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## Messer, George, 1833-1863 (SC 3118)

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Letter No. 40

Camp Hobson Glasgow Ky  
May 23rd A.D. 1862  
My Dear Wife,

I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well with the exception of my leg & ankle that I spok about some time ago. It is not very bad but it may get worse I am rather of the opinion that I am takeing the scurvy and there is a good many in this regiment that have it pretty bad. My leg & ankle pains me some and is swelled considerable and is somewhat enflamed. but if I can content myself to keep still, I think that I will be all right that is, my leg will be all right in a few days. I wrote you a letter a Thursday morning and sent you \$20.00 in it in the care of Mrs Col Kelley and I have no doubt but you will be somewhat scared with the report that Mrs. Kelley would give for she was fully convinced that we would be fighting here before she would get to Louisville but we have not had any fight yet and there is no prospect of one very soon for the Rebles have about faced and marched back across the Cumberland River and I dont think they will molest us very soon again but it is hard to tell for they are very uncertain and cant be relied on very much.

The money that I sent to you by Mrs. Kelley was to be left at Magills and I want you to use as much of it as you need.

I shal now write about something else and it may appear somewhat ridiculous but it is nevertheless true. Last Thursday afternoon we had to turnover our tents to the Quartermaster and draw others new ones too but the still of the tents is what does the business. They are what is called dog-tents and one tent is allowed for two men and on the march each man has to carry one half tent which is not very large and weighs about two pounds the size of the tent is about (or the size of one half tent)

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

is about six feet square and the two halves  
button together at the top the tents can  
be buttoned together so as to form a long  
row but they are very low and unhandy  
but haveing to carry them when we march  
is what gets me more than anything else  
and another thing is this for the commander  
of this Regt to make us appear like Gentlemen  
on all and every occasion and then  
makes us live like dogs in dogtents it  
is more than enough to cause the soldier  
to be pleased and satisfied.

But it is no use of being discouraged  
and we may just as well look on the  
bright side of the question as on the  
dark side and a general thing the boys  
are haveing considerable fun over their  
dogtents the nex morning after we drewd  
our tents when the Bugle was blowed for  
Rool call you never heard such barking  
as the boys made they imitated from the  
Bull dog down to the little Rat terrier and  
they would frequently break out into a fight  
in imitations of dogs but enough of this for  
the present as I think that I have wrote  
enough about our tents to satisfy you  
that they are anything but agreeable to live  
in but it is the best pollicy to quietly submit  
to anything that can be enforced on them  
for it has not been many days since this  
company came very near being put under  
arrest for speaking their minds about  
the promotion of Lieut Adams to the  
Second Lieutenancy but it will all be right  
when the cows comes home as the old woman  
said but I will just say that the end  
has not yet come and these little things  
will be remembered when the boys will  
have a right to say what they please about  
these things and say it to who they please

I have just reported to the Surgeon  
and have got back he says that my  
leg has more of the appearance of inflamatory  
Rheumatism than anything else for my part  
I don't know what it is

As I was talking about the promotions in  
our company, I shal now proceed to tell you  
about the ballance of the promotions but  
be assured that your husband did not  
get promoted very much When Adams got  
the Lieutenants place there was two vacancies  
in the Seargeants Wm Cole the first corp  
was promoted to 4th Sergt and David Willis  
got the place of 5th Sergt The boys all wanted  
Willis to have filled the place of 2ond Sergt that was  
made vacant by Tillman Martin being dis  
charged but the Colonel would not confirm  
the apointment and made Willis drop down

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

to 5th Sergt that is about the amount of  
the Promotions and I think that is all  
there will be any ways soon unless Capt  
Wismer comes back and can Resign we  
are looking for him back every day as  
we have heard that he was exchanged several  
days ago We are haveing some pretty warm  
weather here now about as warm as it  
is in July in Illinois at least it appears  
so to me at least I will now close  
for a little while and perhaps not write  
any more today for I want to wait

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

and see if I will get any letter  
from you this evening and then I  
will have all day tomorrow to write to  
you and if I write much more I shall  
have nothing to say tomorrow and  
I want to answer Robenses Letter today  
as I have not had time since I Received  
it untill now So for the present, My Darling  
I will close hoping you are all well  
and hearty Some kisses for you & Eddy  
Good By for today George to Lottie

Sunday morning May 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Wife, —

I again this morning  
sat myself to write you a few lines more  
I received a Letter No 36 from you last night  
and I shal now proceed to answer it as well  
as I can Wesley has got as hearty as ever and  
is just more than pitching in cleaning up  
around our tent Wesley & myself and Ben  
Cross & Willis Greer have joined our dog tents to-  
gether and have things fixed up pretty decent  
and as long as we stay here we will be pretty  
comfortable but how long we will stay is  
more than I can tell General Hansan is  
to be here today with his Brigade and I  
understand that there is to be a force of  
fifteen or Twenty thousand concentrated here  
in the next ten days I also understand that  
we are to go into Gen Hansans Brigade  
We have got the fort at this place nearly completed  
and there was five of the guns come yesterday  
to mount in the fort the guns that came yesterd  
day was twenty four pounders.

I look for active operations to commence  
here pretty soon but I have no idea what  
direction we will take when we leave here  
but I think it will be as likely to East  
Tennessee as any place for Gen Burnside  
is threatening East Tenn and as we are in his  
Department we will when we get a large  
enough force concentrated here follow on  
after him and act as a reserve corpse  
of his Army and I think when he gets  
ready to move, we will all advance stead-

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

ally and hold every inch of ground we get  
and be saved the trouble of retreating back  
to Louisville as Gen Buel had to do last  
fall and which has caused us almost 7 months  
time to get back what he lost perhaps he could  
not help it, but it is nevertheless true.

These are only surmises of my own and  
there may be an entirely opposite direction  
taken but I feel satisfied that whatever  
is done will be done right and the interests  
of our country and Government will be taken  
into consideration at the same time.

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

I would like to see our sweet little boy and you too but such a thing might be that Eddy would be walking before I get to come home for there is no telling now when anyone will get to come but as soon as I can get a furlough, I will come home and I cant come untill I do get one and I know it would be hard for me to leave those I love and come back to the tented feild but it certainly would have to be done though it caused us pain and sorrow We have tried those parting scenes and know they are hard and I would avoid them again if I could come home and stay but as I cannot do that the pleasure of seeing my wife and child would repay me for the sorrow of parting again yet it may be some time before I can come but you must not be discouraged keep in good heart and I will return to you some time and our meeting will be the sweeter for our long seperation

I understand that the prospect of there being a draft is about played out and there will be a call for volunteers and a chance given to fill the call by volunteering between this and the first of August I think it would be fairer on all sides to make a draft and cheaper for the Govern ment in the long run but volunteers will make a better army than drafted men will for in drafting men there will be some that will have to go that will prove traitors to their comrads and country while volunteers would go and take more interest in the service than they would if the were forced in to the service There is enough of the soldiers dissatisfied now and those that would be drafted into the army would be more so I will now close for a little while and write some more after dinner There is one thing that I would like for you to do and that is to send me some more Postage stamps I will only have one left after I send this letter and I tried to get some the other day but they had

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

none at the Post Office and they are generally  
taken out as fast as they come in I may  
get a chance to buy some but it is very  
uncertain So if you can send me some  
you will much oblige your ever true and  
Faithful Husband George

P.S. My ankle is some better this morning  
and the Dokter has commenced  
to feed me on the Saltpetere which may  
possibly do some poor good By

George to Lottie

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

**[Note: The original of the remainder of this letter, which consists of the addendum typescripted below, is NOT included in this collection]**

Sunday Afternoon, May 24

Dear Lottie I am seated again this afternoon to write a few lines more I wrote to Robens yesterday and I have asked him to go to the old man and try and get him to give the Horse up or get him to do something near what is right and if you can get Robens to take the Horse for the note if you can I think that it would be the quickest and perhaps the cheapest way it could be settled but if the old man wont give the horse up, you will have to Replevy him and take him that way or let Robens sue on the note and Levy on the horse to hold him untill I can get to come home and attend to it myself I will be satisfied with either way yet I dont want to cause you any unnecessary trouble with it

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

Neither do I want to wrong  
Robens or any other man out of  
one cent that is justly comeing  
to them. And as to D Bell comeing  
around trying to get a chance to  
get something more I think he  
will find himself mistaken  
if he should think of doing so  
for I dont think that I shal  
trust him anymore than I  
would a Stranger and perhaps  
not as much and should I  
be so fortunate as to live through  
this war which I think I will I  
will be very apt to select some  
place for my future home a little  
farther away from those friends  
that have proved themselves  
so kind in takeing care of  
my property without as much  
as waiting for an invitation  
to do so perhaps I am too severe  
but I feel so and cant help it.

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

I have not very much more  
to write this time as I have  
wrote a tolerable long letter  
this time or at least you will  
think so by the time you get  
through reading it and I don't  
know that there is much news in  
it either but I have tried to  
give you as much news about  
our affairs in camp as I could  
farther than that, I dont hear  
much news to write about and  
in fact I have got tired of hearing  
of great exploits performed for  
there is always some favorite  
Shoulderstrap Gentleman that  
gets all the praise and the Soldier  
that does the work and gains the  
victory passes by unnoticed &  
perhaps ordered away with contempt  
as a man would chastise a Sheep-  
killing dog. But there is one Loved  
one I know that will give me all

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 23-24 May [1863]

the honor that is due me and  
perhaps more and that will  
more than pay me for all that  
I can do or have done.  
I hear the drums beating and  
must go and see who is coming  
I will write some more in a few  
minutes. The 80th Indiana Regt has  
just arrived from Munfordsville and  
are now going into camp north of us  
It is a very small Regt & only numbers 260  
effective men they lost 400 men in  
the Perryville fight last fall and  
have been badly cut up since that  
time but they are good men what  
is of them I must close for  
this time my Darling.

Give my Respects to all and  
Some Kisses to you & Eddy  
I will write again on Thursday  
as usual for the present my Sweet  
wife Good By from your Ever Loving  
Husband Geo Messer To Lottie Messer