (ten pound shell) to ten inch (250 pound projectile). Considered more accurate and having over twice the range of smooth-bores, the Parrotts were particularly effective in knocking down masonry fortifications. *Ibid.*, 621.

forbid for the present—Non Combatants will receive timely notice when the shelling comes off—

While writing this, Artillery duelling is going on between the two lines—The enemy have a 32 pound battery bearing on our division and every 5 minutes a shell bursts in uncomfortable proximity—

Capt Meredith is in the rear quite unwell he is also *homesick* and if he cannot procure a "Sick leave" will doubtless resign shortly \*\*\*\* Lt Col Sam Merrill commands the 70th and Harrison the Brig—I *do not think as much of Harrison as I used to* and Col Merrill I highly esteem—he is a good officer and a gentleman—he does not treat his inferiors like dogs as Harrison does—and he has some regards for a mans feelings.<sup>57</sup> I still am Act Adjt—and do not know when I can return to my company—unless I am promoted "Chief in Command" of the same—My health is pretty good and I cannot complain—I have nothing very strange to write. My regards to Frank and the "*folksus*"

With very much love I am as ever

Hastily but truly  
Your affect bro  
Charley—

Head Quarters 70th  
Ind V. I. In front of Atlanta,  
Ga—August 4th 1864

My dear Sister!

Although not indebted to you a letter, neither anything worth communicating to dispose of—still according to custom I write to "keep the ball rolling" \*\*\*\* If possible Katie your epistles must be more frequent. Your letters are the most welcome amongst the few I have the honor to respond to, and the sight of a few more, is the best remedy I am aware of, for the blues \*\*\*\*\*

We do not possess Atlanta yet, nor in any place does our lines approach nearer than 2640 feet to the city. Our Brig occupies the nearest position to the city of any troops in our army—A 20 pound Parrot Gun in position near the 70th sends a shell in the city every 5 minutes, day and night—Not 5 min has been passed without a messenger being sent over to the *Johnnies* "to put in their pipe and smoke"—It has become so regular the boys have named it the "Atlanta Express"—

The 3d Div returned yesterday and rejoined our corps after an absence of a week holding the refused portion of the right flank of

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<sup>57</sup> According to the regimental history Meredith was ill both before and during the Battle of Peach Tree Creek. Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 141-42. The reason for the apparently sudden change in Cox' attitude toward Harrison has not been determined.



our army—We were 4 miles South west of Atlanta and 6 miles from our present position, which is nearly north of the city—

I wrote you since our battles along Peach Tree Creek—the papers doubtless have notified you of the fact that the 20th Corps had a hand in the muss and did some handsome shooting &c, &c.

Uncle Joe Hooker has left us—releived at his own request—never has the loss of a Comdr cast such a gloom over troops as now hang over the XX Corps and the rest of the army, at his departure—Brig Genl A. S. Williams assumes temporary command of the corps, until Mr Lincoln assigns us a comd'r<sup>58</sup>

While writing this Schofield on the right is attempting to force possession of the R.R. south of the city and from the distant sound of musketry and artillery he is having quite a battle—in the mean time our line is keeping up a lively firing to divert the enemys attention partially this way—as if we were to assault them here—

Genl McCooks, cavalry command met with quite a reverse some 30 miles down the river—He had some 3000 cavalry & a section of 18th Ind Bat with him—and was returning from a raid below Atlanta some 50 miles—and had accomplished finely his mission—but capturing a large quantity of “John Barleycorn” his whole command got on a tight—and while in that condition were surrounded and his entire command except 800 were captured—The loss is very slight to the army as the cavalry of this army are almost entirely worthless—<sup>59</sup>

Genl Stoneman with a large cavalry force, left several days to liberate the Union prisoners confined at Americus, Macon &c in Southern Georgia—No news from him yet<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> When President Lincoln appointed General Howard to replace McPherson as commander of the Army of the Tennessee, Hooker asked to be relieved of his command of the Twentieth Army Corps. He left the corps on July 28, 1864, and served the remainder of the war in the Northern Department. He was replaced, at least temporarily, by Brigadier General Alpheus Starkey Williams. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 409, 926-27.

<sup>59</sup> Having destroyed all other railroads leading into Atlanta, Sherman believed that by wrecking the one leading south to Macon he would force General John B. Hood, who had replaced Johnston, to evacuate Atlanta. He thus ordered General George Stoneman and General Edward Moody McCook to converge their cavalry divisions on this railroad approximately forty miles south of Atlanta. McCook destroyed track, rolling stock, and supplies on July 29, 1864, but was surrounded by superior forces while returning to Sherman's army. According to some reports he lost 500 men, his pack train, two guns, and a large number of horses. No mention is made in McCook's official report of the capture or detrimental effects of any whiskey. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 801-802; *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 762-64. The Eighteenth Indiana Battery was mustered into service in August, 1862, with Eli Lilly of Crawfordsville as captain; in August, 1864, the battery was commanded by Moses M. Beck of Greencastle. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, III, 431-32. According to the official records Lieutenant Martin J. Miller commanded the portion of the Eighteenth Battery which accompanied McCook. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 762-64.

<sup>60</sup> In addition to his orders for destroying the railroad to Macon and joining McCook's forces, Stoneman requested and received permission to raid Macon and liberate Union prisoners at Andersonville. Rather than following orders explicitly, Stoneman split his forces, sending part south toward McCook and taking the rest

Wilders' renowned "hatchet" Brigade is over the river, are scouring the country for secesh and pressing horses, find abundance of both.<sup>61</sup> A lot of the 17 Ind boys were over to see us to day, report the Brigade in fine trim, but enough Katie Write me often and see the rest does the same.

Affect  
Charles

Did you tell Frank, to send me a few ounces of *Smoking Tobacco*, by mail—I shall look for it and ever remember the benefactor—<sup>62</sup>

Capt Meredith has tendered his resignation on Surgeons certificate of Disability, it will doubtless be accepted and two weeks he will be home—May-be I will step in his boots as Capt—though the ranking Lt will hurt himself to procure the position It is immaterial to me whether I received the promotion or not though of course I am ambitious in the military line, during my sojourn in the army—and have no fears I will be cut out of the position should the vacancy occur—My *Commish* as First Lt has not reached me yet—ask Frank to please look to it his first trip to Ind'polis<sup>63</sup>

The 70th anticipates a trip home this fall to give Lincoln and Morton their support. There is only a few of us left after our severe losses, but those of us who are, will *go for* L and M—

We are looking for a chance to Veteranize this month—should the campaign close. If I veteranize "I cant see it" now, though I might be induced by patriotism to subscribe my name for another 3 years—

We are faring better in the eating line now than any time on the campaign \*\*\*\* Hard tack, ham, (Desd) potatoes, & dried apples, for breakfast: Corn cakes, beans, ham, bacon, crackers, coffee and pies for dinner: Mush, shortcake, ham, potatoes, dried peaches and tea for supper—Our Hd Qrs Mess have a fine cook, and keep a horse to carry our rations on a march in paniers \*\*\*\*\*

Cuz Fitz is in good health and wishes to be remembered to you,

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toward Andersonville. His cavalry was thwarted by the Confederates at all points, and Stoneman with approximately 700 men was captured. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 800-801.

<sup>61</sup> The brigade commanded by Colonel John T. Wilder of the Seventeenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment was nicknamed the "Hatchet Brigade." Wilder's forces were mounted and armed with Spencer repeating rifles. They participated in innumerable major battles and skirmishes from 1861-1865. *Ibid.*, 919; Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, III, 145-57.

<sup>62</sup> Since the initial page or pages of this letter are missing, it has been impossible to determine exactly when it was written. Internal evidence suggests that it was sent to Katie some time between August 4 and August 19, 1864.

<sup>63</sup> Meredith resigned on August 12, 1864. Cox was not mustered as first lieutenant of Company E until September 1, 1864. Governor Morton, however, commissioned him as captain of the company on August 13, 1864, but he was never mustered into this position. For an explanation of his failure to be mustered as captain see footnote 74. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 642.

he often receives letters from cousin Mattie and splendid letters they are. Jenk rode over to 17th corps the other day and met a cousin of *ours*, his name is "Capt Maxson" 12th Wis Vols. I would have gone to see him but the 17th A.C. is 4 miles off and I have not had the time—he has my address and said he would call over to the 70th soon—<sup>64</sup>

The past 30 hours a detail has been building a new line of works several hundred yards in advance, which the 70th will occupy in less than half an hour—

A hill on left of our Brigade overlooks Atlanta at a distance of 2 miles—every street & house can be seen and a battery in position on the hill has battered a good many windows out—

But Katie, I must stop—with much love for you and Frank and my *best* to all the pretty girls in your neighborhood, I subscribe myself—in fine health—

Your affect brother  
Charley

Central House, Chattanooga, T.  
Aug 19th—64, 9 P.M.

My dearest Sister!

I have just finished a letter home, only one inch of candle left and I will write you until it expires.

Came up here and to Bridgeport Ala on business for the regt, have been here a week, a few more days and I return \*\*\*\*

I was in Dalton when *Wheeler* took the place and destroyed the railroad I made a lucky escape from Libby and arrived in Chattanooga all O.K.<sup>65</sup> Near a week the road has been cut, trains have commenced running again and all the rolling stock is in use transporting forage to the front I am obliged to remain here in company with several Adjt XX Corps until we can get a car to take our desks, records &c to the regiment which we came after \*\*\*\*\*

I wrote Miss Bright immediately after receipt of your last, written at home & mailed Boston. Her letter to me had been recd several months and I kept waiting for a good chance to answer. You say she is said to [be] *handsome*, thats all O.K. verily, she writes a neat let-

<sup>64</sup> Captain Orrin F. Maxson of Prescott, Wisconsin, served with Company A, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry, from October 9, 1861, until his resignation, September 18, 1864. Wisconsin, Adjutant General's Office, *Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, War of The Rebellion, 1861-1865* (2 vols., Madison, 1886), I, 704.

<sup>65</sup> Confederate General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry approached Dalton, Georgia, on August 14, 1864, and demanded its surrender. Union Colonel Bernard Laidolt refused and successfully defended the city against two attacks. Libby Prison, located in Richmond, Virginia, was perhaps the most notorious southern prison after Andersonville. Only officers were held there. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 221, 482.

ter and a most beautiful hand—I should be pleased to cultivate the limited acquaintance—I hope, we hoosiers will be taken home to vote in the fall, it would be a splendid treat to us and also save Indiana from the hands of those detestable copperheads. Maybe you think I talk large for a man of my age, although not a legal voter, can help Mr Morton hugely if I were home, the 70th Ind is unanimous for *Oliver P.*

I hope Katie you are having a gay time away down in Maine,<sup>66</sup> how I should like to visit a civilized country again and try to be a citizen I have another year to serve my country when I will talk to them about any more soldiering for me—

Capt Meredith has resigned and gone home, I expect to step into his boots.

My health continues No 1 and the campaign has not hurt me much, though I wish it would end, and a little rest be given us

Over 100 days we have been fighting, and I think too much of a good thing a *bore*

Sherman will doubtless winter his army north of the Chattahoochee. Atlanta is a hard row of stumps for him, though he could take it at an immense sacrifice—

Much love to you Katie My candle is *flickering* Regards to Francis

Truly  
Charley

70th Ind Vol Infantry

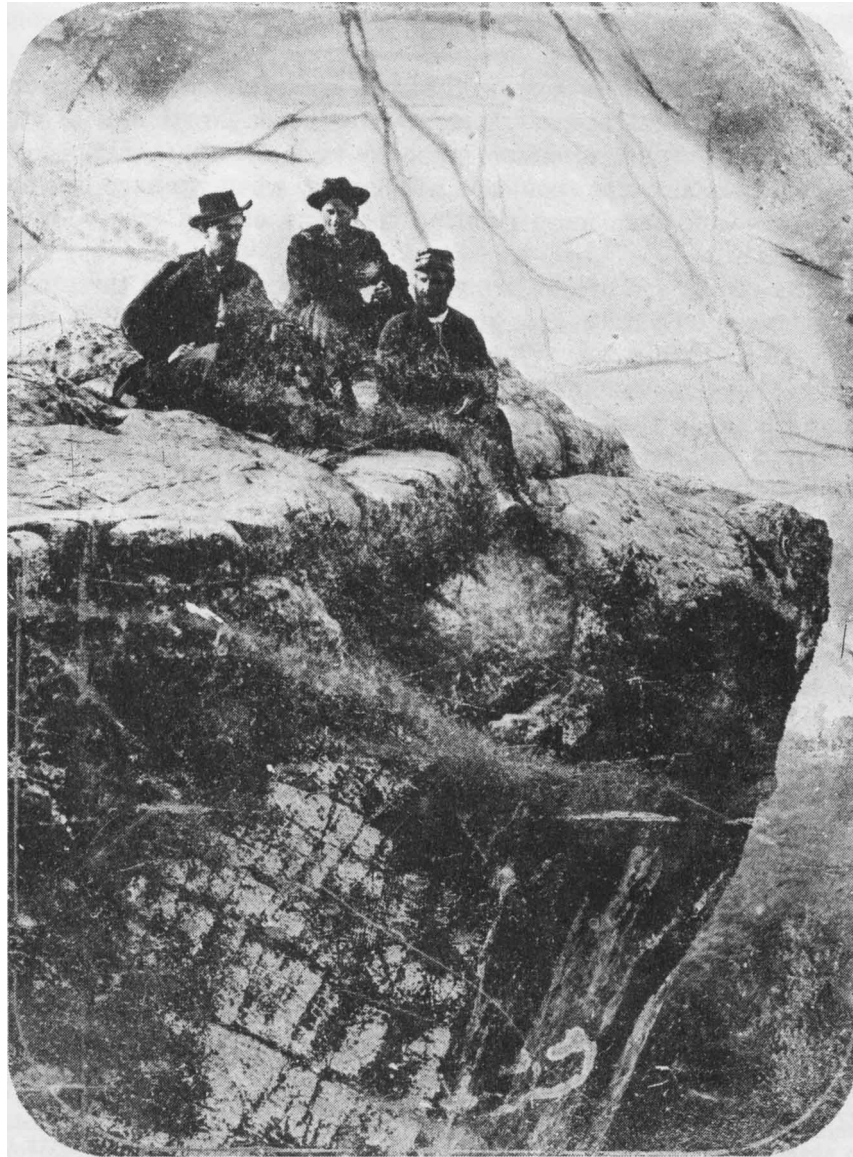
Chattahoochee River, Aug 30th/64

Three letters from you have been staring me in the face for some days and not 24 hours ago another missive from *Saco* made its appearance. I am not guilty of wilful neglect, as never have I been more busy than since my return from a dozen days sojourn at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, etc I had quite a lively time while gone, by the way I sent you by last mail an ambrotype taken on—Point Lookout—2400 feet above the sea. You will no doubt recognize Major Al Morely as one of the crowd, the Adjutant of 129 Ills the second and a young man about my size the “last but not least”<sup>67</sup>

Katie! I suppose this will find you again enjoying the comforts of your pleasant little home on banks of the Ohio—Would that I could

<sup>66</sup> Catharine Lord frequently visited relatives and vacationed in New England. See Sylvester, “Civil War Letters of Charles Harding Cox,” 31, 63, 64.

<sup>67</sup> Katie was apparently visiting at Saco, Maine, on the Atlantic Ocean. Albert J. Morley of Indianapolis was commissioned major of the Fourth Cavalry, Seventy-Seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers on June 24, 1864, but was never mustered into this position. Morley was mustered out of service with his regiment in June, 1865, as captain of Company A. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, III, 12, 13.



COX (CENTER) ON TOP OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN,  
WITH MAJOR ALBERT J. MORLEY AND THE  
ADJUTANT OF THE 129TH ILLINOIS.

enjoy the pleasure of a short visit from the excitements of the field at your home—I am not dubious but the 70th will be home to vote, our prospects are flattering, and if any soldiers return you may count upon the Seventieth =

Think of it! the 20 corps in the rear, we are on the Chattahoochee guarding, bridges, stores etc, our Brigade lies on North side of river 6 miles from Atlanta, and have what the boys call a *soft* thing of it—

Strange our corps should be left behind, when we have lost only 8000 men—and seen more fighting than any other Corps—, in the campaign

The remained of our army has moved around and threatening Atlanta from the south. A great battle is impending, and it necessarily be a terrible one. We will not be engaged. Maj Genl Slocum now has command of our Corps, a good man I think, but I am in love with old Jo Hooker—<sup>68</sup>

“The country is in a dreadful state”, a terrible state of affairs at our old home. Exterminate all copperheads if a million die, how I detest them—Every one has read and thought how bold the butter-nuts are getting. If I had my wish it would be that every traitor in the north be confined in such an infernal place, that hell would be a heaven to it—<sup>69</sup>

Often I hear from Ma, get all the news from her and of course her letters like yours are doubly welcome. I have my commission as First Lieut and I have no doubt in less than many weeks that another still higher will reach me—I am writing this at 6 A.M. and have an immense amount of writing to do to day, making Muster & pay Rolls. The Regt has not been paid for 8 months—though your humble serv’t *has*—Paymasters and Money are waiting at Louisville, & Nashville for the campaign to close, to come down & *pay off*—

<sup>68</sup> Major General Henry Warner Slocum succeeded General Williams as commander of the Twentieth Army Corps from August 27-November 11, 1864. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 765.

<sup>69</sup> Agitation over alleged treasonous copperhead activity increased in Indiana during the late summer and early fall of 1864. Harrison H. Dodd, Grand Commander of the Indiana Sons of Liberty, concocted a scheme to free rebel prisoners held in Indianapolis, seize the arsenal in the capital city, and raise a general insurrection on August 16, 1864. Dodd’s ultimate objective was apparently the formation of a Northwestern Confederacy. Horrified Democratic leaders forced Dodd to abandon his plot. Through various spies planted in the Sons of Liberty Governor Morton knew of the “great conspiracy.” On August 20 military authorities raided Dodd’s printing establishment in Indianapolis and confiscated a large amount of ammunition and revolvers, private correspondence, and material concerning the Sons of Liberty, including an alleged membership list which contained the names of several prominent Democratic candidates for state offices. Morton and the Republicans effectively used these examples of Democratic “treason” in the 1864 election campaign. These events, Dodd’s arrest, and the arrest of several other members of the Sons of Liberty culminated in the famous Indiana treason trials in October and November, 1864. Stampp, *Indiana Politics*, 241-47. Hoosiers were shocked at the revelation of such activities, and Cox had undoubtedly read or heard about the agitation at home.

Being camped on the Chattahoochee, the boys have a big time, bathing and fishing—Occasionally a man is drowned—and every person talks about it, if he had been shot on the skirmish line or in battle no one would think of it—such a common occurrence

My health quite good—though I should be pleased to visit the *sea shore*, “for my health” if there is such pleasures there—But enough Katie—Will be tired almost to death writing today—

Affectionately, Your brother  
Charley

H. Q. Co. “E” Seventieth Indiana  
Chattahoochee River. Oct 24th 1864.

My darling Sister!

Only two mails have arrived safely this far south since the retrograde movement of the two armies. The rebs have held our line of communication, hence my long silence. I have sent an occasional word home, doubting its chances of getting through. But now as Sherman has again defeated Old Beauregard or Hood—and the railroads clear of rebels, our connection with the civilized world has again been established.<sup>70</sup> Mails will probably arrive and depart regularly again, and the amount of rations issued us strengthened—for I am sure the XX A.C. would have *gone up the spout* in a few weeks more, if the road had not been opened and “fotched us grub”—

Your letter of the —— came happily received, and contents noted. My business and the uncertainty of the mails, prevented an immediate answer—

It has been a gloomy disappointment to us, at not going home to vote. We thought surely we would make the trip, our plans were devised for spending the vacation—and an extraordinary time was anticipated.

Indiana boys feel bad over it, and will have another “crow to pick” with the rebels for severing our com[mu]nications and preventing our going.

The first news of the elections, State and Sanitary Fairs reached us but 48 hours ago. For ten days we were kept in the dark, grapevine dispatches were not very flattering, and we almost feared the “butternuts” had gained the day.

But the news came at last, hats flew in the air as if by magic,

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<sup>70</sup> General Hood evacuated Atlanta on September 1, 1864, and the Twentieth Army Corps took possession the next morning. The armies' positions were then reversed, Sherman holding Atlanta, and Hood executing a series of unsuccessful attacks to cut the Union Army's lines of communication and supply and to force evacuation of the city. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard was second in command to Johnston in the forthcoming Carolinas campaign and may also have been at Atlanta. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 33-34, 54-55.

and the tremendous cheers of our boys produced echo after echo in the Chattahoochee Valley—

The news is glorious from home and our soldiers rejoice and are inspired anew with hopes of complete success—Elect Father Abraham and if the Confederacy does not at once *play out*, we will contract to battle them until extermination of ever southern sinner in arms.<sup>71</sup>

You spent several days at the [Sanitary] Fairs I suppose. I was very anxious to be there, but until Married Officers are tired of going home, I see no chance. Two Cols, three Cpts, three Lieuts, and one Adj't of the 70th are now home "on Leave". My time *may* soon come and I hope to be home between now and the expiration of our term of service. In nine months the regiment will *all* be home to enter again civil life—

The 70th is now detached from the Brigade and is covering and holding an important ferry in Chattahoochee River from use of the rebels—We are out alone, 3 miles from any troops and six miles from Atlanta—We had a slight engagement with the enemy last week, lasting 3 hours. Should they attack us in much force our chances for a Southern prison would be good, as the 70th now numbers 300 effective men, out of 1000 that left Ind'polis & 150 Recruits—I have 71 men in my company, only 40 are present—

I am not Capt yet, though expect to be, or a *citizen*, before Christmas—

I have nothing strange to communicate today—Let me hear soon & often—

And with much love to you and Frank. I am as ever—

Your affect brother  
C.H.C.

Head Quarters 1st Brig, 3d Div, 20 A.C.

Near Savannah, Geo. Dec 19th 1864!

My dearest Sister!

A mammoth mail reached us a couple days ago and I was quite disappointed at no letter from you. Thirty days ago Sherman with his army left Atlanta, swinging loose from all communication north and directing his course towards the coast.<sup>72</sup> Atlanta was left in ruins and all railroads, cotton and public property on our way destroyed. We marched near 300 miles and in 26 days landed in front

<sup>71</sup> In the Indiana state election on October 11, 1864, Morton and the Republican state ticket won by more than a 20,000 majority. Similar results occurred in Pennsylvania and Ohio. National elections for president and vice president were not held until November 7, 1864, when Lincoln was also elected overwhelmingly. Stamp, *Indiana Politics*, 253.

<sup>72</sup> In November, 1864, Sherman cut loose from his base at Atlanta and began his march to the sea. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 34.



of Savannah, which we now invest, as we found it strongly fortified and garrisoned by a host of soldiers and militia men.

Since the 10th inst we have been extending and advancing our lines, and now have 30,000 soldiers and 30,000 citizens penned up in the fair city of S. just as we had Hoods army in Atlanta, although with no chance to escape. Yesterday a flag of Truce visited the enemy's lines from Sherman demanding the unconditional surrender of the city, which was respectfully declined by Hardee comd'g rebel forces. We can starve the place out in a few months but time is precious and we are momentarily looking for the order to carry the works by assault and take possession of the city. It will cause much bloodshed to us but such is the risk of a soldier and if they get hurt it is their ill luck.<sup>73</sup>

A portion of our corps is across the river in South Carolina. I have been on its sacred soil and had a view of Savannah from the S. C. bank of the river. The country is level and very swampy around the city, giving the enemy no natural advantage in ground, but the time they have had in preparing artificial advantages such as abbat-tis, tangles, and innumerable obstructions will make it a most difficult task to take their works and one that will take resolute determined men to perform. We are 3 miles from the city, the lines of the two armies confront each other at 3 or 4 hundred yards distance apart. A swamp is in front of our Brigade 300 yards in width, we occupy one bank and the Johnnies the other. Should we assault the works in our front the men will have to swing their cartridge boxes around their necks and wade through mud and water waist deep under fire of a battery of artillery and thousands of muskets, but we have done the like before and can do it again. The only way to stop the war is to fight it out.

The first of Nov I was detailed as Aid-de-camp on the Brigade Staff—Col F. C. Smith commanding, since then I have been announced as Provost Marshal of the Brigade an equal pleasant position. I have a couple horses and all the conveniences Hd Qrs can afford. I should like to remain on the Staff until my time expires if possible and have no notion to return to my company since a strange man commands the company by virtue of the consolidation of the 27th with the 70th. Capt Fesler is his name. I am not much acquainted with him as I left the co before he joined it. I have my commission as Captain in my pocket but it avails me but little under that

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<sup>73</sup> Sherman's army reached Savannah around December 10, 1864. It was opposed by a limited and essentially ineffective force commanded by General William J. Hardee. When Savannah refused to surrender immediately, Sherman sent for siege guns; and around December 21, 1864, Hardee evacuated the city. *Ibid.*, 374, 512.

infernal consolidation—<sup>74</sup>Col Smith our comd'r. says he knows Frank. I have not time to give you a description of our march but beg refer you to the newspaper correspondents, who will write something interesting about Shermans *big raid*.

We hear of Hood investing Nashville, quite a different aspect in that Dept than when we were there.<sup>75</sup> We are but a few miles from the coast I anticipate a ride over in a few days to take a look at the Ocean. Something new to your little brother.

The 12th was my birthday, 20 years old, getting quite aged.

Mails go and come via New York City. Write soon and direct Hd Qrs 1st Brig, 3 Div 20 A.C, Left Wing, Army of Georgia, Savannah, Ga.

My health is good, with much love to Frank and yourself I am affect brother

Charlie

Fort Hardee, S. C.

Jan 6th 1865.

My dear Sister!

Fortunate I am just to have recd from you a letter dated Nov 4th 1864. Truly dear Katie it was welcome indeed, being the first word from you for more than two months. Neither have I heard from Ma since 15th of same month, and my anxiety for news from those dear to me at home is growing to an unpleasant extent. I attach all blame to the P.O. Dep't and strange it seems to me that we have had nothing but old mail since arriving at Savannah, with such abundant facilities for bringing mail and every thing else to the Army.

I beleive I wrote you from Savannah, of the pleasant time I was having and of the pretty girls in the family I was stopping with. But a sojourn of 10 days ended my fun and on New Years morning our Division crossed the river into South Carolina, being the first troops of Shermans army in the hottest of the secession states.

We are now camped at Ft Hardee 8 miles from Savannah in Beaufort Co. Our army will cross into the State gradually leaving

<sup>74</sup> Colonel Franklin C. Smith commanded the First Brigade, Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps during Sherman's campaign through Georgia. *Ibid.*, 771. On November 4-5, 1864, the veterans and remaining recruits of the Twenty-Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment were consolidated with the Seventieth Indiana by special order of the War Department. At that time Peter Fesler of Morgantown became captain of Company E. Although Cox had been commissioned captain of Company E on August 13, 1864, he was thus never mustered into that position. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 265, 642.

<sup>75</sup> After his evacuation of Atlanta, Hood planned an invasion of Tennessee in an attempt to draw Sherman northward. The Union general, however, refused to be deterred from his march to the sea and left General Thomas to defend against Hood at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. Cox' information that Hood had invested Nashville was, however, incorrect. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 305-309.

force sufficient to protect Savannah and in a couple weeks, I think, Sherman will move through S. C. desolating the country as he goes, and striking for Charleston and cities of importance. By spring I predict we will be cooperating with Grant against Lee, who will be compelled to evacuate Richmond when we get into N.C. & cut off his communication & supplies.<sup>76</sup>

The administration is determined to subdue the rebellion on the shortest notice and I think *active campaigns* will be the order of this year. Victories crown our arms at every point and our wise men predict this to be the closing year of the war.

The gloomy aspect in Tenn has changed and the rout of Hoods army is a grand item in the war.<sup>77</sup> May our armies continue to be victorious and the 12th of August 1865 find us enjoying the pleasures of peace for in that day my connection with the U.S. Army ceases and I shall then throw off the *brass* and *blue* and take to civil life again, get married or live an old bachelor. The former is preferable and I want you to pick out for me a good looking intelligent girl to court on my return home, for I hardly think I know an unmarried lady in the north, so many have changed their names since my departure in the service.

It is a long seige between Geo and Alice. I could marry a dozen times in the time.

I am still on the Staff of 1st Brigade. Our Hd Qrs are in a commodious house owned by a man named Hardee who left with his family on the approach of us Vandals.<sup>78</sup> It is raining without, but I am setting up to a nice large fire (not built on a/c of cold but to drive away dampness) in second story, writing on my knee, with half dozen old letters staring me in the face demanding I should answer them to day or be considered an unworthy correspondent.

I was out foraging yesterday with a detachment of 200 men from our Brig. We met the enemy on New River and skirmished more than an hour with them, coming out *ahead*. We found three fine piano's in a deserted house, had I transportation I surely would send

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<sup>76</sup> After Sherman's march to the sea General Grant planned to have the combined armies of Sherman, General George G. Meade, and General Benjamin F. Butler converge to destroy Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. To bring his forces into position to cooperate with Grant, Sherman about February 1, 1865, began his march through the Carolinas toward Richmond, Virginia. *Ibid.*, 123-24.

<sup>77</sup> Hood's campaign into Tennessee ended with a decisive victory for Thomas' Union Army at Nashville on December 15, 1864. During the first two weeks of January, 1865, Hood retreated with his shattered forces into Mississippi. *Ibid.*, 305-309.

<sup>78</sup> According to various accounts in Merrill's history of the Seventieth Indiana, the plantation on which at least a portion of the regiment was encamped belonged to General William J. Hardee who had unsuccessfully defended Savannah. Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 236-37. Cox' letter, however, suggests a different owner.

you one. I have an arm load of Opera Music, which I am trying to send home for my ben[e]fit when I return.<sup>79</sup>

My health continues very good. With love to F.B.L. and yourself.

I remain  
Affect brother  
Charley

Pro Mar Office 1 Brig. 3d Div. 20 C.  
Hardee Estate. S. C. Jan 14/65

My dearest Sister!

I have just heard from you and a kind welcome letter it was, dated Dec 26th 1864! a letter from Ma accompanied it and the two together after so long silence makes me feel as if I was not forgotten at home and turned the monotony of the field into bright hopes of the future.

I have no particular items to transmit and write only to acknowledge receipt of letters from America. "America" is a great word in the Army and when the boys of *our* army wish to speak of home or the North, *America* is invariably used.

Sect'y Stanton and other dignataries of the Capital, are in Savannah and have caused a little excitement amongst the soldiers who are anxious to see the *big [w]igs*. Stanton no doubt is here to see the sights and hold consultation with our General as to the best plan to take Charleston, regain Sumpter & make an "on to Richmond" from direction of the Equator.<sup>80</sup> Movements during 65 are to be unusually active, and we anticipate no rest during our term of service.

I have seen but few late northern papers and feel as though we were out of the world. I am anxious for the Ind'polis Journal to learn the general news from home, see who has married, died &c. &c. particularly to see the notice of *my* marriage as I understand from reliable source that I was to be home Christmas and cause a certain young Miss to change her name on that day. "I couldn't see it"—

I am pleased Katie, to hear of the enjoyment you have at your new home at South Side. Should my self like to visit you a few days

<sup>79</sup> Two additional documents in the Cox Papers are relevant to Cox' story of the three pianos. In a letter dated only March 5, but filed with postwar correspondence, Mrs. William N. Heyward wrote Cox: "I am looking for your affidavit with great expectancy, and hope ere long you will be able to send it, for with it, and the testimony of my ex slaves, I hope to work wonders—" A mimeographed copy of the typewritten affidavit indicates that while on a foraging expedition near Hardeeville, South Carolina, in 1865 Cox had entered a plantation home which contained three pianos.

<sup>80</sup> According to an announcement from the War Department, Secretary of War Stanton had gone to Fortress Monroe, Helton Head, and Savannah to consult with Generals Grant, Foster, and Sherman on matters including service, supplies, and exchange of prisoners; the organization of colored troops; raising the blockade of Savannah and opening the city to free trade; and the seizure of rebel property and products. *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, January 6, 1865.

and mingle in the fun, also attend a few meetings of the "Driftwood" provided *all* [it?]'s members are not *married folks*, who are always a bore, Sister Katie excepted.

We also have a Club in the army, Confederates and Yankees compose it, we meet at irregular intervals. The meetings are quite noisy, and numerous missives (leadens) are exchanged amongst its Members. Many are the *good hits* made, and every gathering is enlivened or dampened by the joy, crying, laughing, moaning and excitement occasioned by said hits. We do not publish a paper but furnish items for persons that do. I have just written to Ma sending her photo of our big Cousin Surgeon Fitzgerald.

If you like, I will get a view of his "Mug" for you.

I have had two or three letters from Cousin Mattie at Louisville, does she write you. She gets up the most interesting and kind letters of any one I know (you & Ma excepted) And I am almost ashamed to send my dull letters in answer to hers.

Are you ac[qu]ainted with Steve Sedam, I believe he lives near you. He was a class mate, once, of mine at the University at Indianapolis.<sup>81</sup>

Remember me to the Elliotts when you see them, I have had no letter from Will since last summer.

I have just w[ri]tten to Mammy, I believe I write her two letters to your one. Letters recd are in same porportion.

Give my regards to Frank and the *Lords* in general. Kiss several good looking girls for *your* brother and write him occasionally if not oftner.

I am pretty well I thank you, hope your good health equals mine. With abundant love I am

Only brother  
Charley.

1. [Brigade] 3. [Division] 20 [Army Corps]  
Left wing  
army of Ga  
via N. Y.

Pro Mar Office, 1st Brig. 3d Div  
20th A.C. Hardeeville, S. C.  
January 24th, 1865.

My dear Sister!

It is growing dark, giving me but a moment to tell you of receipt

<sup>81</sup> Cox was a student in the College Preparatory Department of North-Western Christian University (now Butler University) during the session of 1858-1859 as was Steven Riker Sedam of Cincinnati, Ohio. "Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the North-Western Christian University, for the Session of 1858-59" (Indianapolis, 1858), 7, 8.

of yours of 12th inst just arrived. Very glad dear sister to hear again from South Side. I beg pardon for abusing you to Ma in my letter, on a/c of your indifference—as I thought—in writing your big brother. Sorry for you at having sore eyes, disagreeable and troublesome, aint it? I have seen a great deal of it in the army amongst soldiers. It makes my eyes *water* to look [at] a person with sore eyes. Army Surgeons prescribe “sugar of lead” and “cold water”, I would recommend in your case, to take a look at a little gold coin, if that does not help them, a few greenbacks or \$300. dress, will be a sure remedy.

We have camped at Hardeeville one week, and may remain another before Sherman will be ready to move us on our Northward course.

Until today it has been storming since our entry to this place. We are camped on the only dry spot for miles around us. The country is one immense swamp “down here in the pocket”, nasty wet and muddy at all seasons, and now the incessant rains have spread the Savannah [River] over the entire country here, and water bound we are. Our troops have been washed out a number of Camps and have sought *higher* ground. One poor Colonel of our command retired one night and after a sweet repose awoke at daylight with 10 inches of water in his tents, his boots bobbing around a la duck fashion and his horse was sent him to gain dry land. A boat was sent to relieve a picket post who were surrounded during the night by the flood, and had sought safety in mounting a fence close by.

It was on this very place that General Lincoln in 1778 remained 6 weeks by being hemmed in by water.<sup>82</sup>

Hardeeville is only a small town, 80 miles from Charleston & 20 from Savannah. The inhabitants all skedaddled on our approach, and those of us who are fortunate to be on Staff duty have nice large houses to live in during our sojourn here.

Frogs are innumerable and while I write the song of 10 million greet my ear, making such an eternal din we scarcely can hear ourselves talk. Are there any frogs down your way, if so, you know how agreeable their company and what charms their music has.

Henry Scott, Tom Campbell any many officers have returned from America.<sup>83</sup> Scott is now sick, confined to his bed, nothing serious I think. They have stuffed my ears with wonderful reports of the gayety & prosperity of our Hoosier home and the north in

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<sup>82</sup> For an account of Major General Benjamin Lincoln's operations around Savannah, Georgia, and in the Carolinas during the Revolutionary War see Mark Mayo Boatner, III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (New York, 1966), 1034-36.

<sup>83</sup> Captain Henry M. Scott of Indianapolis served in Company A of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 641.

general. Such news only increase my already immense desires to return home and join in the whirlpool of fun, before my hair is tintured with grey, and my boyish gayety merge into the sobriety of manhood.

I have almost forgotten the art of dancing. Two years and a half in the service has made awkwardness again the master of me, and the grace I tried to aquire at home to *handle my feet* in a dance has abandoned me, and all I now know is *forward*, *[ri]ghtabout*, *file* *[ri]ght*, &c. Even that little military I am forgetting, since I have become a "hoss ossifer" and order my horse to go half a mile or so. I have two good horses, which I have kept in the best of order.

On entering the service I had more young lady correspondents than I had time to write to. All have joined themselves in holy matrimony and now "poor little me" have only my Mammy & sister to write to, and receive letters of love & friendship. It is enough to make a fellow contemplate suicide, having all the girls facing on him, and marry young men afraid of war. I will not commence another sheet but close promising to send a line soon again.

Regards to Frank, & much love to you, from brother

Charley

Headquarters First Brigade &c  
Robertville S. C. February 1st 1865.

My dear Katie:

I cannot let a mail depart to day without a letter to someone. As my last was to Ma this shall be to you, although nothing wonderful to relate you may be eager for news concerning your little brothers health & where'bouts.

Robertville, a county seat, and country town, forty miles in South Carolina above Savannah. The principle feature of the place & what first meet's one's eye on entering the town is the "town clock" on Court house, always indicating 11½ oclock A.M. or P.M. just as suits you. You can see at any hour in the day men in "blue", comparing their watches to the supposed "Regulator" in the Cupalo, and often near sighted men turn their watches from the right hour to take up the "town time", but on a close inspection by some, & *long range* with others, the hands of the aforesaid Clock are found to be the work of a painter & not machinist, and instead of innumerable cog wheels put together in clock form, a small brass bell is the only inhabitant inside the tower.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Robertville, South Carolina, called Black Swamp prior to the early 1800s, was named for the family of Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), a military engineer who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Robert was also the author of *Rules of Order*, the widely known handbook on parliamentary



**BLACK SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH,  
ROBERTVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.  
(SEE FOOTNOTE 84)**

Courtesy Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.



All wealthy people have fled on our approach, leaving splendid plantations & palatial mansions & "refugee" farther into the state only to be troubled soon again to pack up their "truck & dicker" & flee still farther as the Yanks advance. The poor people are respected by the soldiers and their property protected while the rich are persecuted when caught and their barns, gins & houses fall victims to the invaders match.

A destructive fire took place a few evenings ago in Savannah, which has heaped desolation upon misery to many well disposed people of the city. Starvation was almost staring them in the face and in the midst of such trials to be thrown homeless & houseless upon the hospitality of the citizens who still own homes—although over crowded by refugees from all parts of Georgia—is hard indeed.

The boys have now the grapvine rumor that a bill has passed both houses of Congress, "To discharge troops whose time is out in 65, 3 months prior to expiration of their three years, provided they will subject themselves at once to a draft." If such be the case the 70th could go home in May.<sup>85</sup>

"I can't see it" and would prefer serving 3 months and be clear of all drafts & conscriptions for these [three?] long years from 12 August 1865.

We are camping here only for a few days when we will take the line of march, and our communication with the north may be severed for many days.

I will not tell you Shermans plan because it would be contraband and besides I know no more than you do about it.<sup>86</sup>

Oh: I almost forgot to tell you, to buy a *toothbrush* and present the same to your humble serv't. Send it by mail. I would send home for it but I may forget it when I write there next.

We had a little sport on the pike last night at *horse racing* (con-

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procedure. Federal Writers Programs, Works Projects Administration, *South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State* (New York, 1941), 328. According to a descendant of an early family in the town, the clock described by Cox was located in the bell tower of the Black Swamp Baptist Church. Built during the mid 1820s, this church, later burned by Sherman's army, was "very eloquent inside and out, with much attention to minute architectural detail, i.e. the ceiling was coved, the walls wainscoting, windows were architraved, etc." Thomas O. Lawton, Jr., to Lorna Lutes Sylvester, July 27, 1972. Life in Robertville was apparently typical of southern antebellum plantation society. It is believed that this town was the first in South Carolina to be destroyed by Sherman's army. E. L. Inabinett, "The Lawson Family Of Robertville, S.C." ([Savannah, 1964]), 3-4, 11, *passim*.

<sup>85</sup> No bill such as Cox describes has been located.

<sup>86</sup> In moving his troops northward from Savannah, Georgia, Sherman fainted toward Augusta and Charleston, South Carolina, and headed toward Columbia. He remained there for a few days destroying railroads and then moved northeast ward toward Goldsboro, North Carolina. In the meantime Schofield's army had captured Fort Fisher and Wilmington, North Carolina, and was also heading for Goldsboro. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 125.

trary to the articles of war) and I have the satisfaction of owning the fastest horse "in the business."

I am writing this on the back of "Gail Hamiltons" "Country living & country thinking", which I have been reading all evening.<sup>87</sup>

We capture enough books to keep us in reading and out of mischief.

But let me "dry up" for should I commence another sheet I would miss the mail. Health very good.

Love to the folks

Affect brother  
Charley.

70th Ind Vols  
Goldsboro, North Carolina  
March 25th 1865

My darling Sister

Katie—

I have again the pleasure of writing you after a long silence of almost two months. During our raid through the Carolinas, our communication with the north was severed, consequently no letters were either sent or received by Shermans Army. We felt almost out of the world during the trip, and although but a few hundred miles from home we might as well been in Ethiopia and heard as much news from the U. S.

At Fayetteville N. C. we were notified that all letters ready in sixty minutes would be sent north via Cape Fear River. I wrote to Ma then, and would have sent you a word but several Official letters I was bound to write and yours was left undone.

I will not say a word about our campaign through S & N.C.'s you will hear enough when the newspaper correspondents have ceased their writings on Shermans raid. If they do not tell you all, I will, verbally, when my next four months roll by—

We had a pleasant & successful march, accomplished all that was intended—and lost not more than 4000 men in battle and captured—The casualties of the 70th number 15 during the raid—Several severe battles occurred in which our *Division 3 Div 20 C* figured conspicuously, and are obliged to record the loss of 500 men—<sup>88</sup>

<sup>87</sup> Mary Abigail Dodge (pseud. Gail Hamilton), *Country Living and Country Thinking* (Boston, 1862).

<sup>88</sup> Sherman arrived in Goldsboro on March 23, 1864, after marching 425 miles in fifty days, of which only ten were allocated for rest. Most sources, unlike Cox, indicate that Sherman's march was slowed by swamps, heavy rains, and one continuous battle with the elements. The Confederates interfered little with the Union advance, but the Twentieth Corps did engage Hardee at Averasboro on March 16 and lost approximately 554 men. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 127.

Our army arrived yesterday at Goldsboro meeting the armies of Schofield & Terry just arrived from Wilmington. More than 100,000 men are now concentrated at this place all under Sherman, who is the man that can handle them—

The 14 15 17 20 23 24 & 25th Corps are here ready for any emergency—<sup>89</sup>

Since January 19th I have not had a word from either you or home and you may imagine my anxiety for letters—We are hourly expecting a mail to arrive and it may be, before this leaves me a letter from you will be at hand—

We are also on the lookout for *General* Harrison, Col Merrill and a host of absentees from our command—<sup>90</sup>

I am again back to my regiment as Adjutant, relieved at my own request from duty on the Brigade Staff—I think the duties of Adjutant much plesanter than Provost Marshal, hence the change—

We are expecting a rest of several weeks at this point after our long journey—The troops need rest and clothing—two thirds of Sherman's army are ragged almost to nakedness and one-half are barefooted—it is a fact—We were hurried from Savannah before fully equipped and after marching continually seven weeks and more than five hundred miles troops are sadly in need of soap, sole leather and Gove[r]nme[n]t uni[forms?]

Sherman has issued a congratulatory order to his army on their successful March through Carolinas and in dispersing the enemy at various points, and assures them that mail matter will be forthcoming & the QM & C.S. Dept's furnish all that is needful for the comfort of the troops before another campaign.

Feb'ry 26th—dark P.M.

Business called me from my writing yesterday, I continue again, it is dark, I am sitting on a log writing on a book by the light of a huge Camp fire. Talking about *huge*, the mail which arrived to day was more than *huge*, 600 sacks for the army. A dozen letters and equal number papers fell to my lot, one letter from you my dear sister, full of news; very kind & truly welcome

How proud I am Katie dear, when your kind letters reach me and

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For the Seventieth Indiana's account of the march to Goldsboro see Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 240-65.

<sup>89</sup> When the forces of General Alfred H. Terry and Schofield joined Sherman at Goldsboro, the Union commander had massed his entire force of approximately 80,000 men and was prepared to start toward Raleigh, North Carolina. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 127.

<sup>90</sup> Harrison was brevetted brigadier general for his services during the Civil War but was not appointed to full rank. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 639; Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders* (Baton Rouge, 1964), 586.

my eyes almost moisten to think what a precious loving sister I have to send words of love & encouragement to her little brother in the army—

Ma's letters & interesting, kind come often, and I beleive I should die of the blues did she cease to write—More letters are coming and later dates are anticipated from you I have to *hurry up the cakes* to send this tonight, but will when I have leisure write you all the news & more too—

Dont forget about that young lady when I return—Pick a pretty one—

Cousin Mattie Flenner sent me a long interesting epistle. I love to read her letters, they are splendidly written full of fun and sober thoughts—

I have a lot to write at some other time—

So good bye

Love to FBL & yourself &c &c &c

Charles

My health perfect

Adjutants Office—70th Ind  
Goldsboro N.C. April 2/65—

Katie—

My dear sister!

So much business in my office the past week that I have had no time to write you but one letter since the ending of Sherman's last campaign—

It is a bright beautiful Sunday afternoon that I now attempt an answer to your kind letters of Febry 5 & 13 & Mar 7th & 20 all of which have come to hand since my last epistle of a week ago—

The tooth brush has also *arri'd* for which accept my sincere thanks and consider me in your debt the money value of the same and more too if you choose—

I have just written Ma a good long document on the [manuscript torn] & business affairs, telling her all I know and leaving nothing to write you—

Our army is still grouped around Goldsboro receiving plenteous supplies of clothing, equipage & Sub stores and all preparations are actively being made to start on a new campaign in about ten days. Our next direction will be Richmond I suppose, to be present at the death of the Rebellion, which will take place by the overthrow of Lee & his army this spring or the coming summer—

We have tremendous grape vine dispatches to day from Grant

and Lee. Richmond evacuated, severe fighting, 50,000 men lost & such like—<sup>91</sup>

Also the rumor is going the rounds that the 20th Corps is to be ordered to Point Lookout Md to releive the 8th Corps—I wish it were so. It would not be so bad to spend our unexpired term in the *rear*—We hear so many reports now days that turn out untrue, we hardly are able to beleive any more what we say, hear or see—

From last accounts—South Side—is not above high water mark—and the O-hi-o on a “tear”—<sup>92</sup> Be careful or you may wake up some wet morning and find your little shanty foating past Loisville—without rudder or helmsman—

The Savannah River riz while we were in its vicinity, causing our army to lie water bound some little time—The numerous rivers in N & S Carolina all remained smooth & placid while Sherman crossed on his pontoons, excepting the Catawba (not very *sparkling*)<sup>93</sup> which delayed us several days by washing away the pontoons of our wing—

I had half a notion to apply for a leave of absence from this point but concluded the conditions on which they are granted were a little too much for me to certify too—

A man has to be 9/10 dead himself and then certify all his friends, family & acquaintences are about to breath their last, before a leave is granted him—

Our nights are rather cool but the days are pleasant & warm—The entire past winter was like a perpetual spring to us Northerners. I pitied “youalls” in the north having such dismal, wet & cold weather whilst we were basking in the continual smiles of the welcome Sun—

Snow is hardly known where we spent the winter—

You shall hear from me soon again and while so saying I send an aboundance of love to Frank, yourself & all the pretty girls on the river—

Don't fail to write often

as ever  
brother  
Charley

<sup>91</sup> Grant's Petersburg campaign ended with the Confederate defeat on March 25, 1865, and the Appomattox campaign is generally considered to have begun on March 29. Lee, suffering from recent defeats at Grant's hands, evacuated Richmond on the night of April 2-3, 1865, and moved south in an attempt to join Johnston's forces which were retreating northward from Sherman. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 22, 699.

<sup>92</sup> Serious floods occurred in New York, Pennsylvania, and New England during the last weeks of March, 1864. Other than a few high winds, some rain, and a slight rise of the Ohio River, however, Cincinnati does not seem to have been affected. *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, March 20, 21, 23, April 1, 1864.

<sup>93</sup> Cox is perhaps referring to a light colored, sparkling wine made from the Catawba grape, a reddish variety of grape which received its name from the Catawba River in South Carolina where it was grown.

Adjutants Office  
Seventieth Ind Vols  
Goldsboro' N.C. April 8/65

Kate!

My dear Sister!

Again my time and feelings permits me to send a few words to you my dear Katie, and if I did not answer immediately your last epistle it is because my official business & military duties have occupied me from reveille till taps, hardly allowing me time to give thanks & rejoice at the successes of our arms with Grant, which have been announced to us by dispatch after dispatch the past 3 days.<sup>94</sup>

Richmond & Petersburg in our hands and the last of the Confederate Army "hunting a new hole". What glorious news, and then thousands of prisoners and hundreds of guns. Surely the end draweth nigh and the fair maidens of the North will soon have cause to forget "When this cruel war is over", and substitute therefor "The boys are home from the wars"—

While throughout the North, bonfires were blazing, houses illuminated, happy smiles brightening all loyal faces, and every body feeling good, our boys here at Goldsboro were not behind the times in their demonstrations on receipt of the news of Richmond Captured.

Store boxes & barrels were too scarce for bonfires, but Commissary whiskey and powder was plenty and while the shoulder straps swallowed the *whis*[key] the soldiers would fill their old canteens with powder, then bury them in the ground and by the persuasion of slow matches would make noise enough to raise the dead, then muskets would accidentally discharge themselves in the air. Cheer after cheer would go up as every batch of news was read to the men, and the cheering of 100,000 men makes no small noise in the wilderness of North Carolina.

General & Staff officers were all drunk, (exceptions of course) and many soldiers were feeling pretty well from the effects of "commissary" issued on forged orders.

But it is all over now, all quiet at Goldsboro, and preparations in progress to move the 10th instant on another campaign to assist Grant in annihilating the remainder of Bob Lee's confederates. Raleigh will be another name for our banners before 10 days, and the northern part of this tar, turpentine & pitch state will soon receive Shermans compliments & wish they had never seceded.

I will write you before we start if possible—

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<sup>94</sup> After Lee's evacuation of Richmond, he moved first south and then west, always in a running battle with advancing Union forces. Finally, surrounded and defeated, Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 22.

My health continues excellent—and I have no objections to be travelling North as the Summer closes in on us. The weather continues pleasant and a fine shower last night brings out the blossoms, and clothes the trees with their greenest foliage—But more anon & write often to your affectionate brother

Charley

Raleigh N. C.  
April 16th 1865—  
(Easter day)

My dear sister!

I find myself again penning you a few words, not that I have any thing extraordinary to relate nor the mere fact that I owe you a letter (which I do not) but it is such a bright beautiful Sunday afternoon that I feel as though it would be a sin if I did not write to some one instead of sleeping the afternoon away—as you are doing, I'll bet—and you not knowing whether your *little* brother is dead or alive.

We marched from Goldsboro—the 10th, reached this city the 13th, the rear guard of Johnson's army leaving one side of the town while our advance was entering at the other.

Four of our corps immediately pushed through the city after the retreating rebels, leaving the 10th & 20th corps here for some reason or other.

Our troops only got a few miles from Raleigh when they were met by a flag of truce from Johnson and Jeff Davis and while I now write hostilities have ceased and Johnson, Davis and Sherman are holding a series of communications which will undoubtedly end in the surrender of Johnson and his army, and probably more than that, even of the entire "Southern Confederacy" returning to its allegiance to the U.S.<sup>95</sup>

We are all waiting patiently for the word, whether they are to give up now or wait until we annihilate what is left of them. Gen Sherman was heard to remark to day that "by midnight to night he would see two months ahead," that is, if they did not surrender to day they would be obliged to inside of 2 Mo's.

I hope and pray that this bright sabbath day may be the one on

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<sup>95</sup> Realizing the hopelessness of his situation Johnston requested an armistice on April 14, 1865. Without renewal of hostilities he surrendered to Sherman on April 26, 1865. *Ibid.*, 127. As Sherman's army approached Raleigh on April 14, the city's commissioners met the Union commander south of the city limits and surrendered. David L. Swain, president of North Carolina State College, acting in the absence of Governor Zebulon B. Vance, delivered the keys of the capital city to Sherman. Raleigh was not burned as had been many other towns in Sherman's path. Blackwell P. Robinson, ed., *The North Carolina Guide* (Chapel Hill, 1955), 234; William S. Powell, *Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill: A Students' Guide to Localized History* (New York, 1968), 11.

which Jeff Davis may see that his cause is hopeless and save the further bloodshed consequent on his persisting to destroy the Union.

We in the army are looking forward to a speedy return home and peace reigning as before. I may not get to send this to day and by tomorrow may inform you our fate, whether our battles are all fought or whether our bayonets & bullets are still demanded—

How are you Copperheads? At what discount are butternuts about this time? For four years the U.S. and C.S. have been in the scales, the U.S. has now reached the ground and the grand *old* "Confederacy" "gone up the spout"—

We have been at Raleigh some 4 days, our regiment is encamped near the Insane Asylum, S. W. part of town.<sup>96</sup>

The city is a most beautiful place, size of Lafayette, Ind. broad shady streets, handsome residences, with fine state capitol and buildings.<sup>97</sup> The inhabitants have all remained at home and seem quite friendly plenty good looking girls and ugly old women. Have made no acquaintances among the fair sex as yet, and am waiting only to see whether the war is over or not before falling in love with any more feminine genders.

This morning our Major and myself went down town and attended services at the episcopal church. An old gentleman officiated, but not a member of the congregation male or female was present although the church was full of shoulder straps. Maj Gen's Howard, Slocum, Barry and dozens other General officers were present.<sup>98</sup>

I think at least the choir of the church might have attended & releived us poor sinners of the musical part. The services were gone through finely, by a yankee congregation and rebel minister, and I am now convinced that religious services in the episcopal church can be held without the aid of citizens or females.

The church is a handsome stone structure and reminds me both inside & out of our church at Ind'polis—

I failed to hear the prayer for the President of the U.S. I have

<sup>96</sup> The state hospital at Raleigh was located on Dix Hill. It had been authorized in 1848 by the legislature at the instigation of Dorothea Dix, a pioneer reformer in the treatment of mental illness. The main building was designed in the Gothic Revival style by Alexander Jackson Davis and was opened in 1856. Robinson, *North Carolina Guide*, 245. Merrill in his regimental history also mentions an incident which occurred at the mental hospital. See Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 268-71.

<sup>97</sup> According to the census of 1860 Raleigh, North Carolina, had a population of 4,780, including white, free colored, and slave. Lafayette, Indiana, had a population of 9,254 including white and free colored. *Eighth Census of the United States*, 1860. Vol. I, *Statistics of Population*, 126, 359.

<sup>98</sup> The Episcopal church in Raleigh was considered the most noteworthy Gothic Revival building in North Carolina. Designed by Richard Upjohn, it was erected between 1848 and 1853. Robinson, *North Carolina Guide*, 239-40. Cox probably refers to Major Zachariah S. Ragan of the Seventieth Indiana and Major Generals Oliver O. Howard, Henry W. Slocum, and William F. Barry. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 47, 413-14, 765.



visited the Lunatic Asylum going through the different wards. I could but pity many of the Lunatics I saw and then laugh at the ridiculous capers & saying of others—

But I will not wait & delay this letter to give you the news of Johnsons surrender or capture, but, beleive me, *I* really beleive in 24 hours Johnson & his army will be prisoners in our hands.

Much love to yourself and husband I am affectionately Your brother—Charley—

Raleigh N. C. April 29th 1865

My dear Sister

Several days since I was rejoicing over the receipt of a most welcome letter from you dated 6th inst. Our corps being absent from the city some 4 days and the mail irregular I have consequently neglected you longer than I should.

You are aware before this by the flash of the telegraph that Johnson has “gum up” to us, and peace now reigns from the Potomac to the Chattahoochee, and I doubt not but in a very few days the rebels along the Mississippi will have “grounded arms” and a great grand & glorious old *peace* we will have from Maine to Texas. About 25,000 rebels surrendered to Sherman and while I write they are being paroled and turning over their guns, &c. I shall give you no items concerning the capitulation as my time to day will scarcely permit me to tell you that I am “alive and kicking”. I have not time to write home and beg of you to tell Ma that she may look for a letter from me from Richmond in about two weeks.

We march within 48 hours for Richmond, and from there to some point farther north, probably to Washington and not improbabl to Fredrick or some town in Md. to be *mustered out*.

We expect to be enjoying home by 4th of July. Not sooner I think.

Direct your next via Washington City, D. C.

Much love &c.

Charley.

Richmond, Va.

May 11th 1865.

Katie

Dear Sister:

I have just recd and read your kind letter of the 29th April and it came just in time to enable me to answer it before arriving at Washington for which point we march at 11 o’c’l’k this A.M.

We were 9 days on the march from Raleigh to Richmond arriving here the 8th inst and in 9 more days I hope to send you another mis-sive from Alexandria or Washington.

We are to be paraded through the principal streets of Richmond to day before commencing our march farther north, giving the citizens a chance to see that *Shermans* troops are men and not devils, and show these eastern troops, the boys that have marched over 2000 miles to compel the evacuation of the city from which I write.

May God bless you sister Katie for your respect for *our* General and the manner you defend him from the abuses of those who had an idol in some other man and was afraid Sherman was gaining too much glory.

I did not approve the terms of Capitulation which Sherman offered Johnson, neither do I think Sherman thought they would be ratified at Washington, but as our army had not the supplies to chase Johnson probably for 30 days, Sherman got up this armistice with Johnson, so as he could bring up from the coast supplies sufficient to push Johnson until he could be cornered & captured.

What if Sherman *did* sincerely beleive in the terms he proposed. They were not approved at Washington. No one has been hurt, and *what harm has been done!*<sup>93</sup>

[Friends?] should not be so easily parted with. Sherman has been the General of the war and Grant has done right in giving "Honor to whom honor is due" Lee would have held Richmond yet, if Sherman had hammered away at Atlanta for 4 years. The fact of our raiding through the Confederacy destroying every thing as we went and severing the flow of supplies to Lee is what compelled the evacuation of the rebel Capital and not on account of any movement of any other army—

I say, Hurra for Sherman! so does his entire army, and they will not allow him abused in their presence. But we expect to be home in June and then I will talk to you about these matters.

My health continues good. Direct your next to Washington, with much love to all I remain

Charley

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<sup>93</sup> When Sherman had met with Johnston on April 17, 1865, and again with Johnston and Confederate Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge on April 18, the three men had written and signed "A Memorandum or Basis of Agreement" indicating the terms of surrender. The armistice also contained sweeping civil and political concessions which went far beyond the powers of either general to grant and practically took reconstruction out of the hands of the President and Congress. President Andrew Johnson and his Cabinet rejected the agreement, and Sherman was ordered to sign new armistice terms duplicating those signed at Appomattox. This was done on April 26, 1865. What angered Sherman and his forces was the public attack made on the general by Secretary of War Stanton, who implied that the Union general had violated Lincoln's orders and had granted an armistice in order to allow Jefferson Davis to escape. Stanton stopped just short of accusing Sherman of treason. Sherman, however, remained a popular hero in the North. Bruce Catton, *Never Call Retreat (The Centennial History of the Civil War, Vol. III; New York, 1965), 463-66.*

Adjutants Office 70th Ind Vol  
Nr Washington D. C. June 1/65

My dear Sister!

I have delayed writing to you several days in hope of receiving a letter of later date than Ap'l 20—but you have not written and I send a word this morning—

I have had several letters from Ma since our arrival at the Capitol and have written her as many in return, as she censured me severely for sending you several letters while none to her.

We are very busy now preparing the necessary *documents* for our muster out, so soon as they are completed we will start for the west. Within 10 days I think we will be on the road, which will leave us here long enough for you to answer this as you have already ceased writing looking for us home I suppose—

We are ordered to turn in our guns & equipage at this place and go home unburdened. Louisville is the western rendezvous to which we are to proceed, from there we will be sent home.<sup>100</sup>

We will doubtless go down the Ohio fro[m] Wheeling, so Katie you can look out the back door of your “cottage by the sea” and observe Sherman’s invincible Army floating down the *Ohio*—

You must display the “Stars & Stripes” from the roof of your house, and greet the boys as they pass with the waving of a kerchief—

Dont hurt your eyes watching for me as I may take the cars & travel another route.

If I should pass through Cin’ti you may bet I will come see you, if such *can* be done. We are not to be paid until our return home, which may be a good plan but I cant see it—with as few “rocks” in my pocket as I have been jingling lately—

I am in pretty good health not the best as I have been working hard in the office lately & no exercise, together with ugly dreams and no letter from the “Girl I left behind” has caused me to look & feel a “little the worse for wear”—I will write you again before leaving for the west and it may be I will have opportunities to write several times—Regards to Frank and with much love to you dear si[s]ter I remain affecty Charley

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<sup>100</sup> The Seventieth Indiana was mustered out on June 8, 1865, in Washington, D. C., and headed for Louisville, Kentucky. When the regiment arrived in Indianapolis, it was given a reception on the capitol grounds on June 16, with addresses by Governor Morton, General Alvin P. Hovey, and Harrison. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646-47. The regimental history describes the last days in Washington, D. C., the trip home, and the troops’ final discharge. See Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 276-81.