

# The Civil War Letters of Charles Harding Cox

*Contributed by Mrs. Caroline Cox Wyatt\**

*Edited by Lorna Lutes Sylvester*

It was raining "pitchforks" in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 30, 1863, and Charles Harding Cox had "to perform a *flank movement*" around the table in his tent to find a dry spot on which to write. But Cox' letter to his sister in Indianapolis, Indiana, contained the usual questions concerning political affairs at home, comments about the fun he was missing in the Hoosier capital, and requests for photographs, much needed clothing, and more frequent letters; it did not reflect the gloom and discomfort of the Civil War camp of the Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry to which Cox belonged. In fact it is in part Cox' exuberance which makes his letters somewhat unique amid the plethora of Civil War manuscripts which have been published. The Hoosier soldier thoroughly enjoyed his wartime experiences, whether he was guarding railroads, squiring pretty southern girls to parties, fighting under Major General Joseph Hooker at Resaca, Georgia, or marching with Major General William T. Sherman from Atlanta to the sea.

Cox' letters to his family are typical of much Civil War correspondence: they refer to such aspects of army life as infrequency of pay, mail delivery, inactivity, foraging, disease, lady visitors from home, fraternization with residents of the southern states, and dissatisfaction with drill, reviews, and inspections. Yet they are not routine recountings of battles and camp activities. Perhaps because of his youth Cox retained throughout the war the initial enthusiasm which most Hoosiers had for the conflict. The underlying excitement with which he approached all experiences permeates his letters home and makes them a delightful and different commentary on a soldier's life during the Civil War.

Cox is typically Hoosier in many ways. His letters reveal an unshakeable faith in and loyalty to the Union and a determination to restore that Union regardless of personal sacrifice. He does not like Negroes. He frequently mentions his disgust for the blacks, and his comments leave no doubt that he considered them inferior. Like most Indiana soldiers he was not fighting the war because of a moral aver-

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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.

sion to the institution of slavery; he was fighting to preserve the United States. Patriotism does not obscure Cox' interest in Hoosier politics. His comments about partisan political battles at home denote his preference for the Republican party and a belligerency toward the Democracy. And in few places are the political machinations involved in military promotions more clearly revealed than in his letters to his brother-in-law, Frank B. Lord.

Cox "grew up" during his three years of military service. His final letter on June 1, 1865, is far more mature and perspicuous than his first boyish announcement that he has "gone for a soldier." Cox fell in love with the South while serving there. He describes the Seventieth Indiana's camp near Nashville, Tennessee, as surrounded "on all sides by the finest country & scenery in the world." Later he writes his sister during his stay in Gallatin, Tennessee: "The weather is fine, and the climate and scenery around here is the most pleasant & beautiful I ever saw . . . and I . . . have placed my land mark, upon which if luck permits I am in hopes of some day 'squatting.'" Although Cox sometimes complains that he has not received a letter from the "girl he left behind," he also asserts: "If I ever intend to marry I shall most assuredly come down to Tennessee for my Bride as there . . . [are] more handsome looking young ladies . . . than I ever met before." In the years following the Civil War Cox realized both his wish for a southern bride and his ambition for a home in the South.

Cox joined the Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry regiment in August, 1862, shortly before his eighteenth birthday. The regiment, commanded by Colonel Benjamin Harrison—who later was to become President of the United States—and composed almost entirely of men from Indianapolis, was officially mustered into service on August 12, 1862.<sup>1</sup> Cox' first duties with the Seventieth Indiana were those of company clerk and orderly sergeant of Company E, which was commanded by Captain William M. Meredith.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after its muster the regiment moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where it was assigned the "disagreeable, vexatious and inglorious work of guarding trains and chasing the ubiquitous [Confederate Colonel John Hunt] Morgan," who was raiding throughout the Bluegrass State in the fall of 1862.<sup>3</sup> While on duty in Kentucky Cox was promoted to sergeant major of Company E. In November the Seventieth Indiana marched to Gallatin, Tennessee; there it defended the Louisville and Nashville Railroad from Nashville to Gallatin and performed

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<sup>1</sup> [William H. H. Terrell], *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana* (8 vols., Indianapolis, 1865-1869), II, 645-46.

<sup>2</sup> *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, August 8, 14, 1862.

<sup>3</sup> Samuel Merrill, *The Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis, 1900), 18. See also Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 645-46.

provost and picket duties within Gallatin itself. In June, 1863, the regiment was transferred first to Lavergne, Tennessee, then to Murfreesboro, and finally to Nashville, where it was engaged in guarding trains to Stevenson, Chattanooga, and other points and in picket and fatigue duty within Nashville. While home on furlough in June, 1863, Cox was commissioned second lieutenant of Company E but was not mustered into that position until he returned to the regiment. In 1864 as part of the First Brigade, Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps, the Seventieth Indiana participated in the Atlanta campaign in Georgia, being engaged in battles at Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and the siege of Atlanta.<sup>4</sup> At Resaca in May, 1864, the regiment led the assault on the Confederate right, and Colonel Harrison, brigade commander, cited Cox in his official report: "Lieut. C. H. Cox, acting adjutant, was conspicuous for his coolness and his efforts to rally the men."<sup>5</sup> Cox' friend, Lieutenant Edward B. Colestock, died of wounds received at Resaca, and Cox was commissioned first lieutenant of Company E on July 1, 1864. Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton commissioned him captain of Company E in August, 1864, but he was never mustered into this position. After the fall of Atlanta in September, 1864, the Seventieth Indiana marched with Sherman through Georgia to Savannah, then northward through the Carolinas to Raleigh. After General Robert E. Lee's surrender in April, 1865, the regiment moved to Richmond, Virginia, and on to Washington, D. C., where it was mustered out of service on June 8, 1865.<sup>6</sup>

Colonel Samuel Merrill's history of the Seventieth Indiana also mentions Cox' bravery at the Battle of Peach Tree Creek in 1864: "Acting Adjutant Cox, beautiful as a girl, brave as a lion, rushes through the left of the Illinois regiment 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."<sup>7</sup> Merrill says of Cox' Company E: "A gayer lot of lads, with merriment more contagious, never carried the colors."<sup>8</sup> But a member of another company describes E as a "rowdy company, made up at Indianapolis, always taking the lead in everything questionable."<sup>9</sup> And the company's captain writes:

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<sup>4</sup> Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 643, 645-46. See also official muster papers, Cox Papers.

<sup>5</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>6</sup> Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 642, 643, 645-46. See also various official commissions, muster rolls, and pension grants, Cox Papers.

<sup>7</sup> Merrill *Seventieth Indiana*, 142.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 69.

<sup>9</sup> Quoted in *ibid.*, 68.

The company became the scapegoat of the regiment, and it was blamed for many an escapade of which its members were not guilty; in which they had no share. The Captain of Company E became . . . 'the regimental hell catcher' . . . . If there was a disturbance in any part of the camp, the Colonel, or the officer in command, would come charging down or send the Adjutant to see what the devil was the matter in Company E. The company next on the right, Company D, was a noisy company, and the one on the left, Company F, was not an example of quietness, but E company had to catch it just the same; had to come in for a good share of the blame for the noise and confusion, the fuss and the fun in other companies.<sup>10</sup>

Perhaps the antics of Company E in part explain Cox' complete satisfaction with army life.<sup>11</sup>

When Cox joined the Seventieth Indiana in 1862, his family had been residents of Indianapolis for approximately thirty years. His father, Charles, and two uncles, Jacob and David, had immigrated to the Hoosier capital from Pennsylvania around 1833 and engaged in the manufacture of tin and sheet iron ware and also dealt in stoves. Jacob Cox later gained prominence as an artist and withdrew from the firm around 1863. Charles Cox continued to do business at the shop located on West Washington Street during and for many years after the Civil War.<sup>12</sup>

Charles Harding Cox was born in Indianapolis on December 12, 1844; his mother, Caroline Augusta Cox, died when Charles was not quite two years old. His father later married Catharine Leila Fidler, the "Ma" to whom Cox refers in his letters. Both before and after his military service he worked as a clerk and bookkeeper in his father's business. After his discharge from the Seventieth Indiana in 1865 Charles returned to Indianapolis, where in October, 1866, he married Hulda Jones, also of the capital city. He and Hulda had two children, Harry and Katie. The Coxes lived for a time in Indianapolis, then moved to Decatur, Georgia, where Hulda died in 1882. After his wife's death Cox went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and left his two children in the care of his sister, Catharine Ward Cox (Mrs. Frank B.) Lord, four years his senior and the "Katie" to whom most of his Civil War correspondence was written. In 1884 Cox returned to the South to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked as an engraver and married

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<sup>10</sup> Quoted in *ibid.*

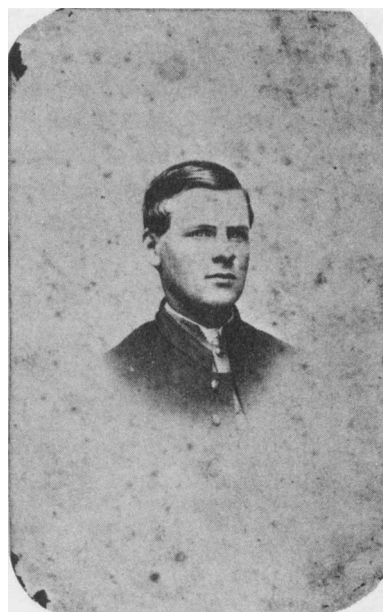
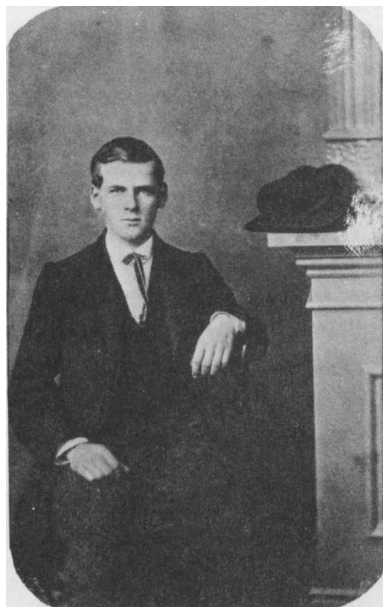
<sup>11</sup> For brief accounts of various of the Seventieth Indiana's escapades see *ibid.*, 4, 7, 10-11, 50-51, *passim*.

<sup>12</sup> John H. B. Nowland, *Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis, with Short Biographical Sketches of Its Early Citizens, and a Few of the Prominent Business Men of the Present Day* (Indianapolis, 1870), 301-303; *Geo. W. Hawes and Co.'s Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, for 1862 and 1863* (3rd ed., [Indianapolis, 1862?], 134; Mary Q. Burnet, *Art and Artists of Indiana* (New York, 1921), 79; Art Association of Indianapolis, John Herron Art Institute, *Paintings by Jacob Cox: A Retrospective Exhibition of Work by an Early Indianapolis Artist* . . . (Indianapolis, 1941), [3]; *Logan's Indianapolis Directory Embracing an Alphabetical List of Citizens' Names* . . . (Indianapolis, 1867), 51; *Indianapolis Directory, 1871-72* . . . (*Bailey's Directory Series*; Indianapolis, 1871), 134.

Emma Hays. Charles and Emma traveled to Colorado, North Carolina, and eventually back to Ball Ground, Cherokee County, Georgia, in search of gold. Although Cox' mining ventures apparently never proved particularly profitable, the Coxes and their three children, Emma Caroline, Fred Ward, and George Hays, remained in Ball Ground for a number of years. Cox was appointed postmaster of this city by President William McKinley. In 1920 the family moved to Atlanta, then to Marietta, Georgia, where Cox died in 1928. He was buried in the Marietta National Cemetery.<sup>13</sup>

The letters here published include those from August 8, 1862, when Cox joined the army, to December 12, 1863. Most were written by Cox to his sister Katie and to his brother-in-law, Frank B. Lord, who was associated with the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad. The Lords lived in both Cincinnati and Indianapolis while Cox was in the service, and letters were sent to them in both locations. The remainder of Cox' Civil War correspondence, that from January, 1864, to June, 1865, is scheduled for a future issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*.

<sup>13</sup> Much of the personal information about Charles Harding Cox 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, Atlanta, Georgia; a photostatic copy of the *Atlanta Constitution*, March 3, 1939, Cox Papers; and numerous letters and documents in the Cox Papers.



ABOVE, CHARLES H. COX, 1860;  
RIGHT, LIEUTENANT CHARLES H.  
COX.

Camp 70th Reg Ind Vols  
Ind'polis Ind  
Aug 8th 1862<sup>1</sup>

My dear Sister!

I expect the above heading will surprise you. but it is nevertheless true. I have gone for a soldier, in the above regiment. Capt. Meredith Company.<sup>2</sup> we have the best company that ever left Indianapolis for the boys in it, are all young and from the city. the regiment is full and 500 [have] been refused in the last few days. We expect to move in a few days. I think for the Army of the Potomac or for some school of Instructions east somewhere. I will send you a morning paper which contains a list of our company officers. Among which I have a slight one, besides I have been detailed into the Quartermaster's office, on extra duty, to write for him, with extra pay.<sup>3</sup> I am exempt from Guard, and drill. Ma made me a very handsome present, this morning, it was an officers portfollio, and a toilet box. they were very nice. I received your kind letter yesterday, and am very sorry I have not time to write you a lengthy letter for I am very busy just now as the regiment is not fully equipped, but will be this week when I will have more time. We expect to move next week. It is said we have the best regt that has been raised in Indiana. Ben Harrison is Col Burgess is Lieu Col, Sam Vance, Major, and Jim Mitchell Adjutant.<sup>4</sup> Our Adjutant is one of the best young men I ever

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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 or crosshatched across the letters have been included after the closing. Cox seemingly used commas, periods, dashes, and equal signs interchangeably, whether at the end of or within sentences. 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> William M. Meredith of Indianapolis was commissioned captain of Company E of the Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry regiment on August 6, 1862. [William H. H. Terrell], *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana* (8 vols., Indianapolis, 1865-1869), II, 642. See also Samuel Merrill, *The Seventieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis, 1900), 323.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Harding Cox served as company clerk and orderly sergeant of Company E of the Seventieth Indiana at the time of its muster in August, 1862. *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, August 8, 14, 1862.

<sup>4</sup> Colonel Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis; Lieutenant Colonel James Burgess, Danville; Major Samuel C. Vance, Indianapolis; and Adjutant James L. Mitchell, Indianapolis, commanded the Seventieth Indiana at the time of its muster in August, 1862. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 639-40.



CATHARINE WARD COX LORD,  
COX' SISTER, AND FRANK B.  
LORD, COX' BROTHER-IN-LAW.



saw, and the regiment would die for him. I must now close as I have to go down with the company to draw some guns, for them, as I have all the bussiness to attend to for the company. Kate! Write soon to me in care of Capt. M's company 70th reg Ind'polis. our camp has no name at present. It was pretty hard for me to get our parents consent, but I have it, and am not sorry I have enlisted. I must be going. So Good bye. Write soon

Your loving brother  
Chas H Cox.

Remember me to Frank & all friends.

Aug 8th/62<sup>s</sup>

I write so frequently Katie Darling that I feel privileged to say but little on this occasion. I am now about to direct this to Hanover on account of your certainty—as to your stay at the Pool and I feel that you will get it more readily.<sup>6</sup> It contains very important news, that of your Brother joining the army. He begged so hard that we could not refuse him. Papa makes a great sacrifice in parting with him as he depends so much on him of late. You know he not only supports himself by his profession as he calls it, but is Papa's book keeper, collector and general clerk. Allen has gone too<sup>7</sup> Harrie is still left but he will go if he gets an 'office'—Charlie has a good situation for one so young he is Quartermasters clerk, as allso company clerk, but he does not have any hardship to endure he is exempt from guard duty and eats with the officers, and sleeps also with them, but he is kept busy at his books writing he was in camp yesterdy and says he enjoyed his dinner so much, *nice chicken* pie and desert and he could not think of any thing else, he sleeps at home until the regiment mooves I cannot tell when they will moove, but it is now full, and the Officers are nearly all elected<sup>8</sup> There are more Indianapolis boys in it than there was in the Eleventh,<sup>9</sup> all Charlie's boys are in it and nice boys too so you see the 70 will be the Regiment now. well Katie you dont see my eyes so you cannot my tears, I am crying as hard as I can and I have not dared to look at Charlie sinse he put on his military

<sup>5</sup> The following two letters were written by Catharine Leila Fittler Cox, Cox' stepmother, to Catharine Ward Cox (Mrs. Frank B.) Lord, his sister.

<sup>6</sup> Catharine Lord frequently visited relatives in Hanover, New Hampshire, near the White Mountains. See also letters of Charles H. Cox to Catharine Cox Lord, August 13, 28, 1863.

<sup>7</sup> Mrs. Cox is possibly referring to Allen [or Allan] F. Schley of Indianapolis who was mustered into Company E, Seventieth Indiana, in July, 1862. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, VI, 126.

<sup>8</sup> During the Civil War company officers were elected in most volunteer units. Mark Mayo Boatner, III, *The Civil War Dictionary* (New York, 1959), 612.

<sup>9</sup> The Eleventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Colonel Lewis Wallace, was mustered into service on August 31, 1861. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 75.



suit, but I cry. I am sorry, but I cannot help it, no one knows I cry about it, no indeed, no one but Papa. It would be a poor example to set to other mothers who have parted with their only boys, but as Charlie says any moment you can call me back Ma, so I might, but I would not for worlds, he is a brave good boy kate, and one I do not fear will be contaminated through associations of a mixed character. Tom Campbell has gone in the same regiment, as orderly sergent, or company clerk. Merideth is Charlie's Capt, and the Col—is not yet chousen, but they think, Ben Harrisin will get it, there is a young man by the name of Middleton who is in the same Company, Gen Dumont's son, Gen Morris son,<sup>10</sup> indeed Kate I cannot tell who of the boys have not gone they say they dont think they need draft in this state. I attended another war meeting last night, heard Col shanks, and Senator Beeson and others.<sup>11</sup> It is fun to see the 'Secesh' democrats talking in squads—all *scared*, but still making light of the matter, but we have some and the majirity of democrats, who are not going to see our Country in ruins, for such as they, so they get up meetings to expose them to the public and lay open their secret plotting. They cant hurt us now<sup>12</sup> I am looking still higher sinse Our Son has gone, he says Ma you wont hear any more of Horrid battles, I am going now—so we will look to Charlie and the 70th do write to your Ma Give a kiss to Frank for me I had to send sarah home to her Mother

<sup>10</sup> Thomas D. Campbell of Indianapolis served in Company G and First Sergeant Thomas S. Campbell, also of Indianapolis, served in Company K of the Seventieth Indiana. The latter was commissioned second lieutenant on April 11, 1863, and first lieutenant on September 19, 1864. *Ibid.*, VI, 135; II, 645. Thomas S. Campbell later carried messages from Cox to his family in Indianapolis. See Charles H. Cox to Frank B. Lord, September 19, 1863. The Indiana adjutant general's report does not list a Middleton or a Dumont as having served in the Seventieth Indiana. The only Morris listed is Sergeant John S. Morris who was mustered into the regiment on July 15, 1862. He was later commissioned a second lieutenant and mustered into that office on March 28, 1865. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, VI, 129; II, 644. Whether or not this was the son of General Thomas A. Morris of Indiana has not been ascertained.

<sup>11</sup> Republican Othniel Beeson was elected for a four year term as state senator from Wayne County, Indiana, in 1858. James Sutherland, *Biographical Sketches of the Members of the Forty-First General Assembly of the State of Indiana . . .* (Indianapolis, 1861), 38. Colonel John Peter Clever Shanks of Indiana served as aide de camp to General John Charles Frémont from September, 1861, to October, 1863. He became colonel of the Seventh Indiana Cavalry in October, 1863, and served in this position until the end of the war. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 734. In August, 1862, Shanks was a Union party candidate for United States congressman from the Eleventh Indiana District. Shanks and Beeson spoke at a political rally in front of the Bates House in Indianapolis on August 6, 1862. The meeting was held to "ratify" the draft on state militia which Congress had authorized in July, 1862. *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, August 6, 7, 8, 1862. Although Indiana had actually exceeded its quota of volunteers and thus no draft was needed in the Hoosier State, mistakes in computation obliged Governor Oliver P. Morton to proceed with the unpopular draft to raise approximately 3,000 additional men. Kenneth M. Stamp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War (Indiana Historical Collections, Vol. XXXI; Indianapolis, 1949)*, 155.

<sup>12</sup> Southern sentiment in Indiana during the Civil War was often associated with the Democratic party. For a complete discussion of possible secessionist activities and a scholarly corroboration of Mrs. Cox' defense of the majority of Democrats see Frank L. Klement, *Copperheads in the Middle West* (Chicago, 1960).

on account of her impudence to aunt Anna Papa is not very well, but I am petting him up in hopes it will cure him.

Indianapolis Aug 15th/62

My dear Katie I am only going to write a few lines, if I can stop at a few, as I am tired Did I tell you I sent Sarah away for her impudence to Aunt Anna. Well I have no one as yet to assist in my work, but will have one by the time you come to see me, so we can talk and walk to our hearts content. I told you in my last my Boy was going to get a shot at "Secesh" Now I must tell you he has gone. Well Katie we must never Omit praying for his safety, in this his undertaking. He is now the loved one of his company, and bids fair to be the favourite of the Regiment We did not know our Dear Boy until he was placed in a situation calculated to bring him out. As soon as he joined the Company, he was made Company Clerk, had the Books to keep and all soldiers names recorded, he was kept writing the greater part of the day. He was then made Quartermaster's Clerk, with additional pay, befor the Regiment left he was made ordinance sergent. That is to give out the guns and such stores to the regiment, and went off in that capacity, he is now one of the staff, but has a promise of somthing higher in a short time He was in great demand, every body wanted him at the same moment, he has made me fair promises, and I know he will keep them When he was going, he says 'Never Mind Ma'. You shall never regret the step I have taken, and I believe him, he will never dishoner his Papa's Name. All the Boys have left but Granderson Cox his mother got the surgon to say that he was not an able bodied man, and has the *bleeding* of the *nose*.<sup>13</sup> Gen Morris son is raising an artillery company. Mrs Graydn son has gone with Charlie and Frank's train Boy, and Henry—Kellogg—and young Vance—Sam Vance is Major, did I tell you Ben Harrison was Colonel Burgess, Lu Col, and Jim Mitchell Adjutant. They wanted Charlie for 1st Lieutenet, but he would not run against High Hand<sup>14</sup> They wont believe Charlie is so young as he is, some of the Officers say they never saw one so young, Command so well. If he only keeps from diseases, I shall be greatful, he sleeps with three Officers, they have their own tent and not exposed to the picket Charge. Tom Campbell is in the same regiment he is orderly sergent, with a chance of promo-

<sup>13</sup> Charles H. Cox refers to a Granderson (or Grandison) Cox in his letter of December 12, 1863. A Grandison Cox is listed as a resident of Indianapolis at 564 North Pennsylvania in 1872. *Swartz and Tedrowe's Annual Indianapolis Directory, 1872-73* . . . (Indianapolis, 1872), 75.

<sup>14</sup> Andrew Graydon [or Grayden] served as corporal in Company K of the Seventieth Indiana. Hiram H. Hand was mustered into the Seventieth as first lieutenant on August 6, 1862. He resigned on November 9, 1862. No record of Henry Kellogg was found. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, VI, 135; II, 643.

tion. Harrie Laiard has gone, in the 79th Allen is with Charlie. did I tell you 4 of the Fily Gerrold Boys have gone in the same regiment<sup>15</sup> I write so many letters to you that I forget what I have told you Well the doctor is Hospital steward, so you see he is sorounded with his friends, all who love him very much. Liet Stone was killed at the Culpepper battle you know the one who took Josie L— so many Buggy rides.<sup>16</sup> Julia Otis Babe is very sick, but as yet not considered dangerous. Joe has a new beau and a very nice young man, “not subject to draft.”—He is John Wallach—Brother. only see Katie dear I have stopped just as I promised. Give love to Frank. Tell him all the Irish women in Cincinnati are widows until after the draft. I am so—<sup>17</sup>

Camp 70th Reg Ind. Vols.  
Bowling Green [Ky.]  
Aug 25th 1862

My dear Sister!

Your kind letter came enclosed in one from home, on last saturday, which were the first I have received since I have left for the wars. Our regiment is very nicely situated here at present. we have a pretty camp, and a fine set of men. it is pronounced by all the finest looking regt that has ever left Indiana. the 11th is nowhere. The streets thro camp on both sides, have been planted [with] fine large cedar trees, taken from the top of a hill on which we are encamped, and makes the camp look beautiful.

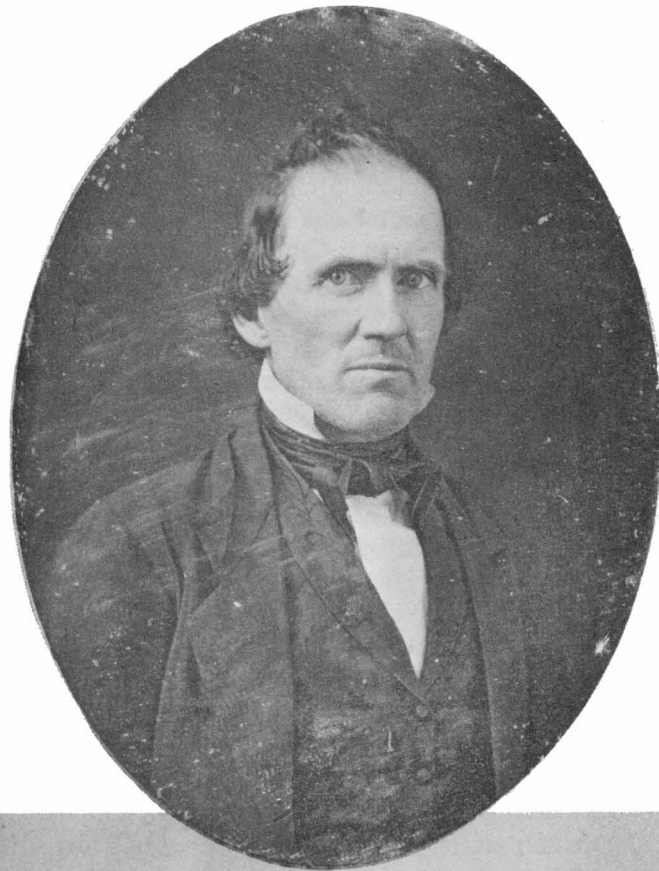
What I have seen so far of soldiers life, suits me very well. of course there are some privations and hardships, but when you get used to it, you are as much at home in camp as any where else.

I should have been very happy to have seen you before I left, but we were called away so suddenly that it would have been impossible. There are a good many folks from Ind'polis here visiting which helps make our camp in livelieness. I suppose you are aware before this that I have been appointed “Sergeant Major,” of this regiment, one of the nicest positions in the reg. I would rather have it than 2nd Lieut although the pay does not amount to so much. All I have to do is to *detail* Pickets and Guards and keep the regimental books. Most of my bussiness is with the Adjut who is one of the finest men I ever saw, his name is James L Mitchell, a friend of Franks.

<sup>15</sup> The Indiana adjutant general's report lists a Robert Laird of Fairland as having served in the Seventy-Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He died in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 25, 1862. No record of a Harrie Laird or of the Fily Gerrold boys was found. *Ibid.*, VI, 283.

<sup>16</sup> No record was located of a Lieutenant Stone from Indiana who might have been killed at the battle at Culpepper, Virginia, in August, 1862.

<sup>17</sup> The conclusion of this letter is missing.



CHARLES COX, CHARLES H. COX' FATHER; LEFT,  
CAROLINE AUGUSTA WARD COX, COX' MOTHER;  
RIGHT, CATHARINE LEILA FITLER COX, COX'  
STEPMOTHER.

I am entitled to an Officers Uniform and Sword, all but the *Shoulder Straps*. I have no news to write about more than our *pickets* have a *brush* once in a while with the enemy. Co "A" of this Regt. returned this morning, from Russellville where they have been for a week, and had several Skirmishes.<sup>18</sup> As soon as my violin comes from home, (which I have sent for) The Major, Adjt, several others and myself intend organizing a small orchestra, by which we can spend our evenings very pleasantly.<sup>19</sup> I am in good health at present, and fare as well as the Colonel. You must excuse the appearance of this sheet as I spilt some water on it in my hurry Remember me to Frank, and write soon.

With much love

I am  
Your Affect Brother  
Charlie.

Hd Quarters 70th Ind  
Bowling Green Oct 22d 1862

My dear Sister!

We just returned this morning from an expedition up to Elizabethtown, Mumfordsville [Munfordville] &c, [Ky.] after John Morgan, who has been up there burning bridges &c, but he is too well mounted for infantry to capture. Our Regt has been up to Mumfordsville for a couple of days, as they were expecting an attack there, but yesterday noon hearing Morgan had burned a bridge just 50 miles this side of Louisville on the L & N. R.R. we were ordered up there, but he had fled before we reached the place, and as he was mounted it was useless to pursue. So we returned to Mumfordsville last evening, and as the rebels had burned the bridge over Green River several weeks ago, we unloaded the men, forded the river and returned to Bowling Green on another train this morning, after being gone 3 days, on a wild goose chase, after J Morgan. but I tell you we were glad to get back to Bowling Green, and get something to eat, and somewhere to sleep. We have been here so long that this place seems like home. I dont suppose there is a spot in Kentucky within 50 miles of Bowling Green, that the 70th Ind has not been, for they keep us on the move all the time.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Several companies of the Seventieth Indiana participated in a number of skirmishes in and around Russellville, Kentucky, while they were stationed at Bowling Green. See Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 19-43.

<sup>19</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. During the postwar years he played the violin in at least one benefit concert. See, for example, "Program of Concert for Benefit Cemetery Improvement," July 6, 1888, Cox Papers.

<sup>20</sup> Shortly after their arrival in Kentucky the Seventieth Indiana was assigned

Your kind letters one of the 14th Sept and one of the 12th Oct were recd by me yesterday noon while at Mumfordsville, (and in the fortifications where our Ind boys fought so well and had to surrender to Bragg several weeks ago),<sup>21</sup> they came along with the first mail we have recd since Sept 10, just think, we were 6 weeks with out a paper or a word from home. I also recd two letters from home, but the latest of them was dated Oct 5th we are expecting another mail through this afternoon when we hope to hear later from home &c. We have gone into *winter quarters* here, and the Adjt and I have our tent fixed up in fine style and as comfortable, as most any house. we have a tight floor bed stead, mattresses, stove, writing desk, stools &c &c. You should see us, we have with the exception of Col Harrison, the finest and best quarters in the regt.

I do not think there is anything at all I need at present, and am much obliged to you, for your offer to attend to my wants.

You will excuse me from writing at lenght today, as I have written so much my hand is perfectly lame. Our regt is in fine health and I suppose it is the best drilled and disciplined reg that has left Ind.

Have they drafted any in Cincinnati any person I know. I have just written home. All the news I can write about I suppose you read in the papers every day. I will write a few lines to Frank this week. Remember me to all enquiring friends. I am in fine health and really enjoy the life of a soldier. In my next I will give you a description of camp life in the 70th if I think of it. So good bye.

Write immediately from Your Affecct brother

Charlie

(N B) Please send me the [Cincinnati] Gazette occasionally.

Head Quarters, 70th Ind.  
Bowling Green, Ky  
Nov 7th 1862

Dear Frank!

I have been wanting to write to you ever since I have been here,

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the duty of guarding trains and chasing Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan who was raiding throughout the Bluegrass State in the fall of 1862. Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 18; Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 645.

<sup>21</sup> On September 17, 1862, the Sixty-Seventh, Sixty-Eighth, Eighty-Ninth, seven companies of the Sixtieth, two companies of the Seventy-Fourth, and 204 recruits of the Seventeenth Indiana under the command of Colonels John T. Wilder and Cyrus L. Dunham were surrendered to Confederate General Braxton Bragg at Mumfordsville, Kentucky. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, I, 202; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 251. See also Major General Horatio G. Wright to Major General William Nelson, September 22, 1862; Major General Horatio G. Wright to Major General Henry W. Halleck, September 23, 1862, *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. XVI, Part II, 534, 537-38. This set is hereafter cited as *Official Records*.

but circumstances have always prevented, but this morning being at leisure, I will have to inform you we are still in the *land of the living*, and have gone for a *soldier*, and am enjoying the pleasures, hardships &c of one. Our regiment has been kept on the move ever since we have been here, running around the country after guerrillas &c, and there is very very few spots in this part of Kentucky that we have not scoured. Col Bruce has commanded the forces stationed here, but he does not amount to much, and he is not at all in favor with the men of the 70th Gen Rosecrans army is here now, reorganizing and preparing for the move south. Our regiment intends joining in with them, and going along, we are going into Daumonts Division and will probably leave in a few days.<sup>22</sup> The road is expected to be open through to Nashville in a week or so. If our regt winters here we will be put guarding this railroad and the regiment divided, but if we go along with the army we will have to leave at least 150 sick here, and at least 1/3 will get sick along the road. So you see it is a pretty hard choice, whether stay or go, but the "Field and Staff" have concluded to go, and we will have to leave all the comforts, we have collected here, and probably not see a tent again for a month. It is pretty hard for us to leave this place, as we have been here so long, it seems like home, besides we have our quarters fixed so comfortable for winter, it seems a shame to leave them, to tag along with this army.

We have not seen a paymaster since we have been here, and are all dead broke. I have not seen a red for 6 weeks.<sup>23</sup> We muster for pay every 2 months but thats all the good it does. Frank! I wish you would loan me a few dollars until Uncle Sam sends his money bags around this way. I send to you instead of home, because they have sent me so many things that I do not feel like sending there. We are all in fine health, the Lieut Col and Adjt send thier kindest regards, but as I am not in a humor for writing this morning you will excuse me from writing any news. Give Katie my love and please answer. With many regards

I am  
Charlie

Head Quarters 70th Camp "Jim Mitchell"  
Gallatin Tenn Dec 1st 1862

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<sup>22</sup> Upon its arrival in Kentucky the Seventieth Indiana had been assigned to a Provisional Brigade under Colonel Sanders D. Bruce who commanded the post at Bowling Green. On November 10, 1862, the regiment was assigned to General William T. Ward's Brigade in the Twelfth Division commanded by Brigadier General Ebenezer Dumont. As part of the Fourteenth Army Corps, under the command of Major General William S. Rosecrans, they moved south, first to Scottsburg, Kentucky, then to Gallatin, Tennessee. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646; Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 43-44. See also *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XVI, Part I, 754, 774; Vol. XX, Part I, 182.

<sup>23</sup> The word "red" was a slang term for a red, or copper, cent.

Dear Frank!

Your welcome letter of Nov 19th was recd just this morning, after a two weeks journey.

We left Bowling Green for Scottsville on the evening of Nov 10th we footed it through in 2 days, being 25 miles, we remained at S[cottsville] (the most miserable hole in all Ky) until the morn of the 25 when we again took up the line of march for this place, (33 miles.) the first day we marched 20 miles, which stiffened the boys legs, so much, that they were scarcely able to *swing them* the next morning, but on we had to go and we arrived here at 3 P.M. on the 26th.

The boys are over thier tire[dness] now, and ready to be on the move again, notwithstanding we are now camped on one of the most bueatiful grounds to be found anywhere, and is named after my "pard" the Adjt, (Jim) who well deserves it.

We expect to leave here this week. I think for Lebanon, Tenn, although probably we shall go to Nashville. We are not only 3 miles from the Cumberland River, which we will have to cross if we strike for Lebanon. the heavy rains we have had for the past few days, has swollen the river so much, that it is not fordable, which will give our *Bridge builders* an opportunity of showing thier skill.

The train due here from Nashville 3 hours ago has not arrived, and it is feared it has been captured by rebel *guerrillas*, or that a bridge has been burnt detaining it about 200 rebel cavalry came within one mile of our pickets last night. as all our cavalry were absent on a foraging expedition, they were allowed to escape. it is rumored to day that a large rebel force was advancing on this place, so the forces here are kept constantly on the alert. Genl Thomas is in command here.<sup>24</sup> I suppose there are 20,000 troops here. Our Regt has been assigned to Wards Brig (40th) Damonts Division (12) Dept of the Cumberland. The 70th is in good health, better than it has been for some time. We are better clothed, as well *fed*, and as *contented*, and in as good *spirits*, as any Regt we have come in contact with. Lt Col and Jim are all O.K. and send regards to you. It is probable that Col Harrison will be put in command of a Brigade before long, as he is the *ranking* Col in the division. if he *is*, *Jim* will be appointed on his *Staff*, and I will no doubt, get *some* position under him. There is some talk of our being paid off before long, but the rumor is so *old*, that I do not believe it. Tell Katie it is not my turn to write as I have already written *two*, without an answer, but will write again at the first opportunity. My health is good, and I feel

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<sup>24</sup> Major General George Henry Thomas commanded the Center Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, from November 5, 1862, until January 9, 1863. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 836.



perfectly contented where I am. Give my love to Katie, and all the rest, hoping I may hear from you soon again.

I am as ever Yours &c

Charles H. Cox.  
Sergt Major  
70th Ind

Head Quarters 70th Ind  
Camp "Jim Mitchell"  
Gallatin Tenn Dec 5th 1862

My dear Sister,

Your kind and long looked for letter of Nov 30th arrived only a few minutes ago. I intended writing you to-day anyhow, enquiring the cause of your delay. I wrote to Frank several days ago, has he recd it.

When we arrived here we expected *to stay* only a day or so, but here we are yet, with no knowledge of when, or where we are going. this is one of the most Secesh places we have been yet, every one is a rebel, and it is a positive fact not one Union man have I seen or heard of. This is one of the most beautiful countries, we have seen, since our departure from the Hoosier State, although *war* has shown its ravages in many places. Gallatin which at one time was a beautiful and prosperous place, is now almost deserted and bussiness entirely suspended, with the merchants the only bussiness done at all, is by such men as Jews, Sutlers, Sharks, &c, who sell thier articles at scandalous prices, to such as have to buy. The Field & Staff had an Oyster supper last evening The Oysters we had, were of the first lot brought into Tennessee this season, it was quite a treat to us, and we went into them with a will.

There are some very large plantations around here, there is one of 2000 acres about 2 miles from here, which has 250 slaves on it. I never saw so many *niggers* in a huddle before. Over 75 of them were less than 8 years old. I could not turn around without tumbling over some *little nigger*, who were laying around loose, playing in the dirt.

Yesterday we had a nice warm spring day. we could hardly think we were in the midst of winter, but today we can say winter is upon us, for we have quite a lively snow storm this morning, and in about 3 hours we had 4 inches of snow, and the boys are having thier fun, snow balling. I now have a nice warm fire in our tent, the first one since our arrival here, as it has been so warm. I have not recd a letter from home since Mr Campbell came, although I have written to Ma 5 or 6 times. I suppose that *long* one she wrote is to do a month or so, but I am looking for another one in the morning.

We receive the mail regularly every day while here, also the Louisville papers the day of thier publication. We shall probably stay here some time although it is uncertain. Gallatin is on the L & N RR, 159 miles from Louisville and 26 from Nashville. Our Regt worked on the fortifications yesterday, which are being built along the rail road and depot at this place. 8 or 10 freight trains run each way daily from L[ouisville] to Nashville also a passenger and express train. We are encamped within 50 yds of the railroad and the passing trains produce about the only excitement, in camp now days.

Those men who *deserted* this Regt. have mostly been caught, a number are here undergoing a court martial, and I think thier sentences will all be, to work out the balance of thier enlistment in the Government prison, with a ball and chain to thier leg, and not a cents pay.

We are looking for Capt Scott this evening<sup>25</sup> he will bring 8 or 10 more deserters back, to be Court Martialed & suffer punishment as thier crime deserves. My health is first rate, and the health of the regt improving. Katie! I want you to write to me oftner, I shall excuse your past negligence.

Remember me to Frank, and all acquaintances. Direct to me at Gallatin until you *hear* of our being elsewhere. With much love I remain Your affect Brother.

Charlie.

NB. We have now one of the prettiest camps you ever saw, and [it] is named after *Jim*

I am much obliged for envelope, paper, &c although we have plenty, this is the same stamp & envelope which you sent Charlie

Head Quarters, 70th  
Camp "In the Woods"  
15 miles above Nashville  
December 20th 1862

My dear Sister!

I recd last evening your kind letter of the 12th, and was very glad to see that you are becoming more prompt in your correspondence, and hope you will keep it up, and write to me often, at least once a week. it will be very little trouble to you, and a great source of pleasure to me to hear from *you* frequently.

I suppose you have heard of our regiment being in the *railroad* bussiness. well! it is so. We did not contract the job ourselves, but were forced to guard this Railroad from Gallatin to Nashville 26 miles,

<sup>25</sup> Henry M. Scott of Indianapolis was captain of Company A of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 641.

against the will and wishes of all the officers and men. the Regt is scattered at 5 different bridges, from one to four companies at a bridge.<sup>26</sup> Col Harrison is doing all in his power to have us reunited again, whereby we may enter the *field* and stand some chance for *distinction*, as it is *glory* can never be won or never *has been*, guarding "railroad bridges," and unless we are speedily brought together again I am afraid the 70th has "*played her hand*."

We have 4 companies here at Hd Qrs, and I must say we have the prettiest camp in the state of Tennessee. it is 15 miles above Nashville on the banks of a beautiful stream, called "Drakes Creek" which affords plenty of good water, and *sport*, Fishing, besides we are in the midst of the wood and surrounded on all sides by the finest country & scenery in the world. the houses throughout the country are large and handsome, and the owners are invariably *Secesh*. they show us no favors at all, call us d—n Yankees, and are *out spoken* rebels of the worst kind, but we forage all we want from them, which makes them pay dear for thier *whistle*.

We are kept in a constant state of alarm as the country is full of guerrillas, and a large rebel force is on the opposite side of the Cumberland River which is only 2 miles from here, and now while the river is low and fordable we have to keep a sharp look out.

We have felled trees all around our camp forming an abatis through which no cavalry force can get, and which makes us secure from a cavalry charge, and the pickets which we have posted out, relieves us of all fears of being surprised.

There happens to be a water tank at the bridge here, where all trains stop for water, through which we are enabled to get daily the Louisville & Nashville papers and occasionally a Cin'ti paper.

As far as I am *individually* concerned, the dividing and scattering of our regiment along this railroad suits my *style*. it gives Jim and myself not a thing to do all day long, except on our own *hook*, and I am afraid if it remains so very long, we will become lazy. we have very little to read, and amuse ourselves principally with music. I have plenty of time for writing letters, but as we are away out here in the woods, it is with difficulty we can find any thing else than the *stir* of camp life to write about.

General Dumont having resigned on account of feeble health, our regiment and Brigade was assigned to Genl Paine's division. he is

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<sup>26</sup> On December 10, 1862, as part of the Eighth Brigade, Eighth Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, the Seventieth Indiana was posted along the Louisville and Nashville Railroad from Gallatin to Nashville, Tennessee, to defend the railroad and bridges. It was engaged in this duty until February 9, 1863. *Ibid.*, 646. According to Merrill's history of the regiment "Companies A, B, C, and D were located at Drake's Creek; E and F at Edgefield; G and H at Saundersville, I and K at Pilot Knob." Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 49.

an Illinoisian, and as a great many Illinois troops are in his commd partiality is of course shown them, and we poor *Hoosiers*, because we were favorites with Genl Dumont, are now put at all the mean work.<sup>27</sup>

A whole car load of *good things* arrived day before yesterday. they were sent to the boys from thier homes, to feast on during Christmas week. I am looking for a box next week from home.

My health is *tip top* just now, it never was better. hoping Frank and yourself are both in good health, and that I may hear from you soon again, I remain, with much love Your affect brother

Charlie

NB. Please direct to me in Ward's Brigade, Paine's division Gallatin, Tenn.

P.S. Gallatin is our nearest P.O. Mail is brought from there to us [on] *horseback*.

Chas

Head Quarters 70th Ind Vols.  
Drakes Creek Tenn.  
January 30th 1863

My dear Sister!

In a *mammoth* mail which was recd by the 70th this evening, (being about the only one we have had since the Holidays) was your kind letter, also one from home, both written Jan 16th. In answering I can but freely forgive all past delinquencies on your part, in consideration of your doing better in future. I also beg pardon for *my* neglecting to write you, when having plenty of time and no excuse whatever, but its no use to cry over the past, and I hope our correspondence will be uninterrupted after this.

The nice "Christmas dinners" which were sent us from home, arrived at Gallatin via Nashville this evening, we shall get them tomorrow. My "box" must be a "sight to behold" by this time, but as you say the *canned fruit* will be all O.K. and will be enjoyed as much "under the circumstances" as if tho I could had all.

I was surprised to learn of Joe Stretchers being married so soon. Through what I have heard of her *intended*, he seems to be quite a worthless fellow, but hope he will make her a good husband, and she

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<sup>27</sup> Brigadier General Ebenezer Dumont went on sick leave from his division in December, 1862, and resigned his commission on February 28, 1863, to serve as United States congressman from Indiana. Brigadier General Eleazer A. Paine, commanding the post at Gallatin, was engaged in guarding the Louisville and Nashville Railroad from Mitchellville to Nashville from November, 1862, until May, 1864. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders* (Baton Rouge, 1964), 133, 355-56. According to the Indiana adjutant general's report Paine commanded the Eighth Division. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646. See also *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XX, Part I, 182.

a loving wife. I should not object being present at the "Splicing" and enjoy the festivities of the occasion (and get a piece of cake)

Ma! in her letter says! all my young lady acquaintances are or will be married before my return. I can only say "go in", there are more pretty girls in this neighborhood than I ever saw before. Jim and I are invited out very often to spend the evening and have fine times. We were out last evening & took our instruments. I could soldier this way for ever, but I am in hopes of finding some kind friend on my return to Indianapolis, who will pilot me around and introduce me to a few of the new Hoosier girls, who should then chance to be.

Charlie Judson has written asking Jim to stand with him at his marriage, on March 11th, but I do not think he can obtain leave.

Col Harrison is now at home on bussiness for the Regt. I could have gone home for a short time last week, if I had a mind to escort some rebel prisoners as far as Louisville, but I did not like the bussiness. Lieut Ohr took the job and is now at home.<sup>28</sup>

We are expecting to be ordered back to Gallatin before long, to be stationed there, but we much prefer staying where we are, as we have a healthy pleasant camp, comfortable quarters, plenty to eat & nothing to do, while Gallatin is one vast Hospital & of course very unhealthy, 2000 sick are at present there.

I go in every few days to make my reports, to Brig Hd Qrs.

After 2 weeks hard winter, spring has now opened, and the weather is really fine. the wheat is up and we look for the trees to blossom in a few days. We are encamped in a *Sugar Grove*, the boys have tapped all the trees, and we get all the Sugar Water we want, which comes very handy as the Govt has not furnished us any sugar for some time.

But, Katie it is getting late, I shall close, hoping to hear from you immediately on the receipt of this and with much love to all.

I am most affect Yours

Charlie

Jim sends kindest regards to Frank & yourself.

Head Quarters 70th Indiana Vols  
on "Drakes Creek" Tenn.  
February 3d 1863.

Dear Frank!

Being at leisure this morning, which is nothing new to me since we have been guarding this infernal Railroad, I shall write you a short epistle of the doings of the 70th in this wooden country.

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<sup>28</sup> Lieutenant Martin L. Ohr of Indianapolis served in Company A of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 641.

We dont know whether to grumble or be thankful at being placed guarding these RR bridges. We have five bridges under our care between Gallatin and Nashville. Four companies are stationed here at Hd Qrs four above and two below. We are having an easier time than ever before, a beautiful camping ground, plenty to eat, nothing to do and any amount of handsome young ladies in the vicinity, but are not satisfied altogether. we are anxious to go to the *front* and endure the hardships and privations, and share the honor of our brother soldiers who have been standing the blunt of battles.

Not that there is no *glory* to be had guarding bridges, for we are continually under greater excitement and more danger and manifest more care & watchfulness than if we were in a large army. We have no *block house* at this post, but each of the other posts have one. they are built of Sweet Gum logs (2 feet in diameter) in this shape [hand drawn figure] the logs are stood on ends about 12 feet high, the enclosure will accommodate 100 men and have 20 loop holes on each side.

One good company can hold it against any odds, until starved out. We have our camp surrounded by breast works and are perfectly secure against any charge of the enemy.

We have impressed about 25 fine horses which we use for scouting. a squad of us went out yesterday and captured 1 rebel Lt. Colonel 1 Surgeon 1 Capt and 1 private. they were an ornery looking set, we "took them in" about 12 miles from here, and sent them to Gallatin last evening to be turned over to the Provost Marshall there.

Four hundred rebel cavalry were encamped 7 miles up the creek, from here, last week. we were about to *go for them* when they *skedaddled*. they are trying thier best to cut the road again along here, but they will never do it while the 70th is around.

The Indiana Legislature has been playing thunder generally ever since meeting. the rebels here are highly tickled with thier proceedings. they are a meaner set of traitors than the rebs themselves, but you take care of such men at home and we will provide for them here.<sup>29</sup>

We are looking for a pay master along, some time this month, that is! we are merely "looking". we have not yet had a *red*, and a few green backs will make our eyes water.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> The Indiana General Assembly which convened on January 8, 1863, was composed of a majority of Democrats in both houses. Bickering between the Democratic legislators and Republican Governor Oliver P. Morton and the Republican minority constituted most of the session. Democrats termed their opponents "tyrants and usurpers"; Republicans responded with accusations of treason. Democratic attempts to curb the power of Governor Morton resulted in his assuming financial control of the state government without legislative sanction. *Brevier Legislative Reports* (1863), VI, *passim*; Stampp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War*, 158-85; Emma Lou Thornbrough, *Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880* (*The History of Indiana*, Vol. III; Indianapolis, 1965), 180-224. Lorna Lutes Sylvester, "Oliver P. Morton and Hoosier Politics during the Civil War" (Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, Indiana University, 1963), 157-211.

<sup>30</sup> Greenback was the name given to paper money first issued in 1862 by the federal government.

I wrote to Katie the other day, has she recd it yet. We are looking for Col Harrison back tomorrow.

Col Jim and Adjt Jim send kindest regards to you. The health of the Regt. is fine we have 775 men for duty, more than any other Regt in the Dept of the Cumberland. I am getting fat as you please, and weigh over 150. Write to me your first opportunity and oblige with much love to Katie and all

I am Yours of Old  
C. H. C.

Please pay 3 cts on this as I have no stamp

Head Quarters 70th Ind Vols  
Gallatin Tenn Feb 13th 1863

My dear Sister

Having received your very kind letter of the 9th inst last evening, I answer immediately although being so busy getting up "Special Orders" to be read on Dress Parade this evening, I have but little time to write.

Our Regt is together once more, we marched in yesterday from our country residence to the city, leaving about 100 men along the railroad. We are now encamped about a mile north of Gallatin in the woods near the Sumner Co Fair Grounds. it is the prettiest camp we have had yet, just far enough from town to make it pleasant. we shall probably remain here 6 or 8 weeks, our whole Brigade is now here, consisting of the 102, and 105 Illinois 79th Ohio 70th Ind and Nicklins Ind Battery which occupies the Fort.<sup>31</sup> Two Companies of the 79th Ohio are now in Cincinnati acting Provost Guard.

The mail is now running very regular we receive our mail every evening. I received 2 letters from Ma this morning, in which she gave me full particulars of the "grand" wedding and the many parties, and the fine times they all were having—If I ever intend to marry I shall most assuredly come down to Tennessee for my Bride as there were more handsome looking young ladies in the vicinity of our last camp on "Drakes Creek" than I ever met before.

Katie! we have only 2 years and 6 months of our time yet to serve, but the time will quickly fly away and the experience we shall have gained soldiering will be of great value to us. I can see no chance of obtaining a furlough and make a short visit home, but shall endeavour to be at home to spend 4th of July—

<sup>31</sup> The Seventieth Indiana returned to Gallatin on February 9, 1863, and remained there until June 1, 1863, doing provost and picket duty. Benjamin S. Nicklin of Wabash was mustered as captain of the Thirteenth Battery, Light Artillery, Indiana Volunteers on April 19, 1862. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646; III, 420.

My Dear Sister

Head Quarters 70<sup>th</sup> Ind Vols  
Gallatin Tenn Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1863

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Jim has been unwell for some time, and is not at present with us. We left him at a private house in Saundersville, but will join us in a few days. I am now acting Adjutant and am kept pretty busy since the Regt is together again, having both his and my own duties to perform.

Our career as railroad guards was tended with a great deal more danger than you may suppose, or *than being in the front*, as we were scattered in small squads in a strong secesh country, where guerrilla bands were thick as hail, and the citizens would aid them against us at any moment, but luckily we escaped any contact with them, except some small skirmishes which our scouts had—

Our Quartermaster is issuing new clothes to the boys to day, which helps the appearance of the Regt a thousand o/o. Ma sent me a pair of high topped military boots and a shirt which completes my wardrobe and I shall not want for anything for some time—

Spring has now opened here and things in general are looking "green". the boys are becoming affected with the "fever", but are kept on duty and drilling most of the time very much against thier will.

I have very little to write that would interest you so beg be excused for the shortness of my letters.

I have no objections whatever in your sending my Phot[ograph] to the young lady that asked for it, and wish you would send me the photographs of Frank and your self if you have any. Ma sent me hers the other day.

My health is good—But I close with much love to Frank and yourself hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your Most affecty

Charlie

Please direct to me at Gallatin, care 8th Brigade. Much obliged for *pens and stamps*.

Head Quarters 8th Brigade  
Gallatin, Tenn Feb 23d 1863—

My dear Sister—

Katie!

Just recd your kind letter of the 20th and answer immediately, being at leisure and wishing to be punctual in answering your letters.

I recd a letter from Ma written the 19th, merely stating the change in bussiness affairs at home, but giving no particulars. I am exceedingly anxious to hear how matters stand and should like to be home to assist Father in starting anew in bussiness.

I should be very glad to see Frank in with him, being confident

they together could build up a fine trade in the Iron line, being both expert and correct bussiness men.<sup>32</sup>

In my last speaking of things being "green" in this region, I forgot to mention that "green things" like you sent are very *scarce*, but we expect to be *flush* with "green backs" after our next muster on the 28th February—

Col Harrison has been in command of our Brigade for the past two weeks, by reason of Genl Paine being ill, turned the command of the post over to Genl Ward and Genl Ward the command of the Brigade over to Col H. I have been assigned a position on Col H's staff, and am now detached from my Regiment. We have our Head Quarters in one of the finest residences in Gallatin, and are living in fine style. But Paine is almost well and will resume command some time this week, much to our disappointment as we should like to command a Brigade all the time, but I much prefer being in camp, as I feel almost lost living in a house again, after 7 months with nothing but tents over us.

The rebels are building pontoon bridges over the Cumberland about 40 miles above here they intend crossing in force and giving us a *brush*. We have been waiting 2 days for a couple of gunboats up here from Nashville. we intend loading part of one Brig on them, and go up the River to stop thier proceedings

Katie! I should like to write you a lengthy interesting letter, but things in general are so dull here, it would be impossible.

The weather is fine, and the climate and scenery around here is the most pleasant & beautiful I ever saw, it far excels that around Murfreesboro' and I in like manner with the gentleman you spoke of, have placed my land mark, upon which if luck permits I am in hopes of some day "squatting".

Our scouts continue daily to bring to these Hd. Qrs. large numbers of rebel soldiers, whom they capture in this vicinity. They are a miserable looking set of humans, long haired, poorly clothed, filthy

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<sup>32</sup> In 1863 when Charles H. Cox' uncle, Jacob Cox, withdrew from the tin and sheet iron business in which he had been engaged with his brothers, Charles' father reorganized the firm. A foundry was built on South Delaware Street and was apparently named the Hoosier State Foundry and Stone Works. Partners in the new business were Charles Cox, Charles H. Cox' father, Frank B. Lord, his brother-in-law, and a man whose last name was Peck. This may have been E. J. Peck, president of the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad Company, or Thomas S. Peck who after the war was superintendent at the DeLoss Root Foundry in Indianapolis. Art Association of Indianapolis, John Herron Art Institute, *Paintings by Jacob Cox: A Retrospective Exhibition of Work by an Early Indianapolis Artist* . . . (Indianapolis, 1941), [3]; John H. B. Nowland, *Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis with Short Biographical Sketches of Its Early Citizens, and a Few of the Prominent Business Men of the Present Day* (Indianapolis, 1870), 301-303; Geo. W. Hawes & Co.'s *Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, for 1862 and 1863* (3rd ed., [Indianapolis, 1862?]), 151; *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, May 14, 1863; *Logan's Indianapolis Directory Embracing an Alphabetical List of Citizens' Names* . . . (Indianapolis, 1867), 189.

and disagreeable as they can possibly be. I often ask them if they have come any nearer getting thier "rights" (which they claim to be fighting for) than they had two years ago, but they say "I dont see it". We are bound to whip them, and we will do it before 12 months more rolls by. if we take Vicksburgh [Mississippi] it will be a winding up of the Rebellion in that section of Dixie.

When this war will come to a finis none of us know for I am afraid we shall have trouble in the north, if so desolation which has spread over this country, will be felt alike at our own homes. All we want is that the traitors in the North keep quiet until we get through with such chaps in this region, when we will come and give them a "dose".

If the 70th was at Indianapolis now I am sure they would chase that rebel legislature out of town, tear down the Sentinel office and hang its editors and all of thier stripe.<sup>33</sup> But more anon, Katie.

With much love to Frank and yourself.

I remain Your affect brother  
Charlie

Direct as before.

Head Quarters 70th I. V. M.  
Gallatin Tenn March 15th 1863—

Katie!

My dear Sister!

This being Sunday and as I answer most of my letters on that day, your last of the 11th inst will be answered first and foremost of all, which are due from me and to be answered by me to-day.

It being such a *common* thing in persons writing letters, to speak of the weather, &c, that I try to say as little as possible—but writing from the "sunny south" where we "Northerners" think there is one continual *streak* of sunshine and warmth,—a few remarks might be beneficial to your mistaken ideas. The winter here is short "but sweet", and comes during February and the last of Jan. when it *was*

<sup>33</sup> Republicans repeatedly accused the Democratic majority in the Indiana legislature of treason and southern sympathies. Similar legislative problems in other northern states as well as alleged traitorous activities of so called secret societies such as the Knights of the Golden Circle and Sons of Liberty brought fears—real or imaginary—of possible rebellion in the North. For a complete discussion of this subject see Stampp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War*, 158-85, 186-216, *passim*; *Brevier Legislative Reports* (1863), VI, 15-16, 53-57, 120-21, *passim*. The Indianapolis *Daily State Sentinel*, edited by Joseph J. Bingham, was a Democratic newspaper and frequently carried criticisms, which Republicans termed treasonable, of the Republican state and national administrations. See, for example, Indianapolis *Daily State Sentinel*, January 12, 19, 1863; William S. Holloway to John G. Nicolay, January 2, 1863, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection (Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress, Washington). See also Sylvester, "Oliver P. Morton and Hoosier Politics," 157-211.

cold at all! it was "awful" cold, with several falls of snow from 2 to 5 inches deep. At present it is very pleasant spring has opened and a pic-nic in some of these beautiful groves would not *go bad*,—the only trouble with all this fine weather is the rain which we have *every* third day, and the hardest rains I ever saw, from morning till night without interval, which makes the mud knee deep, and every think [*sic*] is dead until it dries up, which the sun can do in about half a day.

Resolutions were drawn up and adopted by our Regt last Thursday, they being the sense of the 70th on the war, Gov Morton, and traitors at home. A copy was sent to the Ind'polis Journal for publication I should like for you to get a paper containing them and read them. Every man voted for them, there was not a dissenting voice!<sup>34</sup>

A lot of our scouts were captured and paroled last week. they were out scouting about 25 miles from here, and were surrounded and "taken in" by about 150 guerrillas, thier horses, guns, clothing &c were taken from them and they set *loose*, with paroles which do not bind them, as prisoners have to be regularly exchanged or paroled either at Vicksburg or Aikens Landing [Virginia].

Our boys are in better health now than ever before, although thier duty is twice as hard as it ever was. they have to stand picket *every other* day, which will kill a great many, if the weather should become very bad. My health is very good, would write more if I could. as you are home again, I shall expect to hear often from you dont expect to have Ma do all the writing and if you are as prompt as she I shall be much obliged.

Affect.

Charlie.

Excuse "franking" as my stamps are "played".<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> From the Armies of the Potomac and the Cumberland a flood of remarkably similar memorials and resolutions poured into Indianapolis vilifying the "traitorous" Democratic General Assembly of 1863. The petitions demanded that the legislators cease partisan quarreling and support the war unqualifiedly or Hoosier troops would return from the front to put down rebellion at home. See, for example, Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, January 9, 16, 17, 26, February 3, 7, 12, 13, 1863. Democrats claimed that the petitions did not represent the majority opinion of the regiments and/or that Governor Oliver P. Morton had solicited the resolutions. For a discussion of these memorials and petitions and their effect on Indiana politics see Sylvester, "Oliver P. Morton and Hoosier Politics," 187-91. The petition of the Seventieth Indiana was published in the Indianapolis *Daily Journal* on March 20, 1863. It warned troublemakers at home that "all attempts of political conspirators in the North to alienate portions of the country now standing firmly by the Government, and sending their sons together to die in its defense, are as treasonable as the armed efforts of the South to destroy the Government, and deserve the same execration at the hands of loyal men . . . ."

<sup>35</sup> "Franking" originally meant affixing a signature to a letter, package, or telegram so that it might be exempt from charge for postage. In the United States the franking privilege was abolished in 1873 but was in great measure restored a few years later.

Head Quarters 70th Ind Vols  
 Gallatin Tenn  
 March 27th 1863. 7 P.M.

My dear Katie,

I just received your welcome missive of the 24th inst, and as it is raining very hard & I nothing to do, and "punctual" my motto, hear goes an apology for an answer from your "sojer boy" brother. My last two letters home were short uninteresting affairs, as usual. My abilities as a letter writer are limited, as you know I was always a miserable hand at telling the news, but as all my letters are of the same stripe I hope you will not retaliate by answering in the same style.

I have been reading all day a novel "Lady Audley's secret" and pronounce it fine. if you are at a loss for something to read try "Lady Audley's Secret" and I am sure you will enjoy it. We have so little to read here that I have read the Regulations through most a dozen times.<sup>36</sup>

Col Burgess left for home last Tuesday I had an opportunity to go as far as Louisville with him and could have run over to Ind'polis for a few days, but I was so busy at the time drawing up depositions, writing muster-out rolls &c and my stay home would be so short, I concluded not to go. but I shall try (not promise) [to] be to see you by 4th July. Tom Campbell just came into my tent, and told me that Otis and West had been beat for their respective offices at the recent nomination. I should have been glad for Geo to [have] been successful, as he always seems to have been an unlucky person.<sup>37</sup>

There is as much interest manifested in the regiment by those from Ind'polis, as to the nominations, elections &c at home, as there is among those in the city itself.

The title of the new firm Cox, Lord and Peck seems very appropriate, and my wishes for thier success, as I can lend no help to the institution. I should like exceedingly well, to be home just at this time, not that I am tired soldiering, or am homesick, but that I express as much interest in bussiness at home, as I do in my present situation. I am confident this war will not last more than 12 months longer, the rebs are "playing out" fast in the south. Rosecrans will have a lively skirmish before long, and it will be the fight of the sea-

<sup>36</sup> Mary Elizabeth Maxwell, *Lady Audley's Secret: A Novel* (New York, 1863). Various editions of the *Army Regulations* were issued throughout the war. As a rule they contained the articles of war; some of the later ones included in appendices important legislation concerning the army. Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Common Soldier in the Civil War*. Book I, *The Life of Billy Yank* (New York, 1951), 445.

<sup>37</sup> William H. Otis was a candidate for mayor and George H. West a candidate for city clerk of Indianapolis at the Union party convention held on March 21, 1863. Neither man was nominated. *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, March 9, 23, 1863.

son, as the rebels are concentrating thier forces from east & west to meet him. doubtless our Regt will be ordered to his assistance as this road will be abandoned if our services are needed.

A Paymaster is here and next week will find us with 6 months wages in our pockets. it will make the boys feel gay, after being strapped for 8 months. Katie, write me often, your letters are very welcome. Remember me to Frank and all our folks. with much love I am always

Charlie.

Head Quarters 70th Ind. Vols.  
Gallatin Tenn April 6th 1863—

Dear Frank!

Have been intending writing you for some time but circumstances prevented. I am glad to hear you have associated yourself with the firm of Cox Lord and Peck, and should like very much to be home myself to have a hand in the muss, but the good time is coming and I am in hopes a few months may find me lending a helping hand to the institution. I see occasionaly in the [Indianapolis *Daily*] "Journal" notices of the movements of the new firm, and hope in short notice you may be in full trim and good running order, eclipse all your opponents, and wish you all the success imaginable.

Col Burgess arrived at the Regt this afternoon and received the most hearty welcome that could be given. the boys seeing him coming made a rush for him, and as soon as he entered the guard lines he was taken from his horse and the boys carried him on their shoulders to his quarters. they were so glad to see him that they sent up *cheer* after *cheer* in *welcome*. He is the *idol* of the Regt. and a kinder hearted man cannot be found, he is sociable and his rank does not *stick him up*, and when off duty is a ringleader for the boys in their sports.

He speaks very highly of you and is a gentleman and soldier. Many thanks to you for those splendid cigars you sent, they are quite a treat, along side the "Half spanish" our sutler sells. We were paid off last week up to the 28th Feb. I drew \$140. only. it took \$60 to pay my debts and I sent home \$50. It is pretty *tough* 21 a month. I do not aspire to a higher position but hope before the war is over, to obtain something better if there are to be any promotions in my line, by good behaviour and meritorious conduct. My present position is one of no little consequence. I fare as well as any officer in the Regt and have a good time generally. the whole *bussiness* of the Regt devolves on me, and *not to brag on myself*, I know more of the doings, bussiness &c of this Regt than any man in it. Jim is as good a man

as I want any thing to do with, and treats me as a brother, but leaves the whole bussiness of the "adjutants office" to my care. I cannot write you any news from this quarter as the Telegraph comes in so far ahead, we are daily expecting an order to march to front, to help Rosey [Major General William S. Rosecrans] in his next fight. but no more, as I must write several letters yet to night, amongst them one to the *old lady* at home. it is now after "Taps" as I close with my love to Katie and all, also hoping you may find leisure enough to write me a few lines.

truly yours,  
Chas H Cox

Head Quarters 70th "Hoosier."  
Gallatin Tenn. April 8th 1863—

Dear sister Katie!

Your letter of the 4th & 6th came to hand a few minutes ago. I was very glad to hear from you as I had been looking for your letter several days. I did not get Ma's letter acknowledging the receipt of the Lithograph I sent. I have lost a great many letters lately, from my numerous correspondants, but they will a[ll] come to hand some day, as they are miscarried and go to the front, or Nashville where they lay in the hands of some negligent Postmaster until he sees fit to send them to the Regt.

I am glad the Foundry is progressing so nice, and that the new firm are so pleased with their enterprise, hoping this war may soon close, when I may be permitted to assist them in some capacity or other.

Col Burgess, Maj Vance and Maj Reagan (our Surg) all arrived to the Regt this week after a few weeks sojourn in the North. They report the "Butternuts" have greatly *subsided* and that things are going on smoothly again at home, which is welcome news for those in the field.<sup>38</sup> I hope rebellion at home may never again come to such an alarming extent, but if it should happen and the *Union* men at home cannot attend to them, a few regiments which have been down in "Dixie," attending to professed rebels, should be called home and *they* would be *dried up* immediately. I hope we may never be called back on such a mission, but if it is *necessary*, we would willingly go and express to such scoundrels by *ball & powder* the sentiments of the Union soldiers.

The 70th was never in a more prosperous condition, the health

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<sup>38</sup> Amos W. Reagan of Mooresville served as surgeon of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640. The terms butternut and copperhead were generally used during the Civil War to describe an opponent of the Union effort. More precise definitions vary greatly depending on the source.

is fine and all in a bouyant spirit. the weather is fine and we are ready to *strike out* any place we are ordered.

The preparations Rosecrans is making indicates a *forward movement*. He has sent for all the Surgeons that can be spared at this Post, to attend to the sick and wounded who will be so unfortunate, to be so afflicted in the the coming engagement.

The 70th will anxiously await the result of the action or *willingly* take a hand in it, in the most approved style, as the "Hoosier boys" know well how to do.

I am glad to hear Father returned from his trip all safe and that his health is good, as well as all the rest. If you could enjoy the handsome weather *we* are having, you would think a person could live a thousand years and never be sick—

I should liked very much to have been home Easter sunday and seen the *flub-dubs* at church, we had quite a *revival* in camp on that day "Parson Goodwin" & our Chaplain conducted the exercises,—to a large audience seated on the ground and leaning up against trees—in the most approved *foreign* style.<sup>39</sup> I believe I am about the only episcopalian in the Regt. and some pretty strong religious arguments occasionally arise. I have hard work batteling for my creed, but always *hold my own*. Maj Vance has tendered his Resignation and it will be accepted.<sup>40</sup> all the rest are O.K. Write me often Katie and tell me all the news. More anon, with much love to yourself, friends & relatives. I am affect.

Charlie

Hd Quarters 70th Inda Vols  
Gallatin April 16th 1863

Dear Frank!

The mail is about ready to start and I shall write you but a few words. Major Vance has resigned been accepted and gone home. The *aspirants* for the Majority are Capt Merrill and Adjt Jim Mitchell. Merrill thinks because he is *ranking Captain* he is *entitled* to it.

The staff and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the line officers *have* recommended Jim for the position. Col B is *strong* for Jim, and Col H rather favors him, but thinks he can not get around recommending Merrill without a

<sup>39</sup> Archibald C. Allen of Indianapolis was chaplain of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640. It is possible that Cox is referring to the Reverend Mr. Thomas A. Goodwin, an influential Methodist clergyman and temperance leader in Indiana during the Civil War period. See Charles E. Camp, "Temperance Movements and Legislation in Indiana," *Indiana Magazine of History*, XVI (March, 1920), 3-37.

<sup>40</sup> Major Samuel C. Vance's resignation from the Seventieth Indiana became effective April 10, 1863; he later reentered the service as colonel of the One Hundred Thirty-Second Regiment. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640.



general *Muss*, as promotion thus far have been made by rank in the 70th. Now Merrill is a good man, but Jim is by far the *best* of the two. Jim has a *Commanding voice*, is *well drilled*, has *energy* and is worshiped almost, by the entire Regiment, *all of which Merrill is destitute of*.

And another thing if Jim gets the promotion your humble servant stands a fine chance to be Adjt, if the recommendation of the officers will be of any avail. My only *draw back* will be my age. Col B and Adjt are the only ones who have talked to me about it and will go their length for me.

Now you are a friend of Buck Terrills and have some influence over him, will you please see him and do your best for Jim and if the time should come also stick a word in for me.<sup>41</sup>

Jim asked me to write you on the subject and if you can do any thing for us, you will have our ever lasting thanks.

Please do not say a word about this at home, as it is so uncertain, and if disappointed they will be none the wiser. I have a good pleasant position now and if disappointed, I will be none the worse off, *only in pay*. Col B is very ill has an attack of the pneumonia not dangerously. All the rest are O.K. Jim and Col Jim send respects to you. My health is good, will write again if any thing more transpires.

I am Yours &  
Chas H Cox.

Head Quarters 70th Indiana Vols  
Gallatin, May 10th 1863

My dear Katie!

Your kind letter came to hand, I should have answered sooner, but my time has been so taken up with my duties, it was next to impossible, but this being a day of rest (although observed but little in the army) I cannot let it pass without writing and answering your kind favor.

You are all doubtless aware that the valise, jacket &c, arrived all O.K. are as nice as a pin and give entire satisfaction. We had a grand review at this post on yesterday afternoon, the troops reviewed were the (8th Brig) 70th Ind, 79th Ohio, 102 & 105th Ills Genl Ward was the *reviewing officer* and Col H commanded the Brigade. The sun was "melting" and the marching severe, which was inclined to make it a "bore" to us soldiers. Gallatin is quite lively with ladies from Ind-polis amongst the distinguished arrivals of the past week,

<sup>41</sup> William H. H. Terrell was Governor Oliver P. Morton's military and financial secretary during most of the Civil War years. In 1864 he was appointed adjutant general of Indiana. *Ibid.*, x.

are Mrs Col Harrison and family, Mrs Col Burgess and family, Mrs Harvey Bates,<sup>42</sup> Miss Vance and numerous others not of your acquaintance. While I am writing this Mrs H is setting in front of our tent, under the shade of a splendid Walnut which completely masks our tent from the scorching sun. she says you were going to call and see her before she left, but failed to do so, but I cannot see what that has to do with my letter. The *key* and Ma's letter, arrived all safe, the key fits and Mas letter remains unanswered I shall answer my first opportunity. Am reading "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo, think its fine, never was better pleased with anything.<sup>43</sup>

I am glad they are progressing so well with the *Foundry*, should like to be there to assist, but am contented soldiering if it does not last "over 3 years". Saw a Mans leg after it was cut off today nice sight, only hurt a little.

The news from Jo Hooker is so "mixed" I hardly know what to say about the proceedings on the Potomac, am in hopes it will turn out favorable to us, and our career as soldier boys will be shortened.<sup>44</sup> Katie I have several letters yet to write, and am in a monstrous hurry, which you will percieve in this case by this miserable writing. nothing new under the sun, everything in Dixie looks charming and I think we will spend a pleasant summer, soldiering in this region. I recd a letter from Frank at the same time yours came to hand. will answer soon. Remember me to all the folks, boys, girls, relations &c. quite a task for you. My health is good, am ready for any emergency, would as leave stay here as go to the front, and would as leave go to the front as stay here, am indifferent as to our doings, would like the 70th to distinguish herself before the war is over.<sup>45</sup>

Hd Qrs 70th I. V. M.  
Gallatin May 18th/63

Dear Frank!

<sup>42</sup> Harvey [or Hervey] Bates came to Indianapolis in 1822 and was associated with many of the capital city's first undertakings. Bates gained a substantial fortune as a result of his numerous business ventures. In 1852 he began construction of what became known as the Bates House, "one of the foremost hotels of its day." His son, Harvey Bates, Jr., was also important in commercial and civic affairs in Indianapolis. The younger Bates married Charlotte Cathcart, also of a prominent Indianapolis family. Jacob Piatt Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans: A History of Aboriginal and Territorial Indiana and the Century of Statehood* (5 vols., Chicago, 1919), VI, 1697-98. It has not been ascertained which of the Mrs. Bateses was visiting the Seventieth Indiana.

<sup>43</sup> Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables . . . : A Novel* (5 vols., New York, 1862).

<sup>44</sup> General Joseph Hooker was named commander of the Army of the Potomac on January 26, 1863. In the spring of 1863 Hooker planned to drive Confederate General Robert E. Lee from his entrenched position at Fredericksburg, Virginia, back toward Richmond. On May 1-4 Hooker was outmaneuvered and defeated by Lee and General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 136-40, 409-10.

<sup>45</sup> This letter as transcribed had no closing signature. Whether or not there were originally additional pages is unknown.

Yours of April—came to hand, no thing of interest has transpired or I should have answered sooner. Jim and I return our thanks for the interest you manifested in, and trying for our *promotion*. The matter has been settled and we are satisfied.<sup>46</sup>

The 70th is still in the same camp we were 3 months ago, & such a nice place it is, we are indifferent as to whether we stay here till the summer is o'er or not, although it would not surprise us to be ordered to the *front* at any moment. The boys are *gay* and *festive*, happy as larks, but *think* it is most *too warm* in Dixie to agree with them, especially on Brigade or Bat drill. Just imagine the 8th Brig in the field, the 70th (ranking Regt) on the right, and the command "on the left by file into line," "*double quick*" *march*, the sun coming down like an oven of one of Cox, Lord & Peck's cooking stoves, the boys *sweating* and *cursing*, and you will have a faint idea of what soldiering is. but I need not complain as I have no drilling to do (or never do any) and have an easy time in that respect, but I can sympathize with those who *are* so afflicted!

I suppose you must think the 70th is *in love with*, or interested in the welfare of Gallatin, *judging* from our long continued residence here. I cant say whether it is the attraction of the place, or the numerous handsome young ladies to be found here, that makes me feel so contented in remaining here, but am inclined to think it is the *latter*.

I see by the Journal that the Foundry is in "motion" and that—if all "turns up" well—R-L & Co will have to "open their *winkers*"<sup>47</sup> I should like exceedingly well to take a stroll through the *shanty*, and peep at what you are doing, send me card, circulars &c.

I write to the *women folks* at home every few days, to inform them that I am still in the land of the living. My health is good, am perfectly contented, getting along *hugely*, have got so used to this life, I think I am better contented than I would be at home, although a short visit there would be by no means disagreeable. *Furloughs* are now being issued to *sick* and *convalescent* soldiers, so my chances for "one" are very slim, yet I anticipate a "few days" at home by next fall. Lt Col & Jim send their "best" to you. We are all O.K. Write me soon.

I remain

Your Obt Servt  
Chas H Cox.

<sup>46</sup> Samuel Merrill was commissioned major of the Seventieth Indiana on April 11, 1863, and was mustered into that position on April 25. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 640.

<sup>47</sup> It is possible that Cox is referring to the firm of DeLoss Root and Company which also dealt in stoves, iron, and tin plate and had offices on East Washington Street. *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, March 3, 1863. See also *Hawes' Indiana State Gazetteer*, 434.

70th Ind Regt Infty.  
Gallatin Tenn. May 24th 1863

My dear Katie!

A few words to you to day in answer to yours of 20th May 1863. I have so little to communicate that would interest you, that I am almost ashamed to write. I am also far behind in my correspondence and wish some thing lively would happen that I might write about.

Col Harrison, Adjut Jim and 4 of our companies crossed the [Cumberland] River this morning, intending to remain several days and scour the country in the direction of Lebanon. A number of rebels (several hundred) are reported in that vicinity, and we are expecting hourly of news of a fight between our boys & them. I did not go this morning for reason that I was out on a scout with about 100 cavalry yesterday, was in the saddle all day, rode very hard and to day am nearly "played out".

I saw *Vallandigham* to day as he passed thro' here on his way to join the "Southern Confed" he seemed to be enjoying his trip South very much, but I am afraid he will have the *blues* pretty badly by the time he steps out side our lines. he said while here that the people of Ohio intended nominating him for next Governor and that he expected to gain the election. He is mistaken there!<sup>48</sup>

Mrs H is still here but, I think, expects to start for home in about a week. she remains in camp all day and seems to enjoy herself very much. Col Burgess' family are also here, and are all very sick, the Col is very much distressed, he is afraid he will lose his little girl.

The news from *Grant* to day is very flattering. Rosecrans is advancing on Tullahoma and I am in hopes we will *wind the rebels up* in the West, so as we may be able to assist Hooker this summer.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Clement L. Vallandigham, an Ohio peace Democrat, was an opponent of President Abraham Lincoln's administration, the war in general, the curtailment of civil liberties, arbitrary arrests, the draft, and other implementations of the conflict. He advocated an armistice with the South, immediate peace, states rights, and "The Constitution as it is; the Union as it was." He was arrested in May, 1863, for alleged violation of General Order Number 38 issued by General Ambrose Burnside who commanded the Department of the Ohio and who declared he would not tolerate "the habit of declaring sympathy for the enemy" or permit "expressed or implied" treasonable conduct. Tried and convicted by a military commission, Vallandigham was exiled by Lincoln to the Confederacy. The Ohio Democrat proved somewhat embarrassing to the Confederate government, which was relieved by his departure for Canada in June, 1863, via a blockade runner. On June 11, 1863, the Ohio Democratic state convention nominated Vallandigham for governor. He was resoundingly defeated by Republican John Brough in the October election. Frank L. Klement, *The Limits of Dissent: Clement L. Vallandigham & the Civil War* (Lexington, 1970), 156-72, 177, 190-212, 229, 252, *passim*. See also *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXIII, Part II, 147, 237.

<sup>49</sup> On May 22, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered his final unsuccessful assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi, before settling down to a siege of that city. Fearing that Confederate General Braxton Bragg would detach troops to reinforce Vicksburg, federal authorities urged Major General Williams S. Rosecrans to undertake an offensive against the southern general to hold Confederate strength

The prospects of the 70th moving from this Post are growing fainter every day and we have come to the conclusion that Gallatin is as nice a place as we can find, in which we can spend the remainder of our *3 years or during the war*. we have never fared so well since being in the service as we do here, get all we want to eat and live like lords.

When does our Sunday school have their picnic should like to be "thar", are many strangers in the church since I left, who else is to be married that I know, the Cadys' had better get *swung on* or they will be old maids before they are aware of it. My love to all the folks and respects to enquiring friends. Alls Well.

I remain affect  
Chas

Murfreesboro' Tenn  
Camp 70th July 7th 1863

Dear Katie!

I wrote to Ma about a week ago, "noticing" my arrival at the Regt and our move to this post. We have been expecting every day to strike tents and move across the river (Stone river) inside the fortifications, but on account of the incessant rains we have not moved yet, but think by tomorrow we will get into a permanent camp and live in a little better style than we do now. I thought at first that my present position would be an unpleasant one, as the aspirants would try to make it so, but they have all got over their excitement and everything goes on as smoothly as can be.<sup>50</sup>

The City of Murfreesboro' is a neat little place the size of Shelbyville Ind.<sup>51</sup> at one time the place must have been beautiful, like all other southern towns, but the war has almost ruined them, the largest and most handsome houses are invariably used by our troops for Head Qrs and Hospitals. It is not an uncommon thing to see the *aristocracy* of the south turned out of their fine houses, to seek shelter amongst their more *common* friends and their abodes confiscated.

The news of the capture of V-burg has just reached us, do not know whether it is reliable or not.<sup>52</sup>

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in Tennessee. Rosecrans' Tullahoma campaign did not really get underway until June 23-30, 1863, but was quite successful in accomplishing its objective. Major General Joseph Hooker in May, 1863, still commanded the Army of the Potomac. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 409, 850-51, 876-77.

<sup>50</sup> While home on furlough during June, 1863, Cox was commissioned second lieutenant in Company E of the Seventieth Indiana. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 643; *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, June 27, 1863.

<sup>51</sup> According to the census of 1860 Murfreesboro, Tennessee, had a population of 2,861, including white, free colored, and slave. Shelbyville, Indiana, had a population of 1,960. *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860*. Vol. I, *Statistics of Population*, 125, 467.

<sup>52</sup> Vicksburg fell to General Ulysses Grant on July 4, 1863. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 877.

Meade's victory in the east was a glorious affair. Rosecrans driving Bragg out of Tennessee was ditto, but the raid Morgan has made into Ky and destroyed the L & N R.R. again is not quite so glorious.<sup>53</sup> I am writing this having no idea you will receive it for a month, as the mails have not been regular and the tearing up of the railroad will spoil our letter writing for some time. I recd the letter Ma sent back to me, but have not heard a word from any of you. I recd the ring Ma sent me by Capt Scott he gave it to me in Cincinnati.

I recd my box all safe & sound and the cakes & peaches were quite a treat to my Mess.

We expected to be paid off the first of July. I am afraid it will be some time yet as the paymasters will not risk their money over the L & N R.R. so long as Morgan is any wheres near it.

The weather is here is warmer than any I ever experienced. the sun comes down in regular "Dixie style" the Thermometer averages 110° in the shade. I have almost melted several times but by close confinement to my tent I am still alive. The inhabitants here say the month of August is 1/4 warmer than this month. I expect (or rather hope) by that time the 70th will be moving thro' Alabama & Georgia driving the *rebs* into the Gulf of Mexico.

If all the news we have heard today proves true, I think 1864 will find us back home again.

It was lucky I recd my furlough when I did as no more have been issued since and the system has been *dried up*. My health is good am getting fleshy again, the army seems to agree with me better than at home, but I think when the war is over I will have no difficulty in living at home. But Katie, My love to all, write me often.

Your affect bro  
Charlie.

Murfreesboro' Tennessee  
(70th) July 22nd 1863.

Katie

Dear Sister!

I received by mornings mail yours of 17th inst and as I had read

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<sup>53</sup> General George G. Meade assumed command of the Army of Potomac two days before the Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863. On June 30, 1863, at the close of the Tullahoma campaign Major General William S. Rosecrans forced Confederate General Braxton Bragg to retreat across the Tennessee River, thus turning him out of his positions in Tennessee. Early in June, 1863, Bragg authorized John Hunt Morgan to undertake a raid into Kentucky—moving wherever he chose—in order to slow Rosecrans' advance toward Chattanooga. After several encounters with federal forces between July 2 and 9, Morgan, against Bragg's orders, crossed the Ohio River into Indiana. His raid into the Hoosier State and on into Ohio, though exciting, was unsuccessful, and Morgan was eventually captured. *Ibid.*, 851, 539, 568-69.

but one letter from home since leaving, it came with extra pleasure. I wrote to Ma on last Sunday, hope she will get it. I have written to her 3 times since arriving at the Regt.

If the people of Indianapolis are leaving to seek a colder climate I wonder what they would think of the warm weather if they were down here in Dixie. I never saw it half so hot at Ind'polis. It bothered us exceedingly at first but we are getting used to it, and are becoming quite attached to the Southern climate, *at least we might as well be*, while the war lasts. I cannot grumble that our nights are warm for *they* are bitter cold. I had to sleep *last night* with two heavy blankets over me. The coldness of the nights has no inducement for the Mosquitoes and bugs to hunt their abodes but besiege us by thousands and torment unmercifully the entire night. I never passed such an *awful* night in my life as night before last while on *Picket* in the woods. I thought I would be literally eaten to pieces before morning by Mosquitoes, gnats &c.

Col Harrison assumed *temporary* command of our Brigade this morning. Genl Ward has gone to Nashville and will probably go home on a furlough (if he can get one) which I hope he can and will go home and *stay*, it would be for the "good of the service" if he should. He is the *ranking* Brigadier in this Dept, but by his incompetency, has been continually kept in the *rear*, and never assigned a *responsible* command. I wish the 70th was in another brigade, for we will *never* see a fight while under him. Genl James D *Morgan* relieved *Granger* from command of this post this morning.<sup>54</sup> Morgans Brigade arrived here on yesterday, and *I will not be the least surprised* if we are ordered back to Nashville in less than 10 days. *Confound* such a General as *Ward!*

Adjut Mitchell is a.a.a.g. [acting assistant adjutant general?] on Col H's staff. Genl Wards staff officers have been assigned to the Col, they being idle.

I was requested to act *Adjut* of the regt during Mitchells absence, but declined for the reason, that I have been with my company so *short* a time, it would look as though I was disinterested in it by leaving so soon.

Col Harrisons Orderly—Jerry Barker (the boy Ma took such a fancy to) went outside the Pickets on July the 3d to hunt a horse which had broke loose and has never been heard of since, *only* that he

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<sup>54</sup> At this time the Seventieth Indiana was attached to the Second Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General William T. Ward; Third Division, commanded by Brigadier General Robert S. Granger; Reserve Corps; Army of the Cumberland. Brigadier General James D. Morgan commanded the Second Division of the Reserve Corps. Since, according to the official records, Morgan did not replace Granger as commander of the Third Division, apparently the Second Division merely replaced the Third at the Murfreesboro post. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXIII, Part II, 398-99, 579.

and his companion were killed by guerrillas. Jerry belonged to my company, he was too reckless and head strong, and I have wondered that he had [not] seen his *last* long ago.<sup>55</sup>

The excitement in this Dept during the past 8 weeks has been unusually quiet, not a single skirmish and hardly a picket fight. it seems as though it were "the great calm before a terrible storm".

I will send your valise home, as soon as we are paid, it is only in my way. I told you the box arrived all O.K. did I not. I will write home once or twice a week, although I *never* have anything of interest to write My health is *very good*. I thought I was to be sick last week, but got over it fortunately. Direct me here With much love to all

I am affect  
Charlie!

Camp 70th Ind V. M.  
Murfreesboro' Tenn  
August 13th 1863

My dear Sister!

Katie! only this morning did your kind letter come to hand dated Aug 7th 1863. I was aware of your absence from home and your trip to Hanover. Ma! wrote me just after you left. I was sorry indeed to hear of her sickness hope she will soon recover. I have had but two letters from her since I was home. She used to write so often I miss her letters very much.

I just arrived at the Regt from a visit to Nashville of several days. I had a very pleasant time while there and had my leave of absence been 2 days longer I would have gone to Indianapolis.

My health is very good, but the general health of the Regt is worse than it has been since we have been in the service. Our present camp is a very unhealthy one. The continual breezes we get are direct from the battle field, and you can imagine how poisonous they are when I tell you of the thousand, dead bodies of men & animals to be found half buried in every direction.<sup>56</sup>

Our army commenced moving at the front this week, and I think we will soon wind up affairs in this Dept. We expect to move from this post in a few days, I care not how soon, or where, I am anxious to be Moving.

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<sup>55</sup> According to Merrill's history of the Seventieth Indiana, Jerry Barker was captured by Confederate soldiers near the beginning of July, 1863. He escaped and returned to the regiment on August 6, 1863, having bribed a guard with his "lady love's ring" in order to effect his escape. Merrill, *Seventieth Indiana*, 60.

<sup>56</sup> The Seventieth Indiana was camped in Fortress Rosecrans at the site of the Battle of Stones River (or Murfreesboro) which had occurred from December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863. *Ibid.*; Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 646; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 803. The Battle of Thompson's Station also occurred near Murfreesboro on March 4-5, 1863. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 838.



Rumor says the 14th Army Corps is ordered to the Potomac Army. How I wish we still belonged to that Corps, as we did last fall. It would suit me exactly to make a trip east.

Katie I have nothing at all of interest to communicate you from this Dept. no fighting at all, yet we are anticipating some lively times before many days.

I just wrote home. Write me often. With love to Frank & yourself

I am affect  
Charlie

Nashville Tenn  
Camp 70th Ind Vols  
August 28th A.D. 1863

My dear Katie!

On my arrival at the Regt from a short trip down to Alabama I was the happy recipient of yours of Aug 21st 63. At present writing I belong somewhat to the *tired list* having been on the *go* for the past 4 days, and just arrived back to camp. This letter will probably find you at *home* after I hope, a pleasant visit to Hanover. It must be pleasant to spend the summer in a colder climate. How I wish we had a little snow from the White Mts to cool us down in this *melting* region. We have suffered *very much* from the heat this summer, but providence is now favoring us with a little cooler times. in fact the past 6 or 8 night[s] has been uncomfortably cool making double covering, fires and winter *duds* in demand.

I hear from Ma several days since will write her again in a few days. I saw a *Nigger* Brigade this morning at Estell springs, Tenn clothed and armed. they made a splendid appearance (for niggers) and will *probably* fight. I do not like the niggers, and desire to see them all "*put away*" our first opportunity. I do not believe it right to make soldiers of them and class & rank with our *white* soldiers. It makes them feel and act as our equals. I do despise *them* and the more I see of them, the more I am against the whole *black* crew.

I expect to hear of our forces occupying Chattanooga in a day or two, the rebs are reported evacuating.<sup>57</sup> We have been shelling the place, when I was in that region shells were flying in the city thick and fast. Since my trip to the front I am not quite so anxious to be *thar*, the excitement would suit me "muchly" but Nashville suits me

<sup>57</sup> Following William S. Rosecrans' successful Tullahoma campaign, federal authorities hoped to capture Chattanooga, a vital communications hub. From August until September, 1863, the northern forces concentrated on occupying the town—which they did early in September—and gaining possession of the upper Tennessee Valley. These maneuvers set the stage for the Battle of Chickamauga which occurred September 19-20, 1863. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 151.

well *enough*. We are not gaining much honor here, but are having a splendid time and not much danger of getting shot, still we never think of that wherever we are. Nashville is a tiptop place I have felt more at home here than any place we have been station, city life is my preference. I do not want to move until I am tired of the place. You will know when that comes to pass by my *grumbling*. I hope I will not be disappointed in my expectations about the war being over by 1864 I want to get home and out of this soldier business.

I am getting along in my new posish finely, have no trouble at all, all work well. Capt M still remains under arrest, if he is not Court Martialed, he will be released by making a *Confession* and speech on *Temperance* to the Regt on Dress Parade.

Col H is in command of the Brig temporarily, composed of the following troops 80th, 102nd, 105th and 129th Illinois Vols, 3d and 79th Ohio Vols, 70th Ind and 5th Mich Battery, a *big* Brigade. I want to write to Frank in a few days. My love to all at home, and remember me to friends

I am affect  
Charlie

Nashville Tenn  
Camp 70th Ind Vol  
Aug' 31st 1863.

My dear Ma!

I just came in from Battalion drill and to my joy your welcome letter met me on my arrival! I am sorry indeed to hear you are down again was in hopes you had fully recovered by this time and making a trip in Ohio, still my prayer is your sickness may be short and once again enjoy the comforts of health. Maj Merrill arrived all safe bringing my *sash* which was beautiful indeed. I will have an opportunity of wearing it this afternoon on a *Grand Review* of all the troops around this city. It will be a grand affair, eclipsing all Indianapolis "doings" as a whole Division will be in the field. Maj Gen Granger is the Reviewing officer, the 3d Div the troops.<sup>58</sup>

I wrote to Katie at home last week as I expected she would be there by that time. Tell Father to write to me I would like to hear from him so much. I want to hear from the Foundry what they are doing, whether they expect to do much in the *stove* trade this fall & winter, and matters generally.

I am very much pleased at the Regt being stationed here. I like it better than any place we have yet been, every thing is plenty and

<sup>58</sup> Major General Gordon Granger commanded the Reserve Corps of the Army of the Cumberland in August, 1863. *Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XXIII, Part I, 416-17.

camp is not quite so dull. Our duty is chiefly Picket and guarding trains to the front.

Mary Stretcher is a great girl, she wanted me to write to her so much, which I did 6 weeks ago and have never had an answer yet. Just tell her I am not so anxious to write to girls and get no answer and if she ever expects to hear from me again I shall requ[est] her to write me very soon begging my pardon &c for her delay.

Capt M is released from arrest having made a public *confession* to the Regt and pledging to the Col and the entire Regt on Dress Parade his *sacred word* and *honor* that he would not touch another drop during his connection with the service.

Col H still commands the Brigade and will continue to do so until Ward is relieved from duty on Court Martial.

No particular news from this Dept. nothing today from the front and all quiet at Nashville My health is tip top. I *expect* to come home Christmas *if I can*. My love to Aunt Anna and all the rest Excuse writing in somewhat of a hurry and a miserable pen

I am affect  
Charlie

In Camp Nashville Tenn  
Sept 14th AD. 1863.

Dear Frank!

You being somewhat of a "Military Man",<sup>59</sup> I wish to lay a case before *you*, which has *lately* come to my knowledge, viz[:] You are well aware that I was commissioned 2nd Lieut Co "E" 70th Ind during my visit home, that I accepted the same and reported to my Regt and Company for duty in good faith. While at Murfreesboro' I was unable to be mustered, as no *Mustering officer* was stationed there. On our arrival at Nashville I neglected being mustered (or trying to be) until a short time since, when I found that the enclosed order (No 182) from War Dept had been issued which hit my case exactly by preventing me from being Mustered into the U. S. service as 2nd Lt, as our company numbers only 75 men, and you will see that the *order* requires 80 men in an Infy Co to entitle it to a 2nd Lieut. By that operation I have been *knocked out* of near 3 months pay as Lieut, as I cannot draw *pay* until mustered and not be mustered until the rolls show 80 men or more. If I had recd my commission before June 20th/63 (date of order) I would have had no difficulty in getting mustered but I did not receive it until the 25th June. It is somewhat

<sup>59</sup> Frank B. Lord served on Governor Oliver P. Morton's military staff as major and aide-de-camp during John Hunt Morgan's raid through Indiana in July, 1863. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, xi.

of a *Dilemma*, but Col H has determined to have me "fixed up" all O.K. and has made these two propositions

1st: A vacancy now exists in the 1st Lieutenancy of Co "F", he has offered me that position, if I will accept. I will *rank* higher, but think my present Co the preference of the two. I will have no trouble getting mustered in that position

2nd: He has offered to get an order for me to go home and *Recruit* enough men for our company to entitle me to be mustered. If I should come home I will do so immediately (in a week or so). I am dubious what to do. If I go into Co "F" I will rank as 1st Lieutenant ("*something*") and be in an equally as pleasant crowd as now, ie the commissioned officers, and my pay will commence the day I receive my commission as such. Should I go home to recruit I will loose a couple weeks more *pay* and *never* rank higher than 2nd Lt as my present Capt and 1st Lt will "stick till the last". but I would enjoy the pleasure of a trip home and be at an expense I am unable to stand on 21 dollars a month should I come whats the prospect for 8 or 10 recruits (which is enough for my case) Write immediately what you and Father think I should best do. My health is good, fighting at the *front*

I am

Your obt Servt  
Chas. H Cox.

"Extra"

Sept 15th 1863

*Later news—*

Since writing the above I have learned Col H *has* recommended me for 1st Lt Co "F". I have concluded to send the above letter now as it is written.—it explains my situation

Frank, I want you to go to the Adjutants office and have the commish issued *immediately* and sent to me. My pay will not commence until I receive it in my *own* hands. Also please enquire if J. A Fitzgeralds commission as Asst Surg 70th Ind has been sent him,<sup>60</sup> he is my *own cousin* and a private of my company. he has been recommended as asst Surgeon and I would like him to receive his commish as soon as possible. These matters are neglected at the Adjutants office unless some one stirs them up a little. By attending to this business for me *at once* you will greatly oblige.

Nashville Tenn  
Sept 19th 1863

Dear Frank!

<sup>60</sup>Jenkins A. Fitzgerald was mustered as assistant surgeon of the Seventieth Indiana on October 22, 1863. *Ibid.*, 641.

I wrote you today *countermanding* my former letter about seeing after my commish, as 1st Lt in Co "F", since writing and mailing my letter, I noticed in Ind'polis Journal of the 15th inst that eleven (11) new Regiments are to be raised in Indiana, I was just talking to Adjt *Jim* and he requests that I apply for *Adjutancy* of one of them. Do you think it is possible and will you assist me. I can get the recommendation of the Field officers of the 70th and the Line officers if their names would do any good. Mitchell is going to write *Terrill* about it tomorrow and will give me a *good* recommendation. As the Adjutant is one of the *first* Officers appointed in raising new Regts, the sooner an application is made the better. My experience in the Adjutants Dept of a Regt has been quite *extensive* and I feel competent to hold the position, as, I have conducted that dept in the 70th weeks at a time, during Mitchells absence. If I can get a commish as Adjt I will have no trouble to get mustered out of the 70th and return home immediately to accept it. Frank! as you have some influence around the Gov's office I will be under everlasting obligations if you will do your best in having me appointed and see about it immediately on receipt of this.

I send this by Tom Campbell Lt Co "K" who starts home tomorrow on 15 days leave. Write me as soon as you learn

and oblige  
Chas H Cox.

Camp 70th Regt Ind. Vols.  
Nashville Tenn  
Sept 23d A.D. 1863.

Dear Frank!

I have written you several letters during the past week giving a detail of my present situation, also asking your assistance in procuring me the position of Adjutant in one of the new Regts to be raised in Ind. Adjt Mitchell has written *Terrill* about it asking his influence and Col Burgess sends a *strong* recommendation to the Gov, in the same mail with this, for my appointment.

I have not spoken to Col H about it as he is detached from the Regt on a *Military Commission*. I have not seen him for a week, but am confident he would cheerfully recommend me for the position. Col B is Comd'g the Regt and I think his recommendation is sufficient.

Now Frank! With your influence and the help Col B and Adjt have given me, I feel as though I could obtain the required place.

Give me all the assistance you can, by seeing the authorities &c, and I will return the favor.—As soon as the fighting is over at our front, I shall *probably* obtain leave to return home to recruit. *If it is*

*impossible* for me to obtain an Adjutancy will you please try have a *Commish* issued me to return home to recruit for the *new Regts* I would rather recruit for one of them than the 70th. Write me soon what success, &c

All Well  
Chas H. Cox

Nashville Tenn  
Sept 25th 1863.

My dear Katie!

By this mornings mail your long looked for letter came to hand. I had *not* given up all hopes of hearing from you again, as I was well aware your negligence was unavoidable. I recd a letter from Ma also this morning dated 19th, (yours was 22nd) it had been delayed on the road.

I sent a letter to Frank on day before yesterday, *also* a recommendation for me, to a position in a new Regt, was sent by the Col, to Gov M[orton] in the same mail. I am in hopes with Franks influence of obtaining the place wanted. I have no fears, but Frank will do his best for me.

You are doubtless aware of the severe fighting going on at our front, and are posted in all the particulars. Several thousand of our wounded have arrived here already and all that will bear transportation are to come.<sup>61</sup> A great many of my acquaintances are amongst the killed and wounded. I noticed Col Chas Anderson of Cin'ti, here yesterday, wounded in the arm.

A large lot of Ind surgeons passed through here this week, a great many called out to see us. Gov Morton is first in everything, he is thought more of by the soldiers from all states than any man in the U. S.<sup>62</sup>

I should like very much to be home to attend the fair [Indiana state fair, September 29-October 5, 1863] this year, but so many of our officers are absent now and fighting in this Dept makes it useless

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<sup>61</sup> Following the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863, General William S. Rosecrans withdrew into Chattanooga, and General Braxton Bragg laid siege. The skirmishes and battles which followed constituted the Chattanooga campaign of October-November, 1863. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 141-47.

<sup>62</sup> Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton early in the war established an elaborate system for supplying the needs of Hoosier soldiers and caring for the sick and wounded. The Indiana Sanitary Commission distributed clothing and sanitary stores, wrote letters for wounded soldiers, saw to the burial of the dead, kept registers of the names of Indiana soldiers in the various hospitals, etc. Following large battles corps of special surgeons were sent to the field to care for the Hoosier wounded. Such state activities of course proved a source of trouble for the United States Sanitary Commission and caused much jealousy and dissatisfaction among soldiers of other states. Morton, however, relished his role as the "soldiers' friend," and he was much revered for his activities in their behalf. Stamp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War*, 123-27.

to apply for leave at present, *even to recruit*, we dont know how soon we may be ordered to the fight. The boys are very anxious to see a little of the *elephant*, and would jump for a chance to have the name of at least *one* battle inscribed on the flag, presented us by the ladies of Indianapolis. 2/3 of our "Reserve Corps" was in the last fight and did excellent service.

If we had not had an old *granny* like Ward Comdg us our Brigade would now be mourning the loss of hundreds of our comrades.

I was at a large dancing party last evening and had a fine time indeed, the prettiest ladies of N[ashville] were there and I had a fine opportunity of witnessing southern style. the ladies here seem to choose their beaux amongst the army officers here in preference to the civilians. Col and Mrs Harrison are boarding in the city I never see them over once a week. The Col appears to be losing interest in the Regt since he has been detached. I guess he would like to exchange the [hand drawn eagle, designating colonel] for the [hand drawn star, designating brigadier general]. it would better suit him.

It is very cold today, I have to wear my overcoat to keep comfortable. The boys are preparing winter Quarters as you must recollect they have no tents at all, all the shelter they have is a *thin* piece of cotton goods 5 ft square to each man, which he has to carry on a march. They dont do a particle of good in a rain storm.<sup>63</sup> The Officers have a nice large wall tent to each company. If I have to stay here I am going to have Father make me a sheet iron stove for our tent. My health is excellent, my throat is *almost* well. Write me soon My love to all

I am Affect  
Your bro  
Charlie

Camp 70th Ind Vol Infy.  
Nashville T. Sept 30th 1863.

Dear Frank!

I recd this morning yours of the 25th inst, it was (5) days coming, your letters are recd with great eagerness. I am anxious to hear the progress of the "State House" *Siege*.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>63</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. This is possibly the kind of shelter to which Cox refers.

<sup>64</sup> When the Democratic majority in the Indiana General Assembly of 1863 attempted to curb Governor Oliver P. Morton's military and civil powers, Repub-

I wrote you on the 28th, also mailed the Gov a recommendation and request from Col Harrison that I be apptd Adjt in one of the *new* Regts. The Col also sent Wm Wallace Esq (county cl'k) a letter, requesting him to exert his influence in my behalf.<sup>65</sup>

I could send a recm'd'n from *every* line officer in the 70th, but the Cols tell me it is *useless* and their recomdn is sufficient in a case like this. If it were not so *late* I would do it *anyhow*, but it would take two days to see them all, as 1/2 are away from camp at a time, on duty, and stay 48 hours before returning, which would make it a week before it could reach Ind'polis. Col Hs and Bs recommendations were so very "*strong*", we all think they will suffice. I hope so at least.

Many thanks to you, for the interest you manifest in my *welfare*, should *we* succeed or not.

Gen Sigel is in the city today.<sup>66</sup> Train after train of troops are passing through to the front, mostly from the east. Our Brig is being brought together and other troops being stationed here, which looks as though we are to have a *smell* below. All Well. Love to the folks.

As ever

Yours

C. H. Cox.

Nashville Tennessee

October 7th 1863

My dear Sister!

Your very kind letter was recd together with one from Ma on Sunday last, I answered Ma's letter and now a few lines to you.

We have had quite a hub-bub in camp the past few days, as a cavalry force (rebel) of some 10,000 are in this vicinity and we have

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lian legislators bolted the legislative halls, leaving the assembly with no quorum to do business. Since no appropriations bill had been passed for the succeeding biennium, Democrats expected Morton to call a special session in which they could continue their partisan efforts. Instead, the governor appointed a financial secretary, set up his own treasury, and proceeded to secure funds by various means to run the state for the following two years. While Morton negotiated for money with which to pay the interest on the state debt, Democrats kept up a constant barrage of criticisms and warning that a special session of the legislature must be called. The governor refused to heed their threats and administered the financial affairs of the state without legislative approval until the Republican dominated General Assembly of 1865 sanctioned his actions. Both Morton's and the Democracy's behavior reached the depths of partisan politics during these months of bickering. For a complete discussion of these events see Stampp, *Indiana Politics during the Civil War*, 158-85; Sylvester, "Oliver P. Morton and Hoosier Politics," 194-211. This is possibly the "state house siege" to which Cox refers.

<sup>65</sup> William Wallace was clerk of the circuit and common pleas court in Indianapolis. *Haves' Indiana State Gazetteer*, 126.

<sup>66</sup> Major General Franz Sigel had resigned his command of the Eleventh Corps, Army of the Potomac, early in 1863 because of ill health. Later, in 1864, he commanded the Department of West Virginia. The reason for Sigel's presence in Nashville in 1863 has not been ascertained. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 761.



been expecting an attack, but few troops are here and they could strike a more severe blow to our army at this point than anywhere, between Louisville & Chattanooga. The troops here stand to arms from 3 o'clk till day light each morning, not very pleasant business I assure you! the mornings are bitter cold, & just the time sleep is the sweetest. For my part I don't think there is any danger, still others know best.

A great probability of our moving to the front. Genl Slocum takes command of this post and the N & C R.R. and his division will do the duty, we are doing.<sup>67</sup> I would rather winter here where we have a *few* comforts than below where there is *none*.

Col H is commanding the Brig again as Gen Ward is in temporary command of Murfreesboro'.

I hope I will succeed in obtaining an Adjutancy, it is the height of my ambition. there nothing like getting rid of [manuscript torn] *guard* duty. [manuscript torn] has been recd I suppose which will help a little. I shall be ever thankful to Frank should he *win* or no.

This is a gloomy day in camp, a hard rain and cold wind, our tents are old and much worn, poor shelter in a storm. In the absence of a stove, we built a chimney to our tent, which does so well, I am almost prejudiced against a stove. Just imagine 3 of us in a tent 9 by 10, our bed, desk, valises, chest and a host of other *traps*, not much room to stir around, but we are in a palace, to what our boys have, *six* of them stay in a tent not so large as ours.

I am in a good humor over a magnificent dinner I had served up at a Restaurant in the city today, oysters, chicken Oh! everything, wish I had the like every day.

Our Indianapolis favorites in the "acting" line Vincent & McCarthy are playing an engagement here.<sup>68</sup> I spent four evening[s] last week witnessing their performances, and last Sunday was to hear Rev Mr Harlow again.

Immense numbers of troops have passed through here from the Potomac to reinforce Rosecrans, and are still coming, the next fight below will be the *battle of the war*.

My health is excellent, I judge from the dinner I ate. My love to Father, Frank, Aunt Anna and [manuscript torn] Write me soon

<sup>67</sup> After the Battle of Chickamauga one division of Major General Henry W. Slocum's Twelfth Army Corps was sent to serve directly under Major General Joseph Hooker at Chattanooga. The Second Division, commanded by Slocum himself who refused to serve with Hooker, was charged with the protection of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, 451-53.

<sup>68</sup> When Cox was in Indianapolis on furlough in June, 1863, Miss Marian McCarthy and Mr. Felix A. Vincent were appearing in various musical presentations at the Metropolitan Theatre in the capital city. Vincent, sometimes called the "Indianapolis Comedian" by the press, was connected with the management of the Metropolitan. Indianapolis *Daily Journal*, June 3, July 2, 1863.

again. With much love [manuscript torn]

I am affecty  
Charlie

Camp 70th Ind Vol Infty.  
Nashville Tennessee  
Oct 19th A.D. 1863.

My dear Sister.

Yesterday evening yours of the 12th inst was recd by your little brother. Not being in camp but little now days, it is impossible for me to write often. I am in the railroad business again, running as Military Conductor and comdg train guard between here and the Tenn river in Alabama, 123 miles. The trip is a very pleasant one, crossing the Cumb Mountains 100 miles below here and through a tunnel a mile in length, quite exciteing business as hardly a train passes without being fired into, or the track torn up or a bridge burnt. We are some times 5 or 6 days making the trip. Rosecrans whole supplies are carried over this road, which keeps at least 20 trains continually running.

I am glad to hear Frank is still *trying* for a "posish" for me, and verily hope he may succeed<sup>69</sup> I have had 3 or 4 letters from Ma since she has been in Salem, she appears to be enjoying the trip hugely and it will be *some time* before she will return. I must write her this morning as her last two letters are remaining unanswered. Katie! I have lost one of my young lady correspondents in the shape of *Miss Jones*, probably she has got married, as that disease appears to prevail amongst my fair correspondents, as *only three* have entered into the "holy bonds" since I have been in the service, but more likely I am "aus-ka-speil" as "soldier clothes" are getting *too common*. still I am not void of correspondents amongst the fair ones as "2" more are left.<sup>70</sup>

I just read the "Journal" of the 15th containing Sec Chase's

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<sup>69</sup> Cox did not receive a position in a new regiment or a promotion in the Seventieth Indiana at this time. Apparently, however, the dilemma relating to his muster as second lieutenant of Company E, Seventieth Indiana, was solved by back dating his application for muster. See "Muster-In Roll of One Officer Co. 'E' 70th Indiana Vol. Inf. December 2d 1863," Cox Papers. The Indiana adjutant general's report officially lists Cox as having been commissioned second lieutenant on June 17, 1863, and his having been mustered on July 1, 1863. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 643.

<sup>70</sup> After Cox was discharged from the service and returned to Indianapolis following the war, he married a Hulda Jones. Whether this is the same Miss Jones to which he here refers is unknown. Cox may have been trying to spell the German word *ausgespielt*, which means in general "the game is up" or "it's all over with me."

speech at Ind'polis, rather interesting I thought. The 25 millions is all the talk in the Regt.<sup>71</sup>

Katie! please ask Father to go to Mr Davis' shoe shop and get a pair Boots I ordered made some time ago. he has two sons in my Co who took my measure and sent it to him. his shop is on Washington St between East and New Jersey above Littles Hotel.<sup>72</sup> Please see that the boots are sent me immediately by express I am almost barefooted. also send me that Military coat of Franks, the one I wore while home, and 2 or 3 pair socks. (cotton)

Nothing new I believe. Write often. all well with much love to folks I am

your affect bro  
Charlie

Nashville Tennessee  
Oct 30th 1863

My dear Sister!

Not being in camp for near two weeks long enough to snatch a minute to write you, until to day—you will excuse my silence. This is a gloomy day in camp, raining "pitchforks" and our tent being rather aged and worn it does not afford much shelter against the storm, making it necessary for me to perform a *flank movement* around my table occasionally to get a dry spot to write on. I am continually on the lookout for a letter from you and expect before this hardly gets dry yours will come to hand. It has been two weeks since Ma's last was received. I shall write her again today. She told me her secret do you know it yet, if not I shall not tell you, you will learn it soon enough.

Your visitors have doubtless come & gone. What progress do you make at being "Chief Cook" at No 43 S Meridian St. [Indianapolis] I wish I were one of your guests, I am going try "obtain leave" before many months. From what I learn Indianapolis is to be quite "gay"

<sup>71</sup> Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase delivered a speech in Indianapolis on October 14, 1863. He stated in his address that he had secured permission from President Lincoln to return to his home state of Ohio to vote in the gubernatorial elections and that he had "just laid away twenty five million dollars to pay the soldiers on the first of November . . ." *Indianapolis Daily Journal*, October 15, 1863.

<sup>72</sup> According to the Indiana adjutant general's report a John W. and a Thomas R. Davies served in Company E of the Seventieth Indiana. John deserted in November, 1862; Thomas was mustered out with the regiment in June, 1865. No Davises are listed. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, VI, 126. James Davis was a boot and shoemaker whose business was located at 187 East Washington Street in Indianapolis. Littles' Hotel, A. R. Hyde, proprietor, was advertised as being on the southeast corner of Washington and New Jersey streets. *Hawes' Indiana State Gazetteer*, 134, 144, 147.

this winter. I shall miss all the fun, but will make it up "when this cruel war is over". Katie! I wrote you some 10 days ago, "To tell Father to get me the pair boots I ordered made by Mr Davis East Wash St Ind'polis near Littles Hotel. did you get the letter. I also wanted you to send me several pair socks, and Frank's old Blouse Coat (Military) I used to wear while home. I am very much in need of the Boots, please have them sent as soon as possible.

The 70th has drawn new tents for the enlisted men, ie "Bell Tents" 8 to a Co, making a very neat camp. The Officers will draw new tents in a short time.<sup>73</sup>

Any news from the State House. Katie! write me oftener than you do. Send me your "Photograph", I want it very much.

My health is still good.

With much love I am

Affect.

Charlie

Camp 70th Regt Ind Vol Infantry  
Nashville Tenn Dec 10th A.D. 1863.

My dear Sister;

Both letters of yours and Ma's written the 7th inst came to hand by this mornings mail. Not half an hour after I had written to Ma on Sunday last, I was taken sick with fever, and sore throat and I have been confined to my tent ever since. My fever has entirely disappeared, but my throat is still quite sore though rapidly improveing. It has been with the utmost difficulty that I could swallow the least particle of food and my appetite is greatly increasing as my throat gets better.

While writing this Maj Gen Hunter is making a tour of Inspection through our camp,<sup>74</sup> about all we do now days in camp is preparing for Reviews, Inspections &c. Keeping the boys continually cleaning their guns, policeing quarters, streets &c and cleaning up their clothes. It is a good thing to make the men keep them selves and clothes clean and neat and the camp in good order, but "too much of a good thing becomes a bore" so with the 70th. It has required some labour but our Regt is now in better condition than ever before.

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<sup>73</sup> Cox is probably referring to a Sibley tent, a bell shaped structure supported by a center pole which rested on a tripod. This type tent, equipped with a stove, the pipe of which passed through an opening in the apex, was designed for the accommodation of approximately one dozen men, but it frequently housed twenty or more. The men arranged themselves for sleeping in the manner of wheel spokes, with feet at the center and heads near the circumference. Wiley, *Life of Billy Yank*, 55.

<sup>74</sup> After varied service during the early years of the Civil War, Major General David Hunter served on a number of military boards and commissions during 1863

Rumours are prevalent throughout our Brigade that we are to be ordered to Texas. We are all eager for the move and are willing to make any change, as we have seen enough of Nashville to last us during the war. Still we are not tired of it and only desire a change.

I have not seen Mrs Col Harrison yet as my sickness has prevented my calling.

I am glad you thought those phot[o]s good. Tell Ma I will send her *two* more in a few days, as I have ordered more to be taken.

The weather here has taken a change and it is quite mild this week. Every third day it rains and the other two it is clear and pleasant. I am well supplied with overcoats and clothing and only need a couple *white* shirts should we remain here this winter.

The *fair* at Cincinnati is to be a grand affair from what I read of it, and the proceeds should reach at least \$100,000, unless they want to be beaten by Chicago.<sup>75</sup> I generally keep posted in Cin'ti affairs as we take the Daily Gazette at "our house", we receive it the day after publication.

I have nothing strange to write to day. No news of any importance. I have no idea of another trip home until the close of the war as furlough's are "played out". I will write you at length when I get over my sick spell and try make my letter interesting.

My Regards to Frank and all the folks.

Your affect brother  
Charlie.

Camp 70th Indiana Infty Vols  
Nashville Tenn  
December 12th A.D 1863.

My dear Ma!

I was somewhat surprised on yesterday when I received by mail an "Express Receipt" for a box, which box has arrived only this evening all safe and sound. Many thanks to you all for remembering my Nineteenth birth-day by so acceptable a present. The Duck, quails and cake have already been devoured by my mess, with the greatest grace, and ease and the *Turkey* (a *Monster* by the way) has been reserved for Dinner tomorrow. I am now in a new mess consisting of Capt Cuning, Dr Fitzgerald, Lts Hardenbrook, Colestock

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and until he assumed command of the Department of West Virginia in 1864. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 418-19.

<sup>75</sup> Citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted the Great Western Sanitary Fair from December 21, 1863, through approximately January 5, 1864. Proceeds from the bazaars, auctions, donations, entertainment, etc., were to be used for the relief and supplying of soldiers. Earlier in 1863 Chicago had grossed approximately \$75,000 at a similar sanitary fair. Cincinnati collected more than \$100,000. Cincinnati *Daily Gazette*, December, 1863-January, 1864.

and myself.<sup>76</sup> We have very fine eating (for the army) and plenty of it, though not so nice as to be had at home and are becoming quite aristocratic as we eat from *China* dishes, a rarity in the Service.

To-day is a miserable disagreeable rainy day and we are all confined to our tents, the camp very gloomy as is always the case on a rainy day. It is now 5½ P.M. and quite dark. Ed is out on Picket and Capt down in the company quarters playing chequers with the boys, I am alone in our tent, with a bright fire, writing at our desk, by the light of a star candle,<sup>77</sup> and to tell all with a *cigar* in my mouth, to keep me company while I am writing to those I should like to be with, instead of here, still I am not *homesick* and only prefer the enjoyments of home rather than the army.

Our hero Maj Gen Grant is in the city at present and will remain several days. I have not had the honor of seeing the gentleman yet but will on Monday next as he reviews the troops at this post on that day, making the third review the 70th has participated in during one week.

You are doubtless aware through Katie's letter that I *have* been on the "Sick list" with fever but now have fully recovered and able for my *rations*. It is a nice thing for one to have his "big caz" a Surgeon in the Regt, for Dr F bestows extra attention to me when complaining.

A large collection of small "Haversacks" containing Thread, pins, Sewing Apparatus, Religious tracts &c were sent by the young ladies and little girls of Ind'polis to Chaplain Allen for distribution to the soldiers of the Regt, each bag contained a letter and some a photograph of the sender. I have seen several familiar faces and one sent to the Company was of Miss Sallie Hubbard. The bag which I recd contained a letter, with an earnest appeal for the *dear soldier* whose receives it, to answer, not a very nice way to obtain correspondents but I think I shall answer, as I am well acquainted with her, and she had I am sure no idea it would fall into my hands.

I hear from Grand Cox occasionally, from the way he talks it appears he is the greatest *business* man in Indianapolis and has to "steal time to attend to his correspondents. I wrote to Mary Stretcher some months ago (at her request) and have never recd an answer. I am not at all anxious to hear from her, but when you see her please ask her the reason she did not answer.

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<sup>76</sup> Cox refers to Captain Ambrose D. Cuning of Bloomington, who served in Company H of the Seventieth Indiana; Assistant Surgeon Jenkins A. Fitzgerald, Cox' cousin; First Lieutenant Edward B. Colestock of Indianapolis, Company E; and First Lieutenant William Hardenbrook, Indianapolis, Company H. Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General*, II, 644, 643, 640.

<sup>77</sup> A star candle was made of stearine and was originally used for measuring luminous intensity. Mitford M. Mathews, ed., *Dictionary of Americanisms on Historical Principles* (2 vols., Chicago, 1951), II, 1638.

There's still great talk of us going to Texas, amongst the enlisted men, but I am afraid it will play out and we remain here during the war.

No news to write. My love to all the folks and write often, let me hear a little about the Foundry.

I am with much love.

Affect  
Charlie.