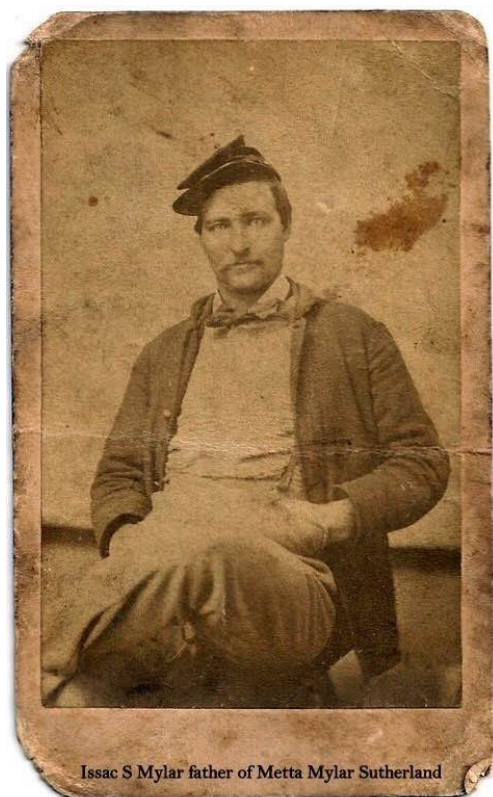
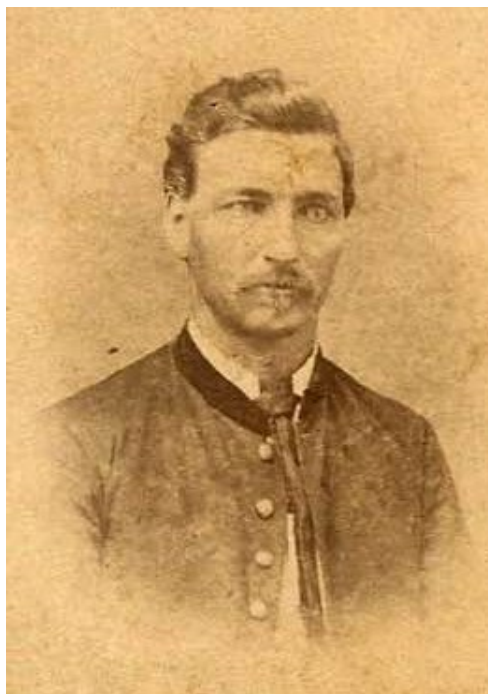
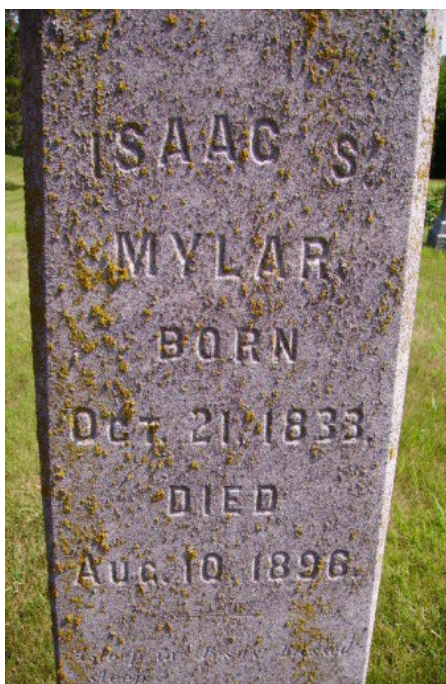


Company H, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Cemetery Photo Credit: Caryn Hood at [Find a Grave](#).
Portrait Photo Credits: descendant Nina Bledsoe Rippee
Isaac and wife Elizabeth: contributed by Nina Bledsoe Rippee



Isaac from the group photo of some of the Company H soldiers on parade.

Isaac S Mylar 18 Aug 1862

Isaac, age 28, is listed in the Roster of Ohio Soldiers 1861-66 volume 8, page 263 as a Sergeant.. He was mustered in as a wagoner; appointed Corporal 10 Mar 1863; Sergeant 7 Oct 1863; transferred to Co. E, 114th OVI 27 Nov 1864. Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant 28 Dec 1864 and was mustered out 24 July 1865 by reason of consolidation.

No discharge papers in Wayne county for Isaac Mylar.

Isaac Mylar is the man with the inked arrow pointing down at him in the back row. This is a photo of the GAR, Ulysses post, #250, Mirabile, Caldwell Co. MO Contributed by Nina Bledsoe Rippee.



Father: Joseph MYLAR

Mother: Sarah TAYLOR [Family Search]

Birth: 21 Oct 1833 [cemetery stone]

Marriage: Elizabeth J. STEVENSON, 3 Jul 1866, Wayne Co, OH

Death: 10 Aug 1896

Cemetery: Mirabile Cemetery, Mirabile, Caldwell Co MO

Pension Index: Isaac S. MYLAR, E 114th and H 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 1880 Apr 9, Application 360351, Certificate 223596. His wife, Elizabeth J. Mylar, applied for a widow's pension 28 August 1896, Application 639645, Certificate 444891, filed in Missouri. Pension Card: Isaac died 10 Aug 1896.

1850 Census, Green Twp, Wayne OH, page 174: Joseph MYLER (43), farmer, Sarah (42), Robert T (19) laborer, Isaac (16), laborer, Mary J (11), James (14), John T (8), Levi D (5). All born PA.

[Stark County Probate Court record: Joseph MYLER married Sarah JOHNSTON, 6 Jan 1831 in Stark Co OH.]

1860 Census, Green Twp, Wayne Co OH, pg 41 : Joseph MYLER (53PA), farmer; Sarah(52PA); Mary(21OH); John (19OH); Isaac, age 26 OH,.

Family Search, Ohio, county Marriages, 1789-1994: Isaac Mylar married Elizabeth J. STEVENSON 3 Jul 1866 in Wayne county OH, by G. H. Reeder.

1870 Census, Mirabile Twp, Caldwell County, MO, page 193: Isaac MYLAR, age 37 OH, farmer; Elizabeth, age 26 PA; Eddie, age 3 OH. [Note: I think his father Joseph is listed right above Isaac on the census...Joseph MYLAR, age 65 PA, farmer. A woman is with him, also born in PA, but I can't read the name. Thursday, 6 Feb 1868, Wooster Republican, pg 5: "Joseph Myler sold his farm, 2 miles north-east of town, to George Shuey, for \$82.50 per acre. Mr. Myler is one of our oldest settlers, having lived on the farm he has just sold forty years. He intends moving to Missouri in the spring."]

1880 Census, Mirabile Twp, Caldwell County, MO, page 340: Isaac S MYLAR, age 47 OH, farmer, father born PA, mother born not listed; Elizabeth, wife, age 39 PA, father born PA, mother born MD; Edward L, son, age

12 OH. [Note: Next dwelling Joseph MYLAR, age 73 PA.]

1890 Veterans Schedule: Mirabile, Caldwell Co MO: Line 18, House 72, Family 72: Isaac S. MYLAR, ?Lieut, Co E 114th OVI. Post Office: Mirabile, MO. Wounded at Seige of Vicksburg.

Isaac died in MO in 1896.

1900 Henry Ave, Shoal Twp, Clinton County, MO, page 183: This census page is very faded and hard to read. Line 35. Elizabeth C MYLAR, age 60 PA, Widow, 2 children/2 still living, father born PA, mother born MD; daughter living with her, born MO, father born OH, school teacher. I can't read the name.

1910 Census, 2nd Ward, St Joseph, Buchanan County, MO, page 104: Edgar SUTHERLAND, age 31 KS, first marriage, married 8 yrs, wire chief for telephone company, parents born MO; Metta L, wife, age 29 MO, first marriage, married 8 yrs, 3 children/3 still living; father born OH, mother born PA; Edwin, son, age 7 MO; Marguerite, daughter, age 5 MO; Helen, daughter, age 1 yr 5 months MO; Mrs. Elisabeth J MYLAR, mother-in-law, age 69 PA, widow, 2 children/2 still living, father born PA, mother born MD.

[Find a Grave](#): Wife of Isaac, Elizabeth J Stevenson MYLAR born 6 Dec 1839. Died 22 Mar 1923. Mirabile Cemetery, Mirabile, Caldwell Co MO.

Letters contributed by descendant Nina Bledsoe Rippee:

Camp Mansfield Sept 12, 1862

Friend Lib,

There is so much noise in camp this evenin that it is not worth while to attempt to sleep. I have been in my bunk for the last hour and thinking of times that have long since past and gone and so I concluded to get up and write a few lines to you for I think that you would be glad to hear from an old friend. I am enjoying myself here as well as could be expected. It is rather a lonely business for me for I have been used to going and coming at my own pleasure but here it is quite different if a person rushes to go to town or any place whatever he must run over all the camp two or three times to get half a dozen green horns to sign his pass. It may be well enough but it is quite a different mode of doing business than I have been accustomed to. There is any amount of ladies comes to camp every day but I have quit noticing them at all for there has been but three ladies came to camp since I have been here that I was acquainted with. Our company has united with another company of Richland county Boys and our captains name is Phelan a man that I never seen until a few days ago but I think that he is a clever man. Yesterday about noon we received orders to get ready to march at an hours notice and it caused quite an excitement in camp an we all went to work immediately to making boxes and packing up provisions and before night we had provisions packed for two days, and drew our clothing and by dark we were all in uniform. But we are here yet and no prospects of leaving very soon, but we cant get a furlough for a longer time than three hours, and not
page2

every one can get even for that long a time. I would like very much to go home before we leave but it is not likely that I can get off. **But it is hardly worth while to go home for all the time that I would have to stay and perhaps I would better stay here for it is hard enough to leave home once without going back to leave a second time.** Our boys have been pretty well since we have been here **except Noah Yoder**, Jno Bear, Ben. Norris, and a boy by the name of **Venie**. They have all been in the hospital but we attended to them as best we could, and they are all out now and all well except Noah. He is still quite unwell but I hope that he will be well in a few days. The Boys have a regular jubilee in our Barracks to night. They could be heard all ove[r] the camp every one singing his own tune. We have had plenty to eat all the time such as it is. We have plenty of bread meat and potatoes but they are done up in rather a poor shape sometimes for we have a great variety of cooks, but it so happens that they are all of rather an under grade, **but what is the difference just so we get home with our lives is all that we care about, but if it should happen to be otherwise we will have one consolation and that is that we died in a good cause. Our countrys prospects appear rather gloomy at present but I still live in hopes that there will be a change before long. The Rebels are now gaining ground every day and of course getting more bold. But I hope ere long that we will have men enough for the field to put an end to this Rebellion.** I was down to town a few days ago to get some photographs taken and this morning I went down to get them but they were so poor that I would not have them and I am getting some others and as

soon as they are finished ...[John Bair and Ben Norris survived the war. Joseph Yoder and the Venie brothers all died in January 1863.]

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...will send you one so that you can see how I appear in a suit of unkle Sams best. Oh Libie I hope you have not forgotten to make that needle book for me for I never was so fortunate to get one. I had the promise of two or three but that was all the good it did me and if you have not made it yet make it for me and send it to me by mail if you have no other chance for I want it very bad for I know that it will be nicer than any one that is in camp. Yesterday morning we had the pleasure of seeing D A C Bushong enter camp with his ?? Budget?? in his hand and he is now dressed in a suit of blue as well as the rest of us. Mary Jane and some other girls was comeing out to see us yesterday but they heard that we expected to leave yesterday morning and consequently they did not come and I was somewhat disappointed for I expected to have a good time. I have been on guard but one day since I have been here and that was last Saturday. I came off at six o'clock on Sunday morning. It is an excellent place for meditation. A person can think of almost all that ever happened during the whole period of his existnece in a single night. It is the most lonely task that I ever was called to perform. But I still live in hopes that ere long that I will see better days when it will not be necessary to guard soldiers or enemies. Our Camp is situated about ten miles north of the City of Mansfield in a very pleasant place indeed. There is a nice [word left out here?] on each side of it and one running through it. Consequently we have an abundance of water of the purest quality. The relief guard is just now passing the the Captains quarters where I am writing. It is now ten Oclock and the camp is perfectly quiet for the first time to day and if I stay here much longer I can perhaps hear the countersign for the guardline passes just outside of the shanty only a few feet from where I am sitting and I can hear every word that...

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...they speak and if they happen to let out the password I can go after some poultry. You must not think that I have commenced the practice of stealing since I have been in camp for it is no harm to take a few chickens now and when we are soldiering especially in this neighborhood for every man woman and within ten miles of this camp is doing every thing in their power to get what little money the poor soldiers have. We cannot get to ride to town on a farm waggon even when they are going empty for less than a dime. This whole community is engaged in nothing els than trying to gull [gull=cheating or tricking] soldiers. Such men should be shot before we go south to shoot rebels. I seen a man from Seville a few days ago and I inquired if any of his boys had gone to the army and he said they had all been to the exemption office and were discharged but I don't quite believe all of it. Perhaps ??Ger?? was excused but as for the others I judge it is a little mixed. I was up in the Chippewa boys barracks the other day and Jno Detric [John Detrick, Co G] was writing a letter to Jacob Redenger [see Jacob and his sister Mary below] and I wrote a few lines on a slip of paper and sent it Mariah. I don't know whether she will think worth while to answer it or not. Tell Epl and Dan Huffman that I am well and like soldiering very much, and if they want to enjoy themselves just come to camp to live. I was examined by the surgeon today and he pronounced me the best man of my size in the regiment. I do not know whether he was just gassing [gassy=full of ambitious or deceitful talk] or not neither do I care. But I will certainly be compelled to close before long for my sheet is almost spent and I am not near through yet but I will stop for this time for I am afraid that you will become weary before you finish reading this. But it is the first letter that I have ever writen to you and I hope you will excuse me for being lengthy. But answer if you please and let me know how you prosper & in your spare moments think of your friend. Direct to Camp Mansfield in care Capt Phelan. Ike.

More Notes:

Name: Jacob Redinger [mentioned in the above letter]

Age: 28

Birth Year: abt 1832

Gender: Male

Birth Place: Ohio

Home in 1860: Milton, Wayne, Ohio

Post Office: Easton

Household Members:

Frederick Redinger 71
Mary Redinger 66
Jacob Redinger 28
Mary Ann Redinger 24

1st Sgt Andrew Bushong joined the company a bit later than the others. Ike seems to be poking a bit of fun at Bushong. Bushong was one of the teachers at the Smithville Academy. I am wondering if he had to be "persuaded" to join them. I wish I knew the back story to this one. Bushong died in Dec 1862

Next Letter:

Millikens Bend Lou. Sunday afternoon March 15, 1863

Friend Libie,

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time but as yet have not received a word from you since the one that was written on the first of March, and that I answered immediately. Perhaps you have not rec'd my letters and think that I am becoming negligent, but this is not the case, or perhaps you have written and your letters have never come to hand. There are so many letters lost between here and home. But still I shall continue looking for your letters until they come to hand. There has nothing of importance transpired here of late more than we have moved several times since I last wrote to you. To prevent being drowned, we are now camped about fifteen miles farther up the river than we was before, on a splendid plantation and in a pleasant...

page 2

place. Mr Bear from East Union is here with us at this time. He brought us any amount of good things from home and of course we have been living pretty well since. And more than that the paymaster also paid us a visit and gave us a little money which done our sick boys more good than all the medicine they have taken for months, and he will probably be around again and pay us some more. But I am sorry to say that I am not very well and have not been for a few days but I think that I will be well again in a few days. There is nothing serious the matter with me. I suppose that by the time that this reaches you that your school will be out and that you will be free once more. It must be very tiresome teaching all the time as you have been doing for the last few years. Had you not better rest awhile? I think you had. It is surely as hard as soldiering. When I left home I thought there would be a probability of getting home by spring but I have given up all hopes of that now. In fact....

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it seems as if the war had only rightly begun. But as things now are I would rather be in the army than at home. For all that are able to bear arms that are yet at home will stang [?stand] a good chance of being with us here in the sunny south before long. Before this war closes there will be many lives lost and many homes made desolate, but as to the final result I have no fears. The health of our regiment has greatly improved. In the last few weeks there has been no deaths in camp since we came here. Some time ago it seemed as if we all had to die. Men died here like flies. It was no strange occurance for us to bury four & five per day. In the month of February we lost sixty three men. How important is it that we all should be prepared for death for we know not at what hour the summons will be handed to us. The sixteenth boys are still with us . Their camp is directly along side of ours. They are all well. I have been staying with them a great part of the time for the last week or two. I have been excused....

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and consequently had a good opportunity of visiting. Dan Dressler is quite well. He has turned out washer-woman. He washes for over sixty men. Dan is quite different from what he used to be when he was at home. He thinks that he will get a furlough to go home. But I don't know whether there will be a chance for him or not for there will be only three furloughs given at one time. And there will be so many that want to go that they can hardly tell who to furlough first. And at the rate of three every thirty days the last ones will stand a chance of staying then three years before they get a furlough. It is quite warm here. Peach trees are in full bloom and the fields are getting quite green. But I must close for this time. By sending my best wishes to you hoping this will find you enjoying perfect health. So good bye for this time. Hoping to hear from you very soon. Write often . Do not as I do for I have a poor chance to write here.

Yours as ever,
Is Mylar

--

Next Letter:
Port Hudson, La.
Aug 13th 1863
Friend Libie,

Every day seems to lengthen the distance between us yet memory brings to mind the many pleasant hours spent in your society. But times alas have changed under existing circumstances. No one can tell whether we will ever again be permitted to meet again here on earth for life is uncertain. We arrived here on last Sunday evening. I can scarcely tell you any thing about the place for I have been so busy since we came here that I have not had an opportunity of taking observations. We have quite a pleasant camp here after doing considerable work. Our camp has quite an odd appearance for we have our tents covered with brush so that they are perfectly hid to keep the sun off. I read your letter last Saturday.....

page 2

...just as we were leaving Vicksburg and have not had an opportunity of writing since. And now I scarcely know any thing to write that would be interesting to you for here in the army we scarcely every [sic] see any new or any thing that seems strange to us. It is the same thing day after day. And then there is nothing but bustle and confusion and a person soon becomes so accustomed to such things that we pay but little attention to any thing excepting what particularly concerns us. We left the 16th Boys at Vicksburg. We were expecting them here today. But I can't say whether they will come or not. When we left they expected to go up the river. But I am afraid they will be sadly disappointed. For I think that they as well as ourselves are bound to see the length of the Miss River before going north. Our boys were nearly all sick when we left Vicksburg but they are all getting better now excepting Gust Miller. He is still quite unwell. [*Gustave Miller got well and mustered out 24 July 1865.*]

[page 3]Our Lieut. & Capt. The Hon. Jas. B. Taylor has gone home on furlough. I suppose that he will cut quite a figure or try to at least. It makes but little difference to us whether he ever returns or not for he is but of little use here, or has been of late at least. I suppose you had a pleasant time during vacation. Did you get to Seville? I hope you did. Did you see any body there that inquired anything about me. It then was I suppose you told them that I was [in] the army where they should be, and if they were here they would have no fears of being drafted. We have now sent several men from our regiment to Wayne Co to bring us conscripts to fill up our regiment. There is several Boys there that I am looking for with both eyes. I don't pity their cases very much, do you think I do. It is not likely that the drafted men will have much to do for the war is about played out. I think that one or two more hard Battles will close the thing entirely. For even the men here in the south seem to rejoice over the fall of Vicksburg and this place. They are glad to see the river again open and business going on. We have pretty hard living here just now. Our commissary is out here yes but we can live on melons. They are quite plenty. I wish that I could send you one. But I must close for this time hoping this may find you well and enjoying yourself as usual. I don't know whether I can have an opportunity of mailing this letter here or not but I will try. Write as soon as you receive this for I am always anxious to hear from you.

Good Bye
Your Friend
Ike.

Next Letter:
Hd Qurs Co "H" 120, O
Baton Rouge La
Sunday afternoon, March 27/64
Friend Libie

I again seat myself this pleasant afternoon for the purpose of answering your most welcome but rather unexpected letter which came to hand last Tuesday evening, just as we were leaving our camp at Plaquemine, where we have spent the last four months very pleasantly indeed, "that is for soldiers." We came to this place last Wednesday night about midnight and went into quarters for the night on the ground with no other covering than the blue sky. But next morning we drew tents from the Post Qt Master and went into camp on a beautiful square in the very heart of the city, or rather in the Penitentiary yard. I don't much like being in such close proximity with that magnificent building

page2

but notwithstanding all that we have a very pleasant camp. And a pretty good prospect of remaining in it for

some time. We are all well and enjoying ourselves as well as soldiers generally do. I sometimes think that we enjoy ourselves if any thing better here than we possibly could at home under the circumstances. I can tell you but very little about the city now although we have been here several days. I have never been away from camp until this forenoon. Cap Talyer and I went to the catholic church. This being "Easter Sunday", the Catholics of course had quite a time among themselves, but I could not see the beauty of it. They seem to have a pretty full congregation but a goodly portion of them are negroes and mulatoes. The n***rs here are getting so important that they won't even give a white lady the street. But we will teach them a lesson that they have never learned if we remain here any length of time. I was indeed sorry to hear that you had been sick. But I hope that before

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this reaches you, you will be able for duty again. You say you are going to quit teaching in the spring. Were I in your place I would have quit long ago. And as a matter of course I suppose you intend to leave the "line star state" and try the realities of a married life. If such be the case may happiness attend you in all your undertakings, and if not please excuse me for writing thus.

I read a letter from Mr & Mrs Huffman about a month ago. I expected to hear something about you from them but they never even mentioned your name. I know nothing about the 16th Ohio. We have not heard anything of them for some time but they have probably reenlisted and gone home. If not they are somewhere in Texas. When I last wrote to you I had some notion of going home on furlough but I have given up that notion long ago. Those that have been home put me out of the notion. I shant come home now at any rate until after two years of my time is up providing I keep my health for it is a long trip to make for to only stay a few days.

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But I sincerely hope the war will come to an end long before our time is up, but I may be sadly mistaken. If not I am willing to stay my three years and three more besides. But I think I can see at least the beginning of the end.

Today seems more like Sunday than any Sunday that has past for sometime. Every thing is quiet here both in camp and in the city. As a general thing there is no such thing as a sabbath day in Louisiana. At Plaquemine where we came from Sunday was if anything the ?most of a business day of any day in the week. That day they all came to town because they could pass the lines on that day and no other without a permit. The stores was all open and the streets crowded with sugar and cotton speculators. No wonder that they are cursed with war and its horrid affects. But I will close for this time hoping to hear from you soon again. I am always anxious to hear from you. Give my regards to any that may inquire.

Allow me to subscribe myself as ever

Your friend

Good Bye

Is Mylar

O. S[?]. Co H 120 O. V. I.

Next Letter:

[Lee surrendered 9 Apr; Lincoln died 14 Apr]

Envelope: Miss Libie Stevenson, Chippewa, Wayne Co Ohio

Selma Alabama

May 1st 1865

Dear Friend Libie,

As I have nothing to do this afternoon I concluded to spend the time in writing a few lines to you. Although I have written at least once since I have rec'd any letters from you - Since I last wrote to you at Barrancas we have been on the move nearly continually. From Barrancas we went to Pensacola and only remained there a few days. And on the 20 of March we started out we didnt know where for. But after about two weeks of the hardest marching we ever have through swamps and mud we found ourselves at Fort Blakely on the east side of Mobile Bay. There we met with a pretty strong force well fortified. But we went to work at them skirmishing in day time and digging trenches at night and in

page 2

a few days we had as good works as the Reb, and only a very short distance from theirs. And after

skirmishing and digging just one week we came to the conclusion to charge their works, which we did on Sunday evening of the 9th of April. In the charge we captured about four thousand prisoners and sixty pieces of artillery.

The next night after the fall of Blakely Mobile was evacuated. Selma & Montgomery were taken by a portion of Thomas' Army under command of Gen Wilson, about the same time. Consequently you see we have things pretty much our own way in this department these times as well as in the east. It is rumoured here that the war is over & the southern Confederacy played out. It might be the case for anything we know for we have not had a mail nor seen a newspaper nor heard any news for this last three weeks and there is no prospect of getting any news soon. There may not be a Boat here from Mobile for the next two weeks.

The news of the assassination of Lincoln & Seward caused a greater feeling here than anything I have ever witnessed in the Army. Men that have always been what they call Democrats and men that even voted for Valandigham and denounced Lincoln & the Administration, when the news reached

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us that the President was assassinated, cursed the confederacy and Jeff Davis, cursed the Rebel army & almost swore that they would raise the "Black Flag" and never lay down their arms until the south was entirely annihilated. We arrived here at Selma about a week ago all well, and have went into camp with the expectations of remaining here at least long enough to get a little rest. And for anything I know we may stay here the remainder of the time. I hope we may. I sometimes think that it will not be necessary for us to go any farther, at least I think we have fought our last Battle. If the south ever intends to come to terms they certainly will do it soon. I have not heard anything from home for some time, but I still take it for granted that all is well there until I hear to the contrary. The last letter I had from Sister ?Miller I think was written about the 20 of March. She said that you were going to teach school in our district. Consequently I will direct this to Smithville instead of Chippewa. We hav not heard anything from our prisoners since about the middle of March. At that time they were still in Texas and no

page 4

prospect of Being exchanged. We have a very nice camp here but it is going to be very warm. We are camped in an open field and not a shade tree near. Selma is the prettiest city that I have seen in the south or was at one time. It is about three times as large as Wooster. But it looks pretty hard just now since Gen Wilson paid it a visit. The Arsenal, Navy Yard, Railroad Building, in fact all the public buildings & great many private residences may be in ashes. The largest & the principal manufacturing establishments in the south were at this place. All their artillery, arms & ammunition was made here. Well I must quit and go to supper. We haven't much to eat but we must have supper anyhow.

Supper is over and I will finish, and take a walk through the city. I have not made any acquaintances here yet and don't intend to trouble them much. I scarcely ever go out of camp any more unless I have business. Wish I could visit your school some day when it rains. Perhaps I may get home before it closes. I have a nice tent that I captured from the Rebs at Blakely so you see I am pretty well situtated these times. Wish you could call & see me some day. I might have a very pleasant time here but my partner is such an old maid that there is no getting along with him any way pleasantly. But thank fortune I have but four months more to stay with him. But I will quit for this time. I will expect a letter from you next mail. And if it don't come then I will look for it until it does come. Give my kindest regards to Jno & Mrs Huffman and all the rest. Good Bye -

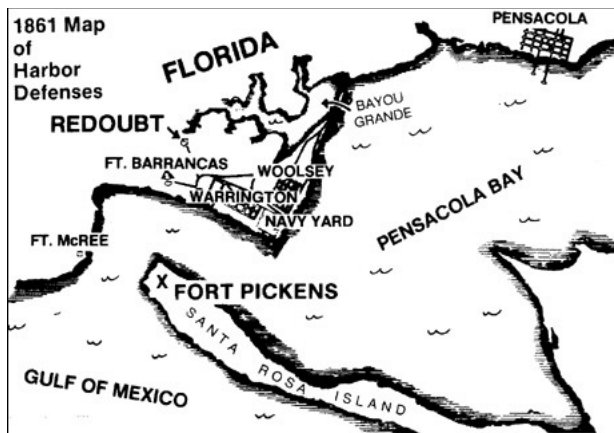
Your friend as ever

Ike Mylar

Direct to Selma via New Orleans

Note: Fort Barrancas <https://www.distancecalculator.net/>

Distance from Pensacola to Blakely AL was at least 47 to 57 miles. Probably more since they most likely could not march in a straight line from one to the other.



Next Letter:
Hd Qurs Co "E" 114th O.V.I.
Selma Ala. May 10th 1865

[*Line at the left side of the page:* I was to the city last night & heard some fine secesh music.]

Dear Friend Libie

Your most welcome epistle of April 9th was recd yesterday and read with pleasure. Was glad to hear from you again as I had not heard anything from you for so long. It takes mail so long to reach us now as we are so far from the Miss River & there is no regular communication from there to this place. We have had but one mail since we came to Selma. We are all well and well contented. Every one seems to think this "cruel war" has at last come nearly to an end and are greatly elated with the ...

Page 2

prospect of soon returning home. Grant has gone to Washington to make arrangements to muster out a portion of the army, and it is generally believed that Regiments that went into service under the call that we did will be mustered out first. For my part I am ready to leave for home at any time & again I am perfectly willing to serve out my time which at most will be but four months more. We expect to leave here soon. We are going back to Mobile. Gen Steele ??? down the river last night from Montgomery. Where we will go from there I can't say, but it is my opinion that we will go to Texas, providing old ?Kerby Smith don't come to terms pretty shortly.

I read those letters from Mollie yesterday. The first I have heard from home for nearly a month. I suppose some of the folks at home feel considerably relieved since all recruiting and drafting is stopped. I'll bet they have slept more soundly for the last three weeks than they have done ...

Page 3

for the last year. I attended Sunday School & church last Sabbath at the Baptist church. Heard an excellent sermon & heard the best singing I ever heard by a little girl about five years old at Sunday school. They elect a Queen every month to lead in singing. She sung several songs and the school ?joined in the chorus. I think it was the nicest thing I ever seen. I think I shall attend school as long as we remain here. Our Brigade will be reviewed this evening by Gen Andrews. The Selma Union gave us quite a puff this morning. It simply calls our Brigade the Best in the service - a little more than we claim ourselves. We don't claim to be the best. But we do claim to be as good as any in the service. Wish you could be here to judge for yourself.

I think the neighborhood is getting to be pretty hard up when they cant find men enough to carry on sunday school. I would advise you ladies to proceed with the school & not ask any of their assistance.

[*Line written along left side of page:* The country is just swarming with Paroled prisoners on their way home - a great many from Lees army.]

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You wished particularly to know what denomination was holding the meetings in camp at Barrancas. Well the meeting was held by the chaplain of the 24th Ind Vols. who I believe is a regular Methodist Minister. But he like all other chaplains that have the good of the people at heart (and to my certain knowledge they are very scarce in the army) has laid aside all sectarian spirit and is willing to take any one by the hand that professes to be a Christian and call him a brother. Their organization still exists. They still meet occasionally when circumstances will permit. They call themselves the "Army Band". I suppose you are engaged in teaching again by this time. Dont you get tired teaching almost continually? It must be nearly as tiresome as soldiering. We are very pleasantly situated here. Enjoy ourselves finely. We have rather a jolly mess. There is no danger of any one dying with the blues here with us. Our mess consists of Capt Spear & Lt Foster of Co "H" Lts Bear & Harris of Co. "K" Lt. Pollack & myself of Co. "E" & Lt. Wallace & Van Nest of Co "D". We have two good fellows to cook for us & a little white boy to run errants. We have three dogs, one we call General. I think he is the biggest dog I ever seen. We also had a few chickens. But they all lost their heads as chickens usually do in the army. The weather has been quite warm here for a few days, but I cant see that it is much warmer than it usually is at this season of the year in Ohio. - But I must close for this time hoping the war is about at an end & also hoping to be permitted to return home and peace be again restored - and all the rest.

Good Bye for this time

Your friend as ever

Ike

Write often. Dont wait so long. Dont wait for my letters. It takes them so long to reach you.

Direct as before via New Orleans

----- I.

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