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Telling It Like It Is: Civil War Letters from Bowling Green

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Telling It Like it Is—Civil War letters from Bowling Green

Newspapers, official records, etc. provide much info about the past—

Letters written by those who were there also provide valuable info—

(there is no rhyme or reason why mss. collections turn up where they do. Those concerning BG are everywhere. These quotes are from collections (or copies thereof) in the KL:

Kentucky, 1860

a slave state (19.5%)

estimated worth of slaves=\$100 million

residents had family ties in Va, NC, TN, & Ind, Il, Mo.

exported corn, hemp, horses, mules, hogs to markets in South and West

import mfg goods from North

a compromise state and home of “The Great Compromiser

controlled major rivers (hwys) west of the Appalachian Mts—

Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee, Cumberland, Green

major railroad (L&N) connects Ohio R. to major cities

Louisville—Nashville--Memphis

Bowling Green, microcosm of pro Union,

navigable tributary from Ohio to TN border

L&N, Memphis line connects major cities of upper South

major road, Ohio R. to Nashville & south

controlled doorway into/out of Conf and TN

Diary of Lemuel Porter—Nov. 7, 1860 [day after election of Lincoln] The greatest calamity that ever befell on an enlightened people—a sectional president was elected by a party organized on principles hostile to the institutions of the South.

Nazro Diary—Feb 5, 1861

The all absorbing question here in Bowling Green is the breaking up of the Union--& it seems no longer a question but a fact. Tho' Pa seems to think that if the border states stand firm, it may yet be saved.

In the event of war, Kentucky could be re baptized the Dark and bloody ground. They are trying to keep Kentucky neutral but it is pretty hard. . . when every man, woman and child is wrought up to the highest pitch of excitement. The policy of the state is neutral—but the people are not, goodness knows!

Nazro—Feb. 14

Mr. Grider and Ben Bristow meet quite often and there is something mysterious in their conflabs & going and comings. . . I believe. . . they are organizing Union men. The young secessionists all over the state are flocking to join Buckner's state guard.

March 10

Warner had a fight yesterday with one of the school boys who called him a Yankee and an Abolitionist. Pa talked to Warner about being a gentleman. Ma's admonition was to knock down anyone who called him such names.

March 25

The situation in Charleston Harbor is getting more and more tense

Apr. 6

Our Shakespearean club met and we had a delightful time – but Prof. LeCompte announced that talk about politics was taboo

Apr. 13

It has happened. Ft. Sumter was fired on yesterday. . . when the news came we were all waiting on the front porch. Cousin Marcus who had gone for the mail, came galloping furiously up the road. . . As he came nearer we heard, "Ft. Sumter fired on. One woman got hurt, Harriet Lane shot in the stern! What was a woman doing there, anyway?"

Apr. 17

Pa's position is hard yet he does not swerve from his duty in being true to the preservation of the Union.

Ma puts the situation very strongly when she says she never will as long as she lives consent to be driven out of the Union and give up the flag and all it stands for. . . to a lot of meddling Yankees—and she never will forgive the hot headed, fire eaters of the South for going out of the Union and giving the Northern fanatics such advantage.

June 20

The streets are crowded with farmers and country people who ought to be plowing their fields and working their gardens but how can they go quietly about such occupations till they have to come to town to get the news

On the 4th of July there was a flag raising over the round house at the depot. Pa made a grand speech and the enthusiasm of the Union people was tremendous.

Reminiscences of Martha W. Graham—Sept. 16

They have been moving the women and children out of town all week. . . It seems evident that Bowling Green is a doomed city.

Porter-- July 19

All of the speaking talent of the county is in the field lecturing the people on the greatest subject of the day—secession. . . . [continues with information about economic hardships the war has visited on the BG area and elsewhere.]

Nazro—Sept 20

It has come. The Philistines are upon us. Kentucky's neutrality is over. One the morning of the 17th Buckner with his host of disloyal Kentuckians and other rebel troops rushed up by rail from camp Boone and took possession of the town.

Reminiscences of Elizabeth Gaines

I was in school the day the Confederates arrived. A gentleman came to the door and the teacher, a northern man, went out and spoke to him,, came back and told us he had to go out for a few minutes and for us to sit quietly until he came back. That was about 11 a.m. We remained until the dinner bell rang and then we left for home as we went down the street we heard the solders at the depot. The teacher never returned.

Journal of Eldress Nancy

When the rebel army first took possession of B. Green. . . one of the soldiers hauld[sic] down the U.S. flag and not satisfied with tearing it down, he trampled it under his feet while on the roof. While in this act he fell from the roof, and broke birth his legs. He died a few days later and no doubt received the reward for his work.

Jones— Sept. 21

The abolitionists and the Southern rights men are drilling for war on every side. There are more abolitionists in Kentucky than there are in all other Southern states. Kentucky is just now taking her position in the war and I pains me to be compelled to say that fully half of the people in the state will be found fighting for the abolitionists. . . . My own father and your father and mother are for Lincoln.

Nazro

A quiet beautiful day but Pa can no longer take all the children and saunter along the river bank and through the woods and fields. We are too hemmed in by troops and he would be suspected of taking observations to report- as he was the other day when he with the rest of us were sitting on the front porch watching the drilling [in their clover field]

Davis—Sept 26

This morning after eating a cold breakfast & drinking such water as we got from mud holes, we took a line of March for General Buckner's camp at Bowling Green

Nazro—Sept 29

This afternoon the whole brigade of infantry marched straight through our yard to pitch their tent in our barn lot and the pond orchard == and there they are camped for God only knows how long & already the new chestnut rail fence around the orchard is fast vanishing and being burned in their camp fires. The soldiers are everywhere, even in the kitchen. . . .These are Missouri troops & I am glad I don't know them.

Oct. 1

Ma is continually making soup and horehound syrup for the sick men at the hospital. . .A nice looking officer, a surgeon, I think, took it and said, "I had often thought, Mrs. Underwood, to call up and thank you for your kindness." Ma smiled and replied that would be an unnecessary trouble. I am very glad to do anything I can for sick men, no matted who or what they are – but when they are well enough to fight against their country I want no more to do with them.

Oct. 5

Yesterday another brigade marched up the hill & camped in the front orchard and the few apples left on the trees are fast disappearing. These troops are from Mississippi and are better looking than the Missouri troops and better mannered – but not much more respectful regarding fences.

Davis—Oct. 6

Arrived in Bowling Green this morning at 10 o'clock. It was raining as usual. Pitched tents 2 miles from town. Dress parade in the evening.

Oct. 9

125 men from our regiment sent to work on an entrenchment near town. We've been ordered to keep 3 days rations cooled so as to move at a moment's warning. . . I understand that Gen. Rousseau is advancing. Strong possibility of a fight at Green River.

Nazro—Oct. 9

Molly Hobson and her family are all Union and her brother is in the Union Army but Mattie Cook, her cousin who lives with them is a rabid secessionist – very pretty and has a great many rebel officers visiting her, in spite of her Uncle's opposition

Davis—Oct. 14

General Albert Sidney Johnston arrived this evening and will take command I presume.

Oct. 17.

Heavy rains all day and night. Had to do without supper as it rained so hard we could not cook.

Oct. 18

I took 100 men to Bakers Hill to work but was sent back on account of rain. Went around to see the sick this morning.

David Yandell to ASJ—Oct. 18, 1861 SC 333

After reviewing resources in BG with a view to hospital accommodations, I can find no building altogether suitable. . . .The hotel now kept by Mrs. Hess on the square can be secured at a monthly rental of \$50 by purchasing the entire furniture at \$2500./ This sum is in my opinion more than the same is worth.

A building to house 100-125 could be constructed in 2 weeks for \$1700. It is proposed to build 3 of these which will furnish beds for 230 costing \$5100. . .it may also be necessary to build hospitals at Franklin, Russellville, etc.

Davis—Oct. 20

Sunday everything quiet no drilling or preaching. Some went to town to church. Others been scarce of rations took guns and went to hunt hogs. . . had good success and feasted on fresh meat.

Nov 3

Busy all day fixing our tents so as to make them as comfortable as possible—a heavy battle expected

Bunting—Nov. 9

There are some 25,000 troops among this line under Gen A.S. Johnston who has his headquarters here. The struggle for Kentucky will be desperate and bloody. There are over 1500 sick in this command, the measles prevailing. Arrangements have been made for sending many of them from here to Nashville and about 250 are going daily

Davis—Nov 10

Spent the day violating the 4th commandment.

Jones collection— Nov, 12

They are coming down on us pretty hard. The rule is very strict. A man has to tote the mark in the army! I would like to have a cook to my mess. I have cooked all the time since I've been in camp. I haven't washed any yet but will have to try it before many days.

Many in the regiment are sick with measles.

It is my thought we will have a battle here between now and Christmas and it is my notion the Kentuckians will put up the biggest job of fighting.

Porter—typhoid prevalent—mortality very great—thousands sick in hospitals and private houses. Local folks remain healthy.

Bunting— Nov. 13

Once more I address you from this little city, one of the most beautiful but a few months ago. Now it shows the desolation of war. It is little else than a military depot and hospital. Many of the wealthiest inhabitants joined the exodus which preceded our advancing army . . .and each palatial mansion as it is vacated becomes a home for some refugee, the headquarters of some officer, or a hospital. Most of the businesses have become commissariats for the army.

John Hill to sister—Nov. 14, 1861

We have been having the finest weather I ever saw. Days are warm and pleasant while the nights are cool

I am beginning to think that we will not have any fighting here this winter. Neither army shows any disposition to advance.

Wm. Davis—SC 175; Nov 15

No drilling today. This being the day for fasting and praying set aside by President Davis, though there was very little done in our Regt as well as others. Quite cool in tents tonight. Overcoats in demand.\

Nov 17

This being Sunday I had to see that all business houses were closed. This I did and had to have a good many ale shops closed. Finding several soldiers drunk I arrested them and put them in the guard house & of course tried to find the man who was selling whiskey.

Wm Davis—Nov 18

ON arriving I found the paymaster paying troops and our company which made them feel quite proud but he only paid for the month of July and August. . . . Boys in fine spirits tonight.

Nov 23

Cold and raining. . . .500 Texas Rangers passed today for the Green river

Dr. Yandell to W. W. Mackall, Nov. 23, 1861

In a very short time it will be possible to hire both cooks and nurses at a much smaller sum [than \$30 a month] . . .The militia law will drive a good many men to the hospital for employment in order to avoid enlistment.

Journal of Wm Mott—

Bowling Green is a beautiful place I should judge, although its beautiful days were well nigh spent before it was my misfortune to visit it. Tents in every direction and mud to any extent the most vivid imagination could portray, had rent it of its former loveliness. . .

Nov. 25

No drilling today—all the boys busy building chimneys to their tents—very cold today

Nov 27

Report of the enemy's crossing the Green R.—and still advancing. Great excitement. Everyone thinks the chances for a fight—all sleeping on their arms.

Nov. 28

Working very hard on Baker Hill today, expecting an early attack

Nov 29

The boys were considerably excited tonight by hearing the assembly sounded and in short time we were ready to fight but it was sounded to see who was absent as there had been an outrage committed in town. But all our boys were present.

Dec. 1

B.F. Watson sent to hospital this evening, quite sick with pneumonia

Dec. 2

Sgt Price quite sick with pneumonia

Nazro—Dec. 3

It is cold and sleety and a sad sight we saw as we came from town this evening. Bob Strange's cooper shop has been taken for a hospital & as we passed there we had to wait to let soldiers bring out t a wagon the body of a poor fellow who had just died, with measles which ran into pneumonia a soldier told us. . . .

Dec. 4

Ma had at least 5 gallons of chicken soup and almost as much hoar hound syrup made today and Uncle Lewis took it down to the hospital and brought back a most grateful and gentlemanly note of thanks from the surgeon & doctor in charge

Davis—Dec. 7

Arrested two Tennesseans for fighting

Nazro—Dec. 8

It has been snowing & raining a cold sleety rain for the past week till the roads are all half frozen slush. The poor Mississippi soldiers in the front orchard look too forlorn, bundled up to their ears with all sorts of fancy comforters. . . .and most have dreadful colds.

Davis—Dec. 8

B.F. Watson died this morning. His remains will be carried home to Enterprise, MSS tomorrow. The company went in town to the train. The band played a beautiful dead march. Sgt. Price died at 10 a.m.

Foster (SC 573) —Dec. 13

I have a cabin 12 x 13 and 10 covered with boards and a mud chimney at one end of it The chimney draws so well that I have to tie myself in bed at night. It has drawn out carpet out and would draw out our bedcovers, too but we have . . . learned to hold it so tight that a yoke of oxen couldn't pull it off.

Journal of Wm Mott, fall, 1861

I lived in a little ugly 6x9 stick and mud shanty. . . an excellent substitute for a house. It consisted of several years of canvas stretched over 4 poles ion one end a huge fire place with a pop of boiling beef and several lazy fellows lounging upon a contraption . . .which we termed a bed. It was made of straw and if my recollection serves me right I think there was 7 straws to nine men and those were pilfered from a half starved horse that stood nearby.

Davis—Dec. 14

Went to town tonight and visited some young ladies—found quite a number of ladies at the Baptist church preparing to give a tableaux for the benefit of the sick soldiers.

Nazro –Dec. 15

Henry and Marcus came from town today - -they saw a squad of soldiers carrying about 20 men to jail. . . . learned that they had been captured up inn Hart Co where they had a recruiting camp for Union men. . . ,most of them were in their shirt sleeves and brown jean trousers and altogether forlorn looking

Dec, 16--Report of 15,000 Federals crossed the Green River. The whole regiment went to work on College Hill [Reservoir Hill] today.

John Hill to sister, Dec. 22, 1861

Everyone that we have taken prisoner is dutch [sic] & they have joined to keep their families from suffering. The other day we captured several with their knapsacks and they were from dutch women in Cincinnati all begging their husbands to send them some money.

Nazro Dec. 25

What a sad contrast too all former Christmas days at Mt. air. No family gathering, little merriment. Yet ole Santa Claus got through with his pack despite the secesh.

Nazro Dec. 26

I have been looking over old dresses today and ripping them up to make over as all sorts of goods are very high and scarce and we will have to make what we have last. Our coffee is nearly gone. Many people have used parched beans & mixed other things with the coffee to make it last longer. . . .

Elizabeth Gaines

So many died with measles. There was a hospital and they used several churches as well as residences. My father's house was full, allowing us only two rooms.

Nazro, Jan. 2, 1862

Warner Underwood and all persons occupying these buildings on Underwood Hill, commonly know as Mt. Air, are required to vacate the premises immediately,, by order of the commanding general.

Nazro Jan 3

Our last night at dear Mt. air. Tomorrow we leave. . . .I am tired and cold and heart broken for my brave helpless father and mother.

Calvert Scrapbook, p. 120 Jan 7

SS Scott, candidate for rep to CSA congress says “the war in which we are engaged is not for conquest but for our independence. We should make no peace until our flag floats over every inch of southern soil and the chains of the invaders no longer pollutes it. . .

James McWhirter to sister, Jan. 10, 1862

In answer to what we need, I think a galleon of Lucas Best spirits would be a blessing.

McWhirter, January 18

Enemy between Louisville and the Green River is estimated from 80-100,000 men. This town is strongly fortified. There is 8 or 9 fortifications here and the most of them are very large. We are doing as well as could be expected considering the muddy wet weather. There is no prospect of a fight at this place. . . we are well fixed for the Yankees to come, If they come we will give them a genteel whipping. The abs cannot take this place with less than 200,000 men.

Robert F. Bunting (with Tex Rangers) Jan 19

At Camp Mud Puddle—I know no thing which we could more usefully employ now than a boat in our encampment. We are in an elbow of Jennings Creek with more water than is convenient.

George W. Johnson—Jan. 23, 1862

You have no doubt heard through the papers the melancholy news of the death of John Viley [a nephew]. He died in my room on the 27th of December of typhoid fever. . . I had him buried in a box and metallic coffin, in the garden of Col. Grider who is now in the Lincoln army , . . I have taken care of all his letters, and clothes and took care to save for his parents some of his hair.

It is most horrible to think of the crimes and follies of this war. Who can estimate correctly the amount of sorrow and of misery to say nothing of the loss of money, caused by those who wantonly broke down the safeguards of our rights and who determined to make us submit to their will.

Jones Collection, Jan 26

A soldier has a hard road to travel. Had picket duty recently and I was out in the dark. . . it makes a man feel very serious to stand way in the dark by himself when expecting the enemy and when bedtime comes, I miss my soft bed.

John Ross to Mama, Feb 6

We draw plenty of beef and loaf bread and coffee but we have got tired of that. We buy something every day to eat but we don't buy nothing from the Yankees. We get molasses for 80 cents per gal, we get meal for \$1 per bushel, eggs for 25-30 cents per dozen – butter for 50 cents per pound. . . we can get our breakfast in town for 50 cents, dinner and supper for 75 cents. I can cook biscuits enough for 12 men in a few minutes. . . we don't suffer here for anything to eat.

S. Ringgold, winter

The church pews of the church had been burned up, the windows were broken, the side walls covered with caricatures the floors slippery with grease. All of this would have been bad enough in an old established parish but in a mission station, the case seemed a hopeless one.

Strong scrapbook p.222

One of the most imposing displays of the winter took place out on the gently sloping hillside of MT. Air. It was a sham battle, It was a living, moving spectacle. Entertainments were given at private homes followed by receptions at encampments. . . Cotillion at Camp hardy [at boat landing]. Suddenly with February weather changes and many of the soldiers who had been raised in the lap of luxury, succumbed to pneumonia. Hospitals were crowded. . . Saddest sight of all that winter was the sable hearse hurrying through out streets.

Strange Reminiscences

The army was made up principally of the flowers of the South—refined and cultured. I played for the soldiers, sewed for them, and nursed many on both sides. Our house was visited and made the home of the intellect and chivalry of the South. . . These were days of happiness, and never can be erased from my memory---would be wickered if were possible,

John Hill to sister, Jan 29

We are still fortifying this place and it will give the Yankees some trouble to take it.

A.S. Johnston, February 5, 1862(in OR, 7)

The fine weather which prevailed within two or three days past has been succeeded by rain, which usually falls here in sufficient quantities when the winter sets in, to ,make the unpaved roads difficult and for large trains impossible,

A.S. Johnston, General, C/.S. Army

Strong, Feb 11

My father put us on the train with a servant woman . . . and [we] started for Nashville. I shall never forget how I felt when the cars pulled out of the depot, wondering if I should ever see Bowling Green again and under what conditions.

Green & Gold:

. . . [Ringgold] with his kid gloves and walking cane, shouting that the flour was his, he ran to the end to where the woman had been and on turning around saw another woman going off with a barrel from the other end.

AS Johnson, Feb 14

I left Bowling Green today at 3:30. At 12 m. the enemy appeared with artillery, three pieces I think, on Baker's Hill and opened fire on the town and especially the depot. We were compelled to abandon the depot, which was subsequently burned. We retired at once and in perfect order. I shall move on as rapidly as possible. .

George W. Johnson, Feb 15 [probably was the 14th]

The time of our severest afflictions has now come—our state is about to be abandoned by our armies—a disaster caused by the Defeat of Crittenden and the surrender of Tillman. . . . I now go with the Army and intend to remain constantly in the field, and expect my health to improve . . .

Agatha Strange Reminiscence. . .

Our house was visited and made the home of the intellect and chivalry of the South. . . . These were days of happiness and never can be erased from my memory—'twould be wicked if 'twere possible.

Agatha Strange, Feb 14

I stood with rebel pickets on the Barren River banks and saw the advancing guard go first to the railroad bridge, then to the foot bridge, both of which were burned. There next course was to follow the river until they found the horses of the pickets

Josephine Covington, Feb 14

We hear the balls whizzing by and overhead—6 fell in our yard. We got into the buggy and started we knew not where except out of town. The snow was deep, the weather bitter cold. Bombardment of this place without giving women and children a moments warning was unexpected. Albert says had there been troops here to give them battle, there would not have been a woman or child left alive after it was over.

Nazro

Shells were being thrown from Union cannons on Baker Hill and thrown around the square to save the depot, roundhouse and supplies. . . . shells crashed through the corner of Mrs. Hall's kitchen and a piece of metal fell in the biscuit dough Aunt Sallie was kneading. She rushed into the house where we were, all splattered with flour—saying, "Bless the Lord. A Union shell in my biscuit dough."

Covington

The Dutch soldiers created panic. 30 rushed into our house. . . . they began to open the safes and cupboards and carried off everything eatable but we were delighted to get them off so easily. In every other house in town they went from garret to cellar insulting persons in them, particularly those of southern proclivities—in the lowest manner.

Ormsby Mitchell, Feb 20

I crossed the river on Tuesday in a ferryboat built by my own men, launched and navigated by them. A large portion of the army passed the river on Friday night of last week. Many more on Saturday. . . . At eight a.m. myself, staff and mounted escort crossed the river and entered the Gibraltar of Kentucky, masters of the place,

Feb 21 . . . In my judgment Nashville can be readily be taken as was Bowling Green. I have a locomotive captured from the rebels and a train of fifteen cars picked up along the line. I can transport a thousand troops and will have a second locomotive in readiness for the track tomorrow or Monday.

Feb 27

. . . So here we are, the campaign ended, Bowling Green and Nashville ours, and nobody hurt.

Nazro—March 1

Mt. Air is in ashes! Our home was left unto us desolate.

Covington,

I was as polite and accommodating as possible, thru fear. I have given meals to 82 and baked bread half a day for a company that was going off.

John Atkinson

When an army passes they devastate everything—even Union took. They came in the night and stole my horse, 2 saddles, rifles, they took whatever they wanted and threatened to burn the house and mill if we didn't launch out the gold.

Mott, March

Bowling Green is a beauteous place, I should judge, although its beauteous days were well nigh spent before it was my misfortune to visit it. Tents in every direction and mud to any extent the most vivid imagination could portray, had rent it of its loveliness.

JRU's March 4 Resolution, Journal of the KY House of Rep

. . . that Dr. Henry Miller of Louisville be requested to examine the condition of Bowling Green and its environs and especially into the manner in which the dead soldiers of the rebel army have been buried . . . that if, on such examination, said Miller is of opinion there is danger of pestilence, or much disease likely to result from the late occupation of Bowling Green by the rebel army that he shall have power to prescribe such sanitary regulations as he may deem most effectual . . .

Indictments for Treason (date?)

General Simon Buckner, Ben Hardin Helm, John Hunt Morgan and about 500 others who seized cannons and other weapons and took public buildings with force . . .and intimidated and made war on local citizens . . . are indicted for treasonable acts against the commonwealth of Kentucky

, , ,who did unlawfully conspire together to compel the loyal citizens of the county to surrender their guns which were private arms. . . .and in lieu of a gun, [are ordered to] pay the sum of \$20

Starling, Sept 3, 1862

Lexington and Frankfort being in the hands of rebels and Nelson's miserable defeat, have depressed the people here very much and gloomy apprehensions are entertaining here.

Starling, Oct.20

I detest the cursed Yankees who composed our army. They believe that there are no loyal men in our state, that [we] are all rebels and should be so treated. They steal

chickens, honey, turnips and everything eatable as they pass on the march. Their officers are politicians and are afraid to restrain them and there is a sad want of discipline among them as far as persecuting marauders goes.

Starling, Nov. 8

We have our headquarters in a fine house in town [home of John Burnam] where we will pass the winter, as luxurious as any where and will guard the bridge and surrounding country from rebels. . . I have had ass much of marching, fighting and marching and sleeping in tents as I care to have.

Martha Jackson (SC 95)

All citizens were to come to headquarters to defend Bowling Green against Morgan's men [who did not come!]. Grider, Rogers and Lynn Wright refused to go and they were made to shovel dirt on the hill.

Starling, Nov 12

To tell the truth, since Perryville my appetite for a fight has very much diminished. I wanted as a matter of curiosity to be in one fight but the want is lessened.

Starling, Nov 14

When I entered the army I believed hanging, crucifying, damning the infernal villains was my wildest wish. I am much softened and now look with sadness and regret on the miserable delusions and folly of nine-tenths of the rebels. They are misled, their leaders only to blame, and what a fearful amount of blood will yet be shed before the accursed strife is ended.

Starling, Nov. 14,

There was a boy 17 years old yesterday who had served out his 12 months in the rebel army and who had voluntarily left their service and wanted to go home to his family. The general would not hear a word but showered epithets on him. "I expect you are getting damned tired of it, sir. By god sir you ought to be hung. I cannot permit such fellows to come sneaking back and live undisturbed in our lines. . . .

Starling, Nov. 15

Agatha Strange's place is completely desolated. She lives right on the river at the crossing place and there is absolutely not one rail left on her farm. . .there is a constant passing in and out of her house by every kind of common soldiers. She sells them bread, Pies and her husband is a miserable simpleton and a rebel.

Starling, Nov 26

A hot dispute is going on here—the question is, is Fanny Kemble related to R.B. Sheridan?

Starling, Dec. 6

You have all escaped gloriously during the war. If you could only see the desolation and poverty that have been produced by armies passing and repassing, our own absolutely more destructive even to Union men than to rebels. . . . These rascals think that all in Kentucky are disloyal and make no difference between loyal and disloyal. . . . I fear you will find precious little protection from the forces sent to our town [Hopkinsville] hundreds of them are marauding rascals who would disgrace any service and for a little more pay would take arms on the other side.

TW Cuppy (SC 1080), Dec. 19, 1862

This place has figured considerably in the papers since the war began but it is not a town of much importance. The population was 4 or 5 thousand but about ¼ of this number are gone now—further in Dixie to be amongst their friends and at least half that are left are sympathizers with Jeff Davis. The buildings deserted by their rebel owners are used as hospitals, storehouses, offices, etc. There are 17 branch hospitals and about 1500 patients and 25 surgeons in charge. About 650 have died in the hospital since the present occupation of this place by our troops. Five-six thousand troops are stationed here now and the town is tolerably well fortified. For the last few nights the troops have slept in line and on their arms, expecting an attack. How great the real danger is I have not the means of knowing.

January 1, 1863

I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and part of states, are, and henceforth shall be, free. . . . I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

Rebellion Record, V. 6, p. 67—April 25, 1863

At Louisville, Ky during the sale of a lot of negroes at the courthouse this morning, the Provost-Marshal notified the buyers that four of those put up for sale were free under the provisions of the President's Proclamation. The sale nevertheless, went on when the matter of the four "contrabands" was turned over to the District Judge. "

Starling, June, 1863

An army of 3000 men can be 10 miles long. There is a continual effort on the part of at least 50 men in every regiment to shrink their duty. They try to drop behind. They leave the ranks at their approach to every turnip patch, persimmon tree or orchard. They are stragglers all day. . . and come into camp the next day loaded with chickens, geese, honey and everything else they can steal. . . . the officers are slack in discipline, don't care to trouble themselves about such matters.

Knapp, Dec. 9, 1863

As the road [Louisville to Nashville] is a military road, everyone who travels South of Bowling Green has to have a special pass. . . and to show where he is going. . . . Bowling Green is quite a large city. . . . Quit a good many troops are stationed here. This hospital will accommodate 300 patients but at present there are only about 90. There is a

surgeon, Asst. surgeon. I am the only steward. There is quite a force of men here performing as nurses, cooks, orderlies teamsters, clerks, besides women as a laundresses.

Obadiah Knapp, March 16, 1864

.Much difficulty has of late arisen between the Post Commander—col. William Birge of the 48th Ky Mounted Infantry—and the Surgeon in charge of this hospital, Dr. Keefer. The colonel is a regular ass! He does not know his business and imagines that he has charge of this hospital . . . There are very few patients here now as the colonel allows none to come in order to spite C. . . There are not a half dozen sick men here our whole force is only 82 counting patients, attendants, white and black.

Knapp, May22, 1864

It has not rained for 15 days and everything is getting to look shriveled and wilted. . . . If one goes upon on of the many high hills surrounding this very defensible place, he can easily tell whether there is a body of troops moving anywhere near by the cloud of dust they raise.

Starling, June 12, 1864

The people here are terribly excited about the negro recruiting station which is fixed at this place. It is publicly done, 140 have been sent to Louisville and they are sent off in squads every day.

Obadiah Knapp, July 17, 1864

I am taking the New York Times. . . .The Louisville Journal is too Coppery for a decently loyal man to read without losing his temper.

George Browder (Russellville minister), Sept 21, 1864

I've been drafted into the federal army. It casts a deep gloom over me. . . .I am a man of peace. I cannot, will not fight. I went to Bowling Green to see about it. God have mercy I cannot, will not go forth to stain my hands in the blood then return to minister at God's altar . . .

Browder, Sept 24

. . . Went to Bowling Green to urge my plea of exemption for a ruptured hernia—could not be exempt. . . . A soldier has promised me a substitute but failed. . . .”12-1500 are offered to substitutes . . .

[finally, he hired a substitute} I feel like a new man. My friends greet me as if I had escaped from destruction.”-

Obadiah Knapp Oct. 26, 1864

About the first of the month it was found necessary to enlarge our accommodations as we were so crowded that sick patients had only about i/2 of the suggested space. We now have e8- patients in this hospital. . . . a contract surgeon comes here once a day to see our bad cases but he is a poor tool---a Kentuckian by birth and education. . . .

Louisville Daily Journal, Sept. 19, 1865

[quoting David Yandell about what he and the medical profession learned about treating wounds] The war was a great—though terrible—school