

# ABRAHAM W. BEBOUT: ONE OF THREE KENTUCKY BROTHERS IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

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This story is about one of three brothers who lived for many years in Crittenden County, Kentucky. The three were sons of Abraham Bebout who was born in 1794.

Abraham W. Bebout was the third of Abraham's eight children, between the next older brother, Peter, and the next younger brother, Enoch. Abraham W. was my grandfather. He was born in 1827, in Wayne County, Ohio. In the early 1830s Abraham Bebout moved his family to Marion, Kentucky, where he served in the ministry of the Baptist Church. In the early 1860s he moved his family across the Ohio River into Hardin County, Illinois. In 1852, Abraham W., then twenty-five and single, moved to Morocco, a small town in northern Indiana, where he met Nancy Pulver, who became his bride two years later.

When the War Between The States broke out in 1861, Peter Bebout, older brother of Abraham W., joined the Kentucky Volunteers, Co. D., under Captain J. C. Morris. My information is that Company D. was a branch of the Union Army. Peter died at Columbia, Tennessee, on April 16, 1862, presumably a casualty of the War.

Moved by the death of their older brother, and having an inborn philosophy that the United States of America should not be broken apart, both Abraham W. and his younger brother Enoch enlisted in the Union Army. Abraham W. joined the 99th Indiana Infantry while Enoch joined the 48th Illinois Volunteers.

I currently have in my possession ninety-six letters written by Grandad Abraham W. to this wife Nancy and children while he was in the service between August 1862 and May 1865. I plan to have these letters put on microfilm in the Special Collections Library of Murray State University, after which I will send the originals to my niece living in California, who, I believe, has started a line of family historians.

The objective of this story will be to present a few of Grandad's letters, selected to show how his philosophy and emotions were affected by his experiences in the War. He entered the War with a deep religious and patriotic philosophy; his religious attitudes became even more profound, while his patriotic emotions varied throughout the War.

Grandad enlisted in the 99th Indiana Infantry in August 1862, at the age of 35, leaving at home his wife, a son David, and two daughters, Ella and Mariah Alice. Perhaps at his age, 35, and being a family man, Grandad had a much more serious attitude toward military life than many of the younger enlisted men. In his first letter home from Camp Rose at South Bend, Indiana, (printed below) he talked about going to "two prayer meetings" and a "preaching" while others were "fidling, dancing, singing, yelling, and braking gard." "There is no silence her night and day — thay are all wild instead of civilized." He was exposed to the first sick and wounded. He didn't want to acknowledge loneliness, but spoke fondly of his wife

children, and church classmates, and asked for their continued prayers.

Camp Rose, Southbend  
August 24th 1862

Deare wife and Children and frendes itake my pen in hand to let you no im well hoping that thes few lines may find you well I receivd a lettr from you the cumfert that you Sent me cum in mity good play for evr Since iam her ihav had to lay on A bare plank and nothing to Cover with but the heavens above me the Camp life is hard but no hardr then ithot I hav bin to too preyer metings Sence ihav bin her and am going to preching today This is Sunday and thare is evrything going on thare is fidling and dansing burying and raving singing and yelling and braking gard there was About 200 men broke gard today Dock has gon to the hospile to treat the Cases in thare he has fifteen or twenty Sum of them has cut feet Sum broken leges Straind and sum few sick All cum on them by riping danger night and day thare is no silence her night or day thay are all wild men insted of Sivelized you Cant Call enything what is not her We went to an election Saterdag and elected Dan Ash Capt and W. W. Douns first lutenent W. W. Shaines of Kent Station for Second lutenant the balance are not apointed yet we hav Sarted anew rigment but we got newes that will go in the Rig that is full and make it 1300 strong and leve her for Indianapoliss next Tusday and you had beter not right till futher orders for our Rig is not orginised yet and our Comptney not named iwill Right Soon i must bring my lettr to a close fore thare is So much to Right About that i cant do it but when icum home iwill tell you all about it I Cant Say that iam lonsum but ihad no ida that it was Sohard to lev wife and Children but i hope that we will soon meat agin if not in this world in the world to cum pray for me and tell the Morocco Class to pray for me for ineed it if ievr did in my life do not fret for me more then you can help pray the lord to bless us i must quit and go to meting kiss the Children for me and dont abuse them I suppose that you got 5 dollars that isent you by Dave I Remain your efeciant Husban and father

A. W. Bebout

The "Dock" referred to was Grandad's brother-in-law: Uncle Doc Triplett of Morocco, Indiana. Doc and Grandad married sisters: Alice and Nancy Pulver. The Pulver sisters had an older brother David, who Grandad often referes to in his letters as "Dave"

After about a month at Camp Rose, Grandad's regiment was sent by train to Camp Reynolds at Indianapolis. Here, they participated in drills, sham battles, and were exposed to the cannon and rifle noise of battle, in other words basic battle training. Over 10,000 participated in these drills and an additional 22,000 from Michigan and Illinois passed through Camp Reynolds en route to Kentucky, to join what they had been told were already 200,000 Union Army troops.

About the middle of October 1862, the 99th Regiment Company E was transferred by train to Louisville. In Louisville, Grandad encountered about 500 Confederate prisoners. Many had been in the Confederate Army 15 months and appeared very unhappy, due to lack of clothes, lack of food, no

pay; some even expressed a desire to join the Union Army. Here Grandad began to realize that the War would not end soon and his emphasis on the Lord through prayer grew steadily.

Early in November 1862, the 99th Regiment Company E was sent to Memphis by river boat. The trip took seven days and nights and was fraught with danger. The entire regiment was on one boat which was so crowded that the men had to sleep in a standing position. During the trip they encountered sandbars and fog, while retaining a constant fear of the Rebs, some 500 of whom were known to be along the banks of the rivers bounding our Jackson Purchase. At one time, Grandad was within four miles of his mother's home in Hardin County, Illinois, but was not permitted to see her. As the Regiment approached Memphis the men were allowed to go ashore and explore the remains of Fort Pillow, a Confederate Fort that had been captured by the Union Army. Here Grandad saw the remains of a mighty Confederate fortress and had his first glimpse of the devastation of war. In Memphis he experienced the prohibitive charges for food and other living supplies. Here also, he encountered the first large group of liberated Negroes and heard their reactions to being liberated. To them abolition was the main objective of the war.

Nov 16 /62  
Memphis Tennessee  
99 Reg. Ind. Vol. Co. E

Deare wife and Children and frends iam well but tired i hope these few lines will find you all well I receivd your kind lettr 10 days ago we Started from luisvill last Sunday and last night this to day being Sunday we was 7 dayes and nights Com-ing we run on severl sand bares and cod not git along very well we stade belo shoney Town all night on account of the fog i was in 4 miles mother and cod not Stop the major wod not let me stop he was afrade that Rebeles wod Catch me thare is about 500 Close to Casevill just abuv my folkes we are about 900 miles from home now but not too far to think of home very often we all cum down on one boat and we was Crouded and Slep Standing sum of us on friday night we landed at fort pilloes and got off and run all night over the fort and looking at the brestworks it beat all things ievr saw in all of my life we run all night and did not See half thare was 2 or 3 Canons Spiked and busted laing on the hill and 15 or 20 grate big holes for them to run in when any men wod throw the burnes in the fort and isaw whare thay buried thare ded we saw agrate meny graves and little John Starkey the hard harted pup jumpt on one of them and danned and gritted his teath ithot that was hard but idont no he looks like he Cod eat up a Seeach Thare is about 400 negroes that has run of and cum into our ranks pore things thay looks hard indeede

Salt is 32 dollars per barel tobacco 6 dollares a pound Boots 10 to 20 dollares a pare Apeles 5 Cents a pease everything Scarce but Seeach thay are plenty enuf you wod like to hare whare we are going you must wate till we go and theni will tell you you wanted me to tell you all of the good newes in my lettr ihav not got but one good thing to right and that is the 99th Reg is all most posed for a fight the Rebels will Catch it one of these dayes the 99th Reg against the world for Stealing if thay fight like thay steal thay can whip ahold



Nov 76<sup>th</sup> 1862

Memphis Tennessee  
99 Reg. Inf. 4<sup>th</sup> Col. Co. E

Dear wife and children  
and friends I am well but  
tired I hope these few

lines will find you all well

I received your kind letter 10 days ago we  
started from this well last Sunday and  
last night this to day being Sunday we  
was 7 days and night coming we run on  
several sand bars and could not get along very  
well we staid here 3 hours to morrow all night  
on the account of the fog it was in 4 miles  
weather and could not stop the major would  
not let me stop he was afraid that the  
rebels would catch me there is about 500  
close to Caswell just above my father  
we are about 900 miles from home now  
but not too far to think of home very often

we all Cum down on one boat and we  
was Crowded and slept Standing Sum of  
us on Friday ~~night~~ night we landed  
at fort Mifflin and got off and Run all  
night over the fort and looking at the  
loosest marker it beat all things ever  
saw in all of my life we run all  
night and did not see half there was  
20 or 30 Canons spiked and busted Laying  
on the hill and 15 or 20 grate like  
holes for them to run in when our  
men went throu the lumies in the  
fort and saw where they buried  
there dead we saw a grate many graves  
and littlest John Stankay; the hard  
hearted pup jumped on one of them  
and danced and grited his teeth it  
that was hard but idont no he  
lookes like he could eat up a seach  
there is about 2400 negroes that has  
Run of and cum in to our Rankes  
poor things they lookes hard in deede

Salt is 32 dollars per barrel Tobacco  
6 dollars a pound Boots 10 to 20 dollars  
apiece & 4 pely 5 cents apiece every thing  
scars but seasons they are plenty any  
you would like to have and as we are going  
you must write till we go and then I  
will tell you you wanted me to tell  
you in my letter all of the good news  
I have not got but one good thing to  
right and that is the 99 Reg is all most  
proyed for a fight the Rebels will  
catch it one of these dayes the 99 Reg  
against the world for stealing of  
they fight like troy that they  
can whip a hold Regade of  
but truntes the helth of our Reg  
is good of our Reg has Captured  
8 niggers a redy all big men  
and we will have 500 before long  
the folks looks sour at us he I think  
they will look still sorer before  
long.



the negars say when the yankees  
gun cackes de white foke run like  
dee delal men alder them antel  
de lilack fokes tist de abolish cut  
our trote and eat us like de livers  
thats ar going all thru the cuntry  
and are buving up all of thes  
cotton for they say that it will  
faul in the yankees hands and it  
will to for we have betwen 50 and  
60 thousan men her and as many  
more coming that looks like they  
dont think the war wont last  
long the negars say that de white  
debeles say de damn cthelish whip  
dem dis mints for no more men  
right opor youll bee home in  
the spring kiss the children for me  
I have the gunes cracking at rebeles all  
day today A W Bellows  
letty to Lance Bellows  
and children

Bregade of butternuts the helth of our Reg is good our Reg  
has Captured 8 nigares aredey all big men and we will hav  
800 more before long the folks looks sour at us her ithink  
they look worse before long

the nigares Say when the yankees gun Cackes de white  
foke Run like de debel wa afr them and tell de lilackfokes that de  
abolish Cut our trote and eat us like delicious they are going all  
thru the countrey and burning up all of thare cotton for thay say  
that it will faul in the yankees hanes and it will to for we hav  
between 50 and 60 thousand men her and as meny more  
cuming that looks like thay dont think the ware wont last  
long the nigares Say that de white debels say dam de Abolish  
they whip dem dis winter Right often iwill be home in the  
Spring kiss the Children for me i hare guns cracking at  
Rebels all day today

A. W. Bebout  
lettr to Nancy Bebout and Children

During the next six months, Grandad's Regiment was involved in  
probing activities, between Memphis and La Grange, Tennessee, where  
most of their efforts were directed toward capturing and retaining the supply  
line railroad between Memphis and Chattanooga through Moscow and La  
Grange, Tennessee.

By July 1863, the 99th Regiment was moved south to Vicksburg,  
Mississippi, which had just been captured by the Union Army. On July 4,  
1863, the 99th was ordered to move from Walnut Ridge, near Vicksburg, to  
Jackson, Mississippi. On the morning of July 5th, the 99th was engaged by  
Confederate forces along the Black River. The battle continued until about  
4:00 p.m. at which time the Confederates withdrew toward Jackson,  
Mississippi. The following day the 99th advanced toward Jackson and  
"skirmished" all the way to Jackson.<sup>1</sup> At Jackson, the 99th was engaged in a  
major battle which lasted three days and three nights. The 99th captured  
2200 Confederates during the battle; then burned most of Jackson and set  
up camp along the Black River.

At this time, Enoch, Grandad's younger brother was very ill and not  
expected to live. I do not know whether illness resulted from wounds or from  
disease. Grandad had written earlier that sickness and disease were caus-  
ing greater losses than Confederate bullets. However, in later letters,  
Enoch recovered and was mustered out due to disability.

Big Black River Miss  
July the 29th /63

Deare Wife and Children Threw the Cind murcey of god iam  
pormited to set mySelf down to drop you A few Lines Being one  
time more in Camp My helth is verely good at this presant time  
and do hope when this cumes to your distent hands it will find  
you and the Children all Well the helth of our Regt is  
good at present Well we hav had A good time Sence ilast  
Rote to you on the evning of the 4th At 3 oclock We left Walnut  
Ridg for Jackson Miss and on Sunday Knight we Reached Black  
River and on monday morning just at brake of day the ball  
opened in full blast the Roaring of Canones and popping of  
Rifles Was herd up an down the River for Sévral miles We met



the Rebels in A Small force to check us from crossing the Rivr they left 900 men to Check us and we on one side of the Rivr and them on the other Side hiding behind trees and loges and the fight was hot till 4 P M when our Bregade was ordered across the Rivr we went down the Rivr 3 miles and crost in A old flat boat and went back up whare the Rebeles was and thay Scidadled for Jackson and we cot Sum of them So the 99th Regt has hard the bulletes whistl and tusday we started agin for Jackson and Scrimshed all of the way Clear to Jackson and formed a line of batel Around 3 Sides of the town and we lade under hevvy fier for 3dayes and we had it up and down for 3dayes and Knights and then the Rebels tuck to thare heles We Captured 2200 of them our loss was not very hevvy our Regt had 1 kiled and Joseph Kenady wonded he was hit on the side of his hed with a grape shoot but he is now about well and we tuck the town and burnt the most of it and 15 or 20 miles of Railrode and Cum back on Black Rivr and are one more time in Camp and dont no how long we will Stay her Enoch is very sick and not expected to liv but i think he is Sum better to-day we hav grate excitement in Camp Sum of them is going home and thay can tell all the newes So i shant Right much at this time I supose you are injoing your Self purty well A going to all of the Speches and Convention and Selabration from what ican hare other menes Wifes Rights to thare men and wish that thay was at home so thay cood go to them but thay Say iam afrade you are sick or mabey ded and i shant. I A glad you hav no such trubel about your man as thay i like to hare of your Runing all ovr the Countrey to Speeches and down to Bunkum and every other plase you tock of going to house ceeping or going to the Wabash iwant you to stay whare you ar and do what is Right and you can gitalong if you cant gitalong with your mother you cant with enybodey els

Abe Bebout

Here I will skip several months (and letters) and pick up Grandad's 99th Regiment as it approached the battles of Lookout Mountain and Mission(ary) Ridge. By November 19, 1863, the 99th had moved into the small town of Trenton, Georgia, located in Lookout Valley a few miles southwest of Lookout Mountain. Trenton had been captured after artillery fire and no infantry effort was required. The immediate objective was to defeat Confederate General Longstreet. Pickets from the 99th were within talking distance of Confederate pickets and frequently somewhat friendly conversations took place between the opposing pickets. The 99th was under the command of General Hooker while General "Billy" Sherman's forces were on the immediate right of Hooker's. On the 20th, Grandad was on picket but no action took place. Then came an interval of about a month in Grandad's letters. During that time Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge were taken by the Union Armies, and the 99th was ordered to pursue General Bragg's forces as far as Ringold (Georgia) Station, then take after General Longstreet, which they did as far as within 15 miles of Knoxville. At this point Grandad boasts that the Rebs didn't want to have anything more to do with the tough western boys but would rather fight the Eastern Troops. He later says, "them white shurt collars cant fight — and shud be sent home." Bragg and Longstreet went east into the Carolinas and Sherman

and Hooker took their forces into winter quarters near Huntsville, Alabama.

Trenton, Ga  
Nov 19th /63

Deare Wife and frends

Thru the Good Mercey of the Lord iam well and in Good Sperites and dohope this Will find you and frends all Well We are laing in A littlet Town cauld Trenton Which is located in the Lookout Valley Reb. Longstreat is on the top of lookout mountain and we are in the valey we can See the Rebs Camp our pickets and the longstreats tocks to each other all night We Came in Trenton yesterday and drove the Rebs out without firing A gun. that is A musket We giv them Some shelles and thay Skiddadle up on the mountain We tuck sererl Prisners thay made the attempt to drive us out last night but thare hartes failed them We are under General Jo Hooker Billey Sherman is on Hookers right Shermans Corpes and Hookers is laing in lookout valley on the West Side of the mountain we see them Steping Round as big as pompey We hav cut off one of thare Rodes of Suplies Which Runes thru Gorga down the Valey We hav captured 2 mills which dun A grate deal of grinding it is sed we hav Weken them very much and expect to Stile Weken more yet times is hard her you may no by the prices Shooes is Worth 20 dollars Pare Bootes from 100 to 100 and 50 dollars per pare coutes 200 dollars corn 5 dollars a bushel other things in proportion I Will stop riting for this time icant send it out to day and iwill still Right as things hapens till i can send it

Nov the 20th

Nothing of importance to day Co. E is on picket one mile out from Camp this is the first time for me for Sum time if you wont to no whare our devishen is incamp now git your map and look at Dade Countey Ga We are in Trenton which is the Countey Seat of Dade Co We are in a valley between Sandey mountain and Lookout mountain the valley is 4 miles wide all still today the Rebs Semes to be unSea and the Desert-eres Say Bragg is moving his hevey artilrey if that be the case we wont hav much of a fight her Oyess the Boyes that is on my port is skinnin a mutton we will hav A Good super if the Rebs dont cum and Drive us away No more today for it is raining

Tinton Gorge  
Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear wife and friends  
Thru the Good Agency of the Lord I am  
well and in Good spirits and do hope this  
will find you and friends all well  
We are living in a little town called  
Tinton which is located in the Look  
out valley. Reh Longstreet is on the  
top of Lookout mountain and in the  
valley we can see the Rehs Camp  
our pickets and the Longstreets to  
each other all night. We came in  
Tinton yesterday and drove the Rehs  
out without firing a gun that is  
a musket. We gave them some shells  
and they skiddled up on the mountain.  
We took several prisoners they made the  
attempt to drive us out last night but  
their hearts failed them. We are under  
General Jo Hooker. Billy Sherman is  
our Hookers right. Sherman Corps  
and Hookers is lying in Lookout valley.

On the West Side of the mountain we see  
them. Nothing Remot as big as Pompey  
she has cut off one of those kinds of Squirrels  
which knows three Tongue down the valley  
she has captured 2 miles which down  
A grate deal of grinding it is fed now  
how she has them very much and  
expect to still make more yet Times is  
hard here you may see by the prices there is  
Worth 25 dollars per Pair Boots from 100 to 100  
and 50 dollars per pair Cows 200 dollars  
Corn 5 dollars a bushel other things in  
proportion I will stop writing for this time  
i cant send it out to day and i will still  
right as things happens till i can send it  
Now the 20<sup>th</sup>

Nothing of importance to day C O C is on packet  
we write out from camp this is the first time for  
me for some time if you want to no where  
our Devotion is incense some get your map and  
look at Pade County La she is in  
Trenton which is the County seat of Pade Co  
she is in a valley between Sandy mountains

and Lookout mountain the valley is 4 miles  
wide all still to day the kids seem to be  
~~unseen~~ and the Deserters say Bragg is moving  
his heavy artillery if that be the case we  
most have much of a fight here

I guess the Boyes that is on my post is  
skinning it matters not we will have  
a good supper if the kids dont come and  
drive us away No more to day for  
it is raining

December the 21<sup>st</sup>

ye/ye - that it is just one  
month the 21 of Nov we left for  
Bishers Ridg where now Sarges the  
Bodies of hundreds of men that were  
with us we have left them to sleep  
till the trumpet sounds and awakes  
them all a stony front Give you  
all of the history of this march we  
have just ended it march of 13:57  
miles the longest march that has been  
made before by our troops

He has landed in Birdport & Alabama  
at 9 am. We are going to Hunter Hill  
at 11 in 3 days and go into winter  
quarters. I hope we will be in a good  
cut and broke down. This is a very  
mountainous country and hard to  
travel in. He has just returned  
from Knoxville after we left  
Chattanooga we found Bragg's army  
to Ringold Station and there we  
started for Knoxville after long  
strut and got in 15 of Knoxville  
and 7 of the rebels they thought  
that they had better go back to the East  
and fight the Eastern troops instead  
the way on our way on board of  
steamer men and so we did not  
get much of a fight out of them.  
I suppose you have had all of the reports  
and no as much as I had right in  
4 or 5 letters I did not get to shoot  
in the whole fight but I took a good  
2 days and nights to take a rest  
but did not get it go to the next  
street



Yipe whal A jump Just one month the 21st of Nov We left for Mishen Ridg whare Now Layes the Bodyes of hundreds of men that went with us We hav left them to sleap till the trumpet Sounds and awakens them Well Nancy I cant giv you all of the histrey of this march We hav just ended A march of 13:57 miles the begest march that has bin made before by our Trupes We hav landed in Brigport Alabama Agin We are going to Hunts vile Al in 3 dayes and go into Winter quarters I hope we will for iam tired out and Brokedown this is A very mountainous Countrey and hard to travel in We hav just returned from Knoxville after we left Chatnooga we fowled Bragges army to Ringole Station and then we started for Knoxville after longstreat and got in 15 miles of knowvill and 7 of the Rebs thay thay thot that thay had better go back to the Est and fight the Estern Trupes insted of the Western ones . thay are frade of Shermans men and So we did not git much of A fight out of them I supose you hav had all of the Reports and no as much as i cood right in 4 or 5 lettrs I did not git to Shute in the Hole fight but Stude Reday 2 dayes and nightes to take but did not git it go to next sheat [missing]

I will now skip most of the next ten months of Grandad's letters, except to say that from January to May 1864 he was stationed in the area of Scotsboro, Alabama, which is located between Chattanooga and Huntsville. Between July and the end of September 1864 he was stationed at Rome, Georgia. While at Rome, he was removed from the 99th and was assigned to dressing wounds in the General Hospital, as a member of the Medical Corps. I do not know the reason for this assignment, but surmise it might have come through the influence of Grandad's brother-in-law, Uncle Doc Triplett from Morocco, Indiana. During this assignment, Grandad became very depressed at the sight of so many wounded and those dying at the rate of five or six each day.

By September 27, 1864, Grandad had been transferred back to the 99th Regiment at East Point, Georgia. Atlanta had fallen to Sherman's forces and for the most part had been burned to the ground. Sherman had followed a "scorched earth" policy from Dalton, Georgia, and continued it across to the ocean. The following letter shows how Grandad had suffered emotionally at the events that were happening during the Atlanta campaign, was disturbed over ill thoughts about Nancy, and upset over a political problem back home. The rigors of war were taking their toll on Grandad but he still had faith in prayer.

East Point, Ga. 99th Reg.

South of Atlanta Sep the 29th /64

Well Nancy want you tinkes I tinkes is at home one time more i Landed at Atlanta on the evening of the 27th and on the 28th came to the Regt and found old Co E Right end up in good helth and livley Spirits the old 15th corps in on the extreem front thay are the clost to the Rebs and it makes good brest works the Rebs wont try to git thru the old 11th but O how her Rankes is reduced She looks more like a Devishion than a Copn Direct your lettr to old 99th and dont be mad at me for lcood not Content myself away from the Co. any longer I expect

you will hav to lock out for Sum other man for icant stay away from Co. E and if the ware dont stop iwill hav tostay with it So dont scold but idont care if you do for i cant hav you iam to four off It is butiful Countrey her and Atlanta was butiful town at one time but it all tour to pieces evry hous is shot more or less the fences all burnt and most of the big frame houss burnt to ashes and grate meny women and Children kild the hole Road from Kingston to Est Point which is 6 miles Southest from Atlanta is a Battlefield with Canon bolles and Shells and ditches and brest-works all the way thay fought O how the trees and bushes is all cut down and forts and Stakes Sharpen for our men to Run agin the woods looks like a harican or a jimey cane had bin thru but all is Quiet on the Potomac now but dont no how long it will remain Sam more is gon home on lef of absence and Sum 2 or 3 men will be furlod home before long but we as a Regt wont git to Cum home to vote So O. P. Morton will hav to git beat I hav not had a Chance to send you your money yet if the Right man goes home on A furlow iwill send it by them Enoch was mustered out of the United States Servis and left the day before I got to the Regt Iwod like to hav Sean him I lern that Doc is well he is about 3 miles off iam a going to See him before long he was her the other day to See the boys Thay say he is as fat as a hog Well Nancy dont bite your self being iam Cum to the Regt My helth is midlen good and do hope this will find you and famley and frends all well Right Soon and often So no more at presant but your husban till deth pray for me

A. E. Bebout

O yes, our Devishion is No 2 now we are the Second Devishion of the 15th

Again, I will skip several months to March 1865. Grandad had been on Sherman's infamous march "Atlanta to the Sea" where distruction was total. I could see that Grandad was horrified by the distruction of property and the cruelty to the soldiers and their families of the Confederacy. He was bitter of those on both sides who had laid the groundwork for the Rebellion and was extremely bitter toward Columbia, South Carolina, "the Seat of the Rebellion." But through it all he was thankful to the Lord that his life had been spared. In the latter part of the letter, he gave some instructions to David which indicated he thought the war would not last much longer. There would be one more long campaign to capture Richmond, Virginia, the capitol of the Confederacy, then the War would be over.

Goalesboro N. C. March the 27th /65

Deare Wife it is thru the kind murcey of the Good Lord that I am one time more pormited to drop you afew Lines in ansor to your most lettres Which I hav just Recievd from your own brisk littel handes Which I red with Grate plashure and was glad to hare from ones that I love so dearley I ow my thanks to God for yours and the Childrens livs and my one I hav Sean Sum hard times Since ilast rote to you but thanks be to the Suprem being iam one more time thru the wilderness altho the Canons roard loud Sum times and bulletswhisled Sharpley and daingers thretend on evry hand the lord has made us Conkers and more than Conkers Sometimes plenty to eat and more than

plenty and gin at other times nothing for 2 or 3 days but all the time the trupes was in Good Spirits and Cleaned out the Joneys on evry hand and forcet our march onward and onward till we hav one more time Seen our way out We met the foe at the Seat of Releidan (Rebellion) which is Columbia, S. C. and drove the Rebs with but little loss and Sezed the town with all it Spoil and burnt the grate City of Sodon into ashes not one house left to hatch treeson in agin but you hav red all about it before this Cumes to hand and we also giv Camdan a complet Scorchen and Started for Goalesboro, N. C. and drove the Rebs a fliing before our Colum and when we Reached the Nuce Rivr thay met us in a force of 40 or 45 thousand Strong and comanded us to halt and did us All of 3 days and got themselves badly whiped and roudt with thare ded and woonded on the front from one to three men deep Doc Triplett sed he cood walk all over the Battlefield on ded pepl and when our Corps left thay Still had thare own Corps had it purty warm our Regt was whare the bullets whisled very keen for 2 or 3 hours the fight lasted 3 dayes Doc Triplett Sed the woonded of the 14th and 20th Corpes was over 16 hundred the killed and and wooned in the 15th Corpes was not Quite So large you will hav the hole Report before this getes to hand but you may be Shure it wat Quite noisy for Sum time but all is Quiet now on the potomac we are now in Camp behind brest works Redy for the Jonies we are 2.75 miles South from Richmon and 65 miles North from Willmington on the last railrode thay hav and it wont bee long before we make another Strike and that will bee the last one away goes Richmon it is plainly to bee sean that the western trupes will hav all the fiting to do them white Shurt collers cant fite or wont So if we hav it all to do we will go and do it at onetime the Boyes hav taken it into thare own hands thay hav taken off thar gloves and you may depend that thay will handle the Rebs ruff when we left Bufort the Smoke and fier folled or rather went before not one house was left in South Carolina burnt evrything evn Smoke houses and fences and mills and evry thing the torch and Sword Shall bee the motto till this infernal Rebeline is at an end but we want the Government to Send the Potomac Armeey home Old Bifley has gon to Genrl Grant and we will Stay till he Returns you lettrs was dated one the 20th of Nov one the 7th of Feb and one the 14th of Feb and them 3 os all ihav recievd Senc we was at Fort Mc Calister you wanted to no whether I was sadeside wifth way you did with your money I hav no Complaints whatevr to make do the best you can All ihav to complain of that you hav it so hard and that I cant bee with you but it wont bee long till my time will bee out and then I will Cum and Share with you in times need and truble Bare it a littel longer do the best you can and that is all iShall ask dont sell any of the stock if you cangit along without it I wod be Glad if Dave wod put the mares to Sum Good Horsh this Spring we will bee paid off her before long the tock is if So iwill send you 100 dollars mor well I Shall Close for this time and right soon agone I will Right often while we stay her you must excuse me for not Righting sooner to you we hav just finished a campaign of almost six hundred miles march and you may depend ihad not much time Right and icoodnot have sent lettres

out but if you had riten as you mite iwod have more newes to  
 read about you Sed John Doorah thinks the ware will bee  
 over in Apr tell him ithink different but my opinion is the end is  
 nere almost at the door I hope this will find you and all of the  
 frends well my helth is beter than it has been for 5 yeares I  
 Stud the march fine and in bulley helth and spitr O yes I did no  
 git that money irote about Old Billey Sed git redy for an activ  
 and long campaign and so that cut meout agin the Boyes that  
 was at home Came her yestrday thay was glad to git home  
 agin pray for me So no more Right soon and often

A. W. Bebout

Camp in the Field near  
 Raleigh, N. C. Apr 28th 1865

Well Nance we are homeward bound homeward bound We  
 will Start for Sweet home for our Glorious homes at 6.00 in the  
 morning Apr the 29th and O what a time thare is in Camp the  
 Old 15th Corps and 17th Gets to Go first the noise is almost  
 equal to A batell the firing of guns and Singing and yelling and  
 hraying and all homeward bound Well Nancy the ware is over  
 all is Quiet now on the Potomac now the Glorious old flag is  
 waving in the breezes may it evr wave may the Stars and Stripes  
 evr wave in evry State town and village in thes United States  
 May the opresd go free may God bless a nation of pepel and may  
 we of good works and works.

Now Nancy we as Soilgers feel as if we had dun our duty to our  
 famlies and also to our Countrey and now we are agoing home  
 yess in a few weeks will find us all home did I way all home  
 no not all but all that the Good Lord will Spare we look back to  
 meny a brave man that has fallen we now look at the batiels the  
 Old 15th Corps has bin in and see her Ranks thind at Chickey-  
 saw at Sniders blufes at Haines Bluff at asoo (Yasoo) City at  
 Championshill at Carpentersvill at Big Black at Jackson at Vix-  
 burg at Kingston at Dallis at Mishionsridg at lookout, at Dalton, at  
 Recaca at Altona at Rome at Bigshantia at kinisaw mountain at  
 Atlanta at Marietta, at lick Skilet Road at Jonesborogh  
 almost hundred  
 thay have fallen  
 See thare deare

So Good by the mail is about to lve I cant finis i will tell you  
 the res when igit home

A. W. Bebout

we have to march to Richmon we will be thare on the 15th of May

Yes — the War is over! Grandad would be home in a few weeks and the  
 soldiers would be coming home. Not all of them — just all that the Good Lord  
 had spared. His thoughts were obviously with his fallen comrades as he  
 named many places where brave men were now resting until their last call.

Grandad had survived two years and nine months of the bitter War  
 Between The States. He was happy that the United States of America was  
 again a united nation and that his Lord had brought him through. In his later

years he became a lay minister, devoting much of his time to religion, and when he died in 1919, at the age of 91 years 2 months, he had seen five churches built under his supervision.

1. The following narrative of "skirmish" is taken from **History of the 99th Indiana Infantry** by Chaplain D. R. Lucas, published by Rosser & Spring, Lafayette, Indiana, in 1865:

The skirmish line during such operations as are now going on is the place of greatest danger. The main works of the armies are in plain view of each other, and some distance in front of these the skirmish lines are established — in many places within six hundred yards of each other. The skirmishers are grouped three and four together, and in pits, with logs and dirt in front of them. These pits are from twenty-five to forty yards apart, and properly defended, are quite as strong as a line of battle. In these pits the skirmishers live for twenty-four hours. They take rations and water with them, and though confined to rather close quarters, live during their hours of duty quite comfortably. When the firing is kept up between the opposing skirmishers they have few liberties; but as often happens, when they agree upon an armistice, they fare better. These agreements are made, of course, by the men themselves, and are strictly agreed to. They talk with each other at such times quite familiarly, exchanging their camp jokes and such scraps of news as are allowable. They sometimes carry their jokes too far; when one party becoming offended, and declaring the armistice closed, will begin firing as spitefully as though, personally, they were deadly enemies.

The parties, after steadily firing for some time, and wishing to stop for dinner, the Rebels will hail our men, "Hallo, Yank, aint you tired firing?" Answer — "Yes!" "Well, let's stop for dinner." The meal over, our boys will hail them, "Well, Johnny, here's for it again," and jumping into their pits, the work begins. These skirmishers watch each other closely, and give notice of movements of an attacking column. They are sometimes ordered to give a stubborn resistance, and again fall back at the approach of a column. They are subject to real dangers all the hours of their duty. In case of an attack, are almost always cut off, or severely punished. They are sent to cover the movement of an assaulting column, and are sent to develop the strength and character of an attacking force. 'Tis the post for brave men, a place where officers are called on to exercise their best qualities.

