

**Nancy Barnett Letters courtesy of her great granddaughter Mrs. Kay
Curry Kleiss, Tuscola, Illinois**

Nancy later married her cousin, George Davis Barnett.

Clarksville Thursday the 12 1864

Miss Barnett – I seat my self to Reply yours of April the 30 witch came to hand yesterday. It found me well and I hope weither it comes to hand will find you in joyen the same blessings of life, the weather is very pleasant here and everything looks delightful and every thing is incorgin at this present – Both political affares is progressing, good and our Army is sucksesful in most every thing that they have under taken to do this spring campaign. My impresion is that the war will not survive much longer than till this fall or next spring on less they meet with a great diaster and it will haft to be a big one, If ther is any Coperheads friend tell them to Repent and turn to father Abrahams Bosom for protectin. I supose that Lunas and Bet has joined in the holy Bonds of matrimony by this time and my earnst prare is that gods blesing may rest on those old heads and that they may prosper in future life to come and that the morality of residents may folow those step with suckses and make room for more that soon will be on the carpet to try those hand at the whole of future fortune. I understand from yours of April the 30 that you have been rather fortuniate to capture it Beauty since I lift for the land of -----. I supose he must be a great prise and mates of corse you will confiscate him as soon posible for you know the government confiscat when it takes a prise from the Rebs and I presume you have the same privatly to do the same as the whole country is under military laws. As to local news I have not got any that would interst you for every thing is progressing inn our favor. The army of the Cumberland is whipen the rebs back all or all most sucessful and Richmond is closly invested by our men which will fall in a short time I think and if suckses thare I think the war at a close son. And then wee may be permitted to return home to live in peace again. You wanted to know how miss hall is getting a long. I have not hard from her since I left. Well Nancy, I will haft to quit for the present. Exscuse bad writing and speling if you deam this worthey. Answer. Write give all of the news particularlly of the country, yours Truly Edward

Dave says he rather declines the inveation that yo sent to come and play a game of eucher for he says he has had no luck with women for he can't understand store tackties. Pleas give me your sweet harts name in your next

Edward

Camp near Nashville Tenn Dec 29

First

Camp near Nashville, Tenn. Dec the 24 62

Cousin Nancy, Your kind letter come to hand to day and I was truly glad to here from you once more. I had began to think that you had forgotten that you had any connection in the army. I have written to you and Lee some three months ago. A not received no answer from eaither of you but they mite of got miss carryest. Nancy, I haven't any good news to write for we have had so much bad luck latly. I recon you heard of David Galways death. He died very suddent and he will be mist here as much as at home. He was liked by evry one that new him. We was on a scout the other day and on our return to camp a man let a loaded gun fall from the sholder and wounded three men of our

Company and one from Company C. The names of the men from our company was T Sick Baired, Will Addams, James Hall. Will Addams is the only one that is dagersly wounded.

Second

The rest of the boys ar all well and hartly. Amos looks hartryer than I ever saw of him before. Tip was down to see us yesterday. He has bin sick but is getting better. He aint able for duty yet. He had had the measles and it takes a good while for any one to get over them. The new Regiments aint as healthy as the old ones. Nancy we are living fine here. Plenty to eat and have no marching to do. We have a negro to cook and wash the pots and nives. He is very good. Goes by Amos showing him he can get up a good meals Vituals. Amos is the best cook I ever saw. We draw more coffy and sugar than we and plenty of flour and hard bread. Lieutenant Farner has returned to the Company. We was glad to see him get back. He told us all about the folks at home. He was glad to get back. The news from the East aint verry encourageing. The papers state that we got whipt and is thought that we will have a battle here. The talk is that the Rebbels is going to Eat our Christmas Dinner here

Third

Cousin Nan

If they eat dinner here they will ern it certain. I hardly think they will try it. Nancy tomorrow is Christmas and weather is as warm as the month of September at home. We don't suffer with the cold any at all. I must stop writing for it is time to drill. Execuse all mistakes and if you cant read this bring it to me and I will read it. About Nolla Baker getting married. I don't believe it but if you think there is any danger I will drop a letter in at head quarters.. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I will close by asking you to write soon.

From your Cousin

George

G. D. Barnett

Edgefield, Aug 18, 1863

Dear Cousin

I take pen in hand to answer your kind letter I received a few days ago. It found me well and hartly. I was vary glad to here from you and that you was still enjoying the pleasures of life in pleasant maner.

I don't know that I have anything of importance to write and consequently will have to make my letter short. I must tell about us going over the Cumberland Mountains.

Our company was detailed on Sunday last to guard a train of cars loaded with suplies and about 4 o'clock in the morning we boarded the train bound for Stephenson Alabama and of all the god forsacken country I ever saw I saw between here and their we under the mountains over the hills and ever other kind of places that navigable for the great iron horse. And after two days and nights stidy travel we found our selves safely landed at Nashville with Marching Orders. Marching in an and we have bene busy all

day packing up our duds for a march we was orderd to start in the morning but the order was countermanded until the day after tomorrow. I think it will be rather warm marching but I suppose we can stand it while Uncle Sam payes expenses.

Well Nancy, I suppose some of them fellows gives us fits as I see by letters written by different persons that the term us all Abolitionist in an abolition war. Well Nance when I see different letters that comes from back their filled up with such Copperhead truly makes me so mad I can hardly hold myself back. There are some of the ladies back their that has taken up the question and has bene giving us a full detail of their opinion ton the subject and I have heard as much of such stuff as I want to here and they can just call us what they please and they can't hurt me by name.

Well Nance, there is half a dozen person around me cutting up like set of crsy persons so I will close by asking you to write soon. Your truly

Thompson Barnett

(Approximately June 1864., Editor note)

Miss Barnett I resived your leter baren the date of May the 28. After taken the contents in considerations I thought I would drop you a note. I have knever hopedt your love in my life and I always Respect you but your manner toward me in the last 8 months has been Rather on becoming of A lady. My intensen was good towards you. I intended to perpose to you for your hand when I come home. But when I first met you I saw at onse it was usless to think of sutch A thing and ther fore I abanded the idey. I think it is not worth my while to go fater on this. You say that you don't think that I am worthy of your love. I don't know for you as the (Ingin?) that case. So I will bid your Adierre for ever onless you can explain things more clearly then they ar now at this presant time

PO address

Mr. D. C. Baker

Clarksville Tenasee

Battery H, 2nd Ills Vol.

it is hard but

I think it is

Good. By. fare. One

I have on Request to make of you and I hope you will bee so kind to granted it. Pleas send my minatur and Ring to mee and distroy those leters that you Resived of mee and I will bee very mutch oblige to you.

Yor obdent Servent

D. C. Baker



Camp of the 25th Regt Ills Vols.

Mr. R. P. Galway

Sir your verry welcom note was reeived to day and was rely glad to here from you as it has bein so long sense I heard from you. Tell Bob about Amos, I will tell you so I have written before the best I can. Amos was wounded the last day of the fight, limpt part part way off the field and the enemy was pressing us so close that Amos could not keep up and fell in the enamies hands. Wm. Nash was with him and Amos saw the Enemy was pressing them verry close and Amos told him to take care of him self and he would do the same. Nash said he didnt think he was bad wounded. I havent time to write the particulars of the fight. Capt. Varner is writng to you and I suppose he will tell you all about the battle and the fate of the boys.

Bob, I am one of the lonelest fellows there is since the fight you ever saw. Amos and all the boys from the heart of the timber is missing from the company. L Some killed. Some take prisoner. We have saw all the boys but Amos and William White. They was both wounded and taken prisoner.

Bob, I was over to the 125th Regt the other day. Saw Bill and Tip and O. P. Hunt and severl others that I was acquainted with. They was all well and harty.

Bob, I haven't time to write but little so you must excuse me for this time. The enemy is in full view of us. They pass a few shell over occassionly and we throw a few back in return. No loss done on eather side. Bob, write to me soon and don't forget it. I am agoing to write Nancy a letter to morrow and will enquire the reason of their not writing. When you write tell me about all the folks in general.

G. D. Barnett to R. P. Galway

Camp

Jan the 16th 1864(?)

Respected Cousin, I once more grasp the ever ready pen to drip a few unconnected sentences for your persual. I received a letter from you some time ago, but have neglected writing until now. You must pardon my negligence for I have no particular excuse to offer. But consider better late than not at all I concluded that I would answer it this morning. We are now in camp abouteast of Chattanooga. Just inside the Georgia line. WE came here the 26th of last month. We have constructed complete winter quarters and are getting along fine. But we did nothingfor we have had some prety cold weather .l we have a very good house. It is 8 by 12 ft with a fireplace and chimney and also a floor laid out of chessed lumber. Wm. ... brian e. Wm.. Whited, B Lamb, and myself consitute the happy family. You see I have furlough lie in Bills a few dayes ago. I took a walk over the battle field and it was a horrible sight you had better believe. To prove this to you I will tell you a little of what I saw there. I expect you knew that brig. Would not let his men bury any dead. And consequently they lay there unburied until after this big battle when there was men detailed to the duty. But

by this time they had become so decayed that they could not move them, but had to cover them where they lay. And thus they lay some with a foot sticking out some and part and some another you could pick up any kind of a bone you wanted to. To one not accustomed to such sights this would be heart rending for it was painful even to an old soldier. In some places timber was all mowed down by cannon balls. I saw trees 18 inches around cut right off. It was a despart fight and one in which we suffered pretty, but in the last battle we forced them back in there own camp it is not worth while for me to tell you any thing about the last battle for ere this time you have no doubt received the full account. The boys are all well and in good spirits, except Lyse Wilson. He has been sick for some time. We think or at least we hope the war will close in the course of ten months and we will all get home. Every thing looks favorable at present at all events for a speddy termination. L I believe this is all at present. Don't fail to write soon. Am hoping to hear from you soon. I remain as ever, your Cosin

Thompson Barnett

To. Nancy E. Barnett.

N. B.

I want you to write For we has not much duty to do and we will have time to read and answer all you write. I have not had a letter from any one form more than a month.

LETTERS FROM WILLIAM BROWN COLLECTION, WRITTEN BY BROWN AND FRIENDS FROM DOUGLAS COUNTY

Courtesy of Mrs Ruth Mary Brown Jackson, Homer, Illinois William Brown's great grand daughter

Sweetwater

April 1st

Dear Father

I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time. Hoping these few lines may find you all well at this time. I sent Mary Jane a paper or two and forgot to sign my name to it but if she gets it you can tell her who it is from. I was on Picket last night and it rained but I did not get wet as it happened for I stood my turn before it commenced raining. I want you to write often and I will do the same. Our writing paper costs us 5 cents a sheet. Things are awful dear down here. Potatoes cost \$4 per bushel, green apples about \$5 per bushel. It still looks like rain so no more at this time. Writ soon without fail.

From Wm. R. Brown to Mr. John Brown and

Mary J. Brown. Write soon. Direct

to the same place.

I got a letter from Grandmother. She was well at the time.

Marine Hospital

March 12, 1863

Dear Father,

It was with pleasure that I sit down to writ you a letter in answer to the letter that you wrote to me. I received it last week but did not answer it till now for I had just written a letter to Frank and so you would hear from me anyway. For I never have anything new to write. It is the same one day after another here. Well, Father, you said you and been uneasy for year I would take my old disease back. I don't think you need not be a bit uneasy about me now for am getting fat as a bear. You thought they ought to give me a furlough or a discharge. I would be very glad if I could get furlough but they don't discharge none but them that they think will never be able for duty. It is true I have been a long time but some have been here a great while longer than I have. Well, I was sorry to hear of some of my company had deserted. You told me never to desert. You need not fear anything about that for I am sure not to disgrace myself so much as to desert. I think some of the people in Indiana is getting a little too far along writing to their friends to desert. I don't think the war will close while there is so many sympathizers. Father, you wanted me to live pious. It is my intention to live a Christian life although there are many around me that are very wicked. They are sporting their time away for no man has any assurance of his life. He may depart with this life when he is not looking for it. One man died since we been here. That his last words were very wicked. The Preacher talked to him but I am afraid it did not do him much good, it was too late. Well I will close as the paper is written up and am pretty tiered. Write soon. Son. no more at present but remain you son until death

G. W. Robertson to A. B. Robertson

Chattanooga Water Works

Feb. 14, 1864

Dear Brother and Sister

This evening I will answer your very welcome letter of January the 26th which finds me well and enjoying myself very well. My health is good and my situation is very pleasant. We are getting along very well with our work. Things are going fine. Everything looks favorable. If we do as much the present year as was don the last year the war will be over, I think. But I think we will get to stay our time which is half over. I have not heard anything from the Regiments since they went to Knoxville. Billy was well the last time that I saw him. He stayed all night with me before they left. It seems like home to all the company. Captain Lamb cam to see me 3 times while he was here. He is a noble man. I love him like a brother. Charly Weliver stayed all night with me. He showed me a letter from the Chaplain of the 25th that was with Frank Reed at the time he died. That letter stated that he died a Christian. How cheering it is that even in the late hours of life he chose the right way. Brother, I feel under obligation to you for taking care of my property with such patience. If you want that old wagon. Whatever you think is worth give me credit for it. Have you got the 8 dollars that Will Barnet owes me? John, I often want to meet the friend again in class meeting. It is among my greatest wishes to be spared to do the Church some good by living a faithful member. I received a

letter from Alexander, one from Thomas , one form Ellen & one from Mechanicsburg. It is nearly bedtime & I am getting tired. I will close by wishing you the blessings of Heaven. Good night.

S. T. Bouduaant

*Camp, 97th Regiment
Georgia, between
Hayworth and Maryetta
Friday, June 24, 1864*

Kind Mother,

It had been just a week since I wrote the last letter home. I wrote it to father. It was in answer to a letter that I received from dated the 7th. He said you had a sore throat. I hope this letter will find you well again. I would have been very glad to have got a letter form some of you before I wrote again but as I haven't anything else to do at present and doubtless you are anxious to hear from me often as we are down here in the enemies land. I have been under the sounds of guns every day for 12 or 15 days. When I wrote to Father, I told him the 15th Corps was laying back for reserves, but now 2 divisions of it are on the front but the division I was in, the 4th, is still laying back. Although we have moved up considerably since I wrote. We are now inside our first breastworks. We are nearly where the Rebs has fortified and we are about 1½ miles behind our front lines. So you can see we have been gaining ground here. Where we are on the flanks they have been driving the Rebs considerably, especially on our right. We are on the left of center of our lines. I can't tell much what is going on this morning. I don't hardly hear a gun. Everyday until today they were firing regular. It may be they are gone again but I don't much believe it. If it were so we would not know it until we would see for ourselves because the officers never tell their men of anything of that kind and anything that is rumored in camp, it is not worth while to pay any attention to that, for the time it passes from one man to a thousand it is not the thing it was when it started. All I can tell about the Army here is we have been digging up to them like we were at Dallis. When our Army gets close to their works they fall back a little distance into other works behind them. They keep some in the rear at the works all the time so the prisoners say. We are in front of another mountain which the enemy are on. I believe our men closed up pretty well toward the front of it. Our General is not pushing the men in great danger like they have in former battles. It used to be we hardly ever heard of a battle lasting over a week. They would soon determine it one way or the other. But now they advance as close as they can handy and then they go to digging. I tell you that you don't have much idea how fast they will throw up breast works. It is about as high as a mans shoulders and 6 feet through and in front of these it is not more than 100 yards to

another line of our works still stronger than these. But they are of no use to us now unless our men had to fall back and of course we are not looking for that for our men is fortified as far out as they are and when they get in their works then they want the Rebs to come but they have not come against our men since the Dallis fight. They found their charging would not

(Rest of letter missing)

Bridgeport, Ala.

Oct. 3, 1864

Mr. John Brown

Dear Sir,

As it is raining to night I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know our whereabouts. We left the front on the 25th of last month, arrived here on the night of the 27th. This is the first time the 19th ever was know to lumber to the rear. I have often thought it would come our turn after while and it has come after 25 months hard marching and fighting. I don't know how long we will remain here. If they are likely to get in a tight place in front, they will not slight the 19th. She never has bee slighted and I fear never will.

We are seeing gay times now, have plenty of peaches apples and soft bread to eat. Yes and expect to draw paper collars as soon as we get pay and then we will put on the style. I stopped at Chattanooga to see Sam but he has gone home. I want him to stoop and see us as he goes to the regiment. Write and give us all the good news. What the people expect to do for old Abe and Johnston. My vote, if I am allowed one, will go for Abe and if I had ten thousand votes to cast, Abe would get the last one.

William Riley is well. So no more. I remain as ever

Yours,

Jefferson C. Perry

I will send this by Henry Jones

J. C. Perry

Chattanooga

Oct. 9, 1863

Dear Brother

I will try to answer a letter that I received several days ago. The first one I have received from you since I saw you a Nashville. You said you had written 5 times. Do not be discouraged for there is a great deal of mail destroyed. I have written but never received an answer. My health is good. I saw you noble brave boy last week. God bless him. He is well and receives the praise of the Company for good conduct on the battlefield. John, you do not know how thankful I was to see him. It is a strange feeling to visit the Company. Now there is stronger ties, deeper sorrow than brighter pictures than could be thought of except reality. It is a joyful think to know that our noble men have stood the hardships of war like men, brave, good and true. And sorrowful to know that so many have fallen yet the will of God be done. It is a painful task to tell that our company went into the fight with 34 men and came out with 14. Among the missing are John Anson, Skinner, Dave Howard, Lawhead, Lt. Albin, Robert Helm, Wm. Stillwell (Aaron Britton, I think) and several others that I have forgotten. Ed Nell was in the hospital last we heard. Frank Reed was wounded and died. There is but 14 or 15 in his company for duty at present. The Companies range from 15 to 20 men but will be larger when these that have been sick comes up. Adjutant Lamb says that the 19th has 500 men yet including sick, wounded, prisoners and all but there is not half that many here. It is thought that the Rebels are evacuating. Deserters are coming into our lines daily. John, I think this is the backbone of the Confederacy but I think we will have to fight them just as long as they can hold an Army together. The spirit seems to be more determined on both sides and we will have to whip them soundly before they will give up. But the prospect looks very favorable. Twelve months more as successful as the past four months will do the work. And those of us that lives ten years from this time will see a better government than the world ever saw before. If it be my lot to be sacrificed on the Alter of my Country I only crave to be worthy. You must not be surprised if you do not get letters as often as you would like for I never put in as faithful time in my life. While I was at Murfreesboro, I had care of three mills. Since I have been here I have been running and repairing a sawmill. I worked every Sunday and several nights so time for writing is scarce. I have not been off of duty a day since the 19th of March except 6 days I was sick. I have worked 12 Sundays and 20 nights. I am now under orders to put up an engine for watering the forts. As to the future, all is bright. I hope to serve God faithfully. If I die at any moment I believe Heaven is my home. Goodbye. Pray for us and may Heaven bless our friends and country.

S. T. Bondurant

Direct your letters

Co. "C" 2nd Battalion

Pioneer Brigade

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Jan. 8, 1864

Pronton, Mo

Dear Friend,

I now sit down to drop a few lines to you in the greatest of haste. We are now on the eve of departing out in a march. We are taking 20 days provisions with us. I don't know when we will get back. It may be some time before we get and it may be only a few days and we may never see this place again. But just direct your letters as you did before and if we do not get back it will be sent to us. It is a very bad time for marching but we have to go. Let it be ever so bad a soldier has to do as he is ordered to . But we will go with a willing mind. We are in hopes of getting into a scrap with the Rebels – Anything just so we can get to do something. We are tired of doing nothing. It is now raining and the creeks will be so deep that we will have to swim. I will have to make a short letter of it. I wrote a letter to your Uncle John a long time ago and I never received an answer. I must close. This will be the last time that I will get a chance to write to you. Maybe and it maybe that we will not go very far. But I want you to write soon with out fail. Be sure and write soon.

Your Friend as ever

William Bagley

To L. Brown

Excuse this bad writing and you must put in words where they are left out and take them out where there is too many. Wm. W. Bagley, William Riley said that when /// of you boys on the ice you took them to the Hospital. When they are wrong you must take them to the guard house & buck & gag them. Now lafe I want you to be sure & write soon. Now don't let anything hinder you from writing.

W. W. Bagley.

Bridgeport, Ala.

Oct. 18th, 1864

Dear Father,

I seat myself to answer you kind and welcome letter that came to hand today. It found me well and in good spirits. One thing that is pretty bad on us and that is we have got marching orders to go to the front again. That is bad news for us. We was in hopes we could get to stay here but we will have to do the best we can. We did expect to draw money today, but I do not know when we will get it now. I don't expect that we will get it

very soon. I would like for to be paid off pretty well. But we have got to do everything they tell us. We have got to do it but if I live 10 months more, then they can give their marching orders then and I will not go. So I will close by asking you to write soon.

Wm. R. Brown to John Brown and Mary J. Brown.

Give this little book to Bright.

Written to William R. Brown from Levi Martin

Headquarters

Co. "D" 18th Ill Infantry

Little Rock, Arkansas

August 3, 1865

Mr. William R. Brown

Dear Sir:

On hearing a few days ago that you was at home and discharged from the service. Nothing gave me more pleasure than hearing that you had once more got loose from the damned Devils and was at home. I would of wrote sooner but our company last week was detached to the Pontoon Battalion and we had to move from the Regiment and you know some thing about moving. We are camped on the north side of the Arkansas River opposite eof the city of Little Rock. We have been unfortunat with our Pontoon Bridge. On the 1st of August we telegraphed to Fort Smith, about 150 miles, and they telegraphed back to us that there was 15 feet rise at Fort Smith and we moved. The drift wood would soon began to float down. We threw the bridge all open and on the morning of th2nd, about 2 A.M. the drift (wood) came so heavy against the section that was swung out that they broke loose. And away went bridge and about 18 men and 3 lieutenants , 2 captain. I was not on duty that evening or old Lee would have went the trip sure enough. They stopped some of it (in) a short time and some of it went 35 miles before they could land her. But there ----?? Lives lost, Well, Billey, I suppose you have got enough of soldiering. By this time you can say this much, that you have stayed until this rebellion was put down by force of arms. Well, I do not know when I will get to come home or will be mustered out. I enlisted on the 4th of March to serve two years and I think we will stay long enough to ----? The faee of it. Well, I expect you old soldiers will think the reason we went this time was for the Green Backs and you have a pretty good right. But you know soldiering. Such soldiering even when I was with you was worth more than \$13 per month and I do not blame any soldier to get as big a pile as he can get. On the 13th of March I was elected Orderly Servant of Company D and on the 17th of June I was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant of Co. D. 18th Ill Infantry. This is my history. I started from Camargo a private and was sworn in and I got down to Camp Butler and you had better believe I done some hard working and I made through all right. I have no news to write at present. I want you to tell Mr. John Will Barnet, the Bull of the Woods, that I want him to write to me. Now, Billey, tell him I am in hopes we will get home this winter so you

and I will have a good time taking the girls through. I have not seen the girls much since I came home from the Army before. Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs Brown and family and tell Mr. Brown that I wrote him a letter about 3 months ago and I have not received the reply. Well, Bill, write soon and excuse poor writing. Be sure and write .

Direct it to Levi Martin

Co. "D" 18th Ill Inf.

Little Rock, Ark

Lt. Lee Martin

Written to Lafayette Brown from William Bagley of Camargo, Private, 21st Inf. Reg.
