

The Civil War Letters of
Thompson, Connecticut's
Henry Washington Brown



21st Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment

1861-1865

Note from the Editors: The letters contained in this document were written by our relative, Henry Washington Brown. We have made no attempt to change the syntax of the letters but have added punctuation and capitalization and corrected the spelling of some of the proper nouns.

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Henry W. Brown and John Henry Proctor

May 2001

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1861

Henry enlisted in August 1861 and wanted to participate in a great battle before the war was over. He envisioned being rushed to the battlefield and after a short period of hard fighting, returning home in glorious triumph. In fact, his first letter was signed, 'Your soldier boy'. That was the only time that phrase was used. Little thought was given to the boredom of camp life and drill, nor the deaths that would follow. After moving to Annapolis for drill and practice, Henry will ship out with Burnside's Expedition into North Carolina.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Annapolis Junction, October 20, 1861 Dear Parents, I hardly know what to write. I wrote to you soon after I received your letter, but have received no answer. I do not know whether you got it or not. I am not very well. I have just got over the measles. I do not do duty nights. I was sick abed for 2 days. I went to the hospital. I came back yesterday. There was 15,000 troops at Annapolis. They are embarking as fast as possible. They are to join the great expedition for the south. Sherman's Brigade is with them. I don't know but we shall go with them but I guess not. I suppose when the expedition goes south it will do something terrible. We have got about tired of staying here. We should like to go somewhere. There is a story we are going to Annapolis tomorrow but we cannot tell till tomorrow comes. We have received 11 days wages, \$5.63. We are to get two months pay at the first of November. There was a paper that come for me when I was at Annapolis. It was sent to me but I did not get it. I suppose it was from you. I do not think of any more to write. Write as soon as you get this and give us all the news. Electa and Adaline, I want you both to write. Goodbye for this time. From your son and brother, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis Junction, Oct. 30, 1861 Dear Parents, I received your letter Monday. I was glad to hear from home. I am well as usual. I am at the same place as when I wrote before. I am sorry to hear that you were unwell. The place where we are is unhealthy. The days are very warm. The nights are damp and chilly, but I have not been a day sick yet. Our first Lieutenant was shot Monday night. He disguised himself and tried to run through the beat of the sentinel. He halted him four times. He would not stop. He fired and hit him in the bowels. He died in about an hour. He will be sent to Worcester today. We have orders to halt a person three times and fire if they do not stop. We do not know how long we shall stay where we are. One day there will be a story that we are going to the Potomac; another that we shall stay where we are all winter. We cannot tell a day beforehand where we shall stay. We like where we are very well. We have not been paid yet. We don't know when we shall. We were to

get paid every month. I will send part of mine home when I get it. i will get my likeness taken when I get a chance. I wish you would send me a few letter stamps. i am out of money and there is scarcely a dollar in the regiment. I can borrow some paper and envelopes. I do not get anything to read; only a few papers the boys have sent from home. I should like something to read first rate. You need not worry that I dahl [fall] get into bad habits. The worst thing I have done is to take tolls from the farmers for guarding their premises nights. We have plenty to eat and better than expected. We expect to have United States uniforms in a few days and some new rifles. Baltimore and Annapolis are very dirty places, except the Navy Yard. The Navy Yard contains the U. S. Hospitals and a fort, gas house and Navy School. It is surrounded on three sides by water. It is walled in from the city by a high brick wall. We could bathe in the salt water when we pleased. The regiment went out into the city once. Direct your letters as before. Ada, I thank you very much for writing. I hope Sam Bates gets over feeling bad. You must be a good girl and help mother. Write again when mother does. Electa, I am very sorry to hear that you have been worse. i hope when you get this you will be much better. I hope we shall both live to meet again. You spoke of Mr. Draper persuading me to enlist. I did not know he had enlisted until I got to Worcester. I went on my own accord. I have not anymore room to write. Write soon. Give my love to all the other children. Be good boys and girls. This from your loving son and brother. Goodbye to all till another time, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Dec. 2, 1861 Dear Mother, I received your letter today. I was very glad to hear from you all. I am well. I am sorry that Gary is sick. I hope he will be well soon. I have not seen Uncle Charles. I did not know he was in the 27th. If I had, I might have seen him. They stayed her overnight in the yard and have been in here very often. I will find him soon if I have to run the guard. There are two allowed passes every day but I haven't had a chance yet. I sent my money on the 23rd. You will probably get it before this letter. If you don't, write and I will get it back. I have a receipt and it is safe enough. Apples are very scarce here. They cost a great deal. We have had two Thanksgivings here, Massachusetts and Maryland. Some sausages would taste good with our salt pork. We get the news daily from the South. We don't have a great deal of reading. Once in a while, some folks send some. We were ordered to Virginia. Saturday we got already to start but the order was countermanded. We don't know whether we shall stay here much longer or not. A new commander has been appointed for this post, General Foster. We soon expect to go on the expedition but it is not certain. I will not have a chance to get my likeness taken yet but I think I can in a few days. I think the war will terminate soon. If it don't, send Father. Why don't he come

and help. I don't think much more to write. I will write the rest to the girls. I should very much like to see you all and I hope soon, if we have good luck. I send my love to you and all the rest.

Goodbye for this time. From your son, Henry Brown Dear Electa, I am very glad to hear from you. It seems so good to hear from you all. I am glad you are no worse. I should have wrote my other letter before but I was waiting to know whether we were going to stay or not. I should like to have a bite of your chidden pie to go along with my splendid soup. You wanted me to write to show how we spend the time and what we eat. Suppose we go on guard duty on Monday, our company at 9 AM. We have three reliefs. They go on for two hours a piece, making eight hours a piece. The next day we have until 1 PM to clean our guns and rest. Then one hour of knapsack drill from 1 to 2, then battalion drill from 3 to half past 4. Immediately after, dress parade. Three roll calls a day. The next day, morning drill from 10 to half past 11 and the rest as the same day as before. Saturday, on guard again. Saturday afternoon we have to clean up if not on guard. Sunday morning is inspection. The officers inspect everything and if there is anything we don't have, we get it. We go to church in the afternoon.

There is a very large organ in our pretty chapel. It makes me think of home when I hear it. We have coffee for breakfast and bread, salt hoss, pickled beef or fresh once in a while, or salt pork. Sometimes potatoes or beans, water, coffee and rice. We have sugar for coffee, vinegar, molasses, pepper and salt to season our vitals and milk for 8 cents a quart. We have hard bread on Sunday. I have pen and ink and plenty of paper and stamps.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass Vol., Annapolis, MD, Dec. 2, 1861 Page 21 am bound to see Uncle Charles soon. I would like to have a game of ball with the boys but I can't yet. It must be a very powerful company that Charles Rodes has gone into. Leonard Bates is in it. I suppose when it is going to the seat of the War, I would like to try to give the enemy my old musket and bayonet. Tell John Ativel that I don't use tobacco nor whiskey. When I left the pastor, I went to Thompson Depot and traveled to Fisherville to catch the cars and went to Worcester and joined the regiment and started south the same day. Our two flank companies have Sharps rifles and saber bayonets. I thank you for writing so long a letter I give my love to you. Goodbye for this time. From your Brother, Henry W.

Brown Dear Sister, I must not forget Ada. I am glad you wrote. The verse you wrote was very pretty. I should like to see the boys and and all the rest of the neighbors. We have a very good time here. There is a dance once in a while. We have settler but he asks a great deal for everything. We have a very good hospital. The doctor is a very good man. He is very careful of all the sick. There is two that have died of the fever. There has none died of smallpox in our regiment but several in other regiments. There is someone dies in the general hospital most every day. The measles have gone through the regiment. I don't have no apples now. The colonel has stopped all peddlers from coming here. I guess I shall go out in the city. I shall go out on the 28th if I do. I don't think of much else to write. I send

*my love to you and all the rest, so goodbye for this time. From your
Brother, Henry W. Brown*

*Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Dec. 7, 1861 Dear
Mother, I have at last got my portrait taken. I am well and hope you are the
same. We marched out in the country five miles yesterday with all our
equipment and knapsacks on. It came rather hard for us. We went to
Captain Foster's quarters and took our knapsacks and ate dinner and had a
battalion drill in a large field. We went through all the forms of war--
retreating and advancing, firing all the while. We had a pretty good time.
We were pretty tired when we got back. We all washed our feet and slept
with our stockings off during the night. My feet was very sore last night but
this morning they are all well. My shoulders are rather stiff. Our Lt. Col.
took command of the companies. He said we done first rate. We shall have
to take march pretty often now to get used to it. It will be a very good thing
if we have to make and long marches. There is four companies on picket.
They have got log shanties built. They have very good times. We are going
to have Enfield Rifles. They are on the way from Massachusetts. The flank
companies have got Sharps Rifles with saber bayonets. There is nothing
more about going away from here. We shall not go with Burnside. I have
not seen Uncle Charles yet. I should not know him if I should see him. I
will send you papers such as we get out here. I don't think of much more to
write, so goodbye for this time. From your son, Henry W. Brown*

*Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol., Co. F Camp Lincoln, Annapolis, MD,
Sept. 2, 1861 Dear Mother, I received your letter last Tuesday, the day we
left the Junction. We are now at Annapolis. There are four companies here
and four on picket and two have gone down the Chesapeake about twenty-
five miles. I don't know what for. It is raining today. The wind is blowing
very hard. The water has overflowed the wharf and is within a yard of our
door. We drill four hours each day, except when on guard. We stand guard
every fourth day, two hours on and two hours off. Our company came off
guard this morning and we have nothing to do today except clean our guns.
We have beautiful quarters here. We can have a fire, when we like, in the
fireplaces. The buildings can all be heated by steam. They are all lighted
by gas. I am much obliged to you for the money, although I do not need it
now. When I write again, I can probably send you my likeness and a good
lot of money. You spoke of sending a box of things. There will be no
trouble as a great many of the boys have had them. If you have not the
money, wait until I send some. There is another expedition fitting out here of*

60,000. It is reported we are going with it. The 25th and 27th Mass. are going to quarter in the yard. The rest quarter outside. I have bought me a pair of gloves and a comforter and a handkerchief. We have thick, heavy overcoats and rubber blankets to wear when it rains and to lay on the ground to keep the damp off. We have got our new uniforms and I will get my likeness taken as quick as I can get out into the street. I don't think of anything more to write I suppose you got the other two letters that I wrote. I have got two papers. I will write again before you answer this. I am well and doing duty now. It is getting dark. I don't know as this letter will go until Monday. Give my love to all the children. Goodbye for this time. From your soldier boy in the 21st Mass. , Mother, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Oct. 25, 1861 Dear Mother, I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear from you all. I wrote last Sunday. I thought you had not got my letter, it was so long ago. I have got some money now. We shall have plenty of it the first of November. I am in pretty good health now, except a slight cough. We shall probably go to Annapolis in a few days to exchange with four other companies. We shall get uniforms when we get to Annapolis. I will get my likeness taken when we get there. I have not seen the Connecticut Regiment, only as they passed along the railroad. The regiments at Annapolis are posted outside the city, except Sherman's Battery and the 8th Michigan. There is 15,000 in all. They are to form a brigade under General Sherman. They are leaving every day. I guess they all embarked by this time. They are under sealed orders. They don't know where they are going themselves. There is another brigade to follow as soon as they leave. We see a great many regiments go through to Washington. They go by the Junction from all parts of the country. We are well provided with clothing. We buy milk at a farmers close by for 6 cents a quart. We can buy anything we want at the stores. Some things are rather dear; molasses at 80 cents a gallon. Most things are about the same price as at home. We have a very good place for an encampment. The weather has been stormy for nearly two weeks. There has been but slight frosts, yet it is a very good place for winter quarters at Annapolis Naval School. I suppose we shall be quartered there and be on picket all winter. I guess we shant have a chance to fight much for the present. I should like to get a peep at Thompson to see what is going on. I suppose Esther Barrett is swelling as fast as ever. We don't have a great deal of female society here; nothing but niggers the country through. You have heard a great deal about the Baltimore Belles. I did not see a pretty girl in Baltimore. The most respectable streets are 6 inches thick with dirt and mud. Annapolis is a very dirty hole. We marched out into the city once when we were at Annapolis. The officers go out when they want to but the privates are not allowed outside. If they did, they always come home drunk.

I don't think of very much to write. There was no stamps in the letter. I don't know how they got out. I have got plenty now. When I wrote I did not know when we should get paid off. I have two penny stamps that I took to make change. I will send them to put on papers. The papers you sent have not come yet. They will come tomorrow, probably. I should like to see you all very much but I can't now. Write as soon as you get this. I was glad to hear that Electa was better. Direct your letters to Annapolis, in care of Col. Agustas Morse, 21st Mass. Regiment, Vol. Goodbye to you all for this time. From your son and brother, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Camp Lincoln, Nov. 21, 1861 Dear Mother, I think it is about time that I should write again. I am well and I hope you are the same. We have got paid off and am going to send part of it home quick as I can by express. The office is out in the city. I have been waiting to write till I could get out in the street and send it with the money but I thought I would not wait. I shall get my portrait taken if I can. I don't know whether we shall stay here this winter or not. There are great preparations being made for the expedition. Ellsworth's Avengers are here. 1200 cavalry from Pennsylvania are here and the 23-25-27th Mass; 8-10 Conn, 51st New York. General Burnside is to take command of the expedition. Last Sunday, the Secretary of War, General Burnside and Governor Andrews of Massachusetts, Governor Hicks of Maryland and many other officers reviewed our regiment and the rest that are here. It is not decided whether we shall go with the expedition or not. I hope we shall, although we have got one of the best places you could find. We have a very good time here. It is a pleasant place. We are cooped up here. We can't get out only once in a great while. I have not been out only with the regiment. Most of them, when they get out, get drunk and that stops the rest. It is easy enough to run the guard but there is a patrol guard in the city that will nab you if you have not a pass. It seems like the other expedition is getting a pretty good foothold in South Carolina and the rebels are laying down their arms in Eastern Virginia. It is reported the rebels have hung out a black flag. They ask no quarter and will give none. They will not have a chance too much longer, I don't think, when the news comes of the taking of the forts in South Carolina. The Colonel made a speech and the band played several tunes. He said that if he is ordered to go he would. He has been appointed commander of this post till Spring. he has three hundred dollars extra besides his regular pay. He refused to go on the last expedition. The Lt. Col. is Italian. He is very well disciplined and a brave officer. He said, "Never mind boys, you shall go next time." It is reported the 18th Mass. is to take our place. We can't tell till the time comes. The smallpox has gotten into our regiment. There has none died with it yet. The whole regiment has been vaccinated from the Colonel on

down. It is Thanksgiving today. We aint got a many roast turkeys nor mince pies. We had soup made of rice and beef bones and dish water. We have good bread. We have hard bread on Sundays. If you send a box to me, send it by express. It will cost about a dollar and a half. Write as soon as you get this. I shall send you money as quick as I can. Use what you like. Direct your letters in care of Captain B. F. Rogers, Co. F, 21st M.V.M. I send my love to you and all the rest. Write all the news. Goodbye for this time.

From your son, Henry W. Brown Naval Academy

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Camp Lincoln, Dec. 15, 1861
Dear Mother, I received your letter last Monday. I am glad you got the money. I waited till I got the box before I wrote. It come today. I thank you very much for sending it. Everything tastes twice as nice for coming from home. Tell the neighbors I thank them very much for the things they sent. Thank Mrs. Matherson for her gift. The things were all good except the meat which was moldy. I am very glad you sent the reading. It will serve to pass away the long evenings. We have to drill pretty hard now. We took another march Tuesday, about five miles. We went to South River Ferry. We had a pretty good time. We were pretty tired when we got back. It is hard work to carry our knapsacks with all the clothing and blankets with our equipment and cartridges and rations. We drilled an hour yesterday. There was a review of all troops here at Annapolis. There were eleven regiments, ours, 23, 25, 27 Mass., 11, 51 Penn., 51, 53 Zouaves, 57th Cavalry NY, 8, 11 Connecticut. It was a grand sight to see them all drawn up in lines. We were reviewed by General Foster and several other officers of high rank. The 24th Mass Regiment came here yesterday. Four companies stayed in the yard last night. It is one of the most splendid regiments I have seen yet. They have the prettiest bands I have ever heard. They played last night in front of General Foster's quarters. The 25th come in this morning and escorted the 24th out to camp. We do not expect to go on this expedition. I have not seen Uncle Charles yet. I have seen some fellows in his company. They said he had been here several times to see me. I sent to have him come in. I suppose he did the next day but we went out in the country. He can't come in again till Tuesday, the day he comes off guard. It is now the middle of December but we have not had any snow. The weather has been very pleasant so far. Today is Sunday but it has not been kept very well. About ninety of the boys been unloading stores for the 24th and been down in the bay to unload a steamer that is run aground. The rest have been packing stores for the 24th. I had to leave writing to unload the stores. I had a bully supper tonight; the best I have had for a great while. It is reported that Charleston is burnt by the niggers but we can't tell if it is

true or not yet. Write as soon as you get this. Write all the news. I send my love to you and all the rest. Goodbye for this time. This is from your son,

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Annapolis, MD, Dec. 28, 1861 Dear Mother, I received your letter yesterday. I was very glad to hear from home. I am well and am glad to hear that you are the same. We are still at Annapolis. Our regiment is all together. We expect to leave in about ten days. We expect to go on this expedition. There is about 15 steamers and men-of-war and a great many schooners in the harbor. The expedition will sail soon. There is a great quantity of provision and forage and shell balls and ammunition here. The 1st Vermont Cavalry and the 5th Rhode Island Battery and another battery just arrived. I don't know where from. The 11th Connecticut are here. Our regiment is the best here. The 25th are to take the right of the First Brigade. They hate our regiment because they are afraid we shall get it instead of them because we drill the best. We expect to go on the Second Brigade. We were ordered out to camp. We formed a camp, pitched our tents and got everything ready to move when we got orders to stay in the yard till we went on board the ship. We have a good time here. It is rather cold but we have not had any snow. We have a good fire in our rooms and on our beats. We go on guard once in about 7 days. We have considerable extra duty to unload provisions off the steamers. We go outside the city to battalion drill. I saw Uncle Charles the other day. He is well and likes soldierin pretty well. I don't think of much more to write, so goodbye for now. From your son, Henry Brown Dear Sister, I am glad to hear from you and am glad to hear that you are better. I should like to hear you all very much and also the neighbors. Tell Nat Mills that I should like to have him write very much. Electa, when I get paid off again, I will send you some. We have got to fall in with knapsacks on to go out on battalion drill. Direct your letters as before and I shall get it wherever I am. Write as soon as you get this. Goodbye. I send my love to you all and all the rest, so goodbye. This is from your brother, Henry W. Brown

1862

Henry's Regiment and the others on board the steamer *Northerner* would find that sailing to North Carolina was not exactly as much fun as it first appeared to be. Henry's 21st Regiment was chosen by General Reno to be his first regiment in his battalion. They would be engaged at Roanoke Island at Fort Bartow and lead in capturing the Rebel flag and the small fort. Then they would move to New Berne and Elizabeth City. Burnside would be very successful. The unit was then sent to Virginia to become part of the Army of the Potomac. Henry and his regiment would be at 2nd Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam and on to Fredericksburg. Henry will tell you, in very vivid words why he is fighting in the war. I was flabbergasted to learn of his thoughts.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Chesapeake Bay, MD, Aboard the steamship, Northerner, Jan. 10, 1862 Dear Mother, We have started on the Expedition. We are anchored about 25 miles from Fortress Monroe. The pilot has lost his course; the fog is so thick. We shall start as soon as it clears off. We went on board the boat Monday afternoon and started yesterday at 10 o'clock and cast anchor at half past eleven last night. We had a light fall of snow at Annapolis. The weather was pretty cold when we got on board. We got paid off before we left Annapolis. The boys most all got out in the city and got drunk. There was hardly a sober man in the regiment. When we got aboard there were no fire on board the boat and we were most froze. We have little low bunks one above the other. We sleep warm but it is rather uncomfortable getting about. The first day we had nothing to eat from morning till night and then we had some hard crackers, salt beef and coffee. Our water is in whiskey barrels. It is so cold we can hardly drink it. Our coffee is made of the same. It has a very bad taste. I made out to buy a quarters worth of cheese. It made a great addition to my meals. I saw Uncle Charles several times before we left Annapolis. The rest of the troops are out of sight. I suppose they have anchored. We towed a vessel with the 9th New Jersey on. I shall send this ashore when we get to Fortress Monroe. I shall send some money if I can, by express. If I cannot, I shall send \$15 in this letter. If there is none in this letter, look out for the express. I don't think of anything more to write. I shall write again when we get to port or before we leave, so goodbye. This from your son, Henry W. Brown Jan 11th. We arrived at Fortress Monroe last night. It is a fine looking place. There is an immense number of steamers, brigs, men-o-war, schooners, gunboats and vessels here. We are anchored opposite the fort. I don't know if we shall go on shore or not. We shall stay here several days, I suppose. I don't know whether I can send any money or not. Goodbye, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Hatteras Inlet, Jan. 16, 1862
Dear Mother, I received your letter yesterday. I was very glad to hear from you. We are at Hatteras Inlet. Most of the fleet has arrived. I wrote to you at Fortress Monroe and sent \$18 by express. You will probably get it before you do this. We sailed from Fortress Monroe at eleven o'clock at night. The day I wrote was the 11th. We sailed all night and till three the next day. You have heard about the coast of North Carolina. It is next to Cape Horn. We had arrived first opposite Cape Hatteras. The wind was right in front for about an hour. We did not make any headway. The boat pitched and hove. The joints cracked. It would ride way up a wave and then it would go down in the trough of the sea. I stood on the bow of the boat. The waves dashed over the boat and wet us all over. The Major stood on the hurricane deck. It wet him to the skin. We all thought it very fine till the crew began to look sober and declared the boat would not hold together twenty minutes in so rough a sea. They turned around and went back five or six miles under the protection of an island and cast anchor and laid there overnight. In the morning, it was calmer. We sailed into the inlet. We had two bars to cross. It seemed as though we should sink every minute but we got through safe. Our craft is an old leaky boat. It is very large and very heavy loaded. It has been condemned as unseaworthy. The weather has been cloudy and stormy since we have been here. The wind blows hard most of the time. Most of the steamers arrived about the same time as we did. Schooners and vessels have been arriving ever since. I guess they hear there is several vessels anchored a short distance from the forts. Fort Clark contains about two acres. It is nearly round. It is made of sand turfed over. It is situated clear out on the point. Fort Hatteras is situated further back. There has been nothing much of interest occurred since we have been here. We expect to go to Wilmington. I don't know when we shall go. It may be in an hour, a day or a week. I should liked to have seen the company that went from Thompson. There is not so poor men in our regiment. Connecticut must be pretty hard up to accept such officers. Our youngest commissioned officers are twenty-one. There is hardly any but have seen service before most of the non-commissioned officers were out three months. Half the privates would be more qualified for officers than they are. I would like to drill with them myself. If you get the money, you and Electa can have the gold and more if you want it. Colonel Morse is at Annapolis. He will send the letters wherever we are. Goodbye, Henry

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Roanoke Island, NC, Feb. 14, 1862
Dear Parents, I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you. I am well and hope you are all the same by this time. We left Hatteras the 7th. It was a splendid sight to see the fleet. The gunboats started first, the First Brigade next, the Second, then the Third. They formed in two lines. It was a very fine day. We sailed very slow. We kept in sight of the southern shore. We anchored at dark. We were about ten miles from Roanoke Island. We started the next morning at 7 o'clock. It began to rain. We went about three miles and cast anchor. The next morning the fleet sailed up to the island and commenced bombing the fort. The troops laid off a piece. The bombardment lasted all day. It was 'bang bang' every minute. We could see the shells strike. Some would strike smack into the fort, some would fall short and some to over. When they struck, it would raise awful dust. We got into smaller boats; ones that would run in shallow water. We landed out of reach of the forts. The landing commenced about 4 o'clock. The 25th landed first, 10th Conn., our regiment, 9th, 5th Rhode Island landed and then the others, one after another. We had to march through a wet marsh, the water over our shoes. We marched on to dry land and in lines. There was a house there, a Union Flag was hoisted on it. Immediately our regiment was placed on picket. We marched out into the woods and threw out skirmishers. All the other regiments stayed in the open and had good fires in about a half and hour. Three guns were heard and one of our pickets was brought back wounded. We retreated out of the woods into open land. We stacked arms and laid down about an hour. We had no blankets or knapsacks; nothing but our overcoats. We had forty rounds of cartridges and three days rations of hardtack and salt pork. It was a cloudy and very cold night. Our feet was wet. You may imagine our condition. We had to keep walking to keep warm. We stayed there about an hour and then went back into the woods and laid down in the brush. It began to rain in a little while and then rained all night. It was so dark we could not see anything. I would lay down a few minutes and then walk up and down the road and get warm and then lay down again. There was three twelve pound howitzers planted beside the road. It seemed the longest night I ever passed but morning came at last. We started some fires and ate our breakfast and got warmed all up. About 7 o'clock the 25th passed by and the rest of the First Brigade and then we started. We did not know where the rebels were but expected to meet them somewhere. About the time we started, the firing commenced. It was about a mile off. There was incessant fire of small arms. There seemed to be several large ones. We marched on and soon came to the scene of the action. We had a small stream to cross. It was up to our haunches. The wounded were brought back to the rear. The road was full of them. Just as we got there, the 25th was retiring. They said it was pretty hot work but they were driving them.

We could not see the rebels but the balls came thick and fast. It was 'whis, whis'. The rebels had a masked battery with three guns mounted on it and they were pouring the grape shot and canister into us as fast as they could load them. There was men posted behind the battery land up back. We had one of the worst places that could be found. The battery was built in the heart of a cypress swamp. It was hard land on the side the rebels were, and there was a good road that led by it. The rebels thought it impossible to get to it any other way. The 10th Conn, 9th NJ, 51st NY, 9th NY, Hawkin's Zouaves, 51st PA and 27 Mass. were engaged, some in one place and some in another.

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We passed round at the left, right through the worst of the swamp. As fast as our men got in line, they commenced firing. We crawled through bushes very slow. It was about an hour before we all got in line. As soon as we all got in line, we were ordered to charge the battery. We rushed through the water with all our might. When they saw us coming, they took to their heels with all their might. Our colonel seized the flag and was the first one the battery. He jumped on the gun and cried, 'Come on boys'. The battery was soon covered with our men and Hawkin's Zouaves. There was a great lot of blankets and other clothing. I got a very nice heavy blanket and several other things. A large body of rebels slept in the woods the night before. They left so sudden they could not stop to take their blankets. A few run for the boats but were followed and caught. The rest retreated to the interior of the island. We followed close at their heels. We took several prisoners, by the way. We went three or four miles and halted. It got to be most night. We expected to have to lay in the sand. The general said we got about a mile and half more to march. We expected to have another hard battle. The next day our regiment was in advance. About forty went ahead as scouts. They met about 2 regiments of rebels. They fired on us and we returned fire and killed seven. The rest run. They soon appeared with a flag of truce. We soon came to an opening and there we found any quantity of barracks. The buildings were all new. They put the prisoners in the smaller quarters and took lodgings immediately. We found plenty of provisions. The next day I made an excursion about the island. I found one fort with 12 very large guns. They were all spiked with wrought nails. They have since been withdrawn and are ready for use. This fort was not fired at by our fleet. There was another with four guns of the same size spiked. The other one mounted 8. It was the one that was bombarded. It was pretty well torn to pieces. There was another battery at the right of the other. The rebels expected we should keep on hard land and get right between the batteries and then they would blow us to pieces. It had 2 guns. There was two regiments of North Carolinians, the 9th and the 31st. The next day 600 of Wises' Legion landed to reinforce the rebels and were caught. They did not know the island was surrendered. A regiment of Mississippians, 800 of Richman's Blues were taken prisoner. They are large, fine looking men. The Carolinians were dressed in citizen clothes; the others had grey

uniforms. We had about 4000 prisoners in all. Our regiment had 7 killed and about 40 wounded. The 26th Mass., 10th Conn., had about the same number. The others did not suffer much. There is about 200 killed and wounded on our side. As near as I can find out, the rebels was as great. The weather has been very changeable here. It has been very warm days. The rest has been rainy and very cold. We expect to leave Monday and go aboard the 'Northerner'. The fleet has taken Elizabeth City and destroyed their gunboats. It is not known where we shall go when we leave here. The 24th will go north with the prisoners. There is good roads about the island. It is about 18 miles long and three wide. There is houses once in about a quarter of a mile. They are all farmers. They had any quantity of hogs. The troops killed every one they could find. Geese, hens, and calves were picked up. The farmers say they are ruined. There will be a regiment left on the island. There is a good deal more I should like to write but I am afraid you cannot read what I have wrote. The fight lasted 4 hours and 40 minutes. I did not feel as I expected in the fight. I did not feel excited at all. There would be one drop here and one there. It would be 'whis whis' all

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3 around but none touched me. We had a pretty hard time aboard the Northerner. It was cold; there was no fire we could get to. We did not have half enough to eat and we expect to have worse before we get through. I should like to be home very much. Tell Freddy, I am sorry he is sick. I hope he will be well when you get this. It makes me feel bad to hear that any of you are sick. Our Colonel Morse is at Annapolis command of the post. Lt. Co. Maggi is in command of the regiment. Direct your letters as before. He will forward them to us. Papers will come as well as letters. The report is that Norfolk has been taken but we cannot tell whether it is true or not. I must stop writing or I shall never get through. I send my love to you all and hope that this letter will find all in as good health as usual. Goodbye from your son and brother, Henry This is Secesh paper.
Henry Washington Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown Roanoke, North Carolina, March 6, 1862 Dear Parents, I think it is most time that I write to you again We came on board the Northerner night before last. We had a pretty good time on Roanoke. Our Lt. Col. has resigned and the captain of our company, the first and second

lieutenant of Company K. The captain of Company K was discharged for disobeying orders. The captain of Company D had his leg broken with grape shot. The captain of Company G has gone home on furlough. He had a shock or palsy. He will probably never come back. Their places have been filled by under officers. Our new one is Captain Houvey. Direct your letters in his name. We hear of great victories very day. We have heard that Fort Donnelson and Henry are taken and Memphis, Nashville and Savannah but we can't tell whether it is all true or not. There has been a report several times that Norfolk is taken but we do not think it is true. We don't know where we shall go when we leave here or when we should leave. There is a great many conjectures about where we shall go. Burnside has gone to Washington. The 11th and 6th New York and 89th New Jersey are going to stay on the Island. There has been a great many reports about the battle. The 9th and 51st New York take credit upon themselves. The 51st were behind us to support us in the charge. They pretend to be the first in the fort. The 9th, Hawkins Zouaves, as soon as they heard us charging rushed in right shoulder shift in four ranks. They made no sort of charge. I think there has been more wounded than at first reported. There has been four died of wounds since the battle. The wounded have gone home on furlough. They will stay until they are well. I am well and hope this letter will find you the same. Direct your letters to Burnside's Expedition, Second Brigade, 21st Regiment, Company F, Massachusetts Volunteers in care of Captain Houvey. I don't think of much more to write. Send me some reading. I don't get none here. You will see a great many pictures of the Expedition in Frank Leslie's and Harpers Weeklies. They are exaggerated a great deal. Write a good big letter and I will write again soon. Goodbye all for this time. This from your son,

Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass Vol. Newbern, NC, March 18, 1862 Dear Parents, I thought it was time to write and let you know that I am well. We have had another great battle and driven the enemy back from Newbern. It will be no use to give you a detailed account of it as you will hear about it in the papers before you get this letter. There was about 6000 of infantry, 2 regiments of artillery, one of cavalry that comprised the force of the rebels. The fight was four miles from Newbern. The enemy had breastworks three miles long. They extended from the river to the railroad and from the railroad one mile and a half south. At the water was battery of thirteen guns. One artillery regiment was between this and the railroad and the other on the other side. The fight commenced on the right. It lasted about four hours. Our right wing charged on on battery and drove the rebels

back. The rebels formed and charged on the right wing and drove them back. Our left wing fought on the left of the railroad. We lost a good many during the fight. Every regiment done its duty. The rebels loss was great. The ground was strewn with the dead and wounded. I cannot tell how many there was on either side. You will see it in the papers as soon as the returns are made. Our regiment is encamped near the battlefield. The others are farther toward Newbern. The rebels burned the bridge as they got the train across. They made a stand at Kingston. It is reported that General Siegal has taken Goldsborough. It is reported that Richmond is taken. If it is so, the war will soon be over. I hope it will. I have seen enough of it myself. The inhabitants have all left. The slaves are left alone. The city was mostly deserted. The shops and stores have been rifled. The plantations have been scoured of poultry, pigs and such like. There is any quantity of sweet potatoes. We found plenty of provisions in the camp: pork, flour, lard and sugar. We have coffee from the quartermaster. We make out to live pretty well. There was a brickyard where the wounded were carried. They have since been removed to Newbern on hand cars. We expect to go to Newbern in a few days. The Third Brigade are to start for Beaufort soon. We had a funeral service over the dead today. There was fifteen killed in our regiment and some forty wounded. We had not much larger force than the rebels. They ought to have stood 50,000 men the way they were entrenched. I don't see how we ever took so small a loss but the rebels took no aim. Every man that showed his head above the ramparts had a dozen bullets shot at him. Most all on both sides were shot in the head. I wish you would send me some postage stamps as I have got out and there is none to be had here. I will finish my letter with the girls. Goodbye to you both, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass Vol. Newbern, NC, (continuation of letter of Mar 18 to parents) Dear Sister, I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you all. We left Roanoke the 10th of March and reached Hatteras at night. The next morning we started for Newbern. We sailed up the Neuse River till we came to a bend. We anchored here for the night. The next morning we landed on the southern shore at a place called Otter Creek. We started for Newbern before night. We came to an entrenchment. It was deserted. The railroad was just beyond. We tore up the tracks and ate our dinner and took the railroad. It was nine miles to Newbern. It rained all day. At dark, we stopped and laid down in the woods. We built fires and dried ourselves. We had our blankets and laid nice, although it rained all night. The next morning we fired off our guns and loaded them again so as to be sure that they would go. We started about 8. We had not gone far before the guns began to crack and the canon began to roar. We

kept on the right wing, slit off and we marched a little further and halted. The New York 51st came up with us. We were on the left of the railroad. There was a battery right ahead of us. It was all still there. Then the rebels rushed into it from another direction and poured a volley into us. It did but little harm. We were on the side of the hill. We rushed down and came up on the other side. There was heaps of brush and logs. We crept up behind these and commenced firing. Not a rebel showed his head that was not fired at. We kept at it for three hours. There was one killed, two wounded in our company. Our ammunition was most out. Some fired 70 rounds. Then we saw the others coming over the railroad. They fired a few volleys and charged. The rebels saw they were flanked and took to their heels and run. We got up and gave them a parting salute in their backs. We then rushed down the battery. There was only the 51st and our left wing on this side of the railroad. I did not know the rest of the movements of the divisions until afterwards. The forces on the right escaped to the cars that was ready to take them. Those on the other side were taken prisoner. The cars crossed the bridge with a Union Flag or our gunboats would have blown them to pieces as they were near enough. I will not say anymore about the battle. There is prospect of having another. This is Secesh paper. The other is Love letter paper I will send you a letter, stamp and envelope. I am glad to hear that you are no worse and hope that you will get better. It is Spring here now. The peach trees are in blossom, the grass is green, the weather is pleasant. I hope the war will be soon over and I shall live to see you all. I have not got the papers you sent yet but they will probably come in the next mail. Direct your letters to: Burnside's Expedition, Second Brigade, 21st Regiment, Company F. Write as soon as you get this. My love to you all. Goodbye for this time, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown Camp Andrews, North Carolina, March 24, 1862 Dear Parents, I once more take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well. We left our old camp last Tuesday. We are now at Camp Andrews about three quarters of a mile south of Newbern on what used to be the Fair Grounds. It was a Rebel Camp. It is finely laid out. The tents are wall tents and there is fireplaces built for everyone so they are very handy and comfortable. The Rebels build all of their chimneys of pine sticks and clay, built in cob house fashion. It was pretty dirty but we have got it about clean now. We cook most of our victuals ourselves. We have flour of which we make a cake. It would not seem very good at home but it is a great rarity for us. We ate hardtack for so long. We had it from the time we left Annapolis till we came here. I have not ate but one Irish potato since we

left Annapolis. We had some sweet potatoes we got at a plantation. We have lived very hard since we left Annapolis. On Roanoke we lived well; as long as the Rebel stuff held out and then we had nothing but 12 crackers, coffee and a little meat or something of that sort for dinner. Now we live first rate. We can get butter at the settlers for forty cents a pound and cheese for twenty cents. We have to go on guard duty every other day. It takes 100 men to guard the camp and we have 30 pickets thrown out a few miles to keep from being surprised. The bridges have been burned and the roads so obstructed that it would be hard for them to take any of the Expedition by surprise. Beaufort was surrendered soon after Newbern without any fighting. There is a United States fort of 140 guns there. The Third Brigade are there. The First and Second Brigade are all around Newbern. The 25th Massachusetts is in the city. The 11th Connecticut are near us. We cannot leave camp without a pass, neither privates nor officers. Three of the 10th Connecticut boys are said to have been taken prisoner by the enemy pickets. I have not been into the city yet but have been close to it, enough to see part of it. The Regiment are going up there this afternoon but I am on guard. I shall try to get a pass. Some days the enemy are said to be 25 miles off now. One of the calvary come in and gave himself up today. I suppose we shall be reinforced soon and then push on. I don't think our regiment ought to go into battle again. There is not 500 men fit for duty. There is a great many sick besides the wounded. I am well myself and have been but am liable to be as any of them. I have no stamps and don't know but I shall have to make a soldier's letter of it. If you will send me some, I will write pretty often. I ought to have bought more at Annapolis but I did not know but I could get them here. Fred Aldrich, Bill Draper, George Gillien and I are in a tent together. I do the cooking. I think I shall be a pretty good housekeeper by the time I get home. We have not been paid since the first of January. There is three months back pay due us up to the 19th of this month. I don't know when we shall get paid. I don't think of much more to write. I should like much to see you all and I hope to soon. My love to you all. Goodbye for this time, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol., Company F Newbern, North Carolina April 9, 1862 Dear Parents, I received your letter yesterday. I was very glad to hear from you all and was glad to know that you are all well. I am in first rate health. We are still at Camp Andrews, about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Newbern. Reinforcements are arriving every day. We shall have quite an army bye and bye. There have been rumors of an attack and we have expected one since the battle. I think they are too afraid of old

Burnside and his army to make one without a great superiority of men but they imagine that he has 40,000 men. He had but thirteen regiments in the battle and they did not average 800 men a piece. After the battle, there was more than one thousand unfit for duty; about 500 killed and wounded and as many more were taken sick soon after from the exposure. It was a terrible time the day and night before the battle. After marching ten miles in a drenching rain through mud and water with our overcoats on and our blankets strapped to our backs, we sweated like buckets. Our clothes were very heavy being wet through. We lay down in the woods and built large fires and got warm. I lay down with my feet to the fire, with my blankets over me, and had a good night's sleep. In the morning my blankets were all wet through. I was rather stiff but did not take cold. A good many's health was ruined by the exposure. After the battle, our company had to go on guard before we had anything to eat. I did not have anything to eat until 10 o'clock and then we had some flap jacks and molasses sugar. After that, we had to be on guard every other day and do a great deal of work. We had our dead and the Rebels and 70 horses to bury, the guns and ammunition to gather up and take care of. Since we came to this camp and got cleaned up, we have had a pretty easy time. Our pickets have been relieved by the 103 rd New York. I went on picket once. I went up to Newbern the other day. It is one of the prettiest places I ever saw. The houses are some wood and some brick. They are middle-sized, nice handsome houses, with pretty yards all full of flowers in full bloom. There is no pavement or brick sidewalks. The city is full of trees. Most every house has a large yard in front. The grass is green and everything looks pleasant. The houses are most all deserted but the people have most returned. The Neuse River runs on one side of the city and the Trent on the other. It empties into the Neuse. Here it is larger than the French River. Burnside is building entrenchments from one side of the river to the other so that Newbern will be surrounded. The gunboats are on two sides and a battery of more than one hundred guns are on the other. Our regiment, two Maryland and nine New Jersey are on the eastern side of the Trent. The rest are on the other side of the city. There is several regiments near Beaufort. They have drove in the enemies' pickets. Fort Macon has not surrendered and it is thought that they will have a pretty hard battle. There is a report that it is to be attacked today. They will have a pretty wet day for it if they do. There is another river about the size of the French that runs into the Trent about three miles from its mouth. Its source is from the east. It is expected that the Rebels will attack us first, if they do at all. They would have to cross the Trent miles above and then cross this to get to us. There is pickets on the main road and there is scouts go out every night along the

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2River. The niggers came and told that the Rebel cavalry had crossed the river and burned a barn full of grain. They said there was about fifty head. Our company was sent to see. We marched out to our pickets and found all quiet. There we returned and another company went out and scoured the

woods all over but found no sign of any. Since then we have had scouts out every night. I was out Saturday night with eight others. We scattered along the bank and lay down in the brush and lay there till morning but heard nothing. We drill but very little here but we have a splendid ground. The turnpike bridge was not burned by the Rebels. There is two barrels of resin on it ready to set on fire if the Rebels approach. It is guarded by the 11th Connecticut boys. We do not fear an attack from the Rebels. We would like no better fun for about 50,000 to attack us and we have not 20,000. I think we shall soon move on to Goldsborough. I cannot tell if our regiment will go or not. Some will have to stay here. The 25th Massachusetts took no part in the battle and they are quartered in the city and patrol while we are out here and can scarcely get outside the camp. Our officers have always been mean about that. When we fight we want to see what we have took. I am glad you sent the letter stamps. I will write pretty often now I had no paper or envelopes with me after the battle but the secesh envelopes would not stick so I put on wafers. I have not got any papers. I think it must have been because others have been sent to Annapolis because others have them come in every mail. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all, Henry Brown Dear Sister Electa, I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you and to know you are as well as usual. I hope you will get well this summer. I will send you some money to buy medicine with when I get paid off. We signed the payroll yesterday and were to get paid today but it rains so hard I don't think we shall. The report came that Yorktown was taken with 5000 prisoners. I hope it is true. It is the sentiment of all that the war will be over soon and that we shall be at home by the fourth of July. I hope we will. If you get any pictorial papers you will see a great many scenes that I was in but you cannot tell anything by them. I cannot recognize scarcely a scene. They are so exaggerated. You wanted me to send you a nigger girl. I could get plenty very easy but to get them there would be the rub. I think a young darkey would be the best because he could walk. There are some right smart niggers around here, I reckon. I have not much more room to write. My fingers are stiff; it is so cold. Goodbye. This from your loving brother.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass Vol. Newbern-Camden Hill, April 22, 1862 Dear Parents. I am well. We are still at Camp Andrews but we have been away several days and came back yesterday afternoon. We had orders to be ready to march in a day but the order was countermanded. We did not know where we was again but the next day the order came to go on board the Northerner. We got ready. We took our rubber blankets,

overcoat, canteens and haversack and 60 rounds of cartridges. We went on board at 9 o'clock and immediately set sail. After getting aground several times, we got into deep water. Our destination was Elizabeth City. We got to Roanoke about 10 o'clock. A pilot came on board and piloted us through the narrows. The channel is very narrow going past Roanoke. After we got into deep water, we anchored and waited for the rest. The 51st Pennsylvania sailed from Newbern. The 89th New York and 6th New Hampshire were stationed at Roanoke. These three regiments embarked making 5 regiments, about 3000 men in all. Our regiment numbered 505. The sick were left in camp. We all started together. Owing to the fog, our pilot could not run, he not being very used to the sound. The three regiments from Roanoke, being in smaller vessels, went ahead. The object of the expedition was to destroy the canal from Norfolk to Elizabeth City. The Rebels threatened to come down this canal and come to Newbern with iron clad boats and destroy our fleet and take us all prisoners. Burnside thought he would stop their fun if he could. There is a locks about 12 miles above the city and by destroying these, the water would run out and it would take three months to rebuild them. Burnside found out there was a regiment of Rebels with nine canon there to guard them and he knew they must be taken by surprise because they could get reinforcements to arrive from Suffolk in 9 hours. We were to land and march there by night and surprise, if we could, but we did not move till morning. Three regiments landed at 2 o'clock. They had a nigger for a guide. He led them about 15 miles out of their way. We landed a short distance below the city and marched by Camden Courthouse. This is a very pleasant place. The courthouse is about the size of our town house. There is a store and jail and many other beautiful houses. There was pleasant farmhouses along the road. The land is very low and clayey. As we advanced, the land grew lower and more swampy. There would be a house and land cleared around it and the rest was all swamp. We got within two miles of the canal about noon. The day was extremely hot. The soldiers were giving out at every step. A great many were sunstruck. Soon we came to a large field, with a row of fires. The enemy came and began to fire canon. There canon was planted in the road and the balls struck all around us. Some came within a rod of me. We were laying down to rest beside the road. The 51st Pennsylvania was ahead and we were next. The others were behind. The field was over a quarter of a mile long and 40 rods wide. There was woods all around. The road ran through them. The Rebels were at the other end. There was several houses on the road. Our artillery took their positions and the 51st Pennsylvania and our regiment was on the right, the 69th New York on the left and the (Zouaves) Zoo Zoos out in front. We kept on to the swamp. The 51st Pennsylvania commenced. We formed right. The musketry commenced. We pushed and just got in position when they fired. As soon as the firing commenced, the Zoo charged in front clear to the end of the field. The Rebels poured a shower of grape. They lay down and it passed over. They went on again; another shower and they fell like

pigeons. They broke and ran into the woods. About this time, the New York 6th gave the Rebels a

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2splendid volley. The other regiment was firing all the time. The Rebels run. We all rushed out of the woods. The men swarmed acrossed the field like bees. We immediately formed. The Zoo Zoos stood around in groups swearing and talking. We immediately stacked arms and lay down and rested. It was most night. The regiment bivouacked in the edge of the woods. There was nearly one third of every regiment give out before they got into battle. For two miles back the road was lined with them laying down and groaning. The houses were took for hospitals, the wounded brought in and dressed. We lost one killed and 11 wounded. The Zoo Zoos lost 18 killed and 45 wounded. The other regiment suffered a little. Those that gave out got better. We took two prisoners. There was about 1000 as near as we can learn, 800 Georgians and the Louisiana Wildcats. We found five killed and 18 or 20 wounded. There was more wounded but they took off. The Rebels took their canon with them. They retreated across the canal and how much further we don't know. We did pride ourselves much on the victory as we had 3 to their 1 and we might have surrounded them, just as well as not, it is supposed. They had a battery above or retreated to Suffolk. A picket was posted around us. I should have gone on at 11 but the worse is to be told. About 10, I was wakened and told to go on board the Northerner. We all fell into line. The fires were kept burning and we kept so still that if the Rebels had been around they would not have known that we were going to leave. General Reno had got wind that they were reinforced or that they were coming back or something was the matter. He thought it prudent to git back before morning. The whole division started; our regiment behind. There was 2 canon behind us. After the battle there was a thunderstorm and as soon as we started it began to rain again. The soil being clayey, a little rain made it awful muddy. There was great holes and it was very slippery. One could hardly stand up. We went very slow for the first 3 or 4 miles and then the road grew a little better and then we went pretty fast. The ranks were kept well dressed till they began to lay behind. Some were slipping down and some would give out. We had to rest every little ways. I kept up with the regiment. Those that were dangerously wounded had to be left on the battlefield. The surgeons drew lots and it fell on our surgeon. He was left and is probably a prisoner. There was four of our regiments left. Before we got to Camden Courthouse, the boys were nearly all exhausted. There was more than one hundred behind. We had a rear guard with the canon and ten men behind them. They made them most all come till within a little ways of the drawbridge. Here they left some men and went back with the wagons to pick up those that could not walk. It was hard to see some lay beside the road groaning. Some stayed to the bridge till they thought they were most all over. They then cut the bridge at the

courthouse. They broke open the jail and let out the prisoners and locked the jailer up and took the key and broke open the store. There was not much in it. except a little clothing and tobacco. It was about 1 and a half miles to the landing. The regiments got all mixed up. When we got to the landing, the 8th were most all behind and the road was lined back as far as the courthouse. By reading this you will get no idea of the sufferings of the troops. It seemed as though every step would be the last and I stood as well as any of them.

Pvt. Henry Brown, Newbern-Camden Hill, April 22, 1862 Page 3 Our clothes were completely covered with mud. It was pleasing to see them go flop in the mud. I did not fall but partly down twice. I waded into the water and washed my britches and shoes. When we got aboard the Northerner I went up and laid down beside the smokestack and got all dry and put on a dry pair of stockings and had a good sleep. Stragglers kept arriving all the forenoon. We left about noon and got here yesterday afternoon. There is some probably taken prisoner as the Rebels were probably around the next day. Many are unwell now but I am as well as ever. I haven't wrote half of what I want to, but perhaps as much as you will want to read. The place where the battle was fought was called Camden Hill but there was not a rise of ten feet after all. I don't think it was a very profitable expedition. I don't think we accomplished what was expected. The gunboats run up the canal and destroyed the bridge. There appears to be three canals run into one. The nearest I can find out is the Rebels had sunk a schooner in the one below the locks and we sank one in another and there is not but four or five feet of water, so the locks are not destroyed but the Rebels cannot come down right off. The calvary was seen by some of the stragglers about noon the next day. They escaped to the gunboats. I don't think there were many taken prisoners, except the wounded. I think this was as hard a march as any during the war; marching nearly forty miles in 24 hours and fighting a battle. It would not have been so hard if the road had not been so muddy and the soldiers had not all been exhausted. We shall have something to remember April 19 by. April 23, 1862.

I received you letter last night before I closed this. I was very glad to hear from you. I received your other letter and answered it and wrote another and sent some money. I should like to see you all but it will be some time before the war closes. I think father cannot get my discharge as long as I am well, nor could I get a furlough. The wounded cannot all get one. I hope McClellan will do something soon. We think that our movement was to embarrass the enemy at Norfolk. We thought McClellan might be attacking on the other side. I am glad you are better. Direct your letters the same as you did this. I hope Electa will be better this summer. The weather is about like July to home. It is very pleasant. The bombardment of Fort Macon commenced yesterday. I send my love to you all. Goodbye, Henry Brown
Pvt. Henry Brown, Newbern-Camden Hill, April 22, 1862

Page 4 Dear Sister Ada, I was very glad to hear from you. I always feel better to hear from home. I am glad you have got a good place to work. I would be satisfied to live on bread and milk for 2 months if I could get it. Fred Aldredge is a married man and Bill Draper is so nasty I would not have you do anything with him, but there is a little red headed drummer boy that would suit you, from Charleston. There is not many pretty girls here. There is no danger of our falling in love with any one out here. I have wrote about enough so I must close and get up and make some biscuits. Goodbye to you and all the rest. Henry

Pvt. Henry Brown Newbern, Camp Andrews, May 19, 1862 Dear Parents, I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear from you all. I should have wrote before but I thought I would wait until I got a letter from you. I am sorry to hear that you and Electra are worse but I hope you will be better. Things seem now like the war would soon be over. Our pickets have skirmishes with the Rebels every day. We have a regiment of calvary close by our camp and two companies of artillery, four guns each. They drill every day and some times practice shooting at targets. Last Thursday, 3 companies of calvary and the second Maryland went out about five miles to a place called Pollocksville. When they got most there, about 85 of the calvary went about 3 miles ahead. They were attacked with 60 calvary and some infantry were concealed in the woods. They had a brisk skirmish which lasted about an hour. They killed six Rebels and took 3 prisoners. The major of the calvary was wounded and one lieutenant had his horse wounded. He went to go back to the rest and lost his way and was probably taken prisoner. Four others are missing and several were wounded. They drove the Rebels across a creek. The Rebels burned the bridge. If the infantry had been there, they might have taken the whole of them. There seems to be a considerable number of Rebels. The next day the infantry waded the creek. It was up to their necks. They carried their cartridge belts on the bayonet. They had a skirmish and took several prisoners and lost several. They could not get all the Rebels very well. Saturday morning, about 2 o'clock we were routed up and told to get ready to march in an hour. The cook got some breakfast for us and we were in all ready on a line by four. We took our rubber and woolen blanket and left our overcoats. It was reported the Maryland regiment was surrounded and out of provisions and we had to go and help them out. We started at four and marched for ten miles. There was a steady rain all the while. The roads are different from those at home. The soil is clayey and a little rain will make 3 or 9 inches of mud. It was very hard marching but we did not

feel it much. Everyone felt like fighting. I never felt more like it in my life. We passed the plantation of Colonel Evans. It was one of the best plantations I have seen. The families have left. The Negroes remained. There is a safe guard at this house. The Negroes have planted the farm. There is a very large peach orchard. The trees hang full. They are nearly grown. There is also a very large orchard of young apple trees. Figs and peanuts grow well here. This is the only plantation I have seen planted. We passed a saw mill, a griss mill and 3 cotton gins. After going about ten miles we were ordered to halt and about face. The Maryland regiment got out of the scrape. It was found they were surrounded with water instead of Rebels. They had a very hard time of it. It rained all the time form the time they started till they got back. They only had what provisions they carried in their haversacks. Being wet, hungry and tired they could not do much. They were ordered back and met with us. We had a large quantity of provisions with us. The tins were stoked and our cook made coffee for them. We went back. We got back at twelve o'clock., pretty well tired out. It was thought strange that Maryland 2nd did not take them all prisoners. It has been ascertained that they had them all hemmed in, in a swamp. Our calvary went with us and if they had stayed we would have taken them prisoners. As it was the Marylanders came back. Two companies of the 11th Connecticut went out on pickets this morning. I don't know if they are to take the place of the others and go farther out ahead. I am rather lame today. I am as well as usual. We heard today that Mc McClellan had took 30,000 prisoners I hope it is so. It is also reported through Rebel sources that Richmond is taken. The 25th had a little skirmish with the Rebels toward Kingston. We have had 21 new recruits in our company. About 50 have been discharged. All the regiments in this division have had orders to their full standard. We drill 2.5 hours every day now. It is warm and pleasant today. I think we shall stand the hot weather pretty well. I have not been sick amy yet. We can go to the river and wash as often as we please. There have been some strawberries here. Blackberries are getting ripe. Mulberries are ripe. Flowers are plenty in the city but it is not so easy to get them. I will get some of the prettiest when I go there again. They are rebuilding the railroad bridge that was burned across the Trent River. An engine is coming from New York. I don't know the man you spoke of from the 11th Connecticut. I found a good many things I did not feel were worth sending home. I found a large blanket made of lined carpeting. It was a handsome blanket but very heavy. I swapped it for an army blanket and got a dollar to boot. I think it was better than to send it home. I had a very large knife, over a foot long and two edged but I had no sheath and gave it to another fellow to send home. The Rebels had a great many knives and pistols. They threw them away at rivers or buried them. They were made of iron. The 11th Connecticut had a better chance to get things than we did. They went to the city as soon as the battle was over and we stayed neat the battlefield and all we got was what we got in the camp. Do not be afraid to write anything. My nerves are strong enough. It

would make me feel a great deal better to hear that you all were well but if the sickness comes I want to know it. I hope Electra will be better by the time you get this letter. I will try and go out bye and bye and if I see any pretty flowers i will pick some. The cactus grows wild here and has pretty blossoms. I don't think of much more to write. I thank you for writing all the news. I send my love to you all and my respect to all the neighbors. Goodbye for this time. From your Son, Henry W. Brown, to his parents.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Newbern, NC, June 10, 1862
Dear Parents, I received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you and to learn that you are all so well. I am in good health. There is nothing of much interest going on about here. Just now, the 29th Mass. and Howard's Marine Battery had a skirmish near Washington City, NC, last Friday in which they routed the rebels consisting of one regiment, killed the colonel and many more, the number not known. The Federal loss was 7 killed and 10 wounded. Rumors came just now that Richmond was taken. Ten thousand rebels laid down their arms and many more captured and one hundred and twenty thousand came into Goldsborough. We may have a chance to have another little skirmish before long. Perhaps they intend to attack us here. I should like to have them. They cannot take this place with their whole force. We get the news here pretty soon after it happens here. Now the canal being open to Norfolk, things seem to be moving pretty fast. Now I hope they will push things along so as to close the war by the first of August. Today is pretty cool. We have had some pretty warm weather here but I think we shall stand it as well as the rebels. The flies and mosquitoes are very thick here. The latter are very large and are true Secesh. Even cold steel will not frighten them. You can judge something of the enormity of their size by the following: I was on guard duty and sat my gun by a tree for a minute. When I took it, the bayonet was gone and looking up I saw a mosquito picking his teeth with it. There is a great many poisonous snakes such as the copperhead, moccasins, king snakes and bullheads and many of these have been killed when we were on picket. In Maryland, we were all laying under a tree when two or three boys from another squad came along and found a large snake crawling into our tent. He picked up a stick and killed him. He was what the niggers call a bull snake, about four feet long. He would have got into the straw and bit some of us. The railroad bridge across the Trent River has been rebuilt. An engine and cars will soon be brought from NY and run between here and Beaufort. Beaufort is said to be a beautiful place. There is not as much sickness in our regiment as there has been. The prevalent disease has been chronic diarrhea and typhus

fever. Diarrhea has been the worst thing. As for fruit, there is not much to be had here now. We can get figs and lemons from the sutlers and plenty of blackberries and mulberries about. Here that is all the fruit we can get. I don't think of much more to write. I have sent twenty dollars, by express, the third. You will get it as soon as you do this letter, I suppose. Please send me some three and one cent stamps. I will send you some papers. We have a pretty easy time, 3 hours of drill each day in the cool of the day. We had some brigade drill yesterday afternoon. If I come across things to buy, I will send and oilbox. We have passes to go to the city pretty often. I guess I will write the rest to the girls. Give my love to the boys and my love to both of you. Goodbye for this time, Henry Pvt. Henry Brown, Newbern, NC, June 10, 1862

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Dear Sister Ada, I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I am glad you are well. I hope you will like your place. Give my respects to Mr. Elliott. I don't think of any more to write. I send my love to you. Goodbye for this time. Yours truly, Henry Brown

Dear Sister Electa, I am very glad to hear that you are better. Tell father to give you some of the money to buy something that you can eat. I send my love to you. Goodbye for this time. Henry

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass, Co. F Newbern, North Carolina, June 29, 1862

Dear Parents, I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you and to learn that you are all so well. I also received a paper this morning. I am in good health as usual. The weather is getting pretty warm out here. There has been more sickness here than there has been there. There is a hospital in Beaufort for those that are recovering from a long sickness. It is a very healthy place and they seem generally to recover rapidly. There is several in Newbern City. There has been a large brick house deserted by the inhabitants and converted into a hospital near our camp. It is situated in a very pleasant place. The sick are removed from camp as fast as they are taken ill. Burnside's Expedition is about to move to Goldsborough. A few regiments have taken Kingston, which was evacuated. We are under marching orders. We don't know how soon we shall start; perhaps tomorrow, perhaps a week. We have got everything ready to start at an hours notice. I don't know whether we shall strike our tents or not. I think we shall. We received orders that we were to go on board the Northerner. It will take us part of the way there. We shall probably leave our knapsacks on board until we get settled. If we have success at Goldsborough, we shall probably go to Raleigh but we can't tell

what will take place. Probably there will be a decisive battle struck all at once so they cannot retreat. If we were at Goldsborough and McClellan should drive them out of Richmond and the whole force should come down upon us at once before McClellan could help us, we should have pretty warm work but I suppose that it is the intention to cut off their retreat. Perhaps before you get this letter I shall be in another battle. I may not be so fortunate in the next as I have been in the three first but I hope for the best. I am willing to take my chances. You need not worry about me. I shall do my duty and if I fall it will be while doing it. If we have a battle you will hear of it in the papers and I don't think it worthwhile to worry till you know something happened. I will write to you as soon as possible after the battle if we have one, which is doubtful, as there are not supposed to be many troops at Goldsborough but probably we shall have something to do after a while. We shall have a chance to celebrate the 4th of July, as we did the 8th of February, 14th of March and the 19th of April. There is nothing of much importance except getting ready to move. A train is running between here and Beaufort. The road bed has been repaired as far as Kingston. A railroad monitor has been built with two guns as pickets. I heard of the death of Frederick Mills. I think he died at Hatteras Inlet. There has been many a brave fellow died of that disease. We shall be mustered in for pay tomorrow if we don't leave. I don't think of much more to write. Direct your letters the same as before till something occurs. I have sent several papers without stamps. I suppose they will get there. I will send some more if we stay here long. I thank you for the stamps. I send my love to all of you. Keep a good heart and don't fear for me. Goodbye to you all, Henry W. Brown, to his parents

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Fortress Monroe, VA (on board the schooner Sumner), July 8, 1862 Dear Parents, You will perhaps think it strange to hear that I am here. I wrote that we were about to move but I had no idea that we were going to Richmond, VA. There is ten regiments left at Newbern; the rest are left at Roanoke, Beaufort and Newbern to guard those places. The first of July we were ordered to get ready to march. The order came that we should have no marching so we carried our knapsacks on board a schooner. We kept our blouse, rubber blanket, haversack, canteen and equipment. The next thing we struck our tents. These were packed away with our haversacks. We marched to Newbern. The first 8 companies went on board the schooner, Scout. Our company, the 9th and the flank company and band went on board another. We started about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We were towed by the Ellen S.

Terry, occupied by the 51st New York. We had some heavy showers during the afternoon and night. We anchored at dark. I did not sleep much that night. Some slept in the hold but it stunk so I could not stand it. Every place that one could get, they were packed. I had a pretty good place for that night but it was pretty cold and it rained most of the time. During the night, 2 of the 51st fell overboard and drowned. We reached Hatteras at night and anchored. In the morning, we started back for Newbern. We were told that we were destined for Richmond but McClellan had taken it. We hoisted sail, and there being a good breeze, we went very fast. We arrived at Newbern about 5 o'clock. We went ashore, unloaded our tents and pitched our tents. The rest of the regiment did not come ashore. The next day we stayed at camp. The rest of the regiment came ashore. We received orders to go on board in the morning. That McClellan had been defeated. We went on board in the morning on a nice clean schooner. A furnace was brought aboard to cook our coffee. We were towed to Hatteras by the Corsack. We anchored there at night. In the morning, we sailed out. It was a beautiful day and the calmest I ever saw it. We sailed all day and night. There was not much breeze. The next morning, the steamer Excelsior took us in tow. We got into Hampton Roads just at noon. It was the pleasantest voyage we ever made. We have plenty of salt pork, coffee and hard tack. When we first started we had hardly anything to eat and it was cold and rainy all the time. I suppose the next battle McClellan has, we shall probably have a hand in it. There is as much as 150 vessels of different kinds lying here. We can get a delightful view of the surrounding country from the masthead. There is a beautiful village north of the Fort. The inside is full of houses with splendid shade trees. It is very beautifully laid out. The rip raps are a small island lying between the Fort and Sewells Point. It is being fortified. How long we shall stay here or where we shall go, I don't know. Colonel Clark has arrived. He has been home on furlough. Burnside is with us. It is said, that he will have 30,000 troops. Direct your letter to Fortress Monroe, VA, Second Brigade, Reno's Division, 21st Mass. Vol., Co. F. The next time you hear from me we will probably be somewhere in Virginia. I am well. This morning is beautiful. I send my love to you all.

Goodbye for this time, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Co. F, 21st Mass Vol. Newport News, VA, July 13, 1862 Dear Parents, I took this opportunity to write to you to let you know that I am well and what we are about.

We left Hampton Roads, the day I wrote to you last, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and were towed to Newport News where we landed. We put up for the night in an empty hospital. The next day we went into camp. This place consists of 3 divisions of hospitals. When Ben Butler came here he erected a fortification on the hill. In the first place I shall describe the grounds. The place is built on the bend at the mouth of the river. Along the coast is a high bluff, some 30 feet above the water. All the way from 5 to 10 rods from the water there was four heavy siege pieces mounted on the highest points. There was barracks built for 3 regiments. The first division consists of ten buildings, 30 by 20, intended for one regiment, with officers quarters in the front. The fort is encircled by breast works with a number of field pieces to define them. Outside the breast works are ten more buildings of the same size. The officers quarters are about 20 feet square. Beyond these are four more buildings, rather smaller. All these barracks are being fitted up for hospitals. They have been used for that purpose and there are some few here now. There are a great many other buildings occupied by the government. There are two companies of the 18 Pennsylvania based here. Stationed here is the 7th Massachusetts Battery. There is several dwellings here. One is used by the Major of cavalry and his family. The guns have been removed from the fortifications. We are encamped by brigades near the place. The land is very good about here. There is plenty of apples and peaches out a few miles. The apples are getting ripe but they are not grown yet. It is generally thought that part of Halleck's army is coming here and other troops to make out an army of 70,000 to be commanded by Burnside and that we are to attack Fort Darling. Thursday was the warmest day we have had yet. The thermometer stood at 105 in the shade. The first two days we went about where we pleased, but a guard was put on and we were not allowed to go outside the lines without a commissioned officer passes us by the sentinel or we have a pass. We go out in squads every morning to swim. There are plenty of stores here but few of them have got much. We begin to drill again. We drill the same as at Newbern. The masts of the frigate Cumberland are sticking up a little way from shore and the hulk of the Congress, which was burnt. There is a pretty graveyard here used for those of the two frigates that were washed ashore and those that have died in the hospitals from a great many regiments. Every grave has a head board printed with the name, age and date of death. I suppose people are haying at home but there is none of that done here. I have not seen but a very few pieces of mowing. South, in Maryland, the farmers did not raise much stock. I saw one piece of clover when we went to Camden. People plant their ground as long as it will bear anything and then leave it several years. The land about here is the best I have seen. I don't think of much more to write. I have wrote you all that is of much interest. I will write again as soon as anything of interest occurs. Goodbye for this time.

From your absent son, Henry W. Brown Co. F, 21st Mass. Vol.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Newport News, VA---Camp Lincoln, July 23, 1862 Dear Parents, I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you were in your usual health. We are encamped here, yet. There is seven or eight regiments from Hunter's Expedition come here. The 7th Conn. is here or is coming. It is generally expected that part of Halleck's force is coming here. Burnside is to have command of the left wing of McClellan's Army Our colonel says there is no telling how soon we have left here. It may be a day and it may be a month. We expect to be paid off soon. We are not allowed outside the guard without a pass. There is no good water to use, except to wash clothes in the camp, so there is two detailed every day from each company. I am for one today. We have nothing else to do. We lived rather poor since we have been here, but if we had money and could get outside the guard we could. First rate things are sold reasonable here of every description. If we had money we could find a way to get out. There is a grand chance to bathe in salt water here. We go in almost every day. A commissioned officer goes with us. The expected arrival of Burnside's Expedition created great enthusiasm amongst the Army of the Potomac. Burnside is feared more by the rebels than any other general. I have no doubt that when Burnside moves, Richmond will be taken. In what way he will attack, I cannot tell but it is thought he will attack Fort Darling first. I should be very glad to have you send me your likeness. I would not have put any verses on the paper if I had known it was against the law. I don't think of much more to write. I suppose there is considerable excitement there since the call for troops and much talk about drafting. I will write often. I don't suppose you will answer all my letters. Write often as you think. Best give my love to Grandmother. I send mine to you and all the rest. Goodbye for this time. From, Henry W. Brown to his parents. Dear Ada, I got your letter today and was very glad to hear that you are well. I am well, as usual. I did not think you would like Mr. Elliott very well. I knew you would not stay long. I should not want to work there myself. I should be very happy to have yours and mother's likeness and grandmother's, if she could. I want to know if old Barrett is going to get married. He would make a very good husband. I hope if he don't enlist, he will be drafted. I don't think of much more to write. My love to you and all the rest. Goodbye, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Fredericksburg, Va. August 9, 1862

Dear Ones at Home, I received your letter about an hour ago. I was very glad to hear from you. I am well. I don't suppose that it as been made public where Burnside is but you will probably hear before you get this letter. We have been here about a week. We left Newport News a week ago yesterday. We had pleasant weather on our voyage but we were so crowded that it was very uncomfortable. Every place big enough for a man to stand was occupied. We landed at Aquia Creek Sunday about noon. We were then packed inside or on top of freight cars and shoved through to Fredericksburg. We stopped a little this side of the city and went into camp on a hill about a half mile to the east. It is very delightful country. It is the hilliest country I ever saw. Fredericksburg is a nice looking city. I have not been into it but I can see all over it from a dozen hills. It is on the opposite side of the Rappahannock River. King's Division is here. They have skirmishes with the Rebels. The Rebels generally get the better of them. Guerillas are very numerous a few miles distant. The papers seem to think that Burnside is going to do something great. I think he will but how soon I cannot tell. Our orders are to be ready to start anytime. We may move again in a day or it may be in a month. We can't tell what may turn up in that time. The weather is extremely hot here now. The ground is covered with a light dust that is the worst to stick of any dirt I ever saw. There are camps on every hill. Burnside has over 20,000 men under his command of infantry. The Harris Light Cavalry are here. They are the best Calvary in the service. At least you would think so to hear them talk. You say that the people think everything looks dark just now. I don't see why they should think so. The reason they are afraid is they will be drafted or have to pay heavy taxes. I hope they will. How can they expect the army is going to do much when the weather is so hot. We hear that McClellan has again resumed the offensive and is within ten miles of Richmond. There is an immense lot of soldiers sick at this time. More than half of our company is sick but I have not missed an hours drill nor an hours guard duty or duty of any kind since I had the measles at Annapolis. A soldier has not one-twentieth as much to fear from the bullet as he has from disease. We got paid the next day after we came here. We are not allowed out of camp. Except three a day from the Regiment are allowed passes. We cannot get into Fredericksburg unless we have a pass from the General but the village of Falmouth is a short distance up the river. We can get whatever we want at a reasonable price. I have been on guard duty twice since we came here and I have been out of camp every day since by taking French leave. Those that are found out are fined. I have been over to Falmouth twice. The first

time I went to the theater. From your son, Henry W. Brown Company F, 21st Massachusetts Volunteers

Pvt. Henry Brown, Company F, 21st Mass. August 16, 1862--From Fredericksburg to Culpeper, Va Dear Parents, We are near the Rapidan River. Reno's Division left Fredericksburg the 11th about dark. We marched very slow all night. About daybreak we turned into a field on some high ground. We started with our knapsacks, rubber and woolen blankets and an extra pair of shoes. We packed our overcoats and all besides what we wanted to carry. We took a clean shirt and writing and sewing materials. Before we marched more than two miles, half the regiment threw away their woolen blankets. I threw mine away. Each brigade had a long train of baggage wagons and one battery. We slept till 8 and eat a little hard tack and started on. We did not go far that day. We had stopped at noon and had some hot coffee and hard tack. At 3 o'clock we resumed our march and marched steady until dark. We turned in again and had some hard tack for supper. In the morning we had some coffee and hard tack. We started again at 7 and reached Bealeton Station about 10 o'clock. We took the cars about 2 and rode to Culpeper, the distance of 14 miles. We marched about 3 miles to the south and turned into a field. We took no tents with us, except for the officers and provision tents. We stayed over night and left at 3 o'clock the next day. We had some fresh beef here. We went about the country as much as we pleased. We shot some pigs, got some green corn and roasted and boiled it. It rained that night but my rubber blanket did not get wet through. I was so tired I slept sound. We started at 3 the next day and marched toward the Rapidan River. I should think we marched 7 or 8 miles. We halted in a large mowing. The 2nd brigade formed line of battle and stacked arms, threw out pickets and stationed guards and here we be now. We went into a cornfield and before nine o'clock the field was stripped. We had some coffee and hard tack and corn for supper. There is several houses about here. The boys visited them. All took milk, eggs and everything else they wanted. The next morning we had milk in our coffee. Some had eggs, potatoes and corn. There is plenty of apples around here. They are just getting ripe. They are not very good to eat yet. There is no early apples here. I started this letter yesterday. I was on guard. I got up to present arms to the officer of the day and lost my pencil. I am finishing it today, the 17th. The first brigade arrived yesterday afternoon. They are encamped beside us. Stevens' Brigade arrived yesterday. They belonged to Hunter's Expedition. Five regiments of calvary passed by yesterday and encamped a little ahead of us. We are not allowed outside our camp now. Every place where we go after, we have cleaned everything out. They put on a guard. We had an inspection this

morning. I built me a little bow house today and got some hay to lay on. The weather is a good many degrees colder here than when we were in Fredericksburg. There it was so warm we did not want anything over us till near morning. Here we are most froze with our clothes on and our rubber blankets over us. I never would have thrown away my woolen blanket if I had known it would have been so cool here. We can see the Blue Ridge range and distinguish cleared land from woods. Cedar Mountain is two or three miles to the west of us where the battle was fought. I should think we were six or eight miles from Rapidan Station. There was several divisions advanced th

Pvt. Henry Brown--Aug. 16, 1862.

Page 2the

day we did. I don't know whether they have crossed the Rapidan or not but I don't think there is any except Siegel' Brigade crossed and the cavalry. Jackson's pickets are closest to ours. There is an immense site of troops here. They are pouring in every day. Some of the new regiments are reported to be at Culpeper. It is also reported that McClellan is landing his army at Aquia Creek. When we shall advance I can't say. We are going to have new tents. I can't think what they are called. They are made big enough for two. They button together at the top. Each one carries half on his back. The country is very hilly and mountainous around here. The soil is very fertile, the best I have ever seen. At Bealeton Station there was a level tract of land of about five hundred acres of good mowing, of good quality and good growth. It has all gone to seed and lodged down. There is a great deal of corn growing and a great deal of hay going to waste. There is a great deal of wheat stacked. If the Rebels have Virginia to live on, they won't starve. There is a great many sheep, hogs and cattle raised. We are living on fresh beef and mutton. The sheep are bleating all over camp. We have got one for tomorrow. I don't think of much more to write. I suppose you have read all about the battle in the papers. We did not have over 8000 engaged while the Rebels had three times their number and had a chosen position so that our men were under a crossfire. At night our pickets had fires built and the Rebels out of range with their cannon. The 19th Indiana were within 30 feet of some woods on picket. The first fire the Rebels made they killed and wounded 48. There was not many killed in the battle but a good many wounded and taken prisoners. Our side took some prisoners. I don't know how many. I wish you would send me some more papers so I can find out what is going on back home. The next time you write, direct your letter Burnside's Division, Culpeper Court House, Va. via Washington. I send my love to you all. Goodbye for this time, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown Washington, Virginia, Sept. 6, 1862 Dear Parents, It has been some time since I wrote to you but this is the first opportunity I have had. We left Cedar Run the next day after I wrote. We retreated to Kelly's Ford and stayed one day and a half. Since then we have been at Rappahannock Station, Sulfur Spring, Warrenton, Warrenton Junction, Manassas Junction, Bull Run, Centreville, Fairfax Court House, Alexandria and are now at Washington, just outside the city. We have been marched so hard that we are all wore out and exhausted. We have not had half enough to eat since we left Fredericksburg. We have not been over one day and night at any one place. We were in the (2nd) Battle of Bull Run. The first day, our brigade supported a battery. The next day we supported the batteries until about 4 o'clock. The enemy forced back our left. We were in the center. Our batteries mowed them down awfully but they closed up. Then for more than a mile our batteries in the center had to change position. The rebels got range on us. Such cannonading I have never before heard. The balls, shells and railroad iron came over our heads like rain. Some fell short; some went over but few did any harm. Our men acted as cool as if there was no danger at all. Troops were rushed to the left to keep from being out flanked but they were repulsed. At last our brigade was ordered around. We went in with wild cheers and poured the lead into them as fast as we could load and fire. We held them in check. A battery got into position. They poured the grape and canister into them. They run and rallied again and closed up in four ranks but were repulsed again. We held the field till the rest of the army retreated and then fell back to Centreville. We evacuated that place the next day and preceded toward Fairfax. We met the enemy about half way between. Our regiment fell into an ambush. Twice the regiment was cut up. A great many were taken prisoners, killed or wounded. I narrowly escaped being taken prisoner. I got a bullet through my collar. You can direct your letter to Washington. There will be no trouble but that it will come to me. We got here night before last and are going away tonight. We probably shall not go far. We have not had anything to eat but a loaf of bread, except what we bought. I will write again as soon as we get settled down. I received your letter yesterday. Goodbye, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Leesboro, September 8, 1862 (just after 2nd Bull Run and Ox Hill/Chantilly) Dear Parents, I thought as I had an opportunity today I would write to you. We left our encampment on 7th Street today at eleven. We kept on the same road. We marched till about five and stopped for an hour to rest. We went about a mile and stopped for the night. We came about a mile farther this morning and encamped again. It is about noon now. There is no telling how long we shall stay here. It will be safe enough to send your likeness now. Direct your letter to Washington.

While at Washington, our Captain got some stuff from the Sanitary Committee: woolen blankets, shirts, towels, handkerchiefs, Castile soap, brandy, wine pickles, bags of needles and pins, thread, buttons and all matter of trinkets useful to a soldier. These things were very acceptable. As I told you before, I threw away my woolen blanket before we got to Culpeper. At that place I bought a very nice woolen blanket for two dollars. At Bull Run we were ordered to take off our knapsacks and pile them up. I had no knapsack but I could not work well with my blanket and haversack, so I left them with the rest. We had to retreat and never got them. At Centreville I got me a first rate, good woolen blanket and have got it yet. At Centreville, the knapsacks of the 34 New York, which was cut up bad at Bull Run, were brought and piled up on the ground. Everyone pitched in and got what we could. I got a bundle with two towels, two haversacks, three razors, three pairs of shears, a syringe, three pocket knives, two pillow cases, a razor strap and a lather brush. I made a haversack of one pillow case. When we left I took three days rations of sugar, coffee and hard tack. When we met the enemy at Chantilly, we were ordered to take off everything heavy to fight better. I had to leave my haversack but I kept my blanket. Our company is pretty well off for clothing and blankets now. Not many have rubbers. These are the most useful a thing a soldier has. The boys are gradually getting over the terrible Battle of Chantilly. It was a scene I shall never forget. It was wholesale murder to stand at the muzzle of the enemies' guns and have a volley poured into us. I had a very narrow escape of my life and being taken prisoner. A ball passed through my collar. Our Lt. Colonel was killed. The 35th Massachusetts Regiment has joined this brigade. It numbers over 11,000 men. It is as large as the rest of the brigade. There is a great many rumors about the Rebels being in Maryland but we don't mind much about them. Write as soon as you get this. Send your likeness and the weekly newspaper. I got one the other day. The payrolls have come. I guess we shall get paid soon. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all. From your son, Henry Brown

Henry W. Brown Co. F, 21st Mass Vol.

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Massachusetts Volunteers, Co. F Antietam Ironworks, (Battle of Antietam), October 2, 1862 Dear Parents, You will think perhaps that I am dead by not writing for so long a time but I am alive and well yet. I got your letter a week ago but I had no materials to write with. I was very glad to get your likenesses. I got a paper at the same time

and Ashley's since I wrote to you last. Till the enemy crossed the Potomac, we were fighting or within sight of the enemy all the time. We left that place the next day and marched to Frederick City. The enemy were just leaving. Our batteries gave them a few shells. The cavalry charged through the town and took 600 prisoners. The enemy made a stand a few miles farther in the Gap of a mountain. We encamped near the city. The next day our forces drove them out of it. Our division started about 4 o'clock and marched to Middletown the next day. We had a very hard battle at South Mountain. We drove the enemy back several times. The battle began early in the morning and lasted until ten o'clock at night. Our regiment was not engaged with the enemy, but was under fire from four o'clock till it ended, and was on picket the rest of the night. The next morning our company was detailed to take some prisoners to Middletown. I was not with the regiment at the time when they left and not knowing how long they would be away, I joined another company. We started about noon and marched into the evening. The next morning, the enemy began to shell our camps. Their shells came hissing and roaring all around us but it did not injure a great many. Our batteries opened on them and soon silenced them. They changed their position and commenced shelling us again. Our artillery silenced them again and they retreated back. Our forces followed. The rebels planted their batteries on the northwest side of Antietam Creek. They shelled our camp some in the afternoon. In the morning, our battery opened on them. They returned fire. The infantry soon became engaged and one of the hardest engagements that ever occurred took place. What I write occurred on the right of our army. Burnside commands the left wing of the army. Our brigade was ordered to charge the stone bridge that led across the creek. The rebels had a good position as could be desired. They were on a very steep hill. The bank rose almost perpendicular to the height of nearly 100 feet and was covered with large trees. The rebels had made rifle pits one above the other of rail and split wood. There was a stone wall at the top. The rebels had their batteries about a half mile back of these on a still higher elevation. Our batteries had a good position back of us on the hills and silenced them soon after we got engaged. Our infantry was on the opposite side hill in an open field and we could not see one of the rebels but we put the bullets in where we knew they were so fast, that they laid low. The First Brigade was repulsed in trying to cross. The Second were ordered up. We made a rush and crossed. The rebels skedaddled over the hill behind their batteries, amid showers of bullets. Many a brave gray jacket bit the dust. Len Sharp was killed in trying to rally his men. The Third Division crossed the creek by a ford lower down the creek and charged on the batteries. The rebels skedaddled and left their guns. The rebels seeing there was so small a force charged on them and drove them back and opened fire on them from the batteries and forced the grape and canister in their ranks. They kept retreating back. Other divisions were ordered up. Our forces fell back till they could get some shelter. Our batteries had used up all their ammunition. Our division lay

down near the bridge. We were told that we would not have to fight anymore that day; that reinforcements would arrive, but there

Pvt. Henry Brown, Antietam Ironworks, October 2, 1862 Page 2 was none came but the rest of the Ninth Army Corps. We were almost out of ammunition but were ordered up. We marched forward. The others were falling back in great confusion. We got behind a fence and commenced firing. We fired away all our ammunition and lay down behind the fence and laid there an hour and a quarter. All this time, the rebels were firing from three batteries as fast as they could. The shells, balls, grape and canister were flying around us in every direction, some striking men and tearing them all to pieces. It was about dark when we retired from the field. We went back to the bridge. Firing seized on both sides. A line of skirmishers was thrown out just at the brow of the hill and remained so all the next day. Of course, we could not tell what was going on the right but we could hear heavy firing till late in the afternoon. The next day we were on picket and the pickets kept firing back and forth when they got a chance. The enemy had possession of the battle field in the afternoon. Our wounded were left on the battlefield till the next morning. That night we went back over the bridge. Fresh troops took our place the next morning. Our pickets advanced and found the enemy gone. We started in pursuit. The main body moved on the main road through Sharpsburg to Shepardstown Ford. They found the enemy had not all crossed. They took some prisoners, baggage and canon. We advanced toward Harpers Ferry. We came to a halt at a place called Antietam Ironworks. It is where the creek enters the Potomac. We have gone into camp here. Pickets are stationed all along the Potomac. We were on two days. How long we shall stay here is uncertain. We are under marching orders. Our loss at South Mountain of our regiment was 7 wounded. At Antietam, 42 wounded and 7 killed. We had 85 men in our regiment the morning fit for duty. Part of Company A was away. We have had some recruits since the stragglers have come in so it makes about 300 able for duty. The regiment is in charge of a captain. Tell Ashley I will write to him soon. We heard yesterday that Siegal had advanced to Warrenton Junction and taken a thousand prisoners. I think we shall advance soon. General Reno was killed at South Mountain. General Sturgis is in command of our division. General Cox is in command of the Corps. Colonel Ferraro has been promoted to Brigadier General. He is commander of our Brigade. He was promoted the day after the battle. The hardest part of the both battles appears to have been on the right of the Army commanded by McClellan. The general said that taking the bridge saved the day. For the right had all they could do and when the bridge was taken, it drew the attention of the Rebel Army so that enabled our troops to repulse them. There is some orchards about here but there is guards on them. We have to go off 3 or 7 miles to get anything. We go out foraging pretty often but we are in a loyal State and it won't do to steal too much. I don't think of much more to write. Direct your letters as usual. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all,

Pvt. Henry Brown, 21st Mass. Vol. Pleasant Valley, Oct. 20, 1862
Dear Parents, I received your letter today and was very glad to hear from you but did not much expect to hear what I did. Poor Electa is gone. I was in hopes to get home to see her before she died but I knew she could not live long. I am glad to hear the rest are well. I hope Freddy is not going to be very sick. There is a good deal of talk of this regiment going home this winter to recruit. If so, I shall be home soon. We do not credit the report much although the Mass. papers say so as well. I am well. We are encamped about three miles from Harpers Ferry, about a mile and a half from the railroad. We are between two mountains in Pleasant Valley. There is a village about a mile and a half to the northeast called Brownsville. It is the greatest place for nuts that I ever saw. We have very strict orders not to leave camp without a pass. Cavalry patrols were sent out on all the roads to pick up soldiers that strayed away from the camp and were sent to Harpers Ferry to work upon the entrenchments. It scared the boys so they are very shy about leaving camp but I have been out most every day. I get apples, butternuts, chestnuts and black walnuts. There is sites of pigeon grapes. They are very nice and sweet. The valley is composed of small farms of very fertile soil. We are having a pretty good time here. If we could get paid off, we could live pretty high and pretty cheap. There is a flour mill close by. I hope we shall get paid off soon. There is nearly four months pay due to us. The nights are getting pretty cold now. The days are warm and pleasant. I think your likeness looked pretty natural, except for the eyes. I will get my likeness taken at the first opportunity. I should like very much to have the Bible here but I could not carry it very well without it getting soiled. I should like a very small one that I could carry in my pocket. I got Ashley Mills letter but have not got Nats. Ask big Nat Mills to send me something to read. Most any kind will be acceptable. I will try and write oftener after this. It has been hard to get materials but I have got some now. I don't think of much more to write. We are under a fair way to prosper for the present. I send you my love to you all. Goodbye for this time,

Henry W. Brown
Dear Sister Ada, I got your letter yesterday. I was very glad to hear from you. I was very sorry to hear that Electa was dead but her sufferings are at an end. I am always glad to hear from home. There is nothing that will make a soldier's face brighter so quick as the cry of mail. Everyone crowds around to see if there is anything for him but some are disappointed and go away muttering. They don't see why their folks don't write. I should like to be at home to go to a meeting with you but I look forward, with pleasure, to the time comes. It may come and it may not; just as God wills. Some of our forces are

Pvt. Henry Brown, Pleasant Valley, Oct. 20, 1862 *Page 2*
fighting in Virginia now. I can't tell how quick we shall be called into action. The drum is beating for brigade drill so I must close. Good bye. This from your brother, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown; Battery K, 1st U. S. Horse Artillery
From Pleasant Valley to Fredericksburg, Nov. 23, 1862
Dear Parents, It has been some time since I wrote to you last and we have been on the move most of the time since. We are now about 3 miles northwest of Fredericksburg, Virginia. I will name the places we have passed through so that you may know the route we have taken. You must remember we are in the Reserve and move when Burnside's headquarters do. We have been in the rear of the main army all the time. We left Pleasant Valley two days after I wrote before. We crossed the river at Berlin and encamped in Lovettsville. We stayed there several days. We left Sunday about noon. We marched about 9 miles and then encamped. The next day we prepared to move but did not. The next day we moved to near Union. We passed through Spoksville and Goose Creek Church. The next day we reached Rectortown. We stayed here two days. We had a slight snowstorm. The next day we marched within one mile of Warrenton. The next morning we marched to within a few rods of the city and encamped. This was Sunday. We stayed till Saturday. We marched from there to Catlett Station. The next day we marched 9 miles towards Fredericksburg. The next day we came within four miles of that city. The next day we encamped on the North side of the city. The enemy still holds the city. We could see the enemy's camp fires and baggage trains yesterday. We moved back out of range of the enemy's big guns which could be seen through a glass. Whether the enemy will make a stand or not I cannot tell. Reinforcements are going all the time. I expect Burnside will make a move soon. Burnside is not so popular as McClellan among the troops except the Ninth Army Corps. I like the regulars very well. Artillery is easier than the infantry. I saw the Regiment the other day and got the letter you wrote directed to the 21st. Am glad to hear that you are all well. I am well. I got a paper dated Nov. the 1st. I don't think I do get all the papers. You had better not send any more till we get to some place where we shall stop for some time, although I should like to get them to read if I could only get them. We are in a very good camp. Water is plentiful. It is pretty cold here now. We have had a rainstorm for a few days past. It is clear and cool today. We keep a good fire near our tent. We have had pretty good food since I have been in the battery. I have learned to make a great deal of good food out of what we draw. If we

don't get paid till the 1st of January, I shall have 75 dollars to send home. If you don't want to use it very bad I wish you would put it in the bank. Ada, tell Ashley Mills that I will write to him soon. I have no postage stamps now. I had plenty but I lent them and thought that I should get paid before I should want them. I wish you would send me a few in your next letter. Mr. Olney thinks that I have seen service enough to be a colonel. Perhaps I have. I know that I could handle a regiment better than some of the colonels that are coming out now but a man in my situation stands but little site of promotion. He must have rich friends to blow for him and be pretty mean and get drunk pretty often. Direct your next letter as I directed before. I don't think of any more to write, so goodbye. My love to you all. This from your son, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, 1st U. S. Artillery Fredericksburg, VA, Dec. 28, 1862 Dear Parents, I once more take my pen in hand to let you know that I am alive. I have been waiting to get a letter from you. There must be something happened. I know that you got the letter I wrote because I got a paper directed to the Battery. I have been sick for about a week but am pretty well now. You have heard about the battle, I suppose. We had a view of the whole fight. We were stationed on this side of the river a little to the right of the city. We opened on the city about daybreak. We fired most of the day. We stayed there till after the pontoons were taken up. I don't feel much like writing today. I will give you and account of the battle some other time. I will give you directions of the Battery again. Battery K, 1st U. S. Artillery. We have heard heavy firing today. It sounds like fighting. We expect to leave here soon. Where we shall go, we can't tell. Direct your letters to Aquia Creek. Write as soon as you get this letter. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all. I did not post the letter yesterday so I will write that today is the last day of the month. We were mustered for six months pay. When we shall get it I can't tell. I feel pretty well. I have had dreadful pains in my head and at first all over my body. I don't know what will be done here. Stuart's Cavalry will come and carry us off if our men are not a little bit sharper. Four regiments of infantry and one of cavalry were captured by him, few days since. The report was last night that the Rebs were evacuating Fredericksburg but I have not heard much of it today. What the Grand Army is going to do is a question. They cannot move forward and I think it would be hard for them to retreat. A great many think we will go to the Peninsular but we can't tell. Send me some postage stamps when you write. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all. Henry Brown

1863

Henry enlisted in the Battery K, 1st Flying Horse Artillery and throughout 1863 was attached to the newly formed Cavalry Corps. He would fight under Generals Pleasanton, Buford, Kilpatrick, Merritt and Gregg. They would shadow Lee's advancement toward Pennsylvania and participate in a number of skirmishes. Henry will describe how risky it was to drive wagon carrying ammunition and a canon. They would be in reserve at Gettysburg and participate on July 3rd in the area that General Farnsworth made his fatal charge. They would follow Lee to Kelly's Ford and Brandy Station and other areas in between.

*Pvt. Henry Brown
Fredericksburg, Jan. 3, 1863
Dear Mother, I received your letter last night. I was extremely delighted to hear from you. It appears that you have not got any letters that I have wrote since I have been in the Battery except the one I wrote at Pleasant Valley. I have wrote three since but have received no answer to any of them till last night. It has now been six months since we were paid off last and everyone is out of money. Even if we had money, we could not buy postage stamps here now. I had a good supply but lent most of them thinking we would soon be paid off and I could get plenty more. I am sorry that your health is poor. You must not work too hard. When I get paid, I will send you some money to buy your clothes and the children's. I am well off for clothes now. I was rather bad off for shoes for some time ago but have a good pair now. I have not been well for some time back but am as well as ever now. I wrote a few days ago. You will probably get that before you do this. We have all got log huts built with canvas roofs and a fireplace at one end. We get along very comfortably. We have had some pretty cold weather but it is very pleasant now. We had a very nice soup for Christmas dinner but I could not eat any. We had coffee and a gill of whiskey. You must take good care of Freddy for I want to see him again. How does father get along with the house? What is he doing? Does he get plenty of work? What does he think of the nigger question? I have had an opportunity to see how the negroes are treated and to see what kind of people they are. There is not one half as intelligent as a dog and they are a great deal more inhuman looking. They are fit for nothing but slaves. Everyone wants a good stern master or the nigger will be master himself. I think that if they are freed they ought to all be shipped to Africa. I had a great deal rather fight for the Southern Confederacy than fight to free the niggers. There is a great many of them that are officers servants and the privates have to wait on them more than they wait on the officers. Send some more stamps. If I get that other letter, I will write.*

*Direct your letters as before. My love to you all. Goodbye for this time.
From your son, Henry W. Brown to His Mother*

Pvt. Henry Brown, Batter K, Artillery Falmouth, VA, Jan 30th, 1863 (note Henry had written 1862 but meant 1863--Mud March) Dear Parents, I thought perhaps you would be glad to hear from your runaway son again, so I will write a few lines. I am well and in good prospects of remaining so. We have made a move but got stuck in the mud and so did all the artillery and the expedition was abandoned. We started at the edge of the evening and it commenced to rain. We did not go 3 miles that night. The pieces and the caissons got stuck every little ways. Such a night as that. It was the worst night I ever was out in. It rained like torrents all night. The wind blew like a hurricane and was cold enough to freeze you through in one blast. The next morning extra teams were hitched on to the pieces and caissons that were stuck. The battery got together and we started. We went around and struck the Warrenton Turnpike. We wished to go to the river about 8 miles above Falmouth. We got within a mile and a half of the river about 4 o'clock. It rained most of the time. We suffered a good deal from the cold. 3 pieces and one caisson fetched up here. The rest were stuck back several miles. We stopped here all night and the next day and night. In the morning, we started back for camp. The canoniers had to carry their own knapsacks. Several brigades of infantry were to work on the roads. We got back to camp in the afternoon and pitched our tents. We have log houses built with tents for roofs. The day before yesterday, we had a snowstorm, the heaviest we have had. It snowed everywhere about 3 inches. It has cleared and warmed and the snow is going very fast. The roads are dreadful muddy. It is impossible to move artillery and almost impossible to move infantry, else they have boots to come to their knees. I have had my portrait taken and will send it in this letter. I don't suppose my features look very natural. It was about noon and outdoors and I had to look towards the sun. It was impossible for me to keep my eyes open. I don't think of much more to write. I send my love to you all. Goodbye for this time. From your son, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, Flying Artillery Camp near Falmouth, VA, March 20, 1863 Dear Mother, I received your last letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I have got a pretty bad cold just now. The weather is very changeable now. Most everyone has a bad cold. Yesterday was my birthday. It is snowing today. I have received your other three letters. You must not think that I am forgetting you by delaying to write so long. There

is nothing of interest occurred about here since the last move. The 9th Army Corps has gone to Newport News. The army has all been paid off. We were paid nearly two months. We are going to be changed to a 'Flying Battery'. The canoniers will all be mounted. As for the morals of the regulars, they are much better than the volunteers. They are a quiet and sober set of fellows as could be got together. You wrote that Fred Aldrich was at home. He never was within two hundred miles of Bull Run. He was discharged at Newport News Hospital. He was as big a coward as ever breathed. He never was in but one engagement and then he laid behind a log and loaded for others. The army likes Joe Hooker. He is trying to get the good will of his army by a plentiful supply of soft bread. I think it is the best plan of any, but if McClellan was placed in command, the army would fight a great deal better. There is no man that could move the army across the river at Fredericksburg again except McClellan. They have such confidence in him that they would go anywhere. I don't think of much more to write, so goodbye, Henry Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, 1st US Artillery Reserve Falmouth, VA, May 1st, 1863 (Near Fredericksburg--Battle of Chancellorsville) Dear Parents, I am alive and well yet and I hope you are the same. We are in our old camp yet but the army has moved. They are across the river and are fighting. We can stand in our camp and see the smoke of the guns and hear the roar of the canon. We left camp Tuesday afternoon and went about 8 miles to the left. We stayed over night and came back to our camp in the morning. Our captain is in command of all the 'flying artillery'. They all came with us. The army is attacking above Fredericksburg and below. The troops did not have much trouble crossing the river. I don't think we shall leave camp until Fredericksburg is taken. We will not have to go into any general engagement. Stoneman has crossed the river in the vicinity of Kelley's Ford and has gained the rear of the enemy and tore up the railroad and burned the bridges, with 30,000 cavalry and a few batterys. I wonder that we are not with him. It will be some time before we can get the truth of what is going on. The fight is raging fierce. Something will be done on one side or the other. To all appearances, somebody will get killed if they don't stop throwing lead and iron at each other. It has been storming for several days past but today is warm and pleasant. The country begins to look a little better. I wish you would send me a dozen postage stamps in your next letter. Please send me a small package by mail containing a handkerchief, colored, some black linen thread, 2 skeins of red thread, silk, a few needles of various sizes, a box of Unguentine, which will be very valuable this summer when we are on the march. We are not always able to wash our clothes very week. They are apt to get lousey. Direct your letter next time to: Horse Battery K, 1st U.S. Artillery, Artillery Reserve, Falmouth, VA,

via of Washington, D.C. I don't think of much more to write. I received your letter Tuesday. I am glad that my money went home safe. I am glad to hear that Ada is doing well. I hope she will stay and like it. I think her dress pretty. Send my love to her. I don't think of much more to write. My love to you all. Goodbye for this time, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown Frederick City, VA, July 10, 1863 Dear Parents, It has been a long time since I have written to you but it has been impossible for me to write. We are camping at Frederick City now. I will begin from the time I wrote last and tell you all that has happened. I wrote last while the Battle of Chancellorsville was going on. We left camp about fifteen minutes after I finished writing so that I did not have time to post it in the office till after the battle. We went to Bank's Ford. We were engaged there on the fifth of May. After the battle was over and our troops retired, we went back to our old camp. We stayed there about a week when we moved with the rest of the Reserve back near Patonock Creek. We stayed here until the 6th of June when we left camp again. We were engaged at Freeman's Ford across the Rappahannock on the 9th. We retired near Bealeton Station. We were with a brigade of infantry. We were ordered to report to General Pleasanton on the 12th at Catlett Station. After reporting to him, we continued our march. We joined the brigade of regular cavalry. We marched to Thoroughfare Gap. It was near dark when we left Catlett Station. We marched by a road. The road was narrow and rocky and almost covered by brush. I was driving on the swing team of the first piece. We run off from a bank some ten feet high into a ravine. Over and over went the piece until it reached the bottom. The wheel horses rolled over each other several times and landed on their backs at the bottom. The driver was caught between them and bruised considerably. My team did not go quite to the bottom and I managed to slip off before they fell. The rest of the battery went on and most of the cavalry. This delayed us a couple of hours. When we went ahead we came out upon the Pike that runs by the Bull Run Battle Ground. We passed the battle field about 8 in the morning. We went but a short distance farther, when we were ordered back. We were on the wrong road. We reached the Gap about 10. Half the battery went to the other side of the Gap and half this side. We took a position upon a hill. We stayed here till dark. The next day we left at dark and dark it was. We went upon the gallop nearly all the way. The air was so full of dust that we could not see an inch from our nose. We kept to the main road till within 2 miles of Bull Run when we took a bye road that led to Manassas Junction. We reached there about day light. We went to Union Mills. We unsaddled and stopped for an hour. We harnessed up again and went across Bull Run Creek. We stopped till night. We went a few miles towards Centreville We stopped till morning A good deal of infantry passed us here. We passed

through Centreville. We took the road to Leesburg. We passed through Aldie. Our advance had a fight there. Our brigade was in reserve. I cannot give any further details of our movements now. Our brigade marched to Middleburg. We were attacked in our rear, just before reaching there, while going through a piece of woods. We managed to get through into a field surrounded on all sides by a stonewall. We got our battery into position. The calvary dismounted and deployed behind the stone wall. The enemy came on with the most terrific yells and reached the wall in some places before our men, but our men marched right up to the wall. At the same time our battery opened with canister which fairly swept them from the ground. They skedaddled in every direction. Not one of our men were injured. General Gregg's Division was already at Middleburg. They arrived the day before by a different road. We supposed them to be the enemy. At first they covered our left and rear. We remained quiet all the next day ready for them at any moment. Henry Brown at Frederick City, July 10, 1863

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The next morning our section joined General Buford's Division. The whole calvary force was here with five or six flying batteries. Buford's Division was on the right of our forces. Our two pieces were all the artillery in the division. We recrossed Goose Creek at the same place we had crossed it before the skirmishing commenced here. We were on the flank of the enemy. Our skirmishers advanced on the double quick. We closed behind. The enemy would get behind the walls and stand till our men were upon them and run away. We went over hills, through woods, most of the time upon the run. We drove them through Ashby's Gap. Our cavalry made several splendid charges. This was the prettiest fight we had ever been in. We drove them over 8 miles. We joined the rest of our battery. We have been with the regular brigade ever since. We were engaged near Gettysburg a few miles from the main army the day of the big battle on the 3rd. We were engaged at Williamsport on the 6th. It was the severest fight we have had. The battery was engaged at Boonsboro on the eighth. Four pieces were dismounted. We came back yesterday. We are going to get a new battery and horses. The army has all moved to Boonsboro. There is fighting going on now. I am well. I will write another letter soon. I got your package. Direct your letter to Washington or elsewhere. Goodbye for this time. Henry W. Brown Horse Artillery, Battery K, First U.S. There has been a spy hung here. Here is a piece of the tree he was hung on.

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, Artillery Camp near Bealeton Station, July 31st, 1863 (after Gettysburg, in pursuit of Lee) Dear Parents, I received your letter yesterday. I am glad to know that you got my letter and to hear that you are all well. I wrote you last at Fredericksburg. We left there. In

a couple days, we went to Berlin. We crossed the river on the 17th. We moved on through Rectertown to Manassas Gap. Our brigade consists of the 1st, 2nd, 5th regular and 6th Provisional and our battery called the regular, occupied the Gap till the infantry arrived. The cavalry had considerable skirmishing but held their position. When the infantry arrived, we moved out on the road towards Little Washington. We stayed there till the Rebs were drove beyond Front Royal. We then moved to Warrenton. We moved day before yesterday to Bealeton Station. We moved out here yesterday. The Army is encamped around Warrenton and Warrenton Junction. The enemy's pickets are on the other side of the Rappahannock. We shall probably lay in camp till the army gets clothed and recruited. We have had very hard times for two months past. We have not had our rations regular some times. We would be 3 days without anything except what we could forage and that was very little. We cleaned out everything edible at Rectertown and Manassas Gap. We are now lying about half way between Bealeton Station and Rappahannock Station. I am in good health. You must not worry if it is a long time before I write. We cannot get time to wash our clothes. I got the letter you wrote before, about a week ago. I am very glad you are all getting along so well. I am glad that Ada is getting along so well. I will write to her soon, if I get a chance. The package you sent was all right. I got it before we left Fredericksburg. Keep up good courage and not feel worried if you do not hear from me very often. I will write as often as I get a chance. Goodbye for this time. From your son, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown Bealeton Station, August 14, 1863 (in pursuit of Lee) Dear Parents, I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well. We are now lying about half way between Bealeton Station and Warrenton, near Meade's headquarters. We joined the Reserve Artillery again. We shall probably stay here some time. We left the camp when I wrote my last letter on the 1st of August. At one o'clock in the morning, the whole of Buford's force, consisting of three brigades, marched to Rappahannock Station. We lay there till about noon behind the hill. One brigade of infantry of the First Corps was here. A battery was in position on the hill. About 10 o'clock, a squadron of cavalry dismounted and went down the bank and fired a few shots at the Rebel pickets, which made them skedaddle. The engineers laid down a pontoon bridge. The cavalry then moved across and moved on toward Culpeper. We went about 2 miles when we met the enemy in force on a ridge in a very good position. We came in battery about 2000 yards and fired a few rounds. When we moved at the double quick to within 300 yards of the Rebel battery, they had direct range of our battery but did us no damage. Our cavalry pressed them hard and they were obliged to retreat. Our cavalry followed them fast. We came in battery on the same hill they had occupied and fired a few shots. We then

moved forward on the gallop to another position. We got in position in time to see our cavalry charge on the Rebel battery. The regular brigade made the charge. The Rebel battery was strongly supported. The Rebels fired canister and our men were obliged to fall back. The whole force now moved forward and the Rebels fell back till within about 2 miles of Culpeper. Then we came upon the main body of the Rebels. Our cavalry made another charge on the battery but there was a creek to cross and a high fence behind. This was the battery and our men had to go through a gate before they could get to the Rebs. They had a desperate hand to hand conflict. Our men drove them several times. Their infantry advanced and our cavalry were obliged to fall back a little. The batteries opened on both sides. We had pretty hot work for a short time. The infantry engaged our cavalry and the Rebel cavalry moved on our right flank. We were obliged to fall back. We did this in good order. The enemy advanced in superior numbers but our skirmishers held nobly as a half of our battery went back to the river. The rest stayed at the front. Our men made a stand near Brandy Station and held their position till morning when they fell back to within about two miles of the river. A line of pickets was formed and the rest of the force went into camp. On the 3rd our pickets were attacked about 3 o'clock. Our section went out and all sections of Company L from the 3rd and one section of the battery of the 1st Corps. We drove the Rebs about a mile. At dark, we retired to our old position. We stayed there until the 9th when we moved across the river. We encamped until 5 o'clock the next day when we left the cavalry and came here. We are in a nice shady grove. We had some work to clean up the underbrush, put up the picket lines, clean the battery harnesses and saddles and put up our tents and bunks. We go on guard every third day and on police the next. The police have to bring water and wood for the cooks. The water is very poor and a long way to bring it. There is some talk of digging a well. The ground is very hard and dry. It is composed of rotten stone. We shall probably stay here some time. Most of the Army has been paid but I don't know whether we shall get paid or not. Please send me some papers once in a while so I

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery Battery K, Bealeton Station, Aug 14. 1863 can know what is going on at home. We are getting soft bread now. There is tracts being distributed among the army. I have got quite a number of papers. It seems like old times to read them. Please send me a fine tooth comb in your next letter if you think it will come. We expect to get new harnesses, caissons and some recruits. I hope we shall because our harnesses are rotten, our caissons are old and some broken and we are very short of men. A good many will be discharged in a short time. Direct your letters to Bealeton Station, Army of the Potomac, Horse Battery K, 1st U. S. Artillery. I give my love to Ada and the boys. I don't think of much more to write. My love to you. Goodbye for this time, Henry Brown to his Parents.

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, U.S. Artillery, (with General D. McM. Gregg) Camp Near Culpeper, Sept. 27, 1863

Dear Parents, I now take this opportunity to write to you to let you know that I am alive and well. There has been a great deal transpired since I wrote you last. Upon leaving our camp near Bealeton Station on the 5th, we marched to Warrenton Junction where we joined the command of General Gregg. We stayed here until the 7th about noon when we started for Hartwood Church with one squadron of cavalry as an escort. We reached that place about 9 o'clock that night and joined the command of General Killpatrick's First Brigade commanded by Colonel Davis. Our captain was promoted to the command of the Second Brigade of Horse Artillery and remained at Warrenton Junction. A lieutenant from some other battery took command. We thought Captain Graham was a hard officer but he could not hold a candle to this man. The next morning we had inspection and every man that did not have a full and new uniform suit, his name was taken down and requisition made out for them. He stayed with us for four days and during that time a great number were punished severely for the most trifling offenses. He was ordered to his company at Charleston and great was the rejoicing. The 2nd Lieutenant took command. He is a very good officer. The men all like him very much. Hartwood Church is eight miles from Falmouth. The old women there brought a great deal of milk, eggs, butter, corn cake, peaches, pies, and grapes to our camp and sold them. We lived pretty high here. We left here with Killpatrick's command on the 12th and marched to Kelly's Ford. We reached there late in the evening and unharnessed. Revelry was sounded at 5 in the morning. We harnessed and saddled and got our coffee. It now commenced to pour till daylight. The column started about daylight and moved down to the river. There was Rebel pickets on the other side. Our men crossed and captured two. One was an officer. The rest fled. Our men formed in line of battle on the other side and reconnoitered, but finding no opposition, we moved on. We met with no opposition till we reached Brandy Station. Here the enemy were stationed behind a range of hills. We were joined here by General Buford, who had crossed at Rappahannock Station and General Gregg who had crossed at Sulphur Springs. We moved forward on the double quick for some distance and came in battery. We fired 7 or 8 shots to a piece. When the enemy were driven from their position, our brigade moved on the left flank and was not engaged until near Culpeper. We had to go through a long woods. We broke the tong to the piece. The rest of the battery moved on and engaged the Rebs on the other side of the woods. We put on the limber of the caisson and moved on. The Rebs were on the other side of Culpeper. We came in battery on this side where we are now encamped. The cavalry charged through the town and captured 3 pieces. We marched through the town. The Second Brigade and part of Buford's pursued them to the Rapidan. The Rebs would make a stand on every hill. Our men would drive

them from one. They would go to another. The loss on our side this day was very light. We encamped that night about one mile from Culpeper. The Rebs had made a stand here. Their batteries had been placed on a knoll in front of a brick house in which a family were living. Our batteries opened on them and put several into the house. One killed a man and a little boy and wounded a woman. Pvt. Henry Brown, Flying Horse Artillery, Near Culpeper, Sept. 27, 1863 Page 2 We continued our course, in the morning, toward the river, stopping occasionally and moving very slow. Skirmishing had been going since daylight. One battery was engaged before we got into position. The bank on this side of the river is low and flat, while that on the other side is very high making a very naturally strong position. The Rebs had but one battery engaged at first and we had nearly silenced it when twenty guns opened on us. We continued firing about 20 minutes when we were ordered to limber up. We had but four men to a piece. The drivers had to carry ammunition. The left section had 3 men wounded and in the center one the shells were flying so fast, they did not dare to fire. The canoniers from our section were ordered to the other. We drew the guns behind a hill by hand and limbered them up. I mounted a team where the driver had been wounded and we drove off upon the run. We had to go about half a mile across a level field in plain sight of the Rebs before we could get out of range. We had a wheel knocked off but we made to draw it off. We went about two miles to the rear and came into a park. We remained there that night and the next day and the next night. We harnessed and saddled and remained so till about 10 o'clock the next day, when we unharnessed. In about a half hour, 'Boots and Saddles' was sounded and our section hitched up and started for the river, upon the run. The Rebels had crossed and were driving our pickets back. A regiment of cavalry dismounted and was employed as skirmishers and went ahead. Our piece came in battery and commenced firing. Our skirmishers advanced and after about an hour succeeded in driving the Rebs across the river. Sharpshooting was kept up all the afternoon. We fired occasionally all afternoon. General Davis was there and many others. Whenever they saw any object to fire at, we would fire. We hit the object nearly every time. General Davis pronounced it the best firing he had ever seen. He gave our gunner great praise. About an hour before sundown, a battery of four opened on us from a high hill. We opened on them with two pieces and silenced them. After we stopped firing, they would open again, when we would belch away again. They would stop in this way. It continued till sundown where we gave them a parting shot and retired to camp. The Rebels admit that their battery suffered severely and thought our losses must have been great. However, no one was hurt. Thursday morning our section was ordered to the river. We fired 3 rounds and left. General Killpatrick issued an order in which he complimented his men very highly. Goodbye for now. Your son, Henry Brown
Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Battery K, 1st U. S. Artillery Camp near Rappahannock Station, Nov. 12, 1863 Dear Parents, I take this opportunity to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines will find you the same. We are now encamped about two miles from Beverly Ford. We crossed the Rappahannock on the 10th at Rappahannock Station. The weather is getting pretty cold. If you have any money that you can spare, please get me a pair of woolen gloves by mail. Get some as thick and heavy as possible for it is very cold riding. It won't cost much to send them, ten or fifteen cents. If you haven't the money that you can spare as well as not let them go till I send some. We are in the reserve yet but expect to join the cavalry soon. The 6th Corps moved past here to the front this morning. I have not received any letter from you since we left Culpeper. I wrote two there but have not wrote since. If you don't know where we are, direct your letters to Amy of the Potomac, Washington or elsewhere with my main company and regiment. Write soon. Goodbye for this time. My love to you all. Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Co. K, Artillery Camp near Rappahannock Station, Dec. 6, 1863 Dear Parents, I received your letter on the 3rd and gloves on the 9th but have not have time to answer them before. I thank you very much for sending the gloves. They are the kind I wanted. It has been very cold for a few days and they done me a great deal of good already. We have not had any snow yet. We are in camp near Rappahannock Station. We have been away for six days to the Rapidan River. We had pretty hard times but not so hard as the other troops. I don't know whether there will be any more moving this winter or not. I hope that we shall go into winter quarters soon and get paid off. I am well and hope this letter will find you the same. If I should get home alive, I shant find many people that I am acquainted with if they continue to die off at the rate they have for the past two years. I don't think of much more to write. Water call is going on now, so I will close. My love to you all. Goodbye, Henry W. Brown to his Mother

1864

In 1864, Henry's horse artillery would skirmish at Chester Gap, Thoroughfare Gap, Front Royal and Manassas Gap but would be based in Warrenton just outside of Washington, D.C. It would be a difficult winter and spring. His description of Virginia mud is a gem.

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery Battery, First Brigade, Second Division of Cavalry Warrenton, VA, Jan. 10th, 1864 Dear Parents, I received your letter on the 8th and was very glad to hear from you. Since I wrote you last, we have joined the cavalry. We are with the First Brigade, Second Division of Cavalry. We have been with them about a month. We are at Warrenton, in winter quarters. We have been on one raid since we were here. We broke camp on the 1st. There had been a great deal of rain before and the ground was very muddy. You have no idea what Virginia mud is. After a shower of rain, the mud is about 8 inches deep and sticks to anything, like tar. It cleared up about noon and grew very cold. Before night everything was froze as hard as stone. It was so cold we had to dismount and walk most part of the way to keep from freezing. We encamped near Orleans at night. We built up big fires in the woods but we did not unharness and unsaddle so we were without blankets. We were nodding around the fire all night, with one side burning and the other freezing. We started on the 2nd at daylight and marched through Chester Gap. We reached Front Royal at dusk. We laid there over night and started in the morning through Manassas Gap. We encamped near Salem this night. The next day we reached Warrenton. It commenced snowing about 10 o'clock and snowed all day. When we got to camp we had the snow to clear away and our tents to pitch on the frozen ground. We had but 3 days rations and we were out 4 days. We were pretty hungry when we got back. We had hot coffee and a loaf of bread, which we did justice to. It was the coldest weather we have had. We suffered a great deal. Some had their feet frozen. It has been pretty cold since. It has snowed once since today. It thaws a little. We have stables to put our horses in. It is some little ways from camp. We have moved our battery near the stables and have commenced to build log shanties there. The boys grumble some for leaving these, which are quite comfortable. It is evening now. We have brick fireplaces and chimneys, which keep our tents quite comfortable. The Rebs trouble our pickets considerably. There is the 1st brigade of the 1st and 2nd Division of Cavalry at this place. We are having pretty good times. I think we shall make out to put in the winter very well. I am well. I have a slight cold just now. I wish you would please send me some postage stamps. We cannot get any here, except what comes from

home. I should like to see you all very much but I will wait patiently for 7 months longer and I am in hopes I shall see you then. I shall not reenlist until my time has expired at any rate. I don't think of much more to write so I will close. My love to you all. Goodbye from your son, Mother, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery, Warrenton, VA, Jan 10, 1864 Page 2
Dear Sister Ada,

I thought I would write you a few lines. I am glad to hear that you are all well. I am glad you like your school and to hear that you have attended so regularly. I should like very well to be at home to attend the singing school with you. If God is willing, I hope to be with you next. I suppose it would be rather lonesome there now with no young men. Try and find out what regiment the boys go in so if they should come to this army, I can find them. If there is any that have not left home yet, tell them they had better enlist in the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery. It will be the easiest and safest of any branch of the service. Goodbye. Dear Father, If there is any young men going to enlist about there, then I say they had better enlist in the artillery, in preference to anything else. The 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery are having the easiest time of any troops in the field. They will reenlist most of the men and will want some recruits. Yours respectfully, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery Warrenton, VA, April 15, 1864 Dear Parents, I suppose you will be anxious to hear from me so I will take this early opportunity to inform you that I have arrived safe in camp. I came on the 13th. We were delayed in Washington on account of bridges being swept away. I am in good health, but I had a severe headache for three days while we were in Washington. We are going to the reserve tomorrow at six o'clock. The weather is very fine here. The grass is green. The farmers in Jersey and Pennsylvania were plowing and planting when we came along. There is no movement of the army yet. The roads are not settled enough yet. We are having very good times now. Yesterday, we had battery drill. It seemed rather odd but we soon got into the old way. I got the same piece I had before. I am sergeant of the guard today. I don't think of anymore to write at present. We drew \$8.50 this Monday; ration money for our rations while we were gone. Goodbye, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery Carver Hospital, Wash. D.C., May 6, 1864 Dear Parents, You will no doubt be surprised to find that I am in the General Hospital at Washington but it is so. I was but six days in camp when I was taken with the fever, Ague. I have shook the flesh all off my bones. I had dreadful pains in my bowels. They were so sore that I could not press them

at all. They were pottiest several times which took the soreness out. I have not had the shakes so hard for a couple days. Yesterday was the first day I have been out. Today I thought I felt steady enough to write. I haven't eat scarcely anything till within a few days. I have took quinine for medicine. I took them all within a few days. I have about twenty big powders on hand and I think I am like to have suffered dreadfully but I think I shall get along now. I expect every day to be sent further North. I don't think of anymore to write. I wrote to you as soon as I got back to the battery. I have received no answer. Goodbye for this time, Henry Brown

Letter to Pvt Henry Brown, at Satterllee Hospital, West Phil., PA from his mother Thompson, CT May 10, 1864
Dear Henry, We got a letter from you last night informing us you were sick in the hospital. I feel extremely sorry to hear it. How I wish I could take care of you. Can't you get a furlough from the hospital and come home and stay till you get well? Father says he don't believe you will get over it unless you come north. I was thinking about your being on the way to Richmond, feeling afraid you would get killed or wounded as many thousands have. We received a letter from you soon after you got to camp. You spoke of having the headaches in Washington and I felt afraid then you was not going to be well. I thought I should not have time to write two letters before the army started. My poor, poor boy. We just got a letter from you informing us that you are worse. I feel dreadful bad. It seems as though I must do something for you but you are not near enough. Father is going to start tomorrow morning. How I wish I could go but I am not well enough to go and carry the baby and I could not leave her. She is so small. I was in hopes to hear that you was better. I hope now you will get well enough to come home but if it is otherwise, I hope we shall meet where there is no war nor sickness. I think of you there with no one of us to do for your suffering and I can't scarcely bear it, but I will try to be patient. I did not think of your being so sick, so I waited a spell. I wrote one the first day of May. If you have not got it, I suppose it has gone to the battery. I can't write much now. It is before breakfast and father is going up in town as soon as he eats. I hope you will be able to come home. Poor child how much you have suffered. The fever and ague is dreadful bad. I have seen Uncle Chandler have it and he had got better too. We are all well now. If you can't come home, let us know if you are worse. Goodbye Henry. From your affectionate Mother, Mary Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Artillery (the last letter he wrote) Carver Hospital, Wash. D.C., May 19, 1864 Dear Parents, As I feel a little better this morning than usual, and being Sunday morning which always seems the best time to write, I would take this opportunity to let you know that I am yet alive. It has been stormy for several days past. It has been very bad for me when it is stormy. I had the Ague the night before last. I had a chill about 9 o'clock. I vomited up everything in my stomach. It left me with a dreadful pain in the pit of my stomach. I was in such pain I was nearly distracted. I got up and dressed me and went out doors. I did not know but I could work the pain off, but my stomach was so sore that I could not stir round much. It hurt to press my fingers on the outside but morning came at last but it brought no alleviation to my sufferings. The doctor made his usual call about 10 o'clock and prescribed for it. The medicine might have got by one o'clock but the lazy nurse slept all the afternoon. I stood it until I got out of patience and I woke him up. As soon as I got the medicine, it relieved me at once. The medicine causes me to feel kind of stupid and sleepy. I wish you would answer this if you can read it. I am liable to stay here some time. You will direct your letter to: Carver Hospital, Washington, D. C. I don't think of anymore to write at present. I mean to write pretty often. My love to you all. Goodbye for this time, Mother, Henry W. Brown

Pvt. Henry Brown, Ward 5, N0. 16 Satterlee U. S. A. General Hospital, West Philadelphia, PA, June 5, 1864 Mr. Benjamin F. Brown Dear Sir, At the request of your son, Henry I write you from this place. He arrived here on the 29th at the same time as myself. He was quite ill from sickness and has continued to grow weaker each day since. He has delayed informing you of his illness until this time, hoping to be able to write for himself. He is quite ill, and he would be gratified could he see you here, although he fears it will be too far for you to come. If you will permit me to express an opinion, I should think it would be quite proper to see him as soon as possible, as he is very ill indeed! You will find him at the above place. Henry wishes his love sent to you all. Respectfully yours, Hatfield Clark Cpl, Co. A, 5th N. J. Vols.

B. F. Brown letter to his wife, from Satterlee Hospital, PA, June 10. 1864 (Henry's condition) Dear Wife, I now take this time to write a few lines to you. I arrived here safely today. I found Henry very low indeed. He is very weak. He can't help himself at all. He is nothing but skin and bones. He has the best of care; everything he can have for his comfort. The doctor thinks Henry is a little better today. He has some cough. It sounds very hollow to me. I shall stay with him a week and see how he gets along. Inflammation of the liver is the complaint now and the doctor thinks his

lungs are a little infected. I shall write again soon. Yours with respect, B. F. Brown. Henry sends his love to you all and hopes he shall get well enough to come home on a furlough. It is a very pleasant place here. There is about 4000 sick and wounded here now. Henry will be better or worse within a week.

West Philadelphia, PA, Satterlee Hospital, June 12, 1864 (Benjamin Brown to his wife on Henry's condition) Dear Wife, I now take this time to write a few lines to you to inform you that I don't think Henry will live long. He is fading very fast. His cough is very hard and he grows weaker all the time. His bowels are swelled. A good deal of his feet are also swelled. He is nothing but skin and bones. I can't write anymore now. B. F. Brown. Adaline you see what father has wrote. There is no hope now. Probably he will be brought home in a few days. You had better not come home tonight if you are too tired. If grandmother don't come tonight, I will let you know in the morning. I have got a good deal to do. I shall go to making arrangements. They sent the wrong paper last night. Will you ask Mr. Davis to carry this back and get it changed and get tonight's paper.

Satterlee Hospital, U. S. A. General Hospital, West Philadelphia, June 19, 1864 (condition of Henry Brown, Pvt. Artillery) Mr. B. F. Brown. Sir: According to contract, I improve these few moments to inform you of your son, Henry. I am very sorry to say that he is no better, but continues to grow worse. I fear he will not survive until morning. Should it be so, I will inform you the first mail. There appears to be no change in him, only he is growing weaker. The same man who had charge of him when you was here waits on him yet and is very kind and attentive to him. There has been a Medical Council held over him every day since you left but medicine appears to have lost its affect. I hope that he may be recovered but it is very doubtful. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, William E. Jones. Ward Master of No. 5. Please inform me whether this was received or not.

Satterlee Hospital, U. S. A. General Hospital, West Philadelphia, PA, June 20, 1864 Henry Washington Brown's death To: Benjamin F. Brown, Esq. Sir: I am under the painful necessity of reporting to you the Death of

your son, Henry, which took place last night (the 19th) at 10 minutes to 10 o'clock. He died very easy without a struggle; without any change of note from what he was when you was here. Only he grew weaker and weaker until he ceased to breath. And besides, which is a great consolation to his friends, I am happy to inform you that he died very much like a Christian. His funeral service will probably take place tomorrow. The Chaplain of this hospital has been to see him every day for the last 4 days he lived. Hoping to hear from you soon. I am very respectfully your obedient servant. William E. Jones Ward Master of Ward 5

On the Death of Private Henry W. Brown,

June 19, 1864

*Did you see our noble soldier? Did you bid him a goodbye? Sad oh sad to the beholder
For he did go forth to die. Not by whistling Rebel bullets Nor by screaming shot or shell
It was by the feeble hand of sickness That our noble soldier fell. And we never again shall greet him
For with earth he has got through. No we never more shall see him For he has passed from mortal view.
In his company they shall miss him There will be one vacant place In the ranks he filled while with them
But they will never see his face He has gone on a long furlough Ever on the other shore Gone
to see his much loved comrades Who have sunk to rest before And where peace and love
abideth Where rebellion can not come There in peace our soldier resteth In his bright and happy
home.*

Composed by G. W. T. on the death of Henry Brown