



Colonel W. W. McChesney, United States Civil War Photographs, Library of Congress, LC-B813-1737 (C[P&P]). In command at Mayfield, KY during construction of the fortifications about the county courthouse.

The Civil War Letters of Andrew Lucas Hunt
Part 2 – Paducah and Mayfield, Kentucky (August 2 –
September 18, 1864)
Compiled and transcribed by Dieter C. Ullrich

The second series of Lieutenant Andrew Lucas Hunt letters begin with his arrival at Paducah, Kentucky with the 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment on August 1, 1864. For the first several days he served as the officer of the guard at the headquarters of General Eleazer A. Paine's before reporting to Colonel Waters W. McChesney at Mayfield on August 17th. He remained in Mayfield with his regiment until September 17th. While stationed at Mayfield he witnessed the occupation of the city, the construction of fortifications about the Graves County Courthouse and the capture and execution

of three renowned guerrillas from the Jackson Purchase.

(To his mother¹)

Paducah; August 2, 1864

My dear Mother,

You no doubt will be surprised to hear by my Saturday's letter that we had marching orders for this place.

The orders were made known to us at 9:30 Saturday eve and Sunday's a.m. at 10 o'clock found us onboard the steamer 'Graham' for Cairo. We reached Cairo at 4 p.m. and immediately 4 Co.'s A, F, D, & I were ordered on the 'Convoy' to go on that evening. We sailed up the Ohio to the 'Chain of Rocks'² some twenty miles from Cairo and there we put ashore as the night was too dark to make the passage – at two a.m. we started. We had a very experienced pilot – made the passage safely – passed some ten or a dozen sunken steamers.

We are in camp right on the Tennessee River – a narrow but very deep river. We arrived here yesterday a.m. at 8 o'clock. We had to unload the boat, etc. and so started for our camp ground at 10 o'clock. While marching out we met a rebel captain and seven men coming along the road with a flag of truce. Major Wilson took them in charge – he detailed 20 men from Co. A and myself to command them and to guard the rebs. I had the rebs unarmed and took possession of a private

¹ Sophia Hamilton Hunt, mother of Lucas.

² Near present day Grand Chain, Illinois.

house, put the rebs in a room and ordered the guards to shoot the first one that attempted to pass the doorway. We had a ration sent to me by General Payne.³ I asked the lady of the house to cook the food. She did so quite willingly, she was sesesh. I talked to the rebs, examined their equipment and clothing, etc. They were in uniform but it was mixed - no two being alike - had clean clothing, new stockings, etc. They were quite friendly. I did not talk to them much as my orders were very explicit. They belonged to Morgan's command. Last night at 9 o'clock I received orders to report at the fort with my prisoners. So I had to march them a mile and a quarter thru the city. I got them all at the fort at ten o'clock - took my receipt for the rebs and was ordered back to the camp. We arrived at the camp after midnight, the city being unknown to us we lost our way or did not take the most direct route. I did not get any sleep at all, was up at 3:30 a.m. - had to make my rounds two or three times to see that the men were awake, etc.

That is what I like - having to do responsible duty.

For forty two (42) hours all I ate was less than a hard tack. We threw some hard tack to the pigs they took it in their mouths but could not eat it as it was too hard. The only way that we could break the crackers was by jumping on them with our heels - this is true - we could not possibly bite them. I had my first meal since we have been in Paducah a little while ago. I went to a farm house with the mess and had a tolerably good dinner.

³ Brigadier General Eleazer A. Paine

I wrote a short note to you immediately after coming off duty to tell you that we arrived here safely. I am afraid we will have to board at the farm houses in this neighborhood as we are too far from the city to get our victuals there – as we were doing in Columbus. I am out of funds. I have had to borrow of Charlie Dickenson and Whitehead.⁴ I don't like to do this, in fact I can't do it. Will you please send me some money. I can get a draft cashed here as there are banks in the city. Everyone is quite well in both Co. D and I. Williamson⁵ was under me guarding the rebel prisoners (Mr. Bigg's friend)

With very kind regards to Mr. Biggs's and all other friends - and very much love to all at home. I am very affectionately yours, Luke.

Paducah, Kentucky; August 5, 1864, Friday

My dear Mother,

Please excuse me for not writing sooner – or oftener – but we have been so very busy in laying out our new camp and pitching my own tent that I have not the time to write longer letters or more of them. I have sent two short scraggy letters home since we arrived here. We are well. Whitehead and O'Neill⁶ are in good health.

I have been downtown today and used my letter of credit by drawing on father for fifty dollars

⁴ Lieutenant Charles E. Dickenson, Company D and Captain Edward J. Whitehead, Company I, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁵ Private James Williamson, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁶ Second Lieutenant Edward O'Neill, Company I, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

(\$50.00). I would have drawn only half this sum but for Colonel Bigelow⁷ being entirely out of funds. I shall make him give me a receipt for twenty five dollars – you know I owe him for the sword and belt. The draft is drawn [from] A. C. Badger⁸ payable to the order of Lieutenant R. G. O'Brien⁹ and endorsed by him. I could not wait until money came from Chicago. I was borrowing all the time. I shall pay my debt and then refuse to lend any money. Please do not think I have done wrong. I shall do nothing but what I would as soon as you should know [it] as not.

I saw General Payne this morning. He looks exactly like Mr. H. M. Thompson.¹⁰ He is a very pleasant gentleman. I was in his office for quite a while before I could transact my business with him. I was with Mr. R. P. Pierce¹¹ our quartermaster and Captain N. P. Petts¹² both of whom know Mr. Thompson very well. We all made the remark at the same time. Petts is one of T.J. & Co. customers. Our camp looks very beautiful. The arbors are all up, etc. – the tents in rows – the white and green make a very pretty contrast. General Payne is very much

⁷ Lieutenant Colonel John C. Bigelow, Staff Officer, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁸ A. C. Badger was a banker from Chicago.

⁹ Second Lieutenant Russell G. O'Brien, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. It is interesting to note that O'Brien later became a Brigadier General who originated the custom of standing during the rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

¹⁰ H. M. Thompson was a minister at the St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago.

¹¹ Quartermaster Rueben P. Pierce, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

¹² Captain Nathan B. Petts, Company B, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

pleased with our regiment indeed. He has been to see us once.

I visited the hospital in the city this a.m. I have only one man there – McGregor¹³ – he will report for duty in a day or two. The fatigue of moving was too much for him. He is getting well rapidly.

J. B. Haggard's son¹⁴ has been unwell - if his father asks you anything about him you may assure him that his son is not seriously unwell at all. We have now a large sick list than we ever had before – owing to our moving. The men have worked most valiantly and deserve very great credit for having gotten the camp in order so soon. I shall visit the post hospital whenever I can when any of the men of D or I are there. The men are all in the best of spirits. We are the crack regiment of the post.

Please do not feel anxious about me. If I am sick I will receive the very best of attention and there would be no use in anyone coming down to see me. I hope you won't think I am extravagant I keep an account of everything that I spend.

Paducah is quite a place but they are no really fine places – residences in the city. The rebels when they attacked the city last March destroyed much property and it has never been fully repaired.

Please write as often as you can – the mails are very irregular here. They have not had one here since last Monday.

¹³ Private John C. McGregor, Company I, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

¹⁴ Private John D. Haggard, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

With very much love to all at home and kind regards to all friends – Sam & Eugene Fauntleroy¹⁵ are quite well. The draft was on A. C. Badger & Co. signed A. Lucas Hunt. Will they know who I am? Please answer immediately. Your affectionate son, Lucas.

Camp of 134th Ill. Inf.; Paducah; August 6, 1864

My dear Mother,

You do not know how the boys cheered when the drum major stepped in front of my tent and sounded the "orderly's call" for mail. The boys all know the call and its always very welcome to both officers and men. Lieutenant O'Neill says we had one hundred and eighty two letters from our company – many of the boys having as many as five or seven.

I could not help tears coming while reading your letter when you mentioned that time was passing rapidly now that you were going down the hill of life. You don't know how badly I feel. I most earnestly hope that we will be sent home when our term of service is over – viz in about 30 days from now. I pray that your health may be spared for many years to come.

I am glad – and Metlar¹⁶ and Dickenson are very much obliged to you for your very many

¹⁵ Sergeant Eugene H. Fauntleroy and Corporal Samuel C. Fauntleroy, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

¹⁶ Captain William Metlar, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

attentions to Colburn.¹⁷ I hope Southworth¹⁸ called to see you again. I think today was the day he ought to report to camp as his furlough was only for twenty days.

I feel as settled here as I did at Columbus already. I have worked hard at my bowers – have them up – my bunk built, etc. I like our present camp we have much more than we had at Camp Hancock but have no shade trees at all. The men have all built their arbors, etc. and are already settled. Did you read the article in the *Chicago Tribune* of August 1st about our camp? Mr. Carbutt¹⁹ wrote it – please cut it out of the paper and keep it. I did not go to the Grand Rounds that night. I was going but I let Mr. Carbutt have my mule as he for some reason or another failed in getting the animal he engaged in the afternoon. The party he speaks of as being mistaken for guerrillas was my party, we were out after forage – Carbutt was with us. Keep the extract.

Glad Clem²⁰ goes to see Colburn - Mrs. Fauntleroy and Smyth are very kind and father – Colburn has been treated exceedingly well. I hope his father will call at our house.

I am very sorry to hear that Hamilton²¹ is so unwell. I hope that he has recovered. A lamp is

¹⁷ Private Alfred H. Colburn, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Private Colburn was sent to Chicago to recover from a case of typhoid fever.

¹⁸ Private George Southworth, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

¹⁹ John Carbutt, a photographer and stereoview publisher from Chicago.

²⁰ Clement McGregor Hunt, younger brother of Lucas.

²¹ Edwin Hamilton Hunt, older brother of Lucas.

rather a queer present to offer to a Sunday school class but still as it is something unusual. I suppose the children tried very hard to win the prize.

Who is Mr. Averill? I don't recollect him at all.

I don't think we will be kept 30 days beyond our leave as they will expect some of our men to re-enlist. We will be kept some few days probably but not for a month as there may be no regiment to take our place immediately.

Am glad that Mr. Thompson is to have an excursion – hope he will be much benefitted. I hope we are not going to have any trouble with F. H. Manning. I would let the Camp Douglas trade go if it is the slightest way injurious to our regular business. If they are satisfied with our way of doing business we can keep their trade.

I have quite a headache now. I worked out in the hot sun all morning but will be over it in an hour or two. I am very free from headaches, etc.

Probably Mr. Mather's²² death may be the means taken by the almighty to show to Gibbons Mather²³ the wickedness of his ways. He doeth all things well.

I will go over to Co. F and enquire of Lieutenant Strawbridge about Brown and will read him that part of your letter – Strawbridge²⁴ is downtown. My head aches so much I will lay down for a while.

²² Daniel W. Mather of Cook County, Illinois.

²³ Charles Gibbons Mather of Cook County, Illinois.

²⁴ Second Lieutenant George E. Strobridge, Company F, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

This afternoon I received an order to report to General Paine for duty. I shall go down first thing in the a.m.

I hope now that we are in a place where there are churches. I shall have an opportunity to attend for once since I left Chicago.

I was out of money the other day so I used my letter of credit. I drew on father for (\$50) fifty dollars. I hope father won't think I have done wrong. The draft was on A. C. Badger & Co. as per their letter you got them to give you – payable to the order of R. G. O'Brien and endorsed by him. I had no trouble at all.

I have been to Strowbridge but had no chance to speak to him about John Brown²⁵ – will go again. I shall take very great care of myself in haste as Nason²⁶ is going to town and will take my letter down for me.

With very great love to you, my dearest mother, and all the rest I am affectionately your son. I long to hear from home more often – Lucas.

Headquarters Dist. West. Kentucky; Paducah
August 12, 1864

My dear Mother,

I am here all alone - in my glory – am in full command of the headquarters.

The day before yesterday the regiment received marching orders – they have gone out on

²⁵ Private John H. Brown, Company F, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

²⁶ Sergeant Edward W. Nason, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

a scout – some 2,000 troops in all – cavalry and infantry and some artillery – they were off at three o'clock. The General and staff followed them yesterday a.m. early. I asked General Paine if he could not take me but he said I would have to stay at home and take command of the headquarters, so I am all alone - there are only some 60 or 75 men in our camp and they are all on the sick list. Captain Dyer²⁷ is in command but he is flat on his back sick in bed. The General is one of the most pleasant men I know of – he will shake hands with you in the morning when he first comes out on the stoop – sits down asks you to take a chair and will enter into conversation with you very freely. He looks very much like Mr. H. M. Thompson. He generally wears a linen coat and a straw hat. He transacts all the business of the post personally so as he says he can know what is going on. I like him very much. Whenever any of the guard salute him, he always takes off his hat. I am very sorry that I would not go off with my company. The boys all wanted me to go with them so much. I was in great hopes that the General would have me go with him.

Our headquarters are very pleasant. The building was the private residence of Judge Cambell²⁸, a notorious sesesh. The grounds are very handsomely laid out full of large fruit and shade trees – my men 44 in number have five large wall tents and all very comfortably situated – have extra food rations – as the General told the commissary

²⁷ Captain John Dyer, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

²⁸ Circuit Court Judge James Campbell, who resided at 420 Broadway in Paducah.

that he wished him to issue to us the best he had. The commissary is a very nice old gentleman, Captain McKenzie.²⁹ The quartermaster of the post and the proprietors of the Continental Hotel are very well acquainted with Frank Smith. I had a long talk with Mr. Lewis who knew Frank very well. I met Mr. Lewis while he was waiting to see the General.

About a half block from the headquarters is the Municipal Church of the City – Methodist. I went there last Sunday both morning and evening. The minister did not pray for the president or the union cause but he said the last clause of his prayer, 'Oh Lord bless our land amen', that was all the prayer offered for our country. Last night they had singing school there. There were some fifteen young ladies there and only two gentlemen until I marched in a squad of 12 or 15 men. We sat down and took up sesesh hymn books – they sang Sunday tunes. I tried to find 'America' but it was not in the book – neither was the hymn 'My Country 'tis of Thee', if it had been I would have asked them to sing it. The young ladies are all sesesh.

I suppose the regiment will go to Mayfield where there is the rebel General Woodworth with a considerable force. The General means to fight wherever he goes and he has taken a colored regiment – a battery of artillery – and the 3rd and 10th Tennessee Cavalry besides part of the 132nd Ill. - the effective men of our regiment is some 900 in number – all the officers have gone that we know

²⁹ Possibly Second Lieutenant James C. McKenzie, Company F, 139th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

except Captain Dyer and Lieutenant Barry³⁰, who are both sick in bed.

Being stationed downtown here I have to board out and am staying at a house at seven dollars a week. I tried several places but they could not take me and late on Monday evening after having had only one meal from breakfast Sunday to Monday noon I decided to go to the present house. The hotel fare is 10 dollars per week. I have had my mosquito netting fitted to my bed and sleep as soundly as possible.

There are a great number of young ladies within the city but I have not tried hard to make any acquaintances. The staff officers are very pleasant gentlemanly young men. I do not go with them but often sit on the balcony of the house with the General and talk. The General made a visit to our camp and saw our dress parade. He was just as pleased as could possibly be. Our streets are all in regular rows and widths – the tents are all aligned and the camp is well policed – perfectly aligned. The dress parade and the appearance of the regiment is what pleased him most. He said it was one of the finest sights he had ever seen. I told him all about the companies and he was very glad to hear that he had some Zouaves in the regiment.

And now dear mother for your letter. Last evening I received two letters from home. I read them by candle light after returning from church. I also received Louisa's³¹ letter and was very glad to hear from [her] so often. But can't answer details in

³⁰ Second Lieutenant George Barry, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

³¹ Louisa Hunt, older sister of Lucas.

each – I am glad we came to Paducah. It is much more pleasant than Columbus. Our camp is situated better – we have poor water accommodations.

Am glad Whitehead's³² sisters called. Theo Hammill³³ is one of the General's orderlies. We are together all the time. He is only on duty once in 10 days but rides out with the General wherever he goes. Theo was sick for a little while but is now quite recovered. Theo was sitting on the stoop the other morning and the General came out – he said 'good morning' and shook hands very cordially with him. The General told me he had been a private soldier, a corporal, a sergeant, 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Colonel, etc. and had served as adjutant and as quartermaster. He does not use any profane language and told Colonel McChesney he was pleased to say he had not heard my men use any. I think he is much pleased with the guard.

Robergus³⁴ is all well. Hazlewood³⁵ is with me. Sad news about Colonel Bross and Hector Aiken.³⁶ Southworth is here and I received my [purse]. I worry that Johnnie does not write more often to Mrs. R. I have thought that you will be anxious about me as I

³² Captain Edward J. Whitehead, Company I, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

³³ Private T. Wylie Hamill, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

³⁴ Possibly Private F. Julius Rodbertus, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

³⁵ Private Robert Hazelwood, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

³⁶ Colonel John A. Bross and Captain Hector A. Aiken, 29th United States Colored Infantry. Colonel Bross and Captain Aiken were killed during an assault before Petersburg, Virginia on July 30, 1864.

have let too long a time go by without writing. Glad Colburn has gone home. Hope you will see our dress parade sometime soon. I hope the Rockford trip was beneficial to you in all ways. I shan't hurt myself reading novels. I have examined [the books] very often. Go to Carbutt's by all means and take a good look at the [stereo] views. Theo Hammill told me the [word undecipherable] were coming to Chicago. He is now out with the General. The rumor is today that they have had a fight. I keep all my letters – would not burn any of them for anything. Hope you keep all of mine. Tell Amy and Ettie³⁷ I am very much pleased with the notes. Will try to write a few lines to them. Parcel of prunes & novel received – many thanks – shall remember your remarks about reading, etc. Glad to hear of the acquaintances. Am glad the Hammills have returned. Kind regards to Gussie. Thank her for her photograph. I think I wrote her a hurried note but don't recollect whether it was for [the photograph].

I want one of each of Mr. Carbutt's views. I was with him when he took the forage party and the picket post – in fact I went everywhere with him. Has he not told you anything about us - he was with our men all the while. Hope you can have one of Clem & Willie sent to me. Can you recognize me in any of the views? We have most certainly had a very pleasant time so far. We have had our hard knocks but it would not have been pleasant to have been without them. I am very sorry Hamilton is so unwell – hope a good trip out in the country or to Lake Superior will set him all OK. Theo H. was sick but is now quite well. I was very sorry to see the Tribune

³⁷ Amelia and Ester Maria Hunt, the younger sisters of Lucas

notice of Mrs. McNair's death. Am quite surprised to hear that Johnson's sister has gone and got married. I am sure I wish her very much happiness. I wonder what John thinks. Lettie was the youngest - or rather the smallest - wonder if anyone else is going to be married soon. Am quite well and enjoy the very best of health. I would like to know which of the pictures you are going to send to England. I think I shall like to keep one of each view.

We have a little black and tan dog here - think it is the General's - he is fond of dogs, birds - has a squirrel, etc. I hope to attend church regularly. I felt very glad to get a seat in one last Sunday - for the first time since leaving home. I hope to keep in the right way. I feel much more able to do so - when you say your first [loyalties are for men]. Have found two of Frank Louth's friends as mentioned but they do not amount to anything. Shall be happy to have any letters of introduction - folks are kind to me when they know I am at headquarters.

My expenses have been more [heavy] since I have been in Paducah than ever before. I have to pay heavily for anything I have done - my pants repaired \$1.00, mosquito netting .75, etc. But now as that I have gotten more settled I shall be more at ease.

Rumored today they have had a fight but no particulars. The General meant to fight when he went out. Saw the Tribune - Chapman letter and papers are at hand. With very much love to all the family and very much to you dear mother. I am affectionately, Lucas.

**Headquarters Dist. Western Kentucky; Paducah
August 14, 1864; Sunday A.M.**

My dear Parents,

Yesterday I received two letters from home. The first from Sophy³⁸ – I answered it immediately – was very glad to hear from her. Hope she will write more often than she has hitherto fore.

The second letter was from father – enclosing draft for \$35.00. I was not in need of the draft as I had drawn in Chicago for \$50.00 but I will keep it. I may want to use it. I give in my letter accounts of the General's return. Theo Hammill is back safely, he is with me very much of the time – he is well. I am afraid I shall go to the hotel to live when I get thru this week. The place I am now staying at is very poor for seven dollars a week – sometimes no butter. I shall try to get into the General's mess.

Am glad you have heard from England. How is the [family doing in Scotland] – one in Australia and two in Africa?

Glad you have seen Mrs. Chaplin. Have not heard from Henry for a long time - he owes me a letter. Willie Manierre³⁹ has not been sick at all that I know of. He is now with the regiment at Mayfield – he is the Colonel's orderly – will have a very nice easy time.

We, here, have had very pleasant weather. It has rained a great deal but is now this a.m. very pleasant and cool. It is just a week ago today that I took command of the guard. I have a very easy

³⁸ Sophia Darling Hunt, younger sister of Lucas.

³⁹ Private William R. Manierre, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

time. I wish the General would give me some writing to do. I am with him a great deal. I hear him issue orders to close such a store and bring its owners to him in irons, etc. The accounts you see in the papers (the *Tribune*) are true. I saw him send the lady sesesh off. I stood right alongside of him when an old lady whose three sons are in the rebel army came with tears in her eyes and asked him to let her stay in the city. The General told her that living or dead she should leave for Canada on next (last) Monday. I saw her off on the following day. There were eight in that family, their names were Woolfolk. They have a splendid residence – had to leave everything and there is a negro guard there over the house. They went off with a negro guard to Canada. The captain in command of the guard reported to Captain Paine yesterday noon. The trip cost some \$350 but it all comes out of the rebels who live in the neighborhood.

The General levies a tax of \$125.00 on every bale of cotton and 25% percent on every hogshead for tobacco that comes into the city owned by rebs or persons of doubted loyalty to form a fund for repaying union families that live in the neighborhood who have had their houses burned , etc. by the guerrillas. He paid a union woman whose husband had been hung by the rebs for adhering to his union sentiments – a thousand dollars of the fund and told her when she was in a place of safety and wanted more funds he would pay her a thousand more. That's the right kind of doctrine. He will give audience to a poor negro woman and listen with all possible attention to her complaint.

Theo Hammill has just been here and asked me if I would go to church with him. We will go to the Presbyterian church and I hope it will be a loyal one. I will tell you about it when I return.

Afternoon. Theo and another orderly and myself attended the Presbyterian Church - we were early - a gentlemen came to me and asked me to take any seat - we took a seat about halfway up the aisle and waited awhile. The minister came in - a fine looking, short and stout, middle aged man. He opened with prayer and then sang a hymn - read the scriptures - prayer - sang hymn - sermon - text - 'Search the Scriptures' - a very good sermon - plain - anyone could understand it. A little while after services began the General walked in accompanied by three of his staff. The General took a seat one pew in front of me to my right. He paid good attention to the sermon always bowed his head during the prayers, etc. The General is very pleasant. I wish I could stay with him for a longer period that I shall be with him. I like him very much.

I am in hope of going to Mayfield to see the regiment this week some time. I shall ask the General to let me go.

Carbutt will make money over his expenses to Columbus - his hotel board was nothing. He slept out at camp and always ate at our mess. Can you find the pictures of our mess? It was taken at dinner - just after we had gotten thru. The first time we sat for that picture it was spoilt by Bigelow - he looked at me and burst out laughing. Theo Hammill is gone up to the Adjutant General's office to write a letter home. I am writing in the left hand parlor of the house. The right hand parlor the General uses as his

office. The parlors are all furnished with mahogany washboards – the window sills are mahogany nicely varnished, etc. – furniture very handsome – two mahogany sofas with purple velvet seats and chairs to match. The walls are handsomely papered, etc. I am writing on a handsome black walnut table. The rooms are very large and airy.

Am glad you called at Bigelow's store.⁴⁰ John does not write me often as he should. He used to be all the time talking to me about writing home so much.

The boys stood the march of 28 miles to Mayfield very well. The General has ordered that no provisions be sent out to them. He is going to let them live on the inhabitants who are all rebel and have been committing depredations on the few Union citizens who live there. I am glad I am not with them for they must be all upside down today. I am quite comfortable today – cool and pleasant – looks as if we're going to have some more rain. The General transacts nearly all the business of the post. He pays as much attention to the negro soldier who is asking him for a house for his wife and family as he does to the congressman of the district. He is exceedingly pleasant and polite. I am never away from headquarters – hardly – except when I am after my meals or some other business for the men. The staff are quite good singers and often they sing on the balcony of the house with the General. We have some pleasant evenings. I shall attend church this evening at the Methodist Church. I may go to a

⁴⁰ The Bigelow Brothers were in the lumbering business which had an office in Chicago.

singing school this afternoon at the Methodist church.

If I could only get an introduction to some staunch Union young ladies I might enjoy myself very much, but I will go without any acquaintances before I will be introduced to a sesesh young lady. There are numbers of sesesh young ladies [that] live on Broadway (the street headquarters is on) – all of them dress in white and red but never the slightest show of blue. I wish the General would issue an order that all the young ladies had to take the oath of allegiance – wouldn't we have lots of amusement!

I will take very great care not to be robbed of my money. I never carry much around with me – leave my pocket book in my trunk. Sam and Eugene Fauntleroy are well. They are out at Mayfield but are well.

The city is very quiet but few persons are out now and occasionally a man on horseback goes by or a horse buggy. Now nothing is to be heard but my sentinel pacing his beat in front of the house. The men are all reading or writing letters home.

Just around the corner from headquarters – about a block distant – is the negro hospital. The negro is a quire object when he is sick. If he has a tooth ache, he will get a stick to walk with and bandage himself all up and they put on such a miserable disconsolate look. I went by there the other day for a horse from the quartermaster's stable and as I passed a lot of them, who were sitting out in the shade, arose to salute me. I could not help but laugh at them. They all had sticks and their heads wrapped up in white clothes, etc.

Mr. Tullis⁴¹ was at church this a.m. Hope Hamilton's trip was not delayed by Mr. Thompson's absence. Wrote a short note to Colonel Bigelow yesterday. Direct my letters to the usual way, if they do go out to the regiment I can get them in a day or two – at least direct as usual until Mr. Tullis goes out of town. He is our Postmaster. I will be in town all the while – shall stay here. Must look up another boarding place tomorrow.

With very much love to all – Ettie & Amy, etc. Kind regards to all friends whoever asks after me. Affectionately your son, Lucas.

**Headquarters District Western Kentucky; Paducah
August 15, 1864**

My dear Mother,

I fear I cannot write an interesting letter today, as I wrote a long letter home yesterday. This a.m. I received your very welcomed letter of the 11th inst. I am very glad to hear from home. I have had Misses Lill & Diversy's traveler here with us nearly all day till 2 p.m. I thought I knew him when I first saw him at the breakfast table at the Continental. I look at the hotel register and saw "E. Saunders, Chicago." I waited till he came out and then spoke to him. He has a son at Mayfield with the regiment.⁴² I showed him all the attention [that] was in my power – took him about the city – to the camp of the 132nd and passed him into the fort, etc. I tried to get him a pass from the Provost Marshal but he was not issuing any.

⁴¹ Chaplin Amos K. Tullis, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁴² His son was Private Horace M. Saunders, Company C, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

So I went to Captain Paine⁴³ but he sent me to the General. I introduced Mr. Saunders to him and asked him for a pass to Mayfield. The General told me to write one – I wrote one and he signed it. Mr. S will return tomorrow some time. He will be in Chicago on next Saturday. He will call to see you at the store – he is an Englishman – knows the Steel's and saw Mr. Wilkins in Saint Louis – knows Mr. Biggs. He is rather a rough man something of Lill's style. Would not do to write to our house but still I was glad to see him as he was from Chicago and he knew something of our family and some of our friends. I am well.

Theo Hammill is well. It is almost my supper time, I must go - will write more fully after my return.

Did not have any chance to write last night after supper. Took a walk around the town – listened to the 16th Army Corps band play at the camp – about 8 o'clock they went up to Captain Paine's quarters and played several pieces. I sat there talking to the staff and to the clerks – men who have been detailed from our regiment, etc. It was time to retire when I reached my tent.

Today seems as if it was going to be a cool and comfortable day but a person can't be any judge of the weather as it will rain and thunder while the sun is shining – yesterday all of a sudden we had a flash of lightning and a very loud peal of thunder.

My breakfast is ready and I have had a good appetite - received the *Journal*. I have been sitting for about half an hour on the balcony with the General talking. He has one of the old lieutenants with him and has been talking over old times. I think

⁴³ Captain Phelps Paine, son of General Eleazer A. Paine.

they were together when the General was a lieutenant. The General introduced me to him, etc. We had a very pleasant half hour together. They have now gone out riding.

I have not used my \$35.00 draft yet. I will ask Mr. Dillam,⁴⁴ cashier at the Commonwealth Bank of Kentucky in Paducah, if it makes any difference whether I keep the draft for a time and then use it. I could not wait till I heard from home for money as I was out entirely. So I thought of my letter of introduction to J. B. Kirtland⁴⁵ of Memphis and showed it to Mr. Dillam and he immediately asked me how much I would like to have. He is very kind and pleasant. I often go and sit on his balcony and talk to him, but he's a little sesesh – don't like the arming of the negro. A great many people are all right in every respect but this – and arming the negro is the only thing they don't like.

I am very glad Hamilton, Clara⁴⁶ and Louisa have got off safely. I hope they will have a very pleasant trip and Hamilton's health will be much improved. I am very glad to hear the Mr. Meyers has another little girl – hope both are doing well.

I do not complain of want of letters but sometimes I do feel low spirited and forget that I receive as many letters as is my share. Have nothing particular to do and feel more disappointed when I don't get a letter now than I did while I was out at camp and with the boys. I am all alone down here. I

⁴⁴ James L. Dallam, a broker and exchange dealer from Paducah.

⁴⁵ J. B. Kirtland was the owner of Kirtland & Co., a banker and broker, of Memphis, Tennessee.

⁴⁶ Clara Hunt, older sister of Lucas.

am sure you will miss Clara, Louisa and Hamilton very much but in a little while, only some twenty three days or more and I hope we may all meet once more. Our time is up on the eighth of next month but we may be kept some 2 or 3 days beyond that time because it may be hard to get a regiment to relieve us. I don't think they will keep us for the 30 days after our time is up.

Poor little Ettie – tell her I will be home soon and she must not cry about Clara. I did not get used to my new camp hardly – just got comfortably settled and I was detailed downtown. However, I am glad I have my present position at times and at other times wish I was out with the boys at Mayfield. Hazlewood asked me to lend him two dollars and I did so but I will not loan money to anyone who I know is not perfectly responsible.

I do not have a chance to write with pen and ink and generally write on a book resting on my knees that ought partly excuse bad writing, but bad spelling I have no excuse for unless haste is an excuse. I never read my letters over a second time. I ought to but very seldom do. The General is going out on a scout up the Tennessee River. I wish I could go with him. I believe the rebs crossed the river and are now in Illinois – at any rate the river is blockaded some distance up – a steamboat has been captured and its cargo with cattle, etc. carried off. The General I think will be absent a week and they expect to have a long trip.

Mr. Saunders (Lill & Diversey's traveler) has returned from Mayfield. He saw his son. The health of the regiment is good – Companies D and I are quartered in a church – everyone is well. Bigelow,

Metlar, Whitehead, O'Neill and Dickenson – they all wish I was with them. Captain Thayer⁴⁷ came in with Mr. Saunders. Mr. S is now waiting for a boat to go down the river to Cairo but all the boats are impressed into service by order of General Paine as he may want them to transport troops up the river. Mr. Saunders is very much disappointed in not getting off tonight. He may not be able to get off until the day after tomorrow.

I am now writing on a Mitchell school atlas resting on my knees. The atlas belonged to the Campbell family who lived in the house. I shall be very glad to have any letters of introduction to anyone in the city who is Union, but if they are "Rebs" I don't want anything to do with them. Am now in the best of health. Nolen & Co.⁴⁸ have quite a large store but I. W. Mackey (think [it's the] right name) have the largest stock.

Hope the two dogs will live and we don't lose them. I hope you will always correct any faults you may see in my letters - in spelling particularly. Theo Hammill is going out with the General. Southworth is here and well.

Wednesday I received this a.m. orders to report with my command to Colonel McChesney at Mayfield – direct all letters as usual and they will come to me. We are pretty sure to have some little fight or fuss out there. I am rather glad as we will have some active service. The regiment is living well – part of the regiment is located in a young ladies

⁴⁷ Captain Moses A. Thayer, Company C, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁴⁸ Nolen & Co. was owned and operated by William Nolen, later of Fulton, Kentucky.

seminary – our two companies D and I are quartered in a church.

Mr. Saunders is off for Chicago – he will call and see you. I showed him all the attention with in my powers – had a very pleasant visit from him. Shall always be glad to show anyone kindness who comes from Chicago. We go out to Mayfield in the cars.

Am well – Theo Hammill is well. The General has gone out on an expedition up the river. He had 10 or 12 transports loaded with troops and artillery. I believe the rebels have crossed the river and are now in Illinois. They will have to scatter when the General gets up there. I wish I could stay with the General all the time he is a very pleasant gentleman. I never passed a more pleasant evening than one which I spent in company with the General on the front stoop. He is very pleasant - stern and strict in giving orders – just the man I would like to serve under.

With very much love to all at home and very kind regards to all friends – Gussie Hardy, Mary Tuttle, all the clerks & men. Dear mother would you write a note to Ettie but have not [the] time to do so. Your affectionate son, Lucas.

Mayfield, Kentucky; August 18, 1864

My dear Mother,

Last time I wrote home I think I mentioned that I had received orders to report with my men to Colonel McChesney at this post. I left Paducah yesterday at two o'clock arrived here about four p.m. This is an old settled place – has two large

hotels – quite a number of brick buildings – large tobacco warehouses – no mosquitoes. We are now fortifying the courthouse – may be attack by guerrillas at almost any time. Have very poor feed – no good accommodations – our two companies D and I – are quartered in a church. Metlar and Whitehead sleep in the pulpit – last night I slept on a 'pigeon hole' table.⁴⁹ Colonel McChesney commands the post and Colonel Bigelow commands the regiment. We have lots of fun – if our lot is hard we enjoy ourselves hugely. Colonel Bigelow has very pleasant quarters in a nice room in the Mayfield Hotel. Charlie Dickenson is acting adjutant and Ed Nason is adjutant's clerk – so we have lots of fun. We have plenty of fresh meat – lots of rebel beef and hogs running around the town. Every little while you hear a hog squeal stuck by a bayonet. I do not know whether I am to go back to Paducah or not but I think I shall. The General has gone up to Shawneetown to capture some rebels who were reported to be up the river. They expect to be gone for a week.

Received Clem and Willie's photographs – have them in my album. They are very good. Also received a letter from Henry Chapin. They were handed to me just as the cars were starting. The letters are now in my trunk at the church. I am writing at Colonel Bigelow's headquarters. Am quite well – all the rest are well. Fauntleroy's are well – was very glad to get amongst the boys once again. They were very glad to see me. Was very much pleased with Amy's letter.

⁴⁹ Basically a small billiard table.

We have a squad of rebels at work on the courthouse. The men help themselves to anything they want. There is only very few union families in this place. We have nothing to do now. We can't get anything in the town in the way of luxuries – there is no butter in the city. Fresh meat in abundance but no milk to be had – very poor coffee and sugar. There is no river in the neighborhood all the wells are very deep. The well we get our water from is from 175 to 200 feet deep. It is very hard to get it up to the surface but is exceedingly good when it is up. The boys had a very hard march. I was sorry I could not go with them but now am glad I did not go. They are all settled now and escaped the confusion of settling down - all the tents are in Paducah. The whole regiment, in fact all the troops, is quartered in houses – four companies are occupying a large brick young ladies seminary. The school was in session on the morning the regiment arrived in the town. Quartermaster R. P. Pierce is now in Chicago. He has been absent for nearly a week. I have written this letter hastily but it will let you know that we are all well and in the best of spirits. The officers are walking about and talking so I must bring my 'epistle' to a close.

Kind regards to Gussie – wishing her very happy returns of the day – her birthday was on the 14th. Much love to all at home Ettie, Amy, Clem, Willie, etc. Kind regards to all the clerks at the store. And very much love to you. Am your affectionate son, Lucas.

Have cavalry scouts out all the time – can't be surprised.

Mayfield; August 19, 1864; "In Church"

My dear Mother,

The life we are now living is curse to the service. We are now in a thoroughly rebel town – anything the men want they take. Since we have been here the men are more demoralized than they ever were before. I don't know as you can call it stealing, but I think it is wrong and it leads to stealing for if they take things from the rebel why won't they steal things from a union person? I am very sorry to see so much 'confiscating' going on.

I hope I may be ordered back to Paducah for in this town there is nothing to eat – no butter – very little milk and hardly enough for coffee at the hotel. I think I may go to Paducah tomorrow with some thousands of dollars to send off by express. The day before yesterday the men were paid off for the month of June. They had brought over a thousand dollars to Colonel Bigelow to send home. I may go to Paducah to send the money home by express. I'll send you a hundred and fifteen (\$115.00). Charlie Dickenson sends seventy dollars in the same package (\$70.00) which his father will call for at the store – making one hundred and eighty five dollars (\$185.00) in the package. Tell Sophia I have not received any letter from Gussie as yet but it may come up on today's train. Wrote a letter home yesterday but don't think it has gone forward yet. The boys are all well and in good spirits.

We have impressed into our service all the male inhabitants of the town to fortify the courthouse. They are at work now – have thrown up earthworks, barricaded the windows with heavy oak

scathing – cut loop holes in the wall – built staging for the men to stand on. Unless the enemy were to come against us with a very large force and artillery we could never be driven out of the building. Don't let anything I may say make you feel anxious – we are in no more danger than we have been all along

Am quite well enjoying the best of health. The boys are pounding their hard tack into crumbs with hammers and hatchets and between stones – soak it in water and then fry them in a pan with pork fat. The church is almost as noisy as a tanners shop.

The boys are all happy though our lot is hard. Colonel Bigelow is just worshipped by the boys. He is the same as even to us old boys. Very kind regards to all friends – much love to all – Ettie, Amy and yourself. Your affectionate son, Lucas. Excuse paper.

Mayfield, Ky.; August 22, 1864

My dear Mother,

I am afraid you will think I have been neglecting you in not writing you but since I have been in this place I have written to you some four times. We have had trouble with our connections with Paducah – once the train broke down and we had not a train for two days. Then the river is so low that boats can't run up to Paducah. However, we have had no mail here for a week.

All day yesterday I was on picket – went on Saturday and Sunday night we anticipated an attack. There were guerrillas in this neighborhood – one scout was fired upon and one man of Co. C, 3rd Ill. Cavalry killed. I saw the man about an hour after he was shot. The affair took place about 1 ½ miles

beyond our picket lines. The cavalry had been fired on some two or three times by the bushwhackers. I slept on the picket line both nights at post #2 on the porch of a house. The lady of which has sons in the rebel service and her daughter was married to a rebel colonel named Thompson,⁵⁰ who had been killed. There were two or three young ladies there on Saturday evening – they have a piano and we had some very good music and singing. It put me more in mind of home than any place I have yet been in. We have a gang of sesesh – some hundred of them – at work fortifying the courthouse. The windows are all barricaded – loop holes are cut in the walls – stands are placed around for the men to fire from – an earthwork thrown up in front of the door, etc.

Then all around the building we are throwing up earthworks. The building is built on a hill and when it is thoroughly fortified will be a very strong place. About 30 miles from us at Paris is a large rebel force – or so it is reported – we will have a battle probably soon.

Having been on picket for some 40 hours and constantly on horseback – on the 'go' – I feel a little tired. However, I feel that the exercise has done me a very great deal of good and I would not have missed it for anything.

We were paid off the other day. I sent you 115.00 dollars. Charlie Dickenson sent in the same package \$70.00 making 185 dollars in the package. His father will call for the amount. Very pleasant

⁵⁰ Colonel Albert P. Thompson, who was killed at Paducah before Fort Anderson on March 25, 1864. The house mentioned was owned by the parents of Mary Mayes the widow of Colonel Thompson.

today not hot but sun shining - the nights are cool and very foggy. I could not see 20 feet in front of me at midnight last night, on account of the fog. Went the 'grand rounds' however. The men are all alive and know their danger. I am quite well - all the boys that you know are well. Are quarters are poor, two companies in a church makes it very crowded. I have no place to put anything in - have to keep everything in my trunk - very bothersome. All our regiment is here now - came up last night's train.

If the river is so low that steamers can't run - there must be all our mail laying at Paducah - and you must not be disappointed - hereafter if letters do not run regularly. We have not heard from Chicago for a week - hope there will be mail on tonight's train. I acknowledged receipt of letter containing photographs of Clem and Willie but did not do so as fully as I ought owing to having to move so much. Enclosed I send you some [Confederate] script found here - a five, ten and fifty dollar bill. Very much love to all at home - hope Hamilton, Clara and Louisa are having a pleasant time.

Kind regards to all friends - Gussie, Mary, etc.
Your affectionate son, Lucas.

Mayfield; August 23, 1864

My dear Mother,

Received yesterday evening your letter of the 17th and was very glad to have it as we had no mail for a week. I expect more than one letter - however I am satisfied. I think I ought to answer more fully

than I have your letter of the 14th. I hope that Hamilton will have a pleasant trip to Lake Superior and that he will receive very great benefit. Am glad that you have heard from them. Clem and Willie's photograph are very good. I have put them in my album. Am very glad to have them - hope to have Amy and Ettie's soon. I am glad that they have heard from Johnnie Johnson. He will be home soon - his term of service is up sometime in August. My kind regards to Mr. Raymond.

Colonel Bigelow is very glad to know that you had been to see his father. I generally read him parts of your letter. He will come up to me and pull my ear and tell me he wants to know what the news is from home. He is a splendid fellow - so kind to all the boys. They will do anything for him. I have seen Colonel McChesney but once since I came here. He commands the post and has very pleasant quarters - very nicely furnished and he lays down all the time - very seldom goes out. The boys despise him as much as they like Colonel Bigelow.

I do most earnestly hope that only three more Sundays may pass before we may be home but am afraid we can't be sent home immediately when our time is up. It will be very hard to get troops to take our place but every endeavor will be made to have our regiment return home on time. They want us in Chicago during the convention.

How very differently last Sunday was spent to the previous one. Last Sabbath I was on picket had to be on horseback all the time - we had an unusual exciting time on picket - one man was killed by the rebel bushwhackers. I had to go all around the lines two or three times in the day time to give

orders and once in the night. It was so foggy I could not see twenty feet in front of me – rather ticklish business. Last Sabbath I was in Paducah quiet and alone – went to church twice, etc. Both ministers however were, I think, sesesh.

We are having most splendid weather here – pleasant and cool – no mosquitoes. As I suppose there is too much tobacco in the air. I was quite unwell from this cause when I first came here. The Bridgeport 'effluvia' must be excessively disagreeable.

General Paine is back in Paducah – we expect him to make us a visit soon. The fortifications in the courthouse square are progressing rapidly – we have nearly 150 sesesh and niggers at work there. They work apparently willingly but when the band plays the 'Star spangled banner' they all stopped work and listened. I wonder what they thought!! We have prisoners in the guard house who were caught outside the lines with arms and who have been giving aid and comfort to the guerrillas. One of them is to be shot very soon.

Sorry that Clem is not improving more but glad that Willie is doing better. The papers all come to hand - very welcomed. I introduced myself to I. W. Mackey and Wm. Nolen & Co. – hardware dealers in Paducah – they knew our firm and were very kind to me. Much pleased with Amy and Ettie's letter.

The river is so low that I doubt if the boat is running between Cairo and Paducah – so no mail can come either way but our time will be up in about sixteen days more and it don't make much difference to us. We are surrounded by rebels and the cavalry picket were fired on four times last night.

We were our serenading last evening at a house just inside the picket line, where the reserve is, and just in the middle of a song we heard a shot fired. We all jumped up and had the reserve fall into line. Our party was unarmed. We staid there until the cavalry fell back to us and told us what the matter was. The outpost of the cavalry saw a man walking up inside of the fence. The man heard the reserve of the outpost talking and immediately dropped to his knees – when the outpost fired his carbine at him, but his piece missed fire, he fired his revolver at him twice and the man turned and ran off. It was too dark and misty you could not see far ahead. The picket was called four times last night on that post.

I am well – everyone else is well. All manners of stories are circulated about us in the papers. We are here and don't expect to leave very soon or sooner than our time is out, if we get off promptly then. I was in Paducah when the expedition for up the river started off. Our regiment would have gone but we were out then at Mayfield. While I was in Paducah I was with Theo Hammill nearly all the time. We went to church together, etc. Sorry that the German girls left. It must be an exceedingly inconvenient to you now to have them leave both at once. Glad you have heard from Clara.

We don't have any sudden changes in the weather here – very pleasant indeed. I am writing now in the pulpit of the church. My letters are all written hurriedly without giving them a second thought. General Paine had nothing to do with our regiment at all – he is very kind – always very courteous to everyone. I only met two of Frank Smith's friends in Paducah – one the clerk at the

hotel and the other was the quartermaster's clerk – and another was a Mr. Lee a deacon in the Methodist Church but no one anything of Mr. Blossum.

Probably it will be just as well to keep the linen coat at home though I would like to have it to come home in. It will be so dusty travelling in the cars. Carbutt was with our mess all the time he was with us. He has sent us a picture of our mess and the officers in front of Colonel Bigelow's quarters and of the picket post – our mess scene is not good – we were all too cross. Still I am very glad we have had them taken. I want one of each of them. I know the places so well I was him when they were taken.

Glad Amy and Effie were pleased with the letter I wrote them – will write another one to them soon. I sent you \$185.00 in a package per express – have the receipt in my pocket. \$115 is mine - \$70 is Charlie Dickenson's – his father will call for it at the store. This was pay for the month of June. I have every one of the letters you have written me. I would not destroy any of them in any account.

This is a miserable place to live in – we can't buy anything – no amusements – no water – except in 3 or 4 wells 100 feet deep and in cisterns. I can't drink rain water. I wish I could be detailed back again to Paducah – nothing to do – nothing to read – can't sleep in the day time. In fact I have no place to sleep in except in Colonel Bigelow's office on a Dutch pigeon-hole table. I have slept on that table ever since I have been in the city except when I was on picket two nights. I will be so glad when we get marching orders even if it is to go New Orleans. I am sick and tired of this place.

Metlar and all his boys are quite well. With very much love to all and kind regards to the clerks and all other enquirers. Excuse the variety of paper – the best I could ley my hands on – this is the Army style. I am affectionately your son, Lucas.

I am with Isham⁵¹ in Co. "D" and Humphrey⁵² in Co. "A" – a great deal – both well. I am detailed for picket duty tomorrow – I don't like it. Only came off yesterday at noon and am very tired. Don't know as I will have any chance to write again before the day after tomorrow. Much love to all. It is my regular turn for picket and I must do my duty – no shirking.

Feel tired tonight. Hope to have the chaplain up here soon – so we can have services – had none. Lucas.

(To his brother William)
Mayfield; August 25, 1864

My dear Willie,

The only way I can pass time here is by writing letters home. I have written every day for the last three days. The day before yesterday I wrote mother – yesterday I wrote Sophie. We are all doing no duty at all now with the exception of our usual picket duty, which we always have to do – we hardly call that 'duty'. We can't but do anything in town – have no reading material at all. I stay principally at Colonel Bigelow's headquarters. We sometimes have a little fun there. In the church the boys are all

⁵¹ Private Charles Isham, Company D, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁵² Private Henry M. Humphrey, Company A, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

busy making cigars and all are smoking. I can't stand the smell of tobacco. I have to sleep over at Colonel Bigelow's quarters. This part of the state is noted for the storing of tobacco. Did you see in the Chicago Tribune of the 19th an account of General Paine's trip out to this place? I have not seen the paper but read over the article before it was sent. Dr. Danforth⁵³ of the General's staff wrote it. He was our old regimental surgeon – a first rate man. I have been on a good many scouts with him. Keep the paper so I can see it when I come home. I enclose the article – cut it out of Ed Nason's paper.

26th Friday – this A.M. we shot a guerrilla. His name was Walters.⁵⁴ About two days ago some of Gregory's⁵⁵ scouts captured him about 20 miles [starts on new page] He had been confined in the jail here – has had a trial or rather hearing. He was a notorious bushwhacker was well known to be one, so General Paine ordered him to be shot. The Chaplin and Colonel Bigelow and myself went to see him yesterday afternoon. He is a most ignorant person – surly and impudent. We talked to him for an hour and half. He was at Fort Pillow - at first he denied it but afterwards said he was there and killed one negro. Said he had fired on the pickets at Paducah but would not acknowledge that he had ever joined a guerrilla band. Said he was a regular Confederate soldier but persons who had lived in the neighborhood knew him well. The Chaplin tried to talk to him of his approaching end. He only said

⁵³ Doctor Willis Danforth, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁵⁴ Robert A. Walters of Henry County, Tennessee. He was a deserter from the 20th Tennessee Cavalry and noted guerilla.

⁵⁵ Captain Jones P. Gregory, Kentucky Home Guard (Mayfield)

that we could do what we wished with him as we had him in our power but you must expect to be avenged if you ever fall in to our hands.

The regiment was ordered out that a.m. at eight o'clock under the command of Colonel Bigelow. We marched outside of our lines to an opening where his grave had been dug and his coffin was. We waited for a while and the prisoner was brought from the jail. He walked with a firm step. They brought him to the grave and the Chaplin walked up to him and seemed to pray. They talked for a while when a bandage was tied over his eyes and around his legs – then he cried out so as we could hear him and put up his hands. Some men then stepped up and tied his hands behind his back. Then ten of Gregory's men stepped up and at the command fired ten balls passing thru his chest. He fell back immediately Dr. Danforth stepped up and pronounced him dead.

We had marched the gang of sesesh we had at work on the fortifications to where they could see the execution. Colonel McChesney said to them "men, you have been brought out here to see a guerrilla shot – this shall be your fate if you are ever caught harboring guerillas or bushwhacker or if any of you know of the approach or whereabouts of any body of guerrillas and do not inform the federal troops and find it out you shall meet the same fate as this guerrilla." After the execution four of the sesesh were ordered to place the body in the coffin and lower it in the grave. This was done while we were marching off the field.

This was one poor man ushered into the presence of his maker without any preparation!! He

would not listen to the Chaplin at all – Poor fellow!! I told him his end was near and that he better talk to the Chaplin but he would not say anything – but that while we had him in our power we could do anything with him that we wished. He was exceedingly hard case. We have two others in the jail, one of which is pretty sure to be shot. The other is to have an investigation soon as he was captured only yesterday afternoon and brought to the jail while we were there.

We are to be mustered for pay for two months on next Wednesday so I think we will be paid off soon – perhaps in Chicago. There is to be another regiment here in a day or two – probably tomorrow morning. I think it will be colored troops. This looks like leaving for home on time, but as Forrest has made a raid on Memphis and as he may make a dash on this place and on Paducah we may be kept till he is retreating. We may have him here at any time. Our picket was fired on last night. I was up for nearly an hour and a half last night – the regiment was out. It subsided to nothing though.

I hope the two little dogs are getting along well – be careful of them.

Am in good health and have first rate 'square' meals – glorious – living high – roast beef and ham, potatoes, corn, beets, jelly, chicken, white bread, butter, two kinds of pies, pudding with sauce, etc. There are twelve of us, the officers of Co. A, one private, commissary sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, two or three headquarter clerks – Ed Nason and myself and Willie Abbey.

Much fun – kind regards to Chapins and other friends – Heilig,⁵⁶ Fauntleroy, etc. Much love to mother – regards to the clerks. Yours, Luke.

Mayfield, Ky.; Monday; August 29, 1864

My dear Father,⁵⁷

Your very welcome and interesting letter of the 21st came to hand on last Saturday evening. It took just a week to come. The river is so low that the boat can't run and the mail is even now made more irregular by the poorness of railroad travel. Sometimes we have a mail every train – other times we have no mail for three or four days – once there was none for a whole week. Clara, Louisa and Hamilton must be home now. I hope the trip has done them a great deal of good and that Hamilton's health is much improved. I hope that Mr. Mitchel will take a class at the Illinois State Mission School. Glad the children have had pleasant visits to Mr. Morehead's. They need such little outs. Mother must have a good long one when I get home. My regards to Mr. O'Donohue and all the clerks – Mike, John, etc. I notice by the papers that a very great many improvements are being made in the city. I would like very much to go down the lake tunnel. I shall do so.

I am going down our magazine today – it extends nearly 15 feet underground and is about 10 feet deep. Our time is up in ten days. I think we will

⁵⁶ Possibly Daniel Heilig who owned and operated a general store in Chicago.

⁵⁷ Edwin Hunt, father of Lucas Hunt.

get back home on time but we may be kept for some little time after our time is out as it may be hard for us to get troops to relieve us. We have all manner of stories in circulation about our going home. The most probable one is that we leave here sometime in the beginning of next week for Paducah and there we will take the boat for Cairo. All our tents are turned over to the quartermaster at Paducah. Our camp equipage – spades, axes, picks, etc are also turned over – so I think this looks like [we're] going home soon. At any rate Colonel McChesney is tired of this life – he is sick nearly the whole while. I have only seen him four times since I came here. He commands the post and takes things as easily as possible.

I would not secure a substitute for Hamilton if he can honorably get a physician's exemption – it will be a needless expense and then you may have to get one for me. Let matters rest just as they are. I must have written home in the last ten days as many as six or seven letters and since I have been here I have written on an average every other day. Have written Willie and Sophie – yesterday I wrote a long letter to Smyth Fauntleroy, but the mail is so irregular that letters are often detained for 2 or 3 days - but I am quite well and am (as everyone says) getting fat. I have had never had a day's sickness since I left Chicago – never was excused from dress parade for sickness. Last Saturday evening I received 4 or 5 "Journals."

So the Camp Douglas trade is good – am glad of it. I was disappointed last evening when I found there was no letter from mother. I always read her letters first, but see the impossibility of her writing

this time. Hope to get a letter tonight if the train comes in and brings mail. I think the society that Henry Johnson belongs to a very good one. All the boys of Co. D & I are well as far as we know if any one of them is sick I would of course mention it in my letters.

J. B. Haggard's son, who has been sick when he was last seen by Lieutenant O'Brien in Paducah, was running about the streets. O'Brien saw him a week ago today – he was nearly well. Weather here very pleasant – was hot for two of three days but we had a little shower and it has been cool ever since. I think I shall want one of every picture Carbutt took down here – I was with him when he took them all. I mean I shall want one of each of those in which I am interested. There are company pictures which I don't care to have.

General Paine came out here last Saturday evening. I met him on the street – he stopped and shook hands with me – seemed to be pleased to see me. I, in company with Colonel McChesney and Colonel Bigelow, the adjutant and some two or three others, spent the evening at the house where the General was staying. We sang and had some very good music from the piano. The General was much pleased with the singing and laughed heartily over the songs. He gave a very cordial invitation to stop at headquarters as we passed thru Paducah on our way home.

I have now an exceedingly good boarding house – we live very well indeed. Have quite a pleasant set there.

We have 3 guerrillas in the jail now who were captured out here within a mile of the place. The

pickets have been fired on frequently but since we captured these men there has been no firing on [the] picket. We shot one man here the other day and I think we will shoot these three that we have now. They have a villainous look and are all uneducated – don't know enough to tell the same story twice. It is now noon time and I think I will go to dinner.

I shall be glad when I get away from this town. We have nothing to do – we can't have company drills as we have so many men on duty and there were so many rebels in the city that as we were the only regiment in the place and a few cavalry it would not do to show them our effective force. But now as other troops have come into town we need not be particular. An order has just come ordering a battalion drill at 5 p.m. Our quarters are in a church – the two companies are more than enough to fill them so we are very crowded but we have good accommodations as we can get. We must be somewhere near the courthouse as we don't know at what moment we may be attacked by a force of rebels and have to retire into the fort. This a.m. we gave up part of the picket to the darkie soldiers. I was very glad of it as we have all the detailed men to furnish for clerks, etc. and headquarter guard, etc. which the darkies could not do. The company is just falling in for inspection and as Whitehead is away I will have to conduct it. Don't feel like being hard on the boys today. We are to be mustered for pay on next Wednesday – I suppose we will be paid off at Camp Fry. We were inspected by the district inspector on last Sunday morning. The inspector says

he never inspected a more tidy and neat regiment than ours – he was quite easy on us.

I sent per express a package containing \$185.00. There is belonging to me \$115.00 and to Charlie Dickenson \$70.00 which the Reverend E. F. Dickenson will call for. I suppose this is at hand ere now. I have the express receipt for the package. With very much love to all – kind regards to all friends. Your affectionate son, Lucas.

We confidently expect to leave here for home on the beginning of next week but may be delayed at Paducah for a day or so and at Cairo. I expect to be in Chicago this day fortnight. Am well.

Mayfield, Ky.; August 30, 1864; Tuesday

Dear Mother,

I think it is pretty certain that we leave here for Paducah on our way home on next Sunday. The adjutant does not deny it. So we may be in Chicago one week from tomorrow. I shall telegraph you from Cairo or even Paducah. We will march into Paducah from this place. We may be delayed for a day or so but we may be in Chicago on next Wednesday week. The train is just in and it may start in half an hour – so I want to have this letter go off on the cars. A large mail has come – I must have a letter.

Last night we were called out twice by firing on the picket lines but there was no general attack. The rebels prowl around in squads of two or three and shoot at our vedetts. If we could catch some of them we could make short work of them. I was up the greater part of the night – Colonel Bigelow, Ed

Nason and myself went out to the picket to see if they were all right. We had all the dogs barking at us. On the first of September we will commence shooting the dogs. Pleasant and cool today – think it will rain.

Fauntleroy's are well. I must weigh 175 lbs. now. Kind regards to Meyer and John Miller and other clerks. I will go and see if I have a letter this time. I will be much disappointed if I don't get one.

I have just received Willie's letter and one from you and father enclosing a letter for from Quincy. Mother's note first – the train starts in an hour. I was disappointed in not getting any letter from you but am in my usual good spirits now. Am very glad that Clara, Louisa and Hamilton have returned - to have Clara and Louisa back again must be a very great relief to you. Hope they all have been very much beautified by their trip especially Hamilton. I don't think I shall get Clara's letter here if she is going to write late this week. We have had here all kinds of stories about riots, etc. in Chicago – we have heard that 30 men had been killed. I hope we will be there if there is to be any riot.

I am glad Mr. Hale has returned to Chicago. "Twould be a joak" on Hamilton to be drafted twice. I can't write now – I hope all my letters get to hand. Letter of introduction won't be of any good to me now. I get along without any. If I wanted to know anyone I would introduce myself. Much obliged to you for your trouble in writing to different parties. I hope the funds are in hand ere now. I have receipt for \$185.00. Letter from Quincy I will answer. I will call on parties mentioned at Cairo if we have time to do so but we may run right through. Hope you will get

all the nails ordered. I will be in Chicago probably the same time that Miss Paddock gets there.

Glad Willie says business is so good. I am in a great hurry as the train will start soon. Train is whistling, the 34th New Jersey from Columbus is coming into the city. Much love to all. Your affectionate son,
Lucas.

Take care of the dogs.

Mayfield, Ky.; September 4, 1864; Monday

My dear Mother,

I have been delayed answering your very interesting letter of August 29 because I thought I would be in Chicago as soon as any letter would be. But one thing after another has come up delaying our departure. At first they wanted us to stay for 15 days over our time – the boys all refused to do so. Then General Paine sent out a special messenger to us asking us to stay for seven days and the boys disgraced themselves by voting this down. This act of theirs has just lost to us all the glory we had won. The officers were all willing to stay except one – the 2nd Lieutenant of Co. H. Colonel McChesney has started for Chicago. Colonel Bigelow went to Paducah with Colonel McChesney last evening. Colonel McChesney is very sick. We are all very anxious to get home but I think the men ought to have been willing to stay for a week over their time of service.

We are quite well. We may have marching orders as soon as Colonel Bigelow comes back. So we may be home by next Sunday but don't be

disappointed. I shall not expect to hear from home after a day or two.

Glad Amy and Ettie were pleased with my letter. We did not anticipate any riot in Chicago. The Democratic Convention is a great collection of traitors. I would like to shoot some of the traitors. From all accounts we have of speeches in the *Tribune*, such men for uttering such opinions down here would be put in jail.

Glad Frank Smith has been in Chicago. Have nothing of importance to relate – must close. Do not expect us too soon in Chicago we may be delayed in Paducah and in Cairo waiting for the boat and the cars – will telegraph to you as soon as I can get to an office. Will call on friends in Cairo if I have the opportunity – much pleased with Amy and Ettie.

Wednesday September 7, 1864 [attached to same letter as above]

We are only waiting for orders to leave which General Paine may receive at any moment and which may come up on tomorrow's train. Am well. In half an hour we shoot a guerrilla – must go – this is the third we have shot in two weeks. In haste - may leave here the day after tomorrow can't tell though. Much love.

Colonel Bigelow got back this a.m. he brought this news. I don't think we will be kept any longer than to get troops to take over our place. On haste – as have to go to the execution and train starts in a few moments. We all want to get home very much. Yours, Luke.

Received letter from Willie, Clara and Sophia. We are all well.

Mayfield, Ky.: [September 10, 1864]

My dear Mother,

We are still here. I think that our case stands thus – Colonel McChesney, to gain the good will of General Paine, went to Paducah and tendered the services of the regiment for fifteen days. This he did, if he did do so, without consulting with the officers or men. When the proposition was made to the boys they all voted it down. The Colonel tried very hard to get them to change their vote but they would not. The whole long and short of the matter is with Colonel McChesney. The regiment is too good a body of men for such a man as he to command. I only saw him five or six times on the street while he was in command. I never went into his office on business during the day, but that he was in bed. He never has drilled the regiment since we have been in the service. While the boys, when the regiment was moving from one place to another, were in the rain and mud for two days, he never came to see them and assist them in any way but stayed in his hotel downtown some two miles from command. The boys of course would not oblige him by staying over time. He swore at them when they refused, went to Paducah and told General Paine. Then the General sent up a special messenger requesting us to stay – part of the men were willing to stay but not enough to satisfy the General.

We intended going on a scout and drive out some considerable body of rebels now in camp some 40 miles from here. We could see some active service then, so I was very anxious to go. But the General was taken very sick and is now very low – at

one time he was not expected to live. So our expedition was given up. We are now waiting orders to go home, which have left Washington by mail. And will not be here until next Monday. We are all very anxious to get home as many of the boys want to re-enlist and get the large bounties now offered.

I went to Paducah yesterday to see some sick men and to have our company clothing rolls signed. I received Frank Smith's letter – came back today from Paducah – feel rather tired this evening.

We are all well – saw J. B. Haggard's son in Paducah. Very kind regards to all friends – Fauntleroy, Higley, ect. – and very much love to all at home. Affectionately, Lucas.

We may have to stay here for two weeks yet. Take care of the dogs. Am not disappointed in not hearing from home. Have very small mail now. Fort nearly finished – been raining and is muddy – pleasant weather. Regards to Gussie.

(To his parents)

Mayfield; September 12, 1864; Monday

Dear folks,

Received lots of letters today from home - mail just going off.

We are not going to stay 15 days – waiting orders. General Paine has been relieved at Paducah. General Meredith commands – he told Quartermaster Pierce that we would leave here in the next 48 hours from last night. He, the General, will be out here tomorrow. Without doubt we will leave here either tomorrow or next day. Not much time to write – all well and in first rate spirits. Will be

home surely by next Saturday [and] are not going to stay fifteen days.

Much love. Sorry can't be home sooner – all well. Lucas.

If I had time I would write more fully and answer letters received today but the train is waiting. Glad Clara and Louisa are going to Lake Forest. Sorry I shan't be home to see Gussie before she goes to New York. My kindest regards to her if this reaches home before she goes. Sorry you should be so anxious for me.

I of course was in favor of staying fifteen days longer for it was my duty to do so, but the boys all voted to go home – about 40 of Co. A voted to stay. The second vote cast 35 of Co. D voted to stay. The other companies voted for 5 to 20 men of each for staying. The quartermaster says the regiment will leave tomorrow and the day after.

Train whistling – think I have acknowledged all letters up today. Luke.

Mayfield, Ky.; September 14, 1864; Wednesday

My dear Mother,

We are still here. Don't know when we are to leave. Shan't get off certainly for a week yet. General Paine has been relieved and General Meredith⁵⁸ taken command. Meredith was out here yesterday. He is a very awkward man, six feet five inches tall, not at all handsome looks like Mr. Sherman⁵⁹ of the Chicago Ale & Malt Co.

⁵⁸ General Solomon Meredith, United States Volunteer Army.

⁵⁹ E. S. Sherman of Chicago Ale & Malt Company.

The General made us a speech. He had all the "fortification brigade" (some 300 sesesh out there) besides all the citizens of the place and all the troops stationed here as an audience. The first thing he said, he told the sesesh that he was going to send them all home. I was never was more astonished in my life. The fort we have been building is to be leveled to the ground, etc. and all horses and mules taken from the sesesh are to be turned over to them again. His policy is just the opposite to that of General Paine. As to our regiment he is going to keep us for "a week or two" "just to teach us discipline" as he said but our whole trouble lies in Colonel McChesney. He has been dishonest while he was in command of the post. He took a hogshhead of tobacco and sold it for his own use – the tobacco belonged to the government. Stole a clock and a shot gun – had them boxed up ready to send to Chicago - has been trading in horses, etc. The General has sent for him at Chicago – and he will no doubt have a trial and be dismissed from the service. The boys are very angry with him and lay the whole blame of our having to stay here for two or three weeks over our time to him. McChesney had better never show his face to the regiment again. We are to go into camp again. I would much prefer to be in camp, if we have to stay here for two or three weeks more –than be quartered in the old church.

I have some eight or ten letters to answer as I have been expecting to go home. I have not written any letters to anyone. Yesterday I wrote home that we surely would leave here for home either last night or today but we have been

exceedingly disappointed. Don't look for us for at least two weeks from now. Don't be afraid of writing to us – we will get all letters. We don't much expect to be attacked by Buford but I wish he would come. Anything to relieve the monotonous life we are now living.

Glad Amy and Ettie were pleased with my letter. Glad Miss Paddock is back – hope she will be “quartered” somewhere near our house. Are the Keiner's going to move? Am glad Miss Paddock has been doing something for the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospital. A sick soldier is one of the most miserable beings on earth. I go see our men in the hospital every day. They lay there, nothing to read, nothing to do – I do so pity them. And then they seem so glad when anyone will sit on their bedside and talk to them. I believe talking to a sick man does more than any physic they can take. I have not had an hour's sickness since I left Chicago. With the exception of nothing to do – I enjoy perfect health.

Amy and Ettie must have had a very pleasant week with Mr. Wilson's little girl. I hope you will go to New York with father and then make a visit to Washington and avail yourself of Mr. Wilson's offer. I should think it would be very pleasant. Clara, Louisa and the children can be rest assured that I will not be home while they are at Lake Forest. We all think McClelland's nomination is a very good one as he is the easiest man to beat they could put up. I should very much have liked to have heard Gilmore's band. Glad Clara is so useful – how I wish I was home.

We will have no more military executions for they must be against General Meredith's policy but

a man who will sneak up on a picket and shoot him ought to be shot when he is caught. We will have lots of bushwhacking now as all the farmers, etc. who were at work on the fortifications are sent out home.

I am glad Hamilton is not exempt from the draft on account of sickness but he could never stand the exposure and hardships of soldiering. Has he joined the society that Mr. Johnson has? Why doesn't he write to me once in a while? My letters I write home are intended for all the family if I were to write Hamilton or Sophie I could tell them nothing new besides what's included in this letter. I shall look for something better than hardtack and coffee made with muddy water and no milk. But the boys are used to such living and so it does not affect them. I write in such hurried manner that I no doubt make very many mistakes in spelling. I am very sorry that father was disappointed when he went to the depot to know if we were coming and then found out that we were still at Mayfield.

We have not re-enlisted for fifteen days – we are all very anxious to go home – but General Meredith says the country wants us so I think we ought to stay. But it is a very great disappointment to us all. You know I enlisted out of pure patriotism and my patriotism has not diminished one particle. I am very anxious to get home on account of father's trip to New York, etc. but otherwise I am very willing to stay.

You know the poet says the more thorns a rose has the sweeter will be the smell – or something to that effect – so I shall feel all the happier when I get home because I have done all my country

asked of me. Sorry for Mrs. Fauntleroy but Sam and Eugene are enjoying the best of health. Eugene reads me part of his letters and I read him parts of mine. They are both good boys. I wish the regiment was composed of just such as they. I am very sorry I can't be in Chicago today to see Gussie Hardy before she goes to school for a year. Sorry father wrote me an angry letter – I think it was too hasty. He did not know of the circumstances of our staying over our time. I hope to hear from Hamilton and father soon. Please don't be anxious about me getting home. I will be home in good time.

Colonel Bigelow was much pleased when I told him that his mother had been to call on you. I talk to him every day almost about writing home. He has not written home for three weeks – he told me so last evening when I spoke to him about it. He said he thought he would write soon. We are going to send a lot of our men home soon. I may possibly send some things up by one of my men. When the regiment was told that Colonel McChesney had gone home before his time was out they all hooted and groaned and laughed at the man. The boys are thoroughly disgusted with him. We are detained on account of McChesney's actions. Glad to have Clem's and Sophy's letters. Do you ever hear from England? Write good long letters as you don't know how welcome they are to us.

I get up in the morning – go to breakfast – then have nothing to do till dinner – after dinner have nothing to do till five o'clock – have dress parade which takes a half hour and then have nothing to do till bed time – go to bed very early at nine o'clock. One day is just like another. How I wish I had

something to do that would keep us busy all the while. It is very pleasant here – we have no mosquitoes but fleas instead. I have not been troubled with them at all. I have to send my boots to Paducah to be resoled – seems as if it were going to rain today.

No orders from home – [darn] Luke

(To his brother Willie)

Mayfield, Ky.;September 16, 1864

My dear Willie,

I have no doubt you will all be very much disappointed to find that we have not yet started home.

You know that General Paine has been relieved of his command and General Sol Meredith appointed his successor. General Meredith is just the opposite to General Paine – he is a copperhead. General Meredith is afraid of hurting a rebel. General Meredith said in his speech that he wanted us to stay for a short time – a week or two – after our hundred days had expired so that he could clear up Colonel McChesney's affairs and as he said he wanted to make soldiers of us – two very silly excuses for keeping us here. He can clear up McChesney affairs without keeping us here and as to making soldiers of us – why – we are a vast deal better drilled and disciplined than the 34th New Jersey. Because our colonel has been dishonest we are to be kept here for a couple of weeks. The men do not even growl over being kept here, they did at first but the officers talked to them and they were

immediately reconciled. But they are down with McClesney.

We were yesterday inspected by the Inspector General of the department – a Captain Grant⁶⁰ on General Burbridge's⁶¹ staff. General Burbridge commands the department – he can send us home. General Meredith commands the district. Captain Grant says he will do everything he can for us to get us sent home. Major Wilson has gone to Springfield, Ill. to see Governor Yates and get him to use his influence in getting us sent home. Captain Grant will not see the General (Burbridge) before the 20th and perhaps not then – some few days later. Major Wilson⁶² will not see Governor Yates⁶³ for probably a week yet. He left Paducah yesterday a.m. for Cairo. We are all very anxious to get home.

By keeping our regiment here over time Cook Co. will lose some 200 or 300 soldiers – as fully that number of the regiment would have reenlisted for the year – but they won't do so now as they can't get the government bounty, etc. We are sending home 150 to 200 men who have been sick and who have family depending upon them. There are some 15 men going from each Co's D and I. I may no doubt send some package up with one of them but will inform you by mail when I do so.

⁶⁰ Captain Henry B. Grant, Inspector General for the Military District of Kentucky.

⁶¹ Major General Stephen G. Burbridge, Commander of the Military District of Kentucky.

⁶² Major John A. Wilson, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

⁶³ Governor Richard Yates of Illinois.

We are getting quere orders from General Meredith. But I hope we won't have to stay here long. Orders were issued by the War Department that all hundred day regiments should be mustered out of the service promptly on the expiration of their time of service. But we are kept just for some one's pleasure. Quere – we may have orders to leave tomorrow and we may be kept for a couple of weeks (from the date) longer. It is wrong to keep the regiment here – wrong to the men and wrong to the government – wrong to Cook County as that county will lose two or three hundred men, which would help very much to fill up the quota of the county.

Yours indignantly, Luke.

Paducah; September 18, 1864; Sunday a.m.

Dear Mother,

The day before yesterday Colonel Bigelow and myself came down here to see General Meredith. The result of our trip was that we found we had marching orders and that we got the General to order our regiment down here – we took the order to Mayfield with us and at three o'clock p.m. the train started with four companies A, F, D, I, E. We are now waiting to be shown some place where we can camp. The rest of the regiment will come down probably today but most likely not till tomorrow. We arrived here about six last evening. I slept on the ground on my rubber blanket – never slept better in my life.

The boys are in good spirits but I don't know when we are going home. There are boats enough at the levies to take us to Cairo but as the General

told us on Friday evening that he anticipated an attack from Buford and Wheeler – I think we may be kept here still for a week or ten days till the movement of rebel troops are more definitely known. If it don't rain I have no objection to staying right where we are. It is cool and pleasant quite a breeze. One of our men from my company died yesterday at the hospital in the city yesterday a.m. early, his name was Erastus E. Thompson⁶⁴ – I think he was from Waukegan. I did not go to see him as I was told he was well. His mother was down here but she had gone home as he was so much better. We don't know when we leave here – maybe not for a week yet. I will telegraph you from Cairo when we get there. The sun is going to be hot if we stay here very long today. I was out funds so had the \$35.00 draft cashed today. We are here without tents. I hope we will get off for home soon. If not put on duty today I shall go to the church this a.m.

With much love to all – hope to be home this day next week. Yours expectantly, Lucas.

Lieutenant Hunt and the 134th Illinois departed Paducah on the evening of September 13. The regiment returned to Chicago briefly before being sent to Benton Barracks at St. Louis. At that time General Sterling Price had begun a series of raids in Missouri and Federal troops were sent to defend the major transportation hubs and routes between St. Louis and Kansas City. In early October the 134th was stationed in the small towns of Franklin, Sulphur Springs and Gray Summit. On the 13th of October,

⁶⁴ Private Erastus E. Thompson, Company I, 134th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Hunt's regiment was ordered to return St. Louis and on the next day they began their voyage back to Chicago. They arrived in the Windy City early on the morning of October 15 and were mustered out of the service ten days later.⁶⁵

After the war Hunt returned to his father and brothers hardware business where he continued as a member of the firm of Edwin Hunt & Sons to the time of his death. He died in Chicago on June 23, 1905.⁶⁶

The Andrew Lucas Hunt Papers are located in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (MS#3225).

About the Author:

Dieter C. Ullrich is the Director of Special Collections and University Archives at Murray State University. He has authored several articles on local battles and historical sites in the Jackson Purchase Area, including the Battle of Lochridge's Mills, the Battle of Paris and the Confederate post at Camp Beauregard. He is current conducting research on the Union occupation of Paducah and Mayfield under General E. A. Paine during the summer of 1864.

⁶⁵ See Illinois Military and Naval Department, *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois: Containing the Reports for the Years 1861-66* (Springfield, IL: Phillip Bros., 1900), vol. VII, 38-54 and "Journal of Private Hawley V. Needham," Jackson Purchase Historical Society, accessed July 10, 2013, <http://www.jacksonpurchasehistory.org/jackson-purchase-during-the-civil-war/>

⁶⁶ *Memorials of deceased companions of the Commandery of the State of Illinois Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States from July 1, 1901 to December 31, 1911* (Chicago: Ashland Block, 1912), vol. 2, 261-262.