

William Malaby Letters

Miss Harriet Doxsee

Rural Illinois

Eliza – October 5, 1860

Dear Hattie

I expect you think I am not a man of my word as I promised to write to you soon but I have been hearing from you every week or two since that time but I have not forgotten [sic] my promise. The folks are all well except my self [sic] at present. I have been haveing [sic] the ague some lately but I think I have it about broke. Granmother [sic] has been very sick since she came home but she is better now.

Old Mr. [blank] died a few weeks ago and Ellen has gone to Missouri [sic] to her Fathers.

I looked for some one [sic] from your neighborhood at the Fair and found Mr. Samual [sic] Clark. He said you were all well the last account he had from you.

Mary sends her best respects to you and says she is going to write you as soon as she gets time.

I want you to write to me and let me know how the folks are and all about matters and things in general. No more at present for I am in a hurry.

Yours Truly

William Malaby

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Illinois

Jacksonville – Aug 29, 1861

Dear Friends

I find a few moments to write you a line. We started from New Boston on Tuesday after I left your place. Landed in Camp Butler five miles from Springfield Friday folowing. [sic] Received marching orders Monday next for Jacksonville. Are now quartered in a nice place within one mile of town.

We have had a peacable [sic] time so far and the boys are in good spirits. There was a great many people came to see us start from Boston. We do not know how long we will stay here.

There is about six hundred supposed to be here at present and about the same number at Camp Butler. We were sworn in for three years if not sooner discharged. There is ninty [sic] five men in our company and we have had the prais [sic] of being the civilest [sic] company that has past [sic] the rout [sic] that we came. I do not want you to feel uneasy about me for if any accident should hapen [sic] to me or I should get sick I would be well taken care of here.

My love to all

William D. Malaby

Direct as follows

Jacksonville

Illinois

Care of Captain Southward

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Illinois

Cairo – September 4, 1861

Dear Friends

I have again undertaken to address a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and I sincerely [sic] hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing.

When I wrote you before I expected we would stay at Camp Butler a month or two but they pushed us ahead to Cairo. This is a good deal better place than I expected to find. We have plenty of good substantial food and river water with ice in it. We have to drill five hours per day. The balance of time is devoted to writing, washing.

There is supposed to be about six or seven thousand troupes [sic] here and about the same number at Birds Point oposite[sic] this place. We are within 15 or 20 miles of the enames [sic] lines. They exchange shots with picket guards at Birds Point every few days but we are going to have to drill considerable before we are ready for battle. Our boys are all well and in good spirits and hoping they will all get home in the spring.

I have seen more since I started from New Boston than I ever seen in all my life before, but the country we passed through from Springfield to Cairo is very poor and the people very rough and ignorant. But they turn out a great many good men for the union.

I want to hear from you as soon as possible for I expect to stay here for some time. Harriett, you must write me a good long letter and tell me all about everything and everybody. I would like to see you all very well, but it may be a long time before I will have the oportunity.[sic]

I wrote John Pratt a letter today. I have not received any pay yet. We expected to receive half month wages the last of August and every two months folowing. [sic] As fast as I get any money I shall send it to John and if he gets in a pinch I would like you to help him if you can possible.

No more only I remain yours.

William Malaby

PS Direct your letter to Cairo Illinois care of Capt [sic] Southward

27th Regiment Ill Vol

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Rock Island Co Ill

Cairo Ill – October 19, 1861

Dear Mother

I write you again to inform you that I am well and I hope that when this comes to hand it may find you all enjoying good health.

I am still in Cairo but I have just returned from a scout in Missouri. [sic] We marched on board a boat and coasted along the Missouri [sic] shore until we got within about fifty miles of St. Louis. Took considerable grain and other goods and four prisoners on our way up. Landed at Chester and got plenty of Paupaus [sic] and Pricimmons [sic] to eat. We expected to find some of the Rebels oposite [sic] that place but when we got there they were gone. These Misourians [sic] are a poor ignorant set of people most of them.

Our Regiment is in very good health and spirits at present. I never had better health. Camp life agrees with me very well.

We have received pay for what time we were in the service in the month of August which amounted to nine dollars and ninty [sic] five cts [sic] and there will be two months pay due us the first of next month wich [sic] will amount to \$26 dollars. I intend to send all of it to John Pratt that I can spare.

There is four Regiments here and four or five at Birds Point and two at Fort Holt in Kentuced [sic] oposit [sic] this place. We are well fortified here. I have just this moment received your letter of October 13th and one from John Pratt. I am glad to hear that you

are all well and also that the folks on Eliza Creek are well. John says he is not doing very well thrashing. It has been raining so much. We have had nice wether [sic] since we have been in camp.

I cant [sic] think of any thing [sic] more that would interest you. I want you to write soon. I would like to heare [sic] from you as often as convenient. Direct your letter as before. No more. I remain yours.

William D. Malaby

PS Hattie. I dont [sic] want you to be backward about writing to me. You write very well and I am always pleased to hear from you. Tell Saide to write a few lines, and give my best respects to all my friends. No more.

W.D. Malaby

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Rock Island Co Illinois

Cairo – November 30, 1861

Dear Friends

I received yours of the 17th and was glad to hear that you were all so well and getting along so well.

The times here are about as usual. A great deal of talk of what is going to be done and but little doing. But there is some prospect of doing something now. The new gunboats are coming in from St. Louis and I expect when they all arive [sic] there will be a push made for Columbus. Our Colonel is Commander of the fort at this place at present and I think we will be likely to stay here this winter.

The weather is getting very disagreeable here. We have been having rain for three days until last night and it snowed quite hard. Is going of today and makes it very muddy.

You wished to know who was our highest commander in the Battle of Belmont. It was Genl [sic] Grant and Genl [sic] McClaremont was next in command. He is the Commander of this Brigade and Grant is commander of all the forces stationed at Cairo, Birds Point, Fort Holt, Mound City and Paducha.

I would like if you would find out what Regiment Jordan belongs to and let me know and if he is Captain of a company and if so what company.

I received a letter from Bent and John this morning and the folks are all well. The soldiers at this place are generally well and in good spirits and I hope when this reaches you it will find you all in the same health and spirits. I cannot think of any thing [sic] more

of interest to write. Write to me soon and if anything of note happens I will let you know as soon as possible.

I want you to let me know if my letter comes to you with stamps on for I do not send any without stamps. We have plenty of stamps and plenty of money. Those old stamps you sent me I could not use. If you can use them I will send them back. The reason why I ask this question is they have been sending stamps to me from Pratts and they suppose I did not get them as I did not use stamps. But I did get them and used them and if you get letters without stamps they are taken off by someone here and I would like to feret [sic] out the imposter.

No more only I remain yours affectionately

Will

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Rock Island County Illinois

Camp Cairo – December 24, 1861

I received yours of the 17th this morning and was glad to hear that you were all well, and I am happy to inform you that I am in tolerable health at this time, although I have been having ague a little of late. But, I have got it checked and I am in hopes I will not be troubled with it any more, though a Soldier has to be exposed to all kinds of weather.

We have had a very warm nice winter so far and the men are in good health generally with the exceptions of mumps. There is considerable many have them.

I received a letter from John Pratt this morning and the folks are all well. He said he had been working very hard this fall and winter and that he had been paying up some of his debts. I have sent him twenty dollars and our pay day comes the first of January again. Then I expect to send him about twenty more. I will tell him that if he needs your help to let you know in time to give you a chance provided you can help him to collect if you should not have it on hand.

He is going over to Iowa soon to see what has been raised on our land. He said he heard that there was a good crop raised this year, but at the prices produce brings now it will not amount to much.

I dont [sic] have any idea how long we will be kept here doing nothing. For my part I would rather do what fitting [sic] we have to do and go home, but I suppose there is wiser heads than mine that has controle [sic] of this Government, and I would like if I could say as honest hearts, but I fear there is more speculation in this war than good union feeling, though they are making great preparations here for a southern movement.

There is about twelve gunboats here now; most of them finished, the balance will be in a few weeks, and some 25 or 30 floating [sic] Batteries [sic] designed to carry [sic] four mortars [sic] each that will throw shell from three to three and half miles. The Gunboats carry from twelve to eighteen guns each, so you can judge [sic] whether we can stand much of a siege of what kind of batteries [sic] they will need to stand our fire. I am in hopes they will make a move before long, and I think when they do it will not be long before the matter will be settled in this western division.

I will close my letter. If I have failed to interest you, excuse me, for this is a noisy [sic] place to write [blank] only I remain yours Truly

William Malaby

Miss Harriette Doxsee
Rural Rock Island Co Ills
Cairo – January 23, 1862

Dear Friends

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear that you were all well, and I am happy to inform you that I am in better health at this time than I have been since I have been in the Service.

I have just got home from a tramp in Kentuca [sic] (I mean Cairo when I say home as that seems like home now) , and we had a pretty hard trip as it snowed and rained very near all the time we was out. But, it agreed with [sic] me firstate, [sic] and I would not have missed it for nothing as we traveled through a timbered country, and it was something near to me to see farms made in such heavy timber and hill land. The people through that section of country generally profess to be in favor of union, but we find some of them supplying the Columbus troupe [sic] with Provisions. We burned a large saw and grist mill that was furnishing the [blank] at Columbus with flour and gun boat stuff. We also took considerable stock and a few prisoners.

The troupes [sic] are gathering in here very fast lately. Some of the Camp Black Hawk boys are here now. Capt [sic] Oliver Bridgeford's company is here, and there is quite a number of boys in it that I am acquainted with. Among them is Adam McCane. They all look well and hearty.

The health here is generally [sic] good, and I think we are going to have plenty to do from this time on, though I think they will not attempt to take Columbus only by siege. If we can get them surrounded and their supplies cut off they will have to come out of their den and fight us on fair ground, and I think in taking it in that way they will avoid a great deal of blood shed. [sic] I think when we get Columbus our work is more than half done, and I do not think it will be long before we give it a trial for our gun boats and troupes [sic]

are all about redy][sic] to move. I would like if they would push the thing right through for I would like to go home and see my friends, but there is no telling when it will end.

I received a letter from Becca Pratt this morning. The folks are all well, but Elmer he has ague and jaundice. He has not been well since I left there last fall, but he has quit trying to work and is doctering, [sic] so I am in hopes he will soon get well.

You must excuse my bad writing for I have a poor pen. Give my respects to all enquiring friends and remember I remain yours.

Will

Mr. Alfred Doxsee

Rural Rock Island County Illinois

Nashville – December 11, 1862

Dear Friends

I received a letter from you a few days ago and was glad to hear that you were all in good health. My health is improving, but slowly, but I am able to march when the Regiment moves.

We have moved out six or seven miles south east of Nashville and are camped in the woods. We now belong to Genl [sic] Sheridan's Division and to the army of the Cumberland. We have taken the place of some of the new troupes, [sic] and we don't like it very much after working night and day to fortify a place. I think we had ought to have the privilage [sic] of staying there, but we have to do just as we are ordered. I don't think we will stay here very long. I think there is a general movement on foot, and I expect we will be pritty [sic] well in advance.

I received a little note from John Jordan the other day stating that he was at Gallitan, only about 25 miles from Nashville, and he said he was issuing Hospital Stoves. The 109th Regt was there at the time. I expect they are in Nashville by this time.

I got letters from Mary and Becca the same day I got yours, have answered one of them. You want me to get discharged and come home. I would be glad to if I could, but I don't have any idea I could, althoug [sic] I have not done any duty for sixty days, and that entitles me to a certificate from the Regimental Physition [sic] if I ask it, but I might get that and then not get a discharge. I will try and take as good care of myself as I can through the winter season, and then I think I will be all right again. The troupes [sic] generally here are well.

The last I heard from Bent he was well. Genl [sic] Grant has been moving. I expect the Boston Boys begin to know what soldering [sic] is by this time.

I am bothered the worst kind to make out a letter. I can't think of any thing [sic] that would interest you. Excuse me for this time, and I will try and do better next time.

Write soon, and give my respects to my friends.

Yours affectionately

Wm Malaby

Mr. Alfred Doxsey

Rural P.O. Rock Island Illinois

Camp on Stones River Ten Jan 10 1863

At a called meeting of the members of Co G 27 Regt Ill Vol Infantry a committee was appointed [sic] to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Co on the death of Corporal William D. Malaby who reported the following when was subsequently adopted.

Whereas the fate of battle has removed from our ranks our esteemed friend and brother in arms Corporal William D. Malaby who fell in the Battle of Stones River December 31, 1862, while nobly defending the flag of his country and her sacred rights.

Therefore Resolved – that in the death of our comrade Corporal William D. Malaby our company has lost a brave man and a faithful soldier – one ever true to the noble cause in which he was engaged.

Resolved – that when in after days we recall our associations together as soldiers – our privations – our werisome [sic] marches and hard fought battles we will ever remember Corporal Malaby and admire him for his plain spoken, straight forward course of action and his kindness, good nature, and generous disposition by which he had won the universal esteem of all his comrades.

Resolved – that our heart felt [sic] sympathies are tendered to the relatives and friends of our sleeping comrade whom we hope to again meet in that World where war with its untold horrors is known no more.

Resolved – that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Mother of the deceased and to the Aledo Record and Keithsburg Observor [sic] for publication.

Ord Serg't [sic] S.B. Atwater

E.W. Beach [blank]

[blank] Noble Corp

Com in behalf of Co

Mr. William D. Malaby
Company G 27th Reg
Illinois Volunteers
Rural – January 18, 1863

Dear Brother

I have not had a letter from you for so long that I thought I wouldn't wait any longer. I have got two letters from Bent latly.[sic] He was well. We are all well, and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying good health.

I have been reading the account of the Battle off Murfyesboro,[sic] and I see the 27th was in the fight, and Col Harrington name is among the hundreds of others that have fallen. I hope you was to [sic] sick to be up there. But if you can write I want you to send me a letter as soon as possible for we are all uneasy about you. I would like to see you most dreadful well but as there is no possibility of such a thing I will have to wait and meby [sic] I will have to wait a long time for I don't know what is going to become of my poor Brother.

The weather is fine. It don't seem like winter for it has hardly snowed a bit yet, and I guess it won't for it is getting pretty late.

I havint [sic] had a letter from any of the Boston folks for a long time, but I expect they are well as they would write. I suppose they have got moved before this time.

I can't find any thing [sic] write for there is no news here. It is dreadful lonesome. I guess I have written all I has to write this time, and I hope these few lines will find you well and safe.

Write soon and remember your sister

Hattie Doxsee

Alfred Dixie Esquire
Rural Rock Island County Illinois
Camp Schafer [blank] Near Moffreestown – April 1, 1863

Mr. Alfred Doxey [sic]

Dear Sir

On or about the 10th day of Feb I enclosed to you according [sic] to your instructions
Nine dollars and ninety cents being the amount of Wm. Mallaby effects and have up to
this time have not heard from the same. You will please inform me by return mail
whether you have received the same or not. In haste yours

Hugh M. Love

1st Lieut [sic] Co G 27

Rosecraig [sic] Army

[Hugh M. Love of Centre Ridge was killed in action Nov. 25, 1863]