

Arriving at Bellville, a distance of about seven miles from Buffington Island, the head of our Column was immediately brought to a halt, and preparations made for crossing the River. It was now ascertained, that to ford the River was an impossibility, as it was necessary to swim the horses at least half the width of the Stream to effect a passage. Knowing that the Gun Boats would soon be in range, no time was to be lost in deciding the course to be pursued, and with alacrity and decision characteristic of the man, Col. Johnson Commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, succeeded in safely landing on the opposite <sup>side</sup> of the River, about four hundred fifty of his men - Col. Wright among the number. Subdbergan had already entered the Stream, and was at least half the way across, when he discovered that the Gun Boat was approaching and would in all probability cut off the greater portion of his Command; he immediately returned to the Ohio shore and determined to share the fate of the men who had so faithfully followed him, and whose interests and welfare he had never deserted. The Gun Boat now approaching and already in range of the Column occupying the road parallel with the River, the advance was forced to move directly to the left to avoid the shell that were already beginning to burst and fall in close proximity to the main body. Owing to the fatigued and weak condition of some of the horses of those who were attempting to cross the River, two of our men were drowned. The shells began to come more rapidly from the advancing Boat, and during the confusion in consequence, the Command became divided, one portion under Subdbergan keeping the road leading up the river, and the other under Maj. Aiken proceeding on the road leading from Bellville to Coolville. The General finding the Column thus divided, retraced his steps, and having sent a Courier to halt that portion under Maj. Aiken, he soon came up with him, when the whole was reorganized and a Council of war held to determine our future route. After a short debate, it was decided to double on the Boats by taking the back track, and to cross the River, if practicable, at some point in their rear. The Column was again in motion and directing our course nearly north, passing through a deep ravine, we reached the main road leading to Coolville, which place we were now approaching when the road was passed down the line from the front, amounting a "blockade". Being now without artillery, it was not a difficult <sup>matter</sup> to flank these obstructions, and as our advanced guard had captured several of the "blockaders", with axes in hand, we found in them very good guides for a road leading nearly north west in the direction of Chester.



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It is necessary here, to state, that from the time we crossed the Ohio River, until we were surrounded, we were detained at every ravine, every narrow pass in the road or hill side by this species of annoyance, as the militia turned out by thousands at our approach, and used every means, except fighting, to impede our progress. Night was now approaching, and we could plainly see on our left the Camp fires of enemy, numbering at least five thousand fresh troops, and eager for the honor of being the Captors of the men who had made their grasp so often, and who was now at large on the "Sacred Soil" of Ohio. We were now approaching a road upon which the enemy was moving, and which it was Genl Morgan's intention to cross at right angles, and to accomplish this it was necessary to pass between the main force of the enemy and his advanced guard. A heavy force moving on our rear, found us in no position to remain idle, and to capture the videttes between the enemy's advanced and his main body was the decision of a moment, and a detail was forthwith ordered to the front for instructions. The situation was here critical, for to cause any alarm was certain destruction to our little Command, and being entirely surrounded by a force equal to ten times our own, to capture the pickets and to move three hundred men within gunshot range of an enemy on either side, was a hazardous undertaking. General Morgan, nothing daunted for the danger that was threatening him, commenced moving, having passed the order to observe perfect silence. We had not moved more than two hundred yards before our advance was brought to a stand-still, by a clear voiced with a demand, "halt", and now was the trying moment. All was perfect silence until the picket asked, "who comes there?" It was now dark, and we discovered that the sentinel who had challenged our advance, was stationed at the crossing of the two roads mentioned above. The order was then given for one of our men to advance. Whilst this was attracting the attention of the sentinel on duty, a small detachment was sent to flank the pickets of the enemy & in less than ten minutes the whole squad was in our possession, without firing a gun or causing the least alarm. We soon discovered that the men here captured were saw troops from some of the adjoining Counties, and Genl Morgan was not long in gleaning from them all that they knew in regard to the situation of the enemy. With their assistance we succeeded in capturing a vidette on the road upon which it was our intention to move. The way was now clear, and to move quietly on our journey was the work of a few moments. The Command was soon out of hearing of the enemy and we proceeded without interruption till one o'clock at night when a halt was ordered to rest the men and horses -



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Monday morning the 20<sup>th</sup> found us moving in a north westerly direction, but soon changed to the south west on the road leading to Rutland. We still retained the men as guides who had obstructed the road the day previous, and as they had learned to think General Morgan a man who did not spare innocent women and helpless children along the line of his march, they felt themselves peculiarly fortunate to act in their present capacity, instead of being murdered as they had expected. As we approached the town and when within half a mile of the place, our advanced regiment a detachment of Militia and after a brisk skirmish, putting them to flight & killing and mounding several, we proceeded on our way south to Cheshire, a small village situated on the Ches River. At this point our first care was to investigate the ford and learn the possibility of crossing, & as the enemy was known to be close on our rear, no time must be lost.

An accommodating "administration man" who now came forward to see what "manure of men" we were, was perfectly willing to serve so disinterestedly an individual as Genl Morgan & immediately mounted a "gay stud" to point out the ford and try the depth of the water.

The crossing of the Command was soon found to be attended with imminent peril on account of our jaded horses and the river being swift and deep, & our only chance was to capture a steamer which was approaching from below the town. A regiment was immediately ordered to move on the road down the river for the purpose of capturing the steamer, but the stream being very wide at this point, our small arms were not sufficient to "bring her to" & our last hope for crossing at this place vanished as the old craft disappeared from our sight, with more than her complement of bullet holes, made by the rifles of the detachment sent to "cut her off". Now was a time for that decision which had always characterized the movements of Genl Morgan, and with a moment's reflection, he immediately ordered the head of his Column to move directly west on the road to Porter. The enemy by this time had come up on our rear, and was making a vigorous attack on the two Companies acting as rear guard. Our men after the various engagements with the Militia all along the road, and since the action on the previous morning at Buffington, found themselves almost without ammunition, and the Companies protecting our rear, having fired their last round, were forced to give way and retire before the enemy who by this time had massed his ~~whole~~ forces to not less than five times our number & was bringing to bear his artillery, of which we had none. Here the ~~column~~ Column was again divided as the enemy charged down in overwhelming numbers, leaving Genl Morgan with



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and portions + Lt. Col. Coleman with the other. Col. Coleman seeing the Condition of his men, their want of Ammunition, and also discovering that the superior numbers of the enemy had succeeded in detaching him from the main Column moving west; and not wishing to expose them whilst they were without the means of defense, he surrendered his detachment to ~~Col.~~ <sup>Genl.</sup> Shackelford, on the Conditions that they should be allowed all the privileges usually accorded to prisoners of war. Our loss here was probably six hundred men and officers in prisoners - no loss in killed or wounded. It is sufficient to say here that ~~Col.~~ <sup>Genl.</sup> Shackelford was without the least reason to induce him to say, that his understanding was, that Genl. Morgan was of the number surrendered, & certain it is, that Col. Coleman assured him that Genl. Morgan was not of the party. It is singular, that he would negotiate with an inferior officer without authority, for a surrender, when he had reason to believe the Commanding Genl. present. This is an aberration of mind not unusual with ~~Col.~~ <sup>Genl.</sup> Shackelford, and with those who know him best, is not to be wondered at. Leaving ~~Col.~~ <sup>Genl.</sup> S. to his regrets at his failure to "bag" the "risky chieftain", we proceed with several good guides to Porter, where we encamp for the night. Approaching the town, we found no difficulty in capturing the various picket guard on the road, & among them two Colored individuals, who apologized with seeming earnestness for the Company they had been caught in. Genl. Morgan thinking the negroes the most honorable of the party captured, released them unconditionally, while the white soldiers were paroled. We had during the last twelve hours travelled about fifty miles, with nothing for the men or horses to eat, and as a severe storm set in shortly after our arrival at Porter, our Condition was any thing but cheerful. With the early morning we were again on the march, with scarcely any definite object in view more than to make as great space as possible between our own little Command, and the pursuing enemy, during the twenty four hours to come. A great portion of the men were now without arms or ammunition, and our desires were any thing but belligerent; but we carefully moved on in the direction of Evington, in Hallia Co, though repeated warnings came to the ears of Genl. Morgan of a heavy force of well equipped militia being stationed at the town it was his intention to pass through. He certainly had no intention of fighting, and a bold front was to make up for the want of guns and Ammunition. Our advance soon came up with the pickets of the force at Evington, and after a few rounds, drove them pell-mell into the town terrifying Lt. Col.



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Sontag, a gentleman of German extraction who was in Command of the Post, completely out of his wits, and causing him to surrender his whole force of two hundred & fifty men, well armed and equipped, without firing a gun. The captured arms were soon distributed to our men, and the prisoners we had secured on account of Col. Sontag's desertion, were paroled; the officers being allowed to keep their side arms. This scene was ridiculous in the extreme, and feeling that we had sufficient cause for merriment for the next 24 hours at least, we left the gallant Col to reflect on his happy escape and the probability of being made the subject for a eulogium at no distant day. We had not proceeded more than three or four miles in the direction of Berlin, when we were assured that another detachment of these invincible "defenders of their homes and firesides" were approaching on the road upon which we were moving, and feeling discouraged at our success not more than two hours before, a flag of truce was immediately sent forward to demand their surrender. Major Slain who commanded the detachment was only "too glad" to comply with Genl Morgan's polite request, and marching his men up to the head of our Column, proceeded to complete the surrender, and give the parole of himself and men not to bear arms against the Confederate States or "any other man" until regularly exchanged. The delight which appeared on the faces of ~~the~~ both men and officers, at their happy escape from destruction and the quiet they would enjoy at home for an indefinite period to come, was truly refreshing. Genl Morgan being a man to appreciate gallantry in an enemy as well as in a friend, kindly presented to Maj Slain the "Stars & Stripes" that had so gracefully floated at the head of his Column of braves, and allowed him to go on his way rejoicing over the happy prospect that bid fair to make his future career glorious. Our men being now well armed and an average of twenty rounds of ammunition, the gloom of the morning disappeared as we proceeded in the direction of Keystone Furnace, leaving Berlin to the left. Arriving at the Furnace, the Command was halted to feed the horses and refresh the men, preparatory to the long and ~~to~~ fatiguing march which would enable us to cross the Circumferential & Manetta Rail Road sometime during the coming night. It was now our desire to avoid all R.Roads & towns where the militia would be likely to collect, and by rapid movements to keep the enemy in doubt as to the real course we intended to pursue. After crossing the R.Road our course was nearly North East, and passing through Zaluski & near the town of McArthur, we halted at 11 o'clock and ~~encamped~~ bivouacked for the night.



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Early on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, much refreshed with a good night's sleep & encouraged at the previous day's work, our march was continued with very few items of interest, in the direction of Nelson's Mills on the Hocking river. As we approached the town, several squads of new fledged Cavalrymen, enthusiastic in their search for Morgan, fell unawares into our hands, and beside the information furnished obtained from them, furnished us several fresh and serviceable horses. Our old fellow was peculiarly merry; being convinced that he had fallen in with Gen. Hobson, ~~and~~ forthwith communicated to Genl Morgan all that he desired to know in regard to the forces likely to obstruct his passage, and only asked for his services, that in the event Morgan was captured through his valuable aid, he would be allowed a lock of his hair. You can imagine the old gentleman's chagrin & mortification when he discovered his mistake and that the "veritable John" had been a willing listener to the tirades of abuse he had so unparaphrasingly heaped upon him. He remained only long enough in Nelson's Mills to burn the fine bridge over the river and to destroy twenty eight splendid Canal Boats moving in their regular line of Trade, and heavy laden with various kinds of merchandise. It was now Genl Morgan's intention to make a feint on Jamesville so as to cause all the forces to be collected there that would be likely to oppose his advance. Moving on towards Bristol, and capturing a small body of Scouts sent out from Jamesville to "hunt" for us, we soon directed our course in the road to Eagleport, where we would most probably meet with little difficulty in crossing the Muskingum River. Steady marching with little or no resistance on the way, found us at 10 o'clock at night seven miles from the river, where we found abundance of forage for our horses and comfortable quarters for the men. Arriving at Eagleport, a small town on the Muskingum, at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, our reception proved to be more spirited than we had expected, for no sooner had our column reached the river than a large force of infantry and several squads of Cavalry appeared on the opposite bank and seemed determined to dispute our passage; but a few well directed fires from our long range rifles, captured from Col. Sontag & Maj. Blain, soon caused them to seek shelter behind the nearest houses & fences, whilst our advance guard proceeded to cross in a ferry boat a short distance above the main landing. Our Company of our regulars soon cleared the crossing of all obstacles, and the Command was moved over without any further trouble, more than deep fording of the stream. For several miles after leaving the river, we were annoyed by bodies of militia who fired on our advance guard



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Continually from positions protected by steep cliffs and thick woods. This annoyance was simply a detention, however, for they invariably scattered and fled to the mountains as soon as they discovered our troops <sup>advancing</sup> in line of battle. We moved still leaving Jamesville a short distance to the left; and marching in the direction of Cumberland, reached the town late in the afternoon, where the Command was halted several hours to feed and rest. A considerable body of militia had collected there, and full of patriotic zeal and love of Country, determined (several hours before we reached the place) to end the "mad career" of the man, who, with his little bands, had during the last three weeks, aroused to glory and to arms, at least one hundred thousand men; but alas for their courage! — their hearts failed them as soon as the dust from our approaching Column notified them of the danger that awaited resistance, and they forthwith sought protection in obscurity, and wisely determined to "flee the north to come". The people here were remarkably hospitable, and at least fifty good steeds were exchanged for inferior ones unable to stand the fatiguing night march in anticipation. It was very pleasant we inquired the political status of a community, having learned that all political parties north look upon us as enemies, and only quarrel with themselves, when it serves their own party schemes and predictions. The citizens, aside from political animosity were quite civil, and certainly very well bread (bread), and in a very short time our men had "laid in" a sufficient stock of necessaries to last them for the next twenty-four hours at least. After leaving Cumberland at 9 o'clock at night, our course was directed north east, and to cross the Ohio Central R.R. Road before the enemy could discover our design, would require a steady march during the entire night. Nothing occurred to interrupt us during the early part of the night, and not until we reached Seneca Falls did the militia offer any resistance or attempt to dispute our passage. Col Wallace who commanded at this point, however, was polite enough to select a position some distance off the main road, and allowed us, after a few fires from our skirmishers, to pass quietly through the town, and continue our march on to Campbells Station on the C. C. R. Road, and a few miles east of Campbells Bridge. Here we expected to capture a locomotive and train of cars, but the Conductor did not "come up to time", and <sup>no</sup> having learned that "delays and dangerous", could not wait for the anticipated pleas, were the burning of the splendid Railroad bridges, the fine depot buildings containing tobacco and other valuable to the amt. of fifty thousand dollars, and a train of cars loaded with tobacco ready for shipment



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with a probable loss to its owners of truly five thousand dollars, Completed our labors for the morning. From this place we moved due north, destroying several valuable bridges in the National road, reached Washington at 8 o'clock A.M., much exhausted from the previous night's march, and feeling secure from attack, for a few hours at least, proceeded to procure food for ourselves & horses, & slept until 10 o'clock. After quietly resting for two hours, our peace was disturbed by a brisk firing in the direction of our pickets stationed on the road by which we entered the town. We had learned to regard the Militia as of very little importance, and seldom gave them any attention, only when directly in our way. As each man was required to remain with his horse, the Column was soon formed and directed to move towards Winchester. By this time the skirmishing began to increase and the shots more frequent, when a Courier announced that, instead of the Militia, the regular troops were closing on the picket-guard. A brisk fire continued until our rear had passed out of the town, when it ceased, the enemy not appearing again for several miles. It was soon announced that our rear was again being attacked, and forthwith the two Companies were ordered to dismount, & taking a concealed position near a bridge, waited for the approaching Column. The enemy soon made his appearance, and without suspecting any danger was near, dashed headlong into <sup>our</sup> Ambush and reared the full volley of the two Companies. Those who were not killed or wounded, immediately fled in utter confusion back towards the town, carrying with them Genl Shackleford, minus his hat and also the enthusiasm necessary to continue the pursuit. It was here that Genl Shackleford earnestly advocated a discontinuance of the chase, and had it not been for Col Wolford, who is a true soldier & Chivalrous gentleman, the further pursuit by the regular troops would have been abandoned. We give the above statement as well from some of Genl Shackleford's own troops, since our surrounded. The check here met by the enemy did not encourage him to annoy us any more during the day, and a quiet march enabled us to pass through Winchester to Anttrim, in the Northern portion of Herkese County. Our line of march was any thing but direct, and the circuitous route which we were forced to adopt to avoid the numerous bodies of infantry stationed all along the roads to impede our progress, enabled the enemy, by taking more direct and better roads, to avoid the distance and fatigue which we were forced to undergo. From Anttrim, our course was North East through Smyrna & Moorfield



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nothing of interest occurring on the way more than the burning of several costly bridges over the Stillwaters. Having slept not more than ~~two~~ hours during the forty eight passed, found it impossible for the men to continue the journey another night without rest, and at 11 o'clock the Column was halted. So fatigued and worn out were ~~we~~ the men from the hardships undergone during the last three weeks, that they could scarcely take time to fasten their horses, before they would drop on the ground and remain in deep unbroken sleep till morning. The march was hardly begun on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, when our advance came in contact with a scouting party sent out from Stubenville, and before these incipient "hunters" could decide which way was best suited to their original plan, were quietly "gobbled" and relieved of their fresh horses and guns. Near this place Genl Shackelford's forces succeeded in coming up with our rear, having taken a direct road, which enabled him to cut off and third the distance we had traveled. His Cavalry having more confidence in their discretion than in the strength of their arms, wisely concluded to delay the attack until the arrival of their artillery, and remembering the shock produced the day before by our Ambush, fell to shelling the woods most vigorously until our Command had reached Ladiz, several miles from where their engagement was going on. Here we very unexpectedly came upon a Company of well drilled, well equipped Cavalry, formed in line of battle parallel with the road upon which we were entering the town, and so little did they think that rebel audacity would venture the occupation of a town so well defended, they did not suspect us for some time till they were ordered to dismount and lay down their arms. Their equipments were entirely new, having been drawn the day previous, from their government; and <sup>now</sup> finding their bright prospects for success so suddenly cut short, they found very little consolation in Genl Morgan's polite apology for having disturbed their peace and quiet, and evidently felt themselves the victims of misplaced confidence. After paroling our prisoners and recommending them to report to Col Sontag & Maj Blain for future protection, our march was directed towards Harrods town on the Ohio River.

Genl. Morgan was now well aware that any attempt to cross the river would be useless, as large bodies of infantry were stationed at every available ford, and all boats destroyed, by means of which he could hope to effect a passage. He was also informed of a considerable rise in the river, and having no fear of the forces of Genl Shackelford, he determined to move as near as possible to all important crossings, in



order to Cause a Concentration of the Militia at those points, and thus avoid the annoyance they might give by obstructing the road marked out for our line of march. Our Course was now changing nearly toward the East, and passing near Stubenville, and through Alexandria, we reached the Columbus & Pittsburg and Stubenville Railroad, where the pleasure of burning a costly bridge engaged our attention for a few minutes only. We passed by the wreck of this bridge several days afterwards, on our way to Cincinnati, under the guidance of that polite and gentlemanly officer, Col Wolford of Ky. Before reaching Centerville the Command was halted to feed and rest for a couple of hours. Resuming our march and arriving in the suburbs of Wintersville, it soon became apparent that the place was occupied by a considerable force of infantry, and to dislodge them, better suited the Gulls purpose, than ~~to advantage~~ any flank movement we could make. A brisk skirmish soon revealed the uneasiness of the enemy, and as it became evident to them that our troops intended to charge the town, each "raw recruit" fled at the top of his speed, throwing away gun, cartridge-box, and, in fact, every thing tending in the least to retard locomotion. Paroling the prisoners, and retaining such of their guns as suited our purpose - destroying the balance - we proceeded in the direction of Richmond. Our ammunition was now well nigh exhausted, and we found ourselves very poorly prepared to make a protracted fight, even with any thing like equal numbers. But it was only from fresh troops that we had any thing to fear, and as Genl Morgan intended to move at as great a distance from Railroads as possible, the infantry could not effect us. Our march was now uninterrupted ~~for~~ for several miles, when a Michigan Regiment of Cavalry, with fresh men and fresh horses, made its appearance ~~upon our rear~~. These untried braves found their first experiment on our rear, not so promising of good results as at first anticipated, and their advanced guard numbering thirty two, rushing headlong into a trap set for their especial benefit, ~~many~~ thirty out of the number were unhorsed at our volley - only two making their escape. Arriving at Richmond, we very unintentionally disturbed the harmony of a "singing school", and as most of the beaux & belles of the Country around were in attendance, at least thirty good horses were placed at our service. The young misses, more courageous than their beaux, "lucked daggers" at us, and evidently thought, as we had no music in our souls, we were fit subjects for "treason, stragglers & spoils". Maj. May Commanding the Michigan Cavalry did not venture to make his appearance again during the evening, and at 10 o'clock P.M. we halted for the night.



By day light on Sunday morning, the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Command was again in motion on the road leading in the direction of New Lisbon; but we had not proceeded far before our new enemy, having <sup>recovered</sup> some what from the shock received the previous evening, was again making offensive demonstrations on our rear. The burning of an important bridge, and a few effective shots from our sharpshooters, soon deterred him from further attacks, and with nothing more to disturb the quiet Sabbath morning, we entered Dechauncsville at 1/2 o'clock, halting for a short time till the men could procure their breakfasts. Moving now nearly North East, on the road to Salineville, a large body of infantry appeared on our front, entirely blockading the road and which it was the intention of the Genl. to pass, and as we met in no condition to attack a force superior in numbers to our own, and situated on a railroad where reinforcements could be brought to head at short notice, our only safety consisted in a flank movement; to accomplish which, it was necessary to move back over ~~the~~ a portion of the road we had just traversed, and take another road leading to the left of Salineville. Countermarching in the direction of Dechauncsville, we soon came directly against the advance of the Dechauncsville Cavalry, who not being prepared to meet us moving in a direction so contrary to the one they had expected, fired a few shots, and retired to collect their pieces and scattered command, leaving us to pursue our journey on towards New Lisbon. After a series of slight skirmishes in which neither party suffered much, we were left to pursue the "own track of our way", unmolested by the obstructions which had beset our movements during the previous day, and with nothing more than the usual incidents of travel along a country road, we reached the vicinity of New Lisbon where a large body of State Militia were collected. Having arrived in their outposts, Genl. Morgan immediately sent forward a flag of truce to the Commandant of the Post, assuring him that it was not his desire or intention to disturb private citizens not in arms, and all he desired was to pass unmolested on a road leading a short distance to the right of the town. This proposition was consented to without a moment's hesitation, and Genl. Morgan's Captain was ordered to escort us under the flag of truce to a point agreed upon. Our success in procuring horses for the last two days was not equal to the demand, and quite a number of our men were so poorly mounted as to render them unfit for a forced march, and the fatigue such as we had undergone during the ~~expedition~~ last six days of the expedition. Having three weeks of incessant marching, with not more than an average of 3 to 4 hours sleep in 24 was beginning to tell



on the Constitution of the best of the Command, and when we were  
 collected that more than one thousand wild had been passed over  
 during the time, we felt very little desire to meet overwhelming numbers  
 of full and well mounted troops. With these facts in view, Genl Morgan  
 asked the officer who had acted as our escort under the flag of truce,  
 "whether he was authorized to receive a surrender of his force, and if  
 so, upon what conditions he would be allowed to hand over to your  
 Command?" The officer immediately answered that, he was a Captain  
 of Militia by State authority, and that he would accept his (Genl Morgan's)  
 surrender, releasing both officers and men on parole, allowing each  
 officer to retain his side arms. Our Command was then surrendered to  
 Captain Ohio State Militia, and all negotiations settled. About  
 half an hour after the surrender had been concluded, a considerable  
 body of Cavalry was seen advancing on the right of the position we  
 were occupying & Captain [unclear] and proceeded to make known  
 the fact of this of the surrender and the conditions of same.  
 One hour and a half later, General Shackelford, made his appear-  
 ance, and doubtless feeling some chagrin at his lack of success,  
 and being the superior officer in Command, refused to accept the  
 surrender. If we had not succeeded in making good our escape  
 from the state, we had accomplished all that was demanded of the expedi-  
 tion, and if we were a sacrifice to the cause we had espoused, it  
 was not without a useful benefit to those remaining behind.



Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1863

Friend Now — I am sorry to hear you have so soon changed your boarding house & contemplate occupying another <sup>room</sup> of Govt accommodation offered to those who were caught napping or otherwise; This short pencilled note is the first & only intimation we had of your whereabouts since I left Danville indeed I think it very strange notwithstanding all I endeavor'd to do for the Wallaces that Miss Wallace did not favor me with a line were it only to say how she overcame the long & tedious drive to Danville I was afraid it had made her ill — it did me for I in 5 days have been out of the house but one afternoon — I am nearly well now but didn't I suffer with fatigue — feverish & suffering intensely with violent bodily pains I lay <sup>in bed</sup> at home by myself — house folks were all away mother had gone to Fort Delaware but has since returned (Frank is gone to Johnston's Island) I longed for a letter from some one but each evening came & went without bringing any where are your Father Mother & Sister <sup>staying</sup> now — did you deliver the message to the latter? When did you leave Danville by? — write to me from camp Chase — doubtless many comrades will greet you upon your arrival there — I enclose you Miss Stewart's note I got it a few minutes since — the one for me I send also as no name is signed to it & I expect you'll treasure the same I won't I know therefore you are welcome to the production as it is I believe the first line



I rec<sup>d</sup> by mail from the fair & much admired Miss MRS  
Milly Bishop was a prisoner here Harry Weisinger also they  
have gone to Camp Chase before you I hope you may be soon  
exchanged if it too had arrangements cannot be made to effect an im-  
mediate exch- of prisoners I am glad you told the Provost M- at Danville  
who I was - for he will know me the next time I go to Danville if I  
ever do but what did he want to know for if how did he know  
I was there at all - but I remember my name - I registered at the  
Hotel like a man & not a boy & I noticed several step up  
looked at me & then remarks were made one said he knows  
what "he's after ill bet" another said "I wrote a staring hand"  
& a 3<sup>rd</sup> said "I wrote it <sup>my name</sup> like Hell!" they were all Fed Officers  
who were standing around when I walked to the register  
I eyed every one of them Bas Hobbs Lieut on Genl Frys staff  
told me he saw you your meeting an old friend under such  
circumstances could not have been agreeable rather embarrassing  
I should judge wasn't it - Bas is not on Paul's Boyles  
staff now & you see I was correct in telling you I thought  
he had gone to Genl Frys camp - Frank Karsner's wife  
Miss Allie Smyers sister that was - died last night - no news of  
interest here we have - Miss Eugenia Clark is in

Lexington visiting I will let her know you are near there  
I am sure she would like to go to see you if it is permitted  
for friends to do so - I am write to me soon & after  
I will always be very glad to hear of your movements

I was out at Mrs Laws last evening & she enquired very  
kindly after you & your sister - Miss Kate Clark who  
was over there sent best love to you - I saw Miss  
Sallie Smyers & she said she would just give a  
hundred dollars to have "one good old time talk with  
you but she I don't think would want Park Simmons  
to know it I believe they will make a match yet  
you did not say your package contained the articles  
articles requested to be obtained were you & your  
Father & mother satisfied with my selection I could  
not send it by express they would not carry the articles on  
any bundle to Danville risk on my part or not so you  
may consider me lucky in sending yourself doubly so  
receiving the necessaries

Your very true friend JP



I think it would be well for you to send me under cover to Gen<sup>l</sup> Schoepf what uncurrent money Mary has. otherwise it will be lost.

F<sup>t</sup> Delaware April 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dear Sir.

Your letter enclosing cheque for one hundred dollars came duly to hand, day before yesterday. Many thanks for your promptness. I am delightfully situated and we all esteem ourselves fortunate in having fallen into the hands of so thorough a gentleman and soldier as Gen<sup>l</sup> Schoepf. I am occupying quarters in the fort and mess with Gen<sup>l</sup> Vance & Capt Thompson, Col<sup>l</sup> Duke, Luther Coleman and the Morgans all from Ky. We are expecting very shortly to be exchanged as it seems to be understood that the respective Commissioners have at last agreed upon a general cartel.

Mary gave me a detailed account of my Kentland business as well as some idea of the general condition of things in that neighborhood. It is deplorable that with every disposition to live peaceably with his neighbor, one should be driven to resort to modes of retaliation, which though thoroughly



effective are nevertheless very objectionable).  
While I am under many obligations to you  
for your kindness in looking after my affairs,  
still you may rest perfectly secure, that in  
no possible state of case will my pecuniary  
losses be very considerable. In three months at  
the farthest I can recover all that has been  
lost during the last year and a half and that  
can possibly be lost while the war continues.

Presume Mary has written you of her visit and  
her purpose of remaining some time in New York.  
Such perseverance certainly deserves success.  
We are kept very well supplied with eatables  
through friends in all the neighboring cities.  
I have gained ten pounds since my arrival  
here and am in better health than I have  
been for many years. Perhaps after all the "Re-  
ducing" system practiced at the Penitentiary  
may turn out to be a great benefit to us  
all. Much love to all and kindest regards  
to yourself.

Yours very sincerely

Hart Libron





Col. Hart Gibson,  
Tacoma,  
Washington.

OCT  
24  
1896

K



TACOMA, WASH.  
OCT 17  
9 AM  
REC'D.



Gen. Hily, Rio, P.O. Ky.,  
Octo. 1, 1896.

Wart Gibson, Esq.,  
Tacoma, Wash.

Dear Sir:

Your very kind favor of Sept. 5,  
is received and Gen. Bullen  
directs me to express his thanks  
for your letter and for the  
many kind expressions con-  
tained therein.

Very truly  
H. C. Watkins

Private Letter to Gen. Bullen.