



### JOHN B COREY LETTERS

These letters were written to Hannah (Burhyte) Corey from her husband John during the fall and early winter of 1862. They were found in the home of Andrew Corey, his son, at 8345 13th NW, Seattle, WA about 1938 by Andrew's granddaughter May (Corey) Berglund. They were on the top shelf of the kitchen in a small oil stained cardboard box. May, who lived next door, took the oil covered letters and "rather foolishly" soaked them in cleaning solvent twice and let them air dry on the grass on the lawn in her back yard. The letters have remained in her possession since that time.

The history of the letters begins in Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin. Then they traveled west to Browns Valley, Minnesota, back to Fond Du Lac, on to Minneapolis, Minnesota and finally to Seattle, Washington. Andrew and his wife, Clara (Hitchcock) Corey lived first in the Fremont area, later in the Ross neighborhood at 3rd NW and 43rd and finally in the Crown Hill Area of Seattle.

The letters were transcribed by May's daughter, Joan (Berglund) Penewell, who kindly sent copies of the transcriptions to me. Comments have been added for clarity, or to identify individuals when their identity is known. These additions are shown in [brackets] to identify them. Most of the bracketed information explaining the Civil War was provided by cousin Phillip Colson. Of further interest, it should be noted that in 1998 the original letters were brought to Madison, Wisconsin from Seattle by May, her half-sister Marian, her cousin Barbara who is the daughter of May's sister Mildred, and her daughter, Joan. The original letters were then given to the Veteran's Museum in Madison for safekeeping and preservation.

In addition to adding bracketed comments, I have corrected a great deal of the spelling to make the letters more easily read. I tried to leave enough of the original spelling to keep

the flavor of the letters, while correcting words which were always misspelled, such as; rite for write, gard for guard, presant for present, etc. Some of the other misspellings, may actually have been misinterpretation of the script during transcription. Anyone using this information for any serious purpose should, of course, refer to the originals. This version was compiled by Ronald Whitney, December 1998.

The following note is from Phillip Colson to Ronald Whitney. His Caroline (Corey) Allen and my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother, Lucretia (Corey) Davis are both sisters of John:

Some background on JOHN BURHYTE COREY. John, a son of my 3rd great grandparents, William Harris and Katherine (Burhyte) Corey and the brother of my 2nd great grandmother, Caroline (Corey) Allen, was born about 1826 in New York State. In the late 1840s the Corey family moved to Fond Du Lac Co., WI. According to service records of John, found in the National Archives, on 14 August 1862, at Fond Du Lac, he enlisted as a Private in Captain Alexander White's Company A of the 21st Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

FROM: COMPENDIUM OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION, P. 1682.

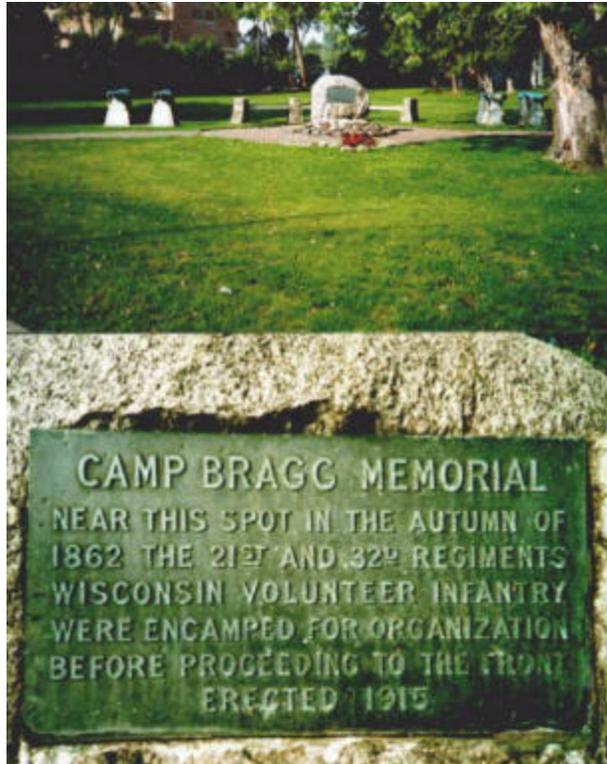
#### 21st REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Oshkosh, Wis., and mustered in September 5, 1862. Left State for Cincinnati, Ohio, September 11, thence to Covington, Ky., and to Louisville, Ky., September 15. Duty in the fortification of Louisville September 18-October 1. Attached to 28th Brigade, 3rd Division. Army of the Ohio, September, 1862. 28th Brigade, 3rd Division, 1st Army Corps, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Centre 14th Army Corps. Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863.

SERVICE.-Pursuit of Bragg to Crab Orchard, Ky., October 1-16, 1862. Battle of Perryville, Ky., October 8. Guard duty at Mitchellsville till December 7. Moved to Nashville, Tenn., and duty there till December 26. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Jefferson December 30. Battle of Stone's River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863.

From John's service record found in the National Archives, we find that six days after his last letter was written, on 30 December 1862 he was captured by Confederate forces and sent to Richmond, Virginia where on 16 January he was admitted to the C.S.M. Prison hospital. JOHN BURHYTE COREY died there, 03 February 1863.

The Regiment lost during service 5 Officers and 117 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 180 Enlisted men by disease. Total 305.



---

## THE LETTERS

Camp Bragg Sept the 8 1862

Dear Hannah

I have arrived in camp and ate a piece of bread & butter for my supper and feel some better than I did for I were very hungry after I came in camp I learned that the 21 Reg was ordered to march on thursday next at 4 o'clock since that I have learned that the adjutant says we cannot go until Saturday or Sunday. How that is I will find out in the morning I have received 30 Dollars Bounty & 13 dollars pay this evening and I shall send you all but ten dollars you had better keep the remainder of the Green Backs for Government Bill and let the Wisconsin Bill go first you had better make all calculating in (commy?) Wednesday morning. Hannah I last nite wrote for you to make your preparations to come, but this morning the Captain tells me that we will start tomorrow in the afternoon at 4 o'clock so you cannot come. Those shirts you can keep and if you have a chance to send them to me do so or it may be that we shall stop in Fond du Lac long enough so that you can hand them to me there, but that is uncertain we are ordered to Cincinnati Ohio.

Hannah keep up good courage and hope for the best. I believe we shall live to enjoy a good many years together yet after this rebellion is put down. I served out the butter to all of the company this morning and shall have enough to give them all 2 more.

The company gave 3 rousing cheers for you for the butter. I may not have a chance to write again while we stay here but I will write as soon as we get in our new camp try and urge John to take my place (farm?) if you can that is if he thinks he can make any thing by doing so. I do not want him to do any thing for me that will be any damage to him if he does not take it do the best you can. Nothing more at present

Good By be a soldiers wife in ever respect not in name only but in action and I will try to conduct myself in such a manner that you shall never be ashamed to acknowledge me as your companion and if I fall that you shall be proud of the sacrifice you now make for Liberty.

John B Corey Hannah tell Andrew to be a good boy and try to learn to write so that he can write me a letter.

JBC

Sunday Morning Sept 14/62

Dear Hannah I have just bin relieved from gard duty for a short time and shall improve the time in writing a few lines to you. We were in Cincinnati yesterday at 10 o'clock and stayed till 12. When we was marched up to Market St. and received a dinner from the city. We then formed in companies and marched over to Covington, Kentucky and passed about a mile from the city and camped without our tents I was detailed for guard duty and have just been discharged and as I am now at liberty to do what I please I will write a few lines to you. We are all well as usual and we are enjoying ourselves as well as soldiers can under the circumstances. We have got our guns and they look like a good gun & I think if they give us a little chance to drill we can give a good account of ourselves when we meet the enemy. Our force is estimated here at 75 to 80 thousand men. So you see we are strong enough to whip somebody if that somebody can be found but the Rebbs left the day before we came. Our forces is spred over 10 miles of ground. I saw the twenty 4 pass our camp this morning and one regiment from Missouri one from Mishigan and two from Illinois. They have gone on ahead and we shall move tomorrow I think but where I do not know. I shall write again as soon as we get settled in our quarters. You can write to me and direct your letters to Cincinnati, Ohio to the 21st Reg Co A Wis Vol. in care of Capt White and I will get them. To day has been a very warm day I think as warm as any we have had in Wisconsin this Summer and we are in between two mountains and no shade trees and it comes rather hard for some of the boys. I took some Cayanne Pepper this morning and I have not felt the heat as much as some other have. I shall send a couple of letter maps to Andrew in the same mail with this  
Goodbye for the present, John B Corey

Sept 15/62

Dear Hannah This afternoon I thought that I would write a few more lines to you from our new camp. We moved here today about 1 o'clock We are encamped on the East bank of the Licking River about 6 ? miles from Covington You look on the map and you can see where we are. There is a number of regiments in sight and we have 2 batteries of

artillery encamped right by. We are strong enough now to defy any thing the Rebels can bring. We have enough of everything but water and that is.....?

I hope we shall not stay her long for it is very warm and the poorest water I ever seen used by any person before.i had my ..fever powder and r reg.... ..... ever morning and I stand .....Will write more.....

Goodbye for the present

John B Corey

Camp Solomon Kentucky, Sept 16

Dear Hannah, this morning I have a chance of sending my letter to the post office so I thought I would write a few more lines. P A is a writing TL Patterson is on gard. We slept under some brush last night and had a good nights rest. I send in this letter a pack of wild peas that I picked on the banks of the Licking River We are all in good spirits I want you to write and let me know if John takes the farm if he doesn't you must do the best you can John.

---

Corinth Sept 22nd 1862

Dear Sister Hannah [This letter appears to be from William C. Corey, brother of her husband]

I will try and write you a few words now as I have time I ? there is nothing certain in this world, I have found it so, since I went for a soldier I am well with the exception of a cold which is getting better now. I have been out in a march of five days since I came into camp it made me a little sore but I got through with it as well as any of the boys. Some of them had to fall out and come back home. We did not have to carry our knapsack but we had a good load, enough for me at all event. We had our guns cantines, haversack, blanket, cartridge box with 100 rounds of cartridge and when one has that load to carry five days he is willing to own he has enough. We are very pleasantly situated here. We are encamped in a splendid grove, and on a high piece of ground. I am now enjoying the benefit of one of Chipippie? grand old oaks. Through some of the country we passed through on our march was splendid, the timber was oak pine Chestnut it looked like York State to me, the trees were loaded with nuts but they were not ripe but we found plenty of fruit the was and we enjoyed it hugely for when we came to a peach orchard the major would let us go slow & he would send some to knock them off & we would naturally pick them up. it made some of those old sesh? look sorry. they would sit in their doors and we would go in the door yard & pick everything that was eatable. Our meat was obtained in the same way when we wanted any two or three men were detailed to go and get it and they would into their pastures and select the best cattle they could find and drive them off. They would go into their pens and take out a hog and kill & skin him and one place we found a fine flock of sheep in the yard the boys went in and selected the best & took them along. The man stood and looked on but said not a word. I tell you Hannah it looked hard but it is fair I suppose. I will send in this a script [confederate money?] which I got from a dead Rebel for you to give to Lizze [his sister Elizabeth] I wrote to her and forgot to put it in till I had sealed it up. You can show it to

the folks there, but don't lose it. I wrote the particulars to Lizzie she will tell you them and which will save me the writing over a second time. Tell ? Patterson when you see him I will write to him at the first opportunity I have again. Be is not much time here to play, I can tell you. Write to me and give me John's address so I can write to him. I want to write to JB [probably her brother, John Burhyte] tomorrow if I can get the time which will take me away from one morning ..?.. next. Excuse this short letter, and write soon and oblige your old soldier Brother

Will

[E. O. Hoffman, ROSTER OF FOND DU LAC COUNTY SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR; 1994, PG. 17, William C. Corey, Hospital Steward 18th Inf. Taycheedah. William C. Corey was married to Elizabeth (Crawford), the Lizzie mentioned in this letter. The Patterson listed I suspect would have been either Jacob Patterson, the husband of William's sister Katherine or a brother or father of Jacob.]

---

Louisville Ken Sept 24

Dear Hannah I received you letter of the 19th by todays mail and was very glad to hear that you was all well. I am well and so is the rest of the Lidg? boys. We have moved from the first place of encampment back to the west side of Louisville. We came in this camp yesterday in company with 7 other regiments. Since I sat down to write you the cavalry has commenced passing and they continue to pass the no (number) I do not know. I am unable to tell but I should think they would reach 2 or 3 miles. Hannah you can have no idea the amount of men we have here. The whole country is filled with men and horses for miles. I have got so accustomed to to see soldiers that I do not notice them as I did when I first came to the south? You have probably heard that we was a going to have a fight here in or near Louisville. I do not know but we will but I do not believe that we shall have a fight in this place unless we fight ourselves. I believe Bragg, the rebels general, knows to much to attack us in our present position and if there is we shall stand a poor chance of having a hand in the fun for there is men enough beyond us to eat up Bragg and his whole rebel hord. Every ...looks like fiting in this section. There is not other business but military. There streets, public roads, fields woods & houses are all filled with something that belongs to the army. But enough of this. I will now try and think of something else. Hannah as to the women you spoke of go with each company. That is the case but God forbid that any of my friends should ever be caught in such a place. The reasons you can wait for till I come back and then I will tell you. I want you to let me know if John takes the farm or not and write as soon as you can and so will I. I do not have a chance to write just when I am a mind to for I have to be ready at all times for duty. I work at the will of others. I have not missed a roll call yet and I do not mean to be behind in anything but do my duty promptly and willingly. Hannah keep up your courage. The day is not far distant when the Southern Confederacy will learn to live and we shall be permitted to return home in peace. Give my love to all, yours as ever John

Lewisville Sept 29, 1862

Dear Hannah I have just recvd 2 letters from you ritten the 21 & 23. I rote 2 letters yesterday 1 to you and one to father but as you requested nothing about who to let have the place I will rite a few lines and say that you can do you as you think best but I think that H Patterson [Henry patterson, a neighbor] would do as well as anyone you can get still you can act your pleasure. You had better sell the oxen if you can. As to the photograph I paid Tailor 2 dollars the day I was there with you. I will have one taken as soon as I can. If you like the one I got taken for mother you can see her and if she is willing you can keep that one & I will get one taken and give her. As to my liking camp life, I can say that I am not disappointed as far as the camp is concerned but I am very much disappointed in some of our officers. There names I will withhold for the present. I am very much disappointed to hear that John [Burhyte?] does not want to take the farm but he knows his own business best and you must do the best you can and do not harbor any false hopes that I will be home before the three years are up for we can not tell what may happen It is better for us to be disappointed in having the war come to a close sooner than have it otherwise. Hannah I must close this for the talk is we have got to move again this afternoon. So goodbye for this time.

Yours as ever

John B Corey

Perrysville Oct 10/62

Dear Hannah

I have just borrowed a piece of paper to write you a few lines before we march. I am as well as usual and came out of the battle all right we had a severe battle. Old soldiers that was in the battle of Pitsburgs Landing says that it was a harder battle than

Hannah must quit for the shttler is a going

John BC

To Hannah Corey

Oct 12 /62

One mile from Harrodsburg

Dear Hannah

As I have a little time this afternoon I thought I would write & let you know where I am and what I and the rest of the boys have been doing. We started from Louisville on the 1st day of Oct. 5 at 6 1/2 on our pursuit of the rebel General Bragg we traveled 17 miles that day and encamped for the night. We was all stiff and sore the next morning but still we stood the march better than the day before. Some of the boys fell out and stayed behind but they did their best and came up and joined their companies.. We passed through Taylorsville. The country we passed through the first days was very good but since we left our second camp we have seen no country that would compare with the but would compare very well with Potash Cittles(?) We encamped on the 7th 6 miles from

Bragg's army and could hear the cannon of our advance playing quite smart. We rose the next morning and started for the field which was 6 miles distant. Co A was distributed along the high knoll on each side of the road to watch for the rebel cavalry that was hanging around to make a descent on our trains but they kept a proper distance. When we got within one mile of the battleground we halted and we all thought that we would not have a chance to try our spirit. After we had rested a short time the word came for us to fall in and march toward the field. We all rose and started at a brisk pace till we got a short distance from our left flank and then we struck a double quick through the field and took our position in a cornfield not over 20 rods from the Rebels before we formed a line and the boys began to fall. The first man to fall was a young man by the name of Smith and he had a broken leg. I was ordered with 2 others to take him to the ambulance wagons.

He was rather large and a heavy load for us to carry but still we got him off and why we was not all killed I cannot see for the balls flew as thick as bees all around us both cannon and rifle. To say I was scared I cannot for I was not the least expected. But what I shall be in another battle I cannot say. The boys all stood well considering the chance they had and many a rebel bit-the-dust before they left the field The engagement lasted about 4 hours and we lost a great many men killed or wounded in our regiment. Lost in killed and died since the battle about 50. The number of our wounded I cannot tell for I do not know but judging by the appearance at the different hospitals I should think would reach a thousand. But the Rebels is the most degraded lot of men I ever heard of, they have left there dead all on the field and they will have to remain there for we have no time to bury them for we are after the rest of them Jacob Patterson is in the hospital. He and two others of our regiment were taken prisoner and paroled. We are now within 12 miles of Bragg and tomorrow if nothing happens we should find the rat again. We have a plenty of troops to whip him in any position.

I want you to sell those oxen for as much as you can get. I think that 70 dollars is not enough and if you can sell them for that and get the money it would be better than take it in work. You must do as you think. I agreed to pay Jacob 14 dollars a month for 20 months if I kept them. I received 2 letters last night from you but when I will get more I do not know. I want you to send me a few stamps in you next as I have none. My paper and everything is in my knapsack at Louisville. Nothing more this time

Yours as ever  
John B Corey

Camp 2 Miles From Crab  
Orchard Oct 16/62

Dear Hannah

I wrote you a letter a few days ago but as I have a little time to spare will write again. I am as well as usual and so is the rest of the boys that are with us. Jake is not with us now and I do not know where he is. We are still in pursuit of the Rebble army which is some 48 hours ahead of us. Our advance is up with there rear and doing all they can to

harass their retreat. We are started from Louisville the first of the month and have travelled every day since except the day after the Battle at Perrysville. We were too tired to do much so we stayed in camp. Or part of the regiment I did not stay with them for I could find plenty to do to wait on the wounded which lay in hundreds out of doors. There being no shelter to get them under and some of them lay on the field. I found five and carried water to them. Some of them from our Company and the rest from your regiment. The killed and wounded will reach about 100. You will probably hear all kind of reports but do not believe all you hear.

Hannah you wanted to know if you should pay that mortgage. this fall. I will say this if you can pay it and keep enough money to pay the taxes and get such things as you want then pay the mortgage. You must do as you think best for I do not know anything now but my duty here, especialy while we are the boys chasing after Bragg. We shall get to a stopping place one of these days and then I hope I can hear often from you but I must close for there is mail going to Louisville

Yours as ever John B Corey

[Major General Braxton Bragg, CSA. In the late summer of 1862, Bragg invaded Kentucky, but a superior Federal army forced him back to Tennessee following the standoff at the Battle of Perryville. On 31 Dec. 1862 and 2 Jan. 1863 he attacked Maj. Gen William S. Rosecrans' army at Stone's River and after early success, was heavily defeated.]

In Camp 5 miles west of Lebanon  
Oct the 22 1862

Dear Hannah,

I have just borrowed a drum and pen and now I set by the side of an old stump for the purpose of scribbling a few lines to you. We arrived in this camp last night at 9 o'clock a tired and worn out set of men. You will see by looking at a new map that we have changed the direction of our march and are now some 50 miles from Louisville and are near a railroad. We are encamped on a stream called the Rolling Fork. How long we will stay here I cannot say but there have been some talk of our staying her 3 or 4 weeks. If I knew we would I would have you send me my boots and some other things that I need very much. But I will wait a short time and see what turns up before I send for anything. I think if the army is moved from here in a day or two I shall not go with it for I have been unwell for some time and have not been able to march for 3 days past. But I am in hopes that I will get well in the course of a few days so that I can do my duty again with the rest of the company. Our company now numbers about 25 or 30 men that is able to march and do duty. So you see that we have been hindered some by sickness as well as by fighting. Henry Hubble died a few days ago of his wound that he received in the Battle of Perrysville. He is a second son of old Mr Place Sherwood of Fond du Lac. He died 2 days ago after the battle. There is only 2 divisions of Buell's army here. The rest have gone after Bragg or somebody else. The 2 divisions that are here are Rousseau's and Fry's. We

are in hope of getting our tents and knapsacks before we leave this place. If we do we will be a little more comfortable than we have been for 28 days past. I have had no blanket or overcoat since the battle except for 2 or 3 nights past and we have had 2 very heavy frosts but no rain of any amount since we came in Kentucky. So the shower you spoke of in your letter on 10 did not reach us here. You wanted to know the number of letters that I have rote this is the 10th I believe but the number that I have received from you I cannot tell you now for I have a a number of them all so wet to pieces in my pocket but I have got the day I received each letter set down in my memorandum and when I have time I will look it over and let you know. The 2 last ones I received was no. 9 & 10 and I received them the 20th so you see it takes some time to get news either way.

Hannah I want you should act your pleasure about taking those things of Lilly but I would not contract any money debts or no more than you can help at the present if you can pay for them in board I think I would take them. As to that money you got of Sarah B\_\_\_\_\_ I had as leave owe her as anyone and that is all right. I want you to go to the office of the Reporter and pay him a dollar for this year and tell him to stop the paper when this year is up unless you want it or I get back. There is one thing more you have not said anything about the cattle. I would like to know if you have sold any or if there is any prospect of selling this fall for if the big stock of hay stands in the water you will not have enough to winter many and what you sell aught to sell before it gets cold weather for then they cannot be sold. The old oxen if you cannot do any better sell them for beef for they must be in good order by this time if the feed is good yet. Sell on a years time or any other way only make the pay sure. Tell Kate [Katherine (Corey) Patterson, his sister] that I do not know where Jake is for I have not heard from him since he returned with his parole papers from the Rebbles. I thought he would write to me but he has not yet. You wrote about my money. I have 3 dollars yet in my pocket and one dollar Liht(?) but it does not do me any good at present for I cannot get any change. I have no stamps and I would like for you to send me one or two when you write. Do not send many at a time for I cannot keep them. Have not heard from JT Burhyte nor H Patterson. I wrote them both. When I send after my boots I want you to put me up a little tea and take one or two of the preserve cans and fill them with butter and send me. I have not tasted any butter but once since I left home. Now you will have to excuse me for this time for I am not feeling very well.

Goodbye,

Yours as ever JB Corey

I want you to let me know if you received those things I sent to Fond du Lac. I have a silver spoon I got on the battlefield. I intend to send it as soon as I can.

[Jacob Patterson was taken prisoner at Chaplain Hills (Perryville) then paroled. He was again taken prisoner at Chicamauga. He died September 12, 1864 in Andersonville Prison, Georgia.]

10/2

Dear Hannah we left our old camp yesterday morning at 8 But ..... J T? Pannot (?)  
..say we marched 20 miles and a sorrier lot of men would be hard to find than we are this morning I received 2 letters from you on the 30 of Sept and intended to answer them yesterday, but orders came for us to march and so I was deprived of the privilege but as we came to a halt long enough I will write you again that is if our knapsacks comes so I can use my paper I have nothing but my memorandum book to write in this morning please write often .... direct as before till further orders Good by Hannah be of good cheer all is well at present

Lebanon Oct 27th 1862.

Dear Hannah

This morning I shall again attempt to pen a few lines to you from our present camp although there is no news of importance to write yet it may be I can think of something that will interest you. In you last letter you wrote that you was fearful we were marching to another battle. Such I think is not the case for we do not know as there is an enemy in Kentucky that dare to stand and fight us again. You perhaps have a great dread of having me go into another fight. I am happy to say that such is not my feeling. Before I went into the Battle at Perysville I did not know the affect it would have on me and I am astonished when I think how little I was excited and what a different effect the dead and dying had over my feelings from what I expected. But it seems that such is the effect of war on the most of those that take and active part in it. But perhaps an other battle would have a different affect on me as well as others These things we have to learn by experience. I for one am willing to take my part of the experience and learn as much of my own self as I can for the more I do then will I know of my own nature. Hannah I am still on the sick list but am with my company. I do not think I shall go to the Hospital unless we are ordered to march if such is the case. I shall have to go and stay in the hospital till I am able to follow my regiment. I am taking very little medicine at present. My disease the the Blind Pilis? and a very bad cold for 4 nights. I have coughed so that I have not been able to sleep but I am taking Bone set (?) and Cayenne Pepper and am in hopes that I will be able to do my duty again. Hannah since I commenced writing the doctor has come for a visit of those that are not able to march. So I think the army will move in the morning. If it does and I remain behind I will write you again in a couple of days. I received 5 letters from you since we came here and one from Jacob Patterson, his was at Columbus Ohio. The weather is quite cold here at present. Night before last it snowed all night and we was rather all uncomfortable for we had no tents nor overcoats with us. I borrowed a blanket and set by the fire pretty much all of the night. The snow fell about 4 or 5 inches during the night. Last night it froze quite hard and to say it is pleasant but rather cool. Hannah I will start a silver spoon by mail that I picked up on the battleground. If it comes through safe I would not take 10 dollars for it. Take it and keep it to remember the Battle of Perysville. If you get a chance to send me my boots I want you should send them to me for I shall need them very much if it gets wet and muddy. I

have written a letter to A Burhyte but have had no answer from him not write I do not know. John has not wrote me an answer to the letter I wrote him yet. As to Johns getting married I think he is wise in doing so. Hannah rite as often as you can and I will do the same.

Yours as ever  
J B Corey

Tell Andrew to be a good boy and learn as fast as he can so as to write me a letter.

John

Camp new Bowling Green Nov 3/62

Dear Hannah

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know where I am and what I am a doing I am with the army 4 miles East of Bowling Green on the Little Barn River The finest stream of water that I have seen in Kentucky The water is clear & cold and above all it is a running stream. We got in our present camp on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. How long we will stay here I cannot say but I think not long for there is some of the army leaving every day. I think our destination is Nashville Tenn. My health is not very good yet. Last night I had another turn of the cramps collic. This is the second time I have had it. The doctor put a mustard poltice on the pit of my stomach and a dose of hot draps ? and an of camphor this morning. I am a little better, so that I am about again. We have lost our head doctor. He was well at night and the next morning he was a corpse. They started his corpse to Fond du Lac this morning. He died night before last. I want you to send me 2 dollars in 50 cents bills government money if you can get it for Wisconsin money is not good here and other money is hard to get changed. Change is very dear. I will not write any more now for I expect to get my mail soon and then shall write you again Yours as  
John B Corey

Mitchelsvile Nov 5 1862

Dear Hannah as I have just returned from Brigade guard duty and did not get a letter last night I will write a short letter to you again. I am very anxious to hear from you to know if you have sent that box to me and if so how it was directed for I do not know how long we will stay here and I am in great need of my boots and gloves. If we should leave before I get them I do not know when I could or would get them. If you have not sent them do so as soon as possible and send them to Mitchelsvile Station, Tenn. via Louisville, Kentucky and have Patch mark the box for you. There was one of our boys from Byron recieved a box last night with bread, butter and cake and other fine things that we do not see here in camp unless we pay 4 times the value of it in money. Butter is 40 cents per pound and very little at that. Eggs is 30 to 40 cents a dozen. Every thing is clear beyond

the reach of the common soldier, but officers with counterfeit [Confederate ?] money can afford to buy those things and live high. I cannot see the reason your letters do not come to me here as well as they did when I was on the march. I have not received one in a number of days and that was written the 10th and mailed the the 17th number was 22. Since that Mars has got his mail regular and so has Hoskin and the rest of the boys. I do not blame you dear Hannay for I know you write but there is someone to blame and I want you should see that the letters you put in the office is sent right out so as not to have them lay over there in the office 7 days before they are sent for that makes some difference in my getting them here. I ought to get a letter in 4 days now for I am right on a railroad communication from this place to Fond du Lac. But I must close, my health is some better at present.

Good by from your old soldier

John B Corey

Camp near Bowling Green Nov 6 1862

Dear Hannah

I wrote you yesterday but as I received 3 letters from you and one from Milo today I have seated, or rather, layed my self down on my elbow to write in answer to those I received. Dearest Hannah you think you have a hard time of it at home, now I will tell you something that I have said nothing about yet to you or anyone else and this I write for you, but not for everyone. When we left Oshkosh I thought we would be treated like men, but I was mistaken. Since we left Louisville we have endured every thing but death, and a good many have endured that. We have been forced to live on bacon and hard crackers and part of the time not enough of that 'til our regiment is keeled over and is half its number. Company A, our company, has only 13 men now fit for duty in the ranks. We started from Oshkosh with seventy 5 men. Now Hannah you can see the affects of hard treatment. I have not been able to do anything since the 12th of Oct., but have managed to keep out of the Hospitals and am still with my company. I have had a very sore throat for some 10 days. How long I shall remain with the company I cannot say, but I shall not go in the Hospital unless I am obliged to for the good treat ment that Bryford? tell off they do not get. We are very comfortable where we are now and I am in hopes that I shall be able to do my duty again in the course of a week or 10 days. I am troubled now with my stomach and a pain under my shoulder blade. When I get home I will tell you things, Dear Hannah, that you little thought of when I enlisted. But for all of the bad treatment I have received, I would not accept a discharge if they would give it to me unless I was convinced that I would not be of any more service to my country. But, if I could get a furlow for 3 or 4 weeks I would come home, but I supose I could not get a furlow if I should try & I shall look at the brightest side and endure the privations. Hannah you wanted to know if P A run. I do not wish to say any thing. When I come home then I will tell you all. Hannah you nead not send me any more paper or envelopes for I have got my knapsack and now I have plenty of paper but no stamps. Hannah I want you to have John write to Brwon[?] about that mortgage. If he will if not, get Prust? to do

it as soon as possible. He must take the money that is in circulation, otherwise he must wait 'til I get ready to pay him. You rote that John thought you would not have hay enough to winter the cattle. You have not written to me anything about the oxen. I thought that they could be sold for beef if nothing else for they have had nothing to do and ought to be in good order. Please let me know all about everything and if Milo wants them 3 year olds let him have them. You will find the amount of money I owe him in my book, and the amount John owes him and his father too. I shall write you again in a day or two and then perhaps I can write a little better. I think this will bother you for some time to get it studied out.

Good By Dear Hannah for this time and I will try and write as often as I can  
John

Bowling Green Nov the 8/62

Dear Hannah I received yours & Andrews miniatures yesterday or rather last night and a letter with them I was very happy to see yours and Andrews faces even in so small a compass. I wish I could see you as you are at home but that cannot be for the present & so we must submit to our lot and trust in Providence for our reunion. I have run to the City of Bowling Green this forenoon and have just returned. My health is some better today I have got my stomach and side all drawed to poltice with mustard and am very sore, but I can stand anything but that deathly feeling at the pit of my stomach. I have a very bad cough yet when I lay down, but when I am up I do not cough as much I want you to send me the recipe for those cough drops that I made of molasses you will find it in my account book if the other book is gone and send me in some of your letters some Golden Seal you can send a little in a letter. Hannah, I rote to have you send my boots. If you have not sent them I wish you would as soon as you can. There is a man from the 21<sup>st</sup> by the name of Tim Strong of Fond Du Lac If you could see him you could send a box by him, if not send it to Bowling Green by Express you will have to pay the expenses for I have no money at present I have drawn 2 more shirts and now I wear 2 which makes me a little more comfortable You must send them things in care of Capt. White and direct them to the 21 Reg it may be that we will not stay here long enough for me to get them here but I will have to risk them for I will soon be barfoot if I do not get the boots for I have worn the soles off of my shoes and I will not take any more such trash Dwaun ? Mars is our cook. Now how long he will cook I do not know. I want you to give me William's address so I can write him. The weather is very pleasant here yet although some days it is cold and disagreeable yet we can stand a few days cold when we have the rest of the time pleasant. Our orderly has just been in my tent and he says that we will leave here on monday next but how true the report is I cannot say. Hannah you may hold on and not send me any thing unless you send them by somebody that is coming to the Regiment for I cannot afford to lose anything now for I shall lose enough without running any more risks. I would like to have my boots and gloves but I would rather they would be at home than lose them by sending them to me. This is the 3rd letter I have wrote you this week so I will quit.

Kiss Andrew for me and tell him to be a Good Boy I will write again before we leave unless we have orders so sudden that I cannot.  
Yours as ever John B Corey

Camp 4 miles south of Bowling Green Nov the 9 1862

Dear Hannah

In my letter of yesterday I promised to write you if I had time again before I left this place and so I shall leave to do so now for I have but a short time to do it in this morning. we received orders to pack up and be ready to march by 11 o'clock, 4 miles south of Bowling Green, so we got ready and left our old camp and marched to this place. After we got here we learned that we were not a going to stop here any longer than morning so you see that we are all in a bustle at present. I think we are going to Nashville, Tenn. but I do knot know. My health is better then it has been in 4 weeks. I think if I do not get any more cold I shall soon be as strong as ever. I wish you would send me a dram of tea ....? and a whiller? in your letters. There is a number of soldiers that is supplied in this way with tea from home. Send me stamps a few at a time but no more paper till I let you know I want it. I have enough at present. I will write you again on the way if I get a chance. It will take us 4 or 5 days to perform the journey. Excuse my haste. As to the number of letters that I have written I cannot tell at present. As soon as I get time to look over my book, I will let you know.

Good night Dear Hannah

John B Corey

Mitchelsville Tenn Nov the 11, 1862

Dear Hannah

As I am again in camp and expect to stay a few day I thought I would trouble you with a few more lines from the Army. We left our old camp at 11 o'clock on Sunday last and moved 8 miles as I wrote you on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We left our camp again the next morning & marched 2 1/2 miles south of Franklin which made 20 miles march yesterday and this morning we started again at half past 8, and marched 4 miles to Mitchelsville, Tennessee. We crossed the line about 10 o'clock to day and Hannah I can see the effects of the war a great deal more in this state than in Kentucky. If this is the way that the army is going to perform Lesash ? is bound to be played out in a short time. Today there was some Rebels found in the houses around here and they were taken out and 3 houses burned to the ground and fences ? they are hard to find dogs sheep & chickins is played out and if the army stays in this state this winter Government will have to support the inhabitants or they will starve to death for every thing that they can live on is destroyed or will be. We are now fairly in amongst the rebels. Their Guerillas are all around us but we are a strong force and [not] fearsome of them. I am getting well, or so that I begin to do some light duty and I hope that in a few days I shall be able to do my part of the duties of the camp. I think we shall go to Nashville in a few days but I do not know. We may stay here for some time and drill. Hannah we have got a man to command us now that we all

have to obey and that is Colonel H C Hobert. He is worth 4 of Sweet and is liked by all of the boys of the regiment and if we are ever called into battle again and have him to lead us we shall follow him without fear for he understands his buisness and looks to the interest of his men. Hannah I find that there is a great differance in having a man to command us that we all like or one that we all hate. Hannah I want you to let me know where Jake Patterson is, if you know, so that I can write to him and let me know how to direct so that I will get my letters. I wish I could have you send me my boots and gloves and such things as you intend to send me. There is a good many things that I want to make me comfortable this winter, but I cannot have them and must do the best I can. As long as the weather remains as it has been since we came in the south I can get along very well for we have had the finest weather I ever saw in my life for this time of year. All the fault I find is the dust in the road, and that is as bad to be in as the dust at the tail end of a thrashing machine. To day it was so thick that you could not see across the road. We have had no rain to wet the ground. 2 inches since we came south and that is just 2 months today since we left Oshkosh and in that 2 months Hannah we have passed through a great many hardships since that day. But we are able write yet, at least some of us. Mars is now laying by me and singing *I would not live always* and A Peck is laughing at him. CM Ford is trying to sing with him. But I must close for it is getting late and I must get to bed for I shall have to get up early tomorrow morning. So good night Dear Hannah for this time.

John B Corey

[Col. Harrison Hobart, of Chilton, Wis., assumed command of the 21st after the commander, Lt. Col. Benjamin Sweet ( also from Chilton) was wounded at the Battle of Perryville. Sweet went on to become commandant of the infamous Camp Douglas prison camp in Chicago which began taking prisoners from the Battle of Shiloh and eventually became a hellhole which experienced a 30% death rate--equal to Andersonville. Hobart himself was captured at Chickamauga and taken to Libby Prison was among the group of prisoners which escaped by tunneling out of the prison. He came back to resume command of the 21st and was eventually promoted to Brigadier after the Battle of Atlanta and remained with Sherman's forces and finished out the war with Sherman.]

Camp at Mitchelsville Station Tenn Nov 12 1862

Dear Hannah, as M Mars is writing this evening I thought I would write you a few lines and send it in his. A Peck and J C ford has written to have some things sent them and if they send a box you may send my boots and whatever you have to send me in the same box, if you have not sent them. I would like to have a can or two of butter sent if you have them, and those self sealers if you do not want to use them for any thing else. We have moved again 1 1/2 mi and are now guarding the railroad. How long we will stay here I do not know, but I think some time. We have a very pleasant place to camp and I think if nothing happens we shall have a pleasant time here. Although we have to go 2 miles after water, yet when we get it we have good water. Mars is cooking and PA Hoskins is driving mules and I am tinkering around not able to do much on account of my cough. Last night I did not sleep 2 hours for I coughed about all night. But, I think I shall

soon get rid of my cough for I have got the best kind of an appetite. Hannah I want you to buy me a good jackknife and have a hole put through the handle and send it to me by mail. I want a long blade and a double blade if you can get one without paying too much for it. You can do it up in some paper and seal it so that it will come safe. I will write you again in a short time.

So Goodnight

Yours as Ever John B Corey

[Peter A. Hoskins survived the war without record of mishap and was mustered out of service on June 8, 1865.]

Mitchelsville Nov 17

Dear Hannah I am again at liberty and am again in my tent with pen ink & paper to write a few more lines to you. I have just finished one to uncle Wm Crawford and now I will write to you. My health is not very good yet. Last night I had a mustard poultice put all over my breast for my cough, and this morning I feel some better. Night before last I was on picket some piece from camp. I was alone the better part of the night a 1/2 mile from anyone, but I had not to trouble me. Yesterday there was a horse shot by the rebels that belonged to one of the Generals Orderlys. He was on the horse at the time, but they did not get the man. Rousseau's Division has gone to Nashville and our Brigade is left here, so I think we shall stay here some time. But, we have not a very easy task to perform here for we have guard duty in 3 places and picket duty and drill and then to keep our camp cleaned up it keeps us all busy all of the time, but if we had all of our men cured and in the ranks it would make it much easier. There is about 18 or 20 men that is fit for duty in Co A and some of the others is reduced as low as our Co. But I am in hopes that the health of our regiment will improve by staying here for we live a little better. I have received the papers with tea in and I can tell you it is something that we all need a change of drink for I tell you Hannah when we have to be confined to coffee, and that of the poorest kind, and made half of the time of muddy waters. We here think that we all shall be at home in the spring. It may be that we shall be disappointed, but I hope not. I think that if our officers do their duty as well as the soldiers do there will not be rebels enough left in the spring to form a Confederate guard. Hannah, I should like to know the reason John does not write to me and Mars. I wrote to him and Andrew when I was Louisville and have not received a word from any one of them. But if they do not want to write they can do the other thing. I shall write to Mrs. Banning as soon as I can get time again and get some stamps. I shall get some of Mars to put on this and the other letters I have written to day. You will find in this a letter for Mrs. Mars. We intend to write together as often as we can for by doing so we can save a few stamps. I will now close Dear Hannah for this time Good by.

John B Corey

[Uncle Wm. Crawford, the father of John's brother William's wife Elizabeth. Wm. Crawford was the husband of Lucretia Caroline Burhyte, a sister of John's mother Katherine.]

Mitchelsville Tenn Nov 2 ? 1862

Dear Hannah I received a letter last night from you written Nov 4 and mailed the 17 which was 7 days after it was written and I tell you dear Hannah it was a welcome message although coming so late although I am sorry to hear that you are a worrying yourself so much for it is all folly you are at home and have a great responsibility resting upon you and if you give way to every fancied danger that you think will happen me I fear the day is not far distant when you will have to give up the trust that you have at home into others hands. Therefore Dearest Hannah, hang the dark side of the picture against the wall and let some but the brightest colors be decorating and when you write, write encouraging letters and I will do the same and when I come home I will tell you all about the soldiers life and then we will both sit down and cry over it if we cannot enjoy ourselves better some other way. I had a good cup of tea last night from some tea I received in a reporter [Fond du Lac newspaper] with the letter I got. I am not very well at present nor have not been since the battle as I have written to you before, yet I am with my company and shall remain with them as long as I am able to crawl, for I know I am better off here than in the Hospital. I have been where I could see some of the treatment to sick and wounded solders in those places and may God forbid that it shall ever be my lot to be put in those dens of death. I have done 2 days duty since I came to this camp and am now on light duty. I do not go on guard nor picket. I have got a very bad cough which troubles me very much nights but I think when I get that recipe that I wrote to you for I shall get better. Last night I had a very good time reading your letter and then the paper that you sent the tea in. I lay all alone in the tent not exactly alone for C M Ford was in the tent with me. He is not very well and this morning he and A. Peck was excused from duty this morning Co A no 24 men when they went on gard for duty. What Uncle Sam will do with the 21 I do not know for our number is small at present. We have lost 1 captain and 3 privates this week. Captain Jewet died at 11 o'clock last night. Hannah I wish I had a pair of gloves for some nights it is very cold although we have had no very bad weather yet, the ground is not froze any yet to speak of. If you do or have not sent my gloves you can send them by mail and mark them soldiers gloves. Some of the boys have got buckskin gloves sent them but anything will answer me. I want you should write and let me know when and where you sent my box, if you have sent it, and write often. Kiss Andrew and think of me. Yours as Ever John  
Hannah that bottle I sent for Andrew, but do not let him break it .

Mitchellsville Tenn Nov 30 1862

Dear Hannah I have just recieved a letter from you with some money & stamps & tea in it. I have just eaten my dinner. I took a 10 cent bill that you sent me and bought a paper

of black pepper and made me a pot pie of a little piece of pork and some biscuits I got yesterday. We drew flour, and Mars and me took our rations and got them baked in biscuits and paid for it in lard we saved from our Fedrl meet ?, and a better dinner I have not had in a long time. It made me think of some of the meals that I have eaten at home. I did not eat any breakfast this morning and you may But I was tollerable hungry But there is one trouble I cannot eat what I want. My appetite is good but I am troubled so much with the direah that I have got to be careful as I can. I have not been able to go on guard and picket but 4 times since we came to this place, but now I am helping Mars cook and I am in hopes that I shall get rugged again by having a little more rest and to being exposed to the rain and night air. We was mustered in today for our pay and expect to get our money now before long. If you see anything of J. Patterson tell him I wrote him a letter but received no answer. I want him to send me an order so that I can get that money of Edwards when he gets his pay. There is no news in camp of importance. We hear everything but believe nothing. Old Morgan is prowling around and every day or two we see our Cavalry come in with some of his men. I saw one the other day that I think I saw on the Battlefields at Perrysville. He took a saber bayonet away from me. He is a keen looking scamp. It rained a little today. The weather is as a general thing very pleasant but cold at night. The health of the regiments is improving we have lost 8 men since we came in this camp. They died with the lung fever. We live some better now. We have plenty of such thing as Uncle Sam gives his hired men. Hannah you need not send me any more tea in newspapers for I think that I will get it quicker in your letters than in the papers. I have had all the tea that I have wanted since you commenced sending it to me. I drink very little coffee for I think that it hurts me. Dear Hannah you want me to come home on a furlow I would like to come very much if I could get one, but that is almost impossible until a man has some one to intercede for him that has influence at headquarters. But hannah I think you need have not fears but what I were be to home in the spring for this war cannot last much longer. I wrote in one of my letter for you to send me some Golden Seal. I wish you would do so for I need something to regulate my stomach. Now I will close for this time. Good by Write often, as Ever yours.

John B Corey

Now a word to Andrew I want you to learn to write as soon as you can so as to write me a letter and let me know if you have learned to drum yet. Be a good boy and learn to read and help mama all you can and when I come home I will get you a nice present.

John

[Old Morgan, the legendary Colonel J.H. Morgan, CSA, Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Cavalry]

Dec the 1 1862

Dear Hannah This morning I thought I would write a few more lines to you for the mail does not go til 4 this afternoon. Last night we had the first thunderstorm we have had

since we left Wisconsin. It rained all night pretty much and as hard as I ever saw it. This morning it is cloudy and cool. I have heard that we are going to leave this camp in a day or 2 for Nashville. If we do, I shall not write again till we get there. It is 41 miles from here. I hope I shall get my boots before we leave for my shoes is very poor and I shall have to travel with wet feet this morning. I feel quite well. I have just finished washing my dishes whilst Mars took 50 cents of the money you sent me and he has gone to the bakery to buy some biscuits for our dinner. I do not eat any hard bread if I can get any thing else to eat for I think that they do me more hurt than good. I have had the dysentery pretty much all of the time for 6 weeks and have got it yet but I am in hopes by changing my diet I shall get rid of it. Sometimes I am quite sick and at others I can do considerable. I do not take but little medicine of the doctors I wish I could see Moll I believe I could get medicine of him that would cure it. I want you to let me know in your next letter if Patterson [probably Henry Patterson, a neighbor. Have been unable to determine his relationship to Jacob Patterson] has got all of the plowing done and how many hogs you killed. Write all about every thing. Good By for this time as ever you John

Mitchelsville Dec 2 1862

Dear Hannah

As Mars is writing to Jake and his wife I thought I would write a few lines too and send it in his. I am feeling quite well to day. I begin to feel same as I used to. I had biscuit and butter for my supper and I tell you I enjoyed it first rate for it is the first I have tasted in a great while. I have four some ? biscuit but no butter but tonight I took 25 cents and bought about 3/4 pound of butter & Mars and me had a meal. We have no orders to leave yet but expect them every day. Yet, we may stay here a month yet for what I know. We lost another man of our regiment to day. His name was Clark of Co. H. The health of our regiment is still improving. Hannah there is one thing that I never have mentioned in my letters to you and that is the death of Mr Millard. I think it was the doctors brother. He was from Oshkosh. I saw him after he was killed. He was hit by a shell or a cannon ball in the head and one half of his head carried away. Dear Hannah, I wish I knew the cause of my not getting you letters more regular, but I suppose I cannot so I will be contented and wait till they come. I want you to write and let me know everything you send me in that box. I must close now and write a few lines to Jake. John

Mitchellsville Station Tenn Dec the 6, 1862

Dear Hannah

I have just finished my dinner of beans. The first I have eaten in 3 or 4 weeks on account of my health but today I felt so well I ventured to eat a few for my dinner. My health is a great deal better than it has been in 5 or 6 weeks. How long it will last I do not know. I do not cough any to speak of now and my dysentery is about stopped. I am taking camphor & opium and it is the only thing that that does me any good. I received a letter from you this morning written the 2nd of Dec. You wrote

that you would send me in it 2 50 cent in bills. If you put them in the letter they was taken out for there was nothing but some tea and 2, 3 cent postage stamps.

Deah Hannah I was very thankful for the tea & stamps, for the tea I enjoy very much and the stamps gives me another opportunity to write to you. I do not get all of your letters there is 3 Buer ? that I have not got. C.M. Ford received one that informed us that our box of boots was on there way to dizey ? and we are looking for them. everytime the cars comes in. We need them very much for it is quite cold here now. It snowed yesterday all day and last night it was clear and cold. I was up and saw the Eclipse on the moon last night. You spoke in your letter about the way we fixes these hard crackers. Dear Hannah there is no way that crackers can be fixed that has not ben tried by the boys of this regiment. We have steamed them and fryed them and boiled them and pounded them and made pancakes of them, but when you have went through all of those different modes of fixing them to eat they are still hard crackers. They are like a skunk, you may wash and scrub him as much as you can but still he is a skunk and always will be. You wanted me to write a letter to Lizzy. Perhaps I had ought to do, so but as you and her are there together I thought that she could hear how I was and what I was doing and that is about all I could write to her. And another thing, I do not have a chance to write as often as I would like to for it is cold and to sit down in the cold and write a letter is pretty hard just now. If I stay in the army until warm weather comes again so that I can write outdoors I will then, if I live, write her a long letter. Tell her to write a few lines to me for I wrote a letter to William [Lizzies husband, William Colburn Corey who is serving in a hospital as what we now call a medic] a few days ago. A Peck says tell his tather that he is well and has written 2 or 3 letter home and has got no answer to any of them. I wrote a letter to Mrs. Banning some time ago, but have not got an answer yet. Hannah can you tell me the reason John does not write to me or Mars? I have not heard a word from him since I came in the army. I wrote him at Louisville in Sept., and so did Mars, but he has not wrote a word to either of us yet. Dear Hannah I think this will be the last letter I shall write you from this place for I think we will leave to morrow. The rumor in camp is that we are a going to Nashville as provost guard this winter, but how true it is I do not know. If Starweather is appointed provost marshal we shall go. If not, we will go to some other station. For my part, I have but little choice where we go, so as to help put and end to the war. I lost that letter with the recipe in it so you may set it down in some of your letters to me again. I do not want it now but still I may some other time. Give my love to all, but reserve a certain share for you self.

Good By for this time John B Corey

[Alpheus Peck was transferred to Veteran's Reserve Corps on May 1, 1864 because of illness. He was mustered out of service, June 8, 1865.]

Nashville Dec 11 1862

Dear Hannah

We have come to another halt and I just seated myself by the side of a cracker box at the roots of a large oak tree to write you another letter from the land of Dixy. We left our camp at Mitchellsville on Sunday last and arrived in the camp yesterday about 10 in the morning. We are encamped about 3 miles from the city on the pike that leads to Murfreesboro. The country we passed through on our way from Mitchellsville to Nashville was the best that I have seen since I came in the South, but there is a great amount of property destroyed which makes it look dreary and forsaken. Houses & out buildings fences & orchards are the biggest part of the destroyed by fire and the axe. There is some of the nicest country residences on the north side of the Cumberland River about 3 and 4 miles from the city that is left that I ever saw. But this side the country is more hilly and broken yet, it is a fine country and before the war broke out was a rich one. As to the city of Nashville I can say but little for we passed through without stopping. But those that have been in it say that it is a fine city. If we stay here any length of time I shall get a pass and go and see for myself. But how long we will stay here I do not know. We may stay all winter and we may not stay 2 days. The weather is very fine here now. There is no snow and the wind is in the south and the sky is as clear as crystal and the sun shines warm, so that I am writing by the side of a tree in the open air. On Tuesday I received 3 letters from you and one from Uncle Wm. Crawford. He sent me a roll of sticking salve for which I am very thankful. In one of your letters I received 2 stamps and in the other 3 and a dollar in change and yesterday morning I got 2 loafs of soft bread, so you see that I commenced spending it as soon as possible after I got it and today I sent 50 cents to the City by Watson Cook to get me some linament and gum of guacum. I have got the acute rheumatism again pretty bad. It is in my left side and shoulder. I am excused from duty on that account. I sent by Cook, likewise, to see if that box had got along yet. Oh Hannah how I hope it is there for I want to see the inside of it very much and taste some of your butter and I presume there is other things in it that I shall be glad to get hold of. I have just finished my dinner and now I will finish my letter. Our regiment has just left for picket duty and our camp looks rather lonesome. but I guess we can stand it for we will not have guard duty to do nor cooking & we can have our time to ourselves. If my health was good I should enjoy camp life as well as anyone, but these long nights is rather hard for me for I cannot sleep. Last night I was up all night and it was a long night to me. You wrote that you wanted I should let you know if I had formed any lady acquaintances so as to have any chats with them. I can tell you that I have formed no such acquaintance. When I enlisted, I enlisted to serve my country and not hunt for the enjoyments of ladies acquaintance. I am like Buell in that respect. Mr. Mars is very mad at Buell for he has heard that he was not treating his wife as he agreed to when he left. How it is I do not know. I want you to write me often for I am now where I can get your letters. When I was at Mitchellsville I was away from my division and then I did not get my letters as regular as I should, but now they will come to the division & I will get all you can write.

Good By Dear Hannah for this Time John B Corey

Camp Andy Johnson Tenn Dec 18 1862

Dear Hannah I have just finished my work and now I will try and write you a few lines and let you know how disappointed I was yesterday in not getting my boots and things in C M Fords Box. I thought all the time that you had sent my things with them in the same box but yesterday when they got the box I took an ax and opened it and pulled out 2 pair of boots for them and then removed the straw to get mine. But I did not find them nor any thing else. So you may know I was very much disappointed. I could of cried if it would of done any good for I need them so much, but I will wait till I can hear from you or get my things some other way. I heard that there was a box at Mitchellsville for me but when I shall get it I do not know. You wrote in one of your letters that you had sent me some medicine. I wish you would write and let me know how you sent it whether in a box or package so I can enquire at the express office for it. And let me know why you did not send my things with C.M.F & A.P there pcis ? were all spoiled they was put in a green box. All moulded but the other things came safe and in good condition. P.A , H, & Mars got their things a day or two ago so you see they are all ahead of me. But when I do get my box, if I have got one coming, I shall enjoy it probably as well as they do theirs. Frank Hoskins stayed with us last night. He is quite unwell and requested me to have you give his mother the recipe for the Cotorrh ? snuff and have her make some and send it to him by mail as soon as possible. I received a letter from you yesterday with my knife in it which was very unexpected for I thought you sent it in the box with my boots. But I can tell you Dear Hannah,I was very happily disappointed for I needed my knife very much. We are pretty much alone here in camp today for the whole brigade has gone out foraging and will be gone 2 or 3 days. The weather is very pleasant here. We do not have any snow nor frozen ground. The ground has not ben frozen more than 1 inch at a time this winter. It freezes nights and thaws out again in the day time. The nights is very cold for this country but for Wisconsin we would think nothing of such weather. But I have got to quit and get some dinner so good by Dear Hannah for this time and write as often as you can and let me know all about those things you sent me.  
From your disappointed soldier.

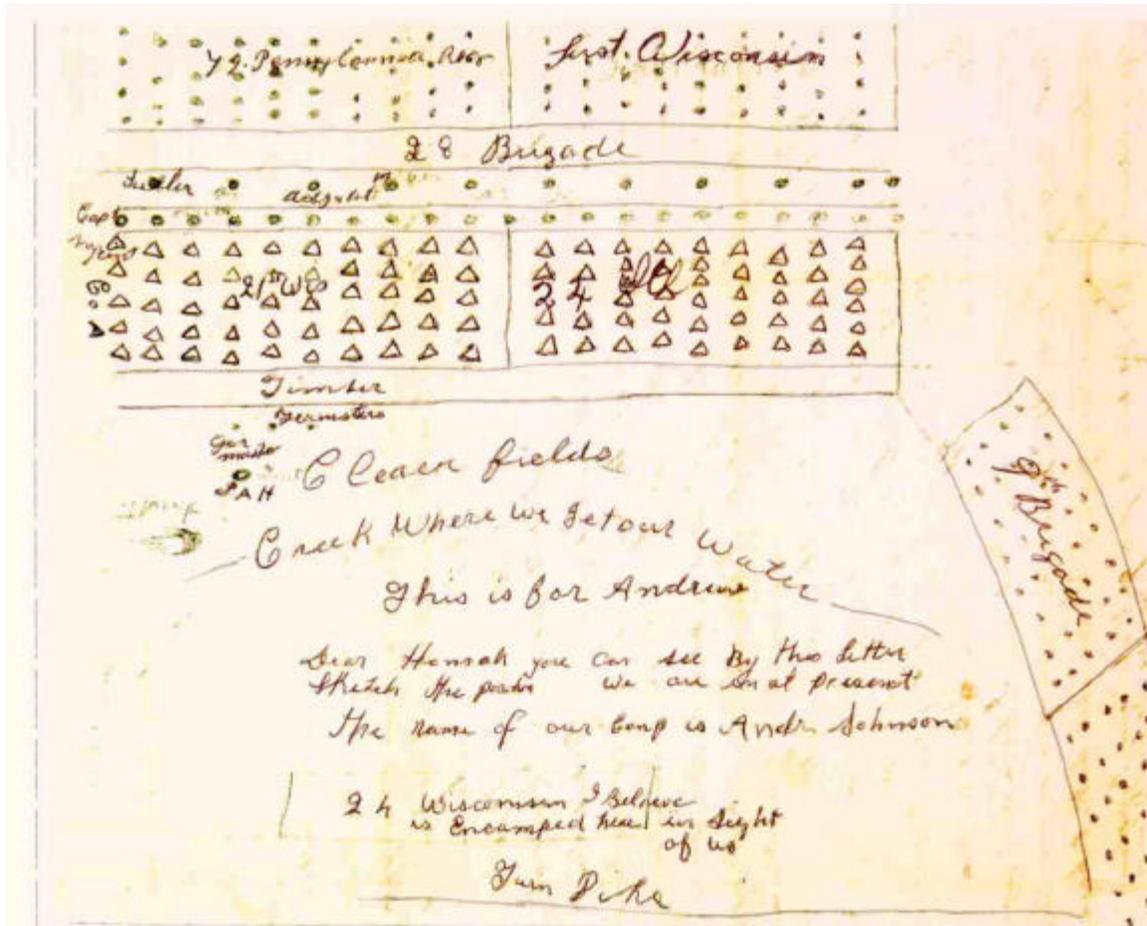
[Charles M. Ford was taken prisoner at Chickamauga. He died March 19, 1865 in Taycheedah, Wisconsin of disease.]

Camp Andrew Johnson Tenn Dec 21 1862

Dear Hannah Mr. Mars is writing this evening and I will write a few lines to you on this sheet. I have drew a homely sketch of our camp on the other side for Andrew. So when you have read this letter you can let him look at the other side. I got a letter from you today and an order from Jake and Lizzys pretty (mean). But the tea I enjoyed at supper time. My health is tolerable good but not as good as it was before I was sick. I blote a greate deal and find that I am not the only one that is troubled in that way. What the cause is I do not know. The 21st was all out again on picket last night and got back today. Last night we heard cannonading off to the East of us but we have not heard what it was for yet. Perhaps our men were shelling the Rebels pickets. I think we shall not go

any father south than we are until drive the Rebel army away, for they are within 10 or 15 miles of us. We are on the front line although not as near the Rebel's lines as some others. But if any are attacked we are in a situation that we can reinforce any part of the army. But we may not have any battle here at all. I have not got that box yet nor the medicine you sent me. I wrote a line to you on Friday and I would like to hear you answer it as soon as you get. Good By as Ever

Yours John B Corey



This is for Andrew

Dear Hannah you can see by this letter sketch the position we are in at present The name of our camp is Andrew Johnson

24th Wisconsin I believe is encamped here in sight of us. [Next letter corrects this to 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan]

Camp Andr Johnson Tenn. Dec 23./62

Dear Hannah

I have just seated myself to tell you that I have just received my box with my boots and butter & other fixins and if you could only of seen Mars & me at supper you would of known then how well I enjoyed the things you sent me. Everthing came through safe but the crackers. They were prettly well mashed up. The Oysters & cake I shall save 'til Christmas which comes in a few days. The other things you sent me in Dec. I have not got. I do not know what to enquire for 'til I get a letter from you so that I will know if you sent them in a box or packages. We are still here in camp doing nothing. What the object is I do not know. There is a great many soldiers here and it takes a great amount of provisions to keep them. The railroad that runs from Louisville to Nashville can only get 3 days rations ahead at a time and the cars run night and day so you can judge what an army there is to feed here in Tenn. I marked on that paper that I sent to Andrew the 24th Wis. It is not the 24th Wis., but the 24th Michigan. I shall have to close my tent and go to bed for it is 9 oclock and the drum has beat to put out the lights.

Dec the 24 Dear Hannah I commenced this letter yesterday and intended to of finished it this morning, but this morning at 4 oclock I was called up and ordered to pack up and be ready to move at daylight. So we got ready and remained so till after noon but got new orders not to leave, so we went at it and put our things back in our tents and then got our supper and now I have concluded to finish this letter by candle light. We have orders to march at 1/2 past 8 tomorrow morning, so I will finish writing and run my chance of mailing it, for there will be no mail leave this brigade tomorrow. You perhaps would like to know where we are going. So would I, but that we cannot know till I get there. Then I will let you know. Some think we are a going to fight the Rebels and others that we are going back to Gallatin on the Rail Road from Louisville to Nashville. And there is a still another rumor that we are going to be taken out of Rouseau's Division and put in General Negly's. But I put no reliance in any. I shall know when we get to our place of destination. I am sorry I could not get that medicine before I left this camp for now I do not know when I shall get it, if ever. But never mind, I am enjoying very good health at present and I can do without the gloves. But the tobacco I think I would like to have for smoking tobacco is worth from 60 to 80 cents per pound so you see that it is an object to get a smoke from home once and a while. I intended to of had a oyster supper tomorrow night, but if we move I shall have to wait but it will taste just as good some other time. Dear Hannah you have never said any thing about how you get along for wood. Please let me know and I would like to know if your sheep is a doing well and how many hog you are wintering. Please write about every thing. I wish I could come home for a day or two and see for myself. But what is the use of wishing, I am here with those and of others that have left their families in worse circumstances than you are in so we must not complain, but look ahead to the end of the war. You need not send me any more tea 'til I get this used up that you sent me in the box. But the stamps you may send for I can only just get along perhaps should write more if I had the stamps, but I get along very well with what

you send me. I want you to tell Caroline and Lizzy that I cannot write now but when I get in someplace where I know I shall stay any length of time I will set down and write to them I have not had one letter from Wm. Corey since I came to the south I have written him. Tell Mrs Banning that I have not got that letter yet. Oh by the by just let me know how Caynya Chief runs this winter and the Empire Lady and Good Templers ? Generally Dear Hannah. I will now close and give Mars a chance for he wants to put in a line to his wife which I am willing he should. Good By write often.

Yours as ever John B Corey

P.S. I forgot to tell you that I saw Judge Flint in camp to day. I have not had a chance to speak with him but I hope I shall before we leave.

John

[William Mars was promoted to Corporal, wounded at Chickamauga and again March 19, 1865. He was mustered out of service on June 8, 1865.]

---

*[The following information was developed by Phillip Colson and sent by E-mail to Ronald Whitney on November 23, 1998.]*

[Gen. Thomas' center of the Army of the Cumberland was comprised of two divisions, one commanded by Gen. Rousseau, and the other by Gen. Negley. Caroline and Lizzy, John's sisters Caroline (Corey) Allen and Elizabeth (Corey) Pierce]

This was the last in the collection of John's letters to Hannah. From this letter, you can see that as a "foot soldier" he was captive to the rumors of the day. It was only known that the Army was about to move, but little else, as was stated by John in this last letter:

*"You perhaps would like to know where we are going so would I but that we cannot know till I get there. Then I will let you know. Some think we are a going to fite the Rebels and others that we are a going back to Gallatin on the Rail Road from Lewisville to Nashville and there is a still another rumer that we are going to be taken out of Rousseau's Division and put in General Negly's. But, I put no reliance in any I shall know when we get to our place of destination".*

The strategic objectives of the Army of the Cumberland were outlined in a report to Gen. Rosecrans, filed at Murfreesboro, Tenn, Feb. 12, 1863 by Brig. Gen. Lornezo Thomas, Adjutant-General, U. S. Army, HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, following the Battle of Stone's River. [Official Records]

To a proper understanding of this battle it will be necessary to state the preliminary movements and preparations:

Assuming command of the army at Louisville on October 27, it was found concentrated at Bowling Green and Glasgow, distant about 113 miles from Louisville, from whence, after replenishing with ammunition, supplies, and clothing, they moved on to Nashville, the advance corps reaching that place on the morning of November 7, a distance of 183 miles from Louisville.

At this distance from my base of supplies, the first thing to be done was to provide for the subsistence of the troops and open the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The cars commenced running through on November 26, previous to which time our supplies had been brought by rail to Mitchellsville, 35 miles north of Nashville, and from thence, by constant labor, we had been able to haul enough to replenish the exhausted stores for the garrison at Nashville and subsist the troops of the moving army.

From November 26 to December 26 every effort was bent to complete the clothing of the army; to provide it with ammunition, and replenish the depot at Nashville with needful supplies; to insure us against want from the largest possible detention likely to occur by the breaking of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and to insure this work the road was guarded by a heavy force posted at Gallatin. The enormous superiority in numbers of the rebel cavalry kept our little cavalry force almost within the infantry lines, and gave the enemy control of the entire country around us. It was obvious from the beginning that we should be confronted by Bragg's army, recruited by an inexorable conscription, and aided by clans of mounted men, formed into a guerrilla-like cavalry, to avoid the hardships of conscription and infantry service. The evident difficulties and labors of an advance into this country, and against such a force, and at such distance from our base of operations, with which we were connected but by a single precarious thread, made it manifest that our policy was to induce the enemy to travel over as much as possible of the space that separated us, thus avoiding for us the wear and tear and diminution of our forces, and subjecting the enemy to all this inconvenience, besides increasing for him and diminishing for us the dangerous consequences of a defeat. The means taken to obtain this end were eminently successful. The enemy, expecting us to go into winter quarters at Nashville, had prepared his own winter quarters at Murfreesborough, with the hope of possibly making them at Nashville, and had sent a large cavalry force into West Tennessee to annoy Grant, and another large force into Kentucky to break up the railroad.

In the absence of these forces, and with adequate supplies in Nashville, the moment was judged opportune for an advance on the rebels. Polk's and Kirby Smith's forces were at Murfreesborough, and Hardee's corps on the Shelbyville and Nolensville pike, between Triune and Eagleville, with an advance guard at Nolensville, while our troops lay in front of Nashville, on the Franklin, Nolensville, and Murfreesborough turnpikes.

The plan of the movement was as follows: McCook, with three divisions, to advance by Nolensville pike to Triune. Thomas, with two divisions (Negley's and

Rousseau's), to advance on his right, by the Franklin and Wilson pikes, threatening Hardee's right, and then to fall in by the cross-roads to Nolensville. Crittenden, with Wood's, Palmer's, and Van Cleve's divisions, to advance by the Murfreesborough pike to La Vergne.

With Thomas' two divisions at Nolensville, McCook was to attack Hardee at Triune, and, if the enemy re-enforced Hardee, Thomas was to support McCook. If McCook beat Hardee, or Hardee retreated, and the enemy met us at Stewart's Creek, 5 miles south of La Vergne, Crittenden was to attack him, Thomas was to come in on his left flank, and McCook, after detaching a division to pursue or observe Hardee, if retreating south, was to move with the remainder of his force on their rear.

The movement that John was talking about in his letter of Dec. 24 began on the morning of Dec. 26, 1862 when the 21st Wisconsin under Gen. Rousseau left Nashville for the advance on Murfreesboro.

McCook advanced on the Nolensville pike, skirmishing his way all day, meeting with stiff resistance from cavalry and artillery, and closing the day by a brisk fight, which gave him possession of Nolensville and the hills 1½ miles in front, capturing one gun by the One hundred and first Ohio and Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiments, his loss this day being about 75 killed and wounded. Thomas followed on the right, and closed Negley's division on Nolensville, leaving the other (Rousseau's) division on the right flank. Crittenden advanced to La Vergne, skirmishing heavily on his front, over a rough country, intersected by forests and cedar brakes, with but slight loss.

On the 28th [27th] General McCook advanced on Triune, but his movement was retarded by a dense fog.

Crittenden had orders to delay his movements until McCook had reached Triune and developed the intentions of the enemy at that point, so that it could be determined which Thomas was to support.

McCook arrived at Triune, and reported that Hardee had retreated, and that he had sent a division in pursuit.

Crittenden began his advance about 11 a.m., driving before him a brigade of cavalry, supported by Maney's brigade of rebel infantry, and reached Stewart's Creek, the Third Kentucky gallantly charging the rear guard of the enemy, and saving the bridge, on which had been placed a pile of rails that had been set on fire. This was Saturday night.

McCook having settled the fact of Hardee's retreat, Thomas moved Negley's division on to join Crittenden at Stewart's Creek, and moved Rousseau's to Nolensville.

On Sunday the troops rested, except Rousseau's division, which was ordered to move on to Stewartston, and Willich's brigade, which had pursued Hardee as far as Riggs' Cross.Roads, and had determined the fact that Hardee had gone to Murfreesborough, when they returned to Triune.

On Monday morning, McCook was ordered to move from Triune to Wilkinson's Cross-Roads, 6 miles from Murfreesborough, leaving a brigade at Triune. Crittenden crossed Stewart's Creek by the Smyrna Bridge and the main Murfreesborough pike, and Negley by the ford 2 miles above; their whole force to advance on Murfreesborough, distant about 11 miles. Rousseau was to remain at Stewart's Creek until his train came up, and prepare himself to follow. McCook reached Wilkinson's Cross-Roads by evening, with an advance brigade at Overall's Creek, saving and holding the bridge, meeting with but little resistance. Crittenden's corps advanced, Palmer leading, on the Murfreesborough pike, followed by Negley, of Thomas' corps, to within 3 miles of Murfreesborough, having had several brisk skirmishes, driving the enemy rapidly, saving two bridges on the route, and forcing the enemy back to his intrenchments.

About 3 p.m. a signal message coming from the front, from General Palmer, that he was in sight of Murfreesborough, and that the enemy were running, an order was sent to General Crittenden to send a division to occupy Murfreesborough. This led General Crittenden, on reaching the enemy's front, to order Harker's brigade to cross the river at a ford on his left, where he surprised a regiment of Breckinridge's division and drove it back on its main line, not more than 500 yards distant, in considerable confusion; and he held this position until General Crittenden was advised, by prisoners captured by Harker's brigade, that Breckinridge was in force on his front, when, it being dark, he ordered the brigade back across the river, and reported the circumstances to the commanding general on his arrival, to whom he apologized for not having carried out the order to occupy Murfreesborough. The general approved of his action, of course, the order to occupy Murfreesborough having been based on the information received from General Crittenden's advance division that the enemy were retreating from Murfrees-borough.

Crittenden's corps, with Negley's division, bivouacked in order of battle, distant 700 yards from the enemy's intrenchments, our left extending down the river some 500 yards. The Pioneer Brigade, bivouacking still lower down, prepared three fords, and covered one of them, while Wood's division covered the other two, Van Cleve's division being in reserve.

On the morning of the 30th, Rousseau, with two brigades, was ordered down early from Stewart's Creek, leaving one brigade there and sending another to Smyrna to cover our left and rear, and took his place in reserve, in rear of Palmer's right.

From John's service record found in the National Archives, we find that six days after his last letter was written, on 30 December 1862, he was captured by Gen. Bragg's Confederate forces. This Service Record conflicts with John's letters in that it reports:

“about Dec. 14, 1862 prior to the Battle of Stone’s River in Tennessee, John came down with pneumonia and was sent to the Reg. Hospital near Jefferson, Tenn. On Dec. 30, while confined in the hospital he was captured by Confederate forces. He was sent to Richmond, Virginia where on 16 January 1863 he was admitted to the C.S.M. Prison hospital”.

Based on John’s letters, there is a possible conflict with his service record as to the location of his capture. In John’s service record, it states that on 14 Dec. 1862 he was “*was sent to the Regimental Hospital near Jefferson, TN*”. From John’s letters, he tells of not being fit for duty, but indicates that he was with his regiment on the 21 December. On that date, he wrote a letter from Camp Andru Johnson, TN. Further evidence that he was not in the Regimental hospital is the map of the camp showing the location of his tent that he drew for his son Andrew in this letter. In John’s letter of 24 Dec. he tells of the rumored imminent movement of the Army. He further states, “*I am enjoying very good health at present*”. The fact that John stated that he was feeling “*good health at present*” might not mean much when you take into account the fact that he was taking opium for his ailments as stated in his letter of Dec. 6th. Possibly at this time, he “felt no pain“ as a result of this opium. When the Regiment’s muster report was taken for Dec. John probably was absent for duty and listed in the Regimental Hospital. Did John leave Camp Andru Johnson Dec. 26, 1862 with his Regiment in Gen. Rousseau’s Division during the advance on Murfreesboro or was he left behind as stated in his service record? This I do not know, but when he speculated in his last letter as to his destination; “*I shall know when we get to our place of destination*”, I am sure that he never anticipated nor was he prepared for what awaited him. In Ronald Gancas’ book, THE GALLANT 78, STONES RIVER TO PICKETS MILL, he states: “*The full winter season had set into the Nashville Basin. December 30th saw a smattering of weather that had plagued the armies from the 26th of December, ~ On this next to last day of the year, several diarists reported heavy showers, bitter cold, and ice on the river.*” It was on this bitter cold winter day that John was captured. Just how or where one can speculate. Was he one of the many Union soldiers taken prisoner by Gen. Wheeler’s cavalry while disrupting the Union lines of communication, or was he one of the one hundred and fifty Union soldiers captured by the Confederate 6<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry on 30 Dec. during the early fighting at Stone’s River, or was he as stated in his service record, captured by Confederate forces at the Reg. Hospital near Jefferson, Tenn. John either had, or while a captive, came down with pneumonia. His health deteriorating, on 16 January he was sent to the C.S.M. Prison Hospital in Richmond, Virginia his final “*Place of Destination*”, for JOHN BURHYTE COREY died there, 03 February 1863.

In Mary Elizabeth (Allen) Colson’s diary, for the year 1863 there is the following entry:

“1863  
Died in Libby Prison Richmond. February 3, 1863 Mr. John  
Corey, Husband of Mrs. Hannah Corey.”

From John's letters, we can trace (Figure 1) the path of the 21st Wisconsin. The Regiment was mustered in at Camp Bragg, Oshkosh, WI on September 5, 1862. His first letter to Hannah was dated Camp Bragg, Sep. 08 1862. From Wisconsin, the 21st left for Cincinnati, OH on Sep. 11. John's next letter was dated Sep.14, 1862 and tells of being in Cincinnati and camping just out of Covington, KY. John wrote letters the 14th, 15th and 16th. In these he tells of camp life and being at Camp Soloman, and picking peas along the bank of the Licking River. On Sep. 24 and 29, he writes from Louisville, KY. Oct. 10, at Perryville, John writes after the Battle fought Oct 8th. to state he is OK. On Oct. 12 from Harrodsburg he tells of the major Battle fought at Perryville. In this letter, John states they left Louisville on Oct. 1 and went through Taylorsville on their march to Perryville. From Harrodsville, they pursued Gen. Bragg to Crab Orchard where they camped Oct. 16. From Crab Orchard, the army changed directions now moving west. On Oct. 22 and 27, John wrote from a camp 5 mi. west of Lebanon. Nov. 3, he was in Bowling Green, and from there the Regiment went to Mitchellsville, TN. On Dec. 11, John was in Nashville, and stayed at Camp Andrew Johnson. His last letter was written there, Dec. 24, 1862. On Dec. 26, the Army advanced from Nashville to Murfreesboro. John was captured Dec. 30, 1862 prior to the Battle of Stone's River.

In a short span of 117 days starting 05 Sep. 1862, with no preparation and little training, the 21<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin would be asked to fight in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, given poor equipment, marched hundreds of miles with little rest, camping in freezing weather without blankets. As a result by Nov. 17, only 18 to 20 of the original 75 men of the regiment were fit for duty. By early December, John's letters indicate he was not able to perform his duties. He was physically exhausted, probably with pneumonia at that time. After all of these hardships, in late December the army was again planning to fight a major battle with the Confederates. John was captured while in this state of physical exhaustion. It is no surprise that he was not able to survive. In reading these letters, one is amazed by what the citizen soldier endured during this war. And to think, Gen. Buell was relieved of command because he did not drive the men harder in pursuit of Bragg after Perryville.

VOLUNTEER'S OUTFIT. -- Adjutant Gen. Utly addressed the following communication to Quartermaster Gen. Tredway . . .

"It is the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, after some consideration, that the following outfit be allowed to each soldier in the Wisconsin active Militia: 1 cap, 1 eagle and ring, 2 flannel shirts, 2 pair of stockings, 1 tin or rubber canteen, 1 pompon, 1 coat, 2 pair of flannel drawers, 1 leather stock, 1 haversack, 1 cap cover, 1 pair trowsers, 1 pair bootees or shoes, 1 great coat, 1 knapsack. It is not deemed advisable to purchase at this time any further articles of outfitting such as rubber blankets, ponchos, &c. not until such time as the troops are called into actual service. Other articles, axes, saws, spades, and camp equipage, generally, will be hereafter considered."

---

---



Figure 1 - Route of John B. Corey

Map, courtesy of Phillip Colson