

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

These letters are from a larger collection of Civil War letters written by Lewis Stafford of Grasshopper Falls, Kansas, to his girlfriend Kate Newland, also of Grasshopper Falls and later Lecompton and Topeka. Stafford served in Company E of the 1st Kansas Infantry as a Lieutenant and then a Captain. The regiment was formed at Fort Leavenworth. The headings on the letters are from various locations and give a sense of where his regiment was stationed. The locations include Fort Leavenworth, KS; Chillicothe, MO; Tipton, MO; Lawrence, KS; Fort Scott, KS; Fort Riley, KS; Trenton, TN; Corinth, MS; Grand Junction, TN; and on the Mississippi River. Almost all of the letters include expressions of his feelings for Miss Newland and he conveys his emotions about her quite eloquently. Many of the letters describe the movement of the regiment from this place to that, the social life (including mentions of drunkenness) in the Kansas towns where they are staying--particularly after pay was received, and rumors about where they would be sent. Others include his impressions of the areas through which they were traveling and details of his day-to-day military activities. Stafford died in a logging accident on January 31, 1863, at Young's Point, Louisiana. For the present, the scanned transcripts follow the handwritten letters.

Creator: Stafford, Lewis

Date: March 26, 1861-January 24, 1863

Callnumber: Kate Newland Coll. #457

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 215087

Item Identifier: 215087

www.kansasmemory.org/item/215087



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

1861, June 13

Camp Lincoln Fort Leavenworth
June 13th 1861.

Dear Kate:

Your kind reply came to hand, and it was with pleasure that I perused its contents. All is excitement in camp now. It is 2 o'clock in the morning. At midnight six companies received orders to march to Kansas City. The company to which I belong is one of the six. We are to march in about two hours. Thinking that it might not be impertinent to write you a few lines, I hastened to that object, while the captain and Spalding are fast asleep by my side. The Government sent some five or six companies of regulars to K. City yesterday. The force will be some sixteen hundred strong. It is presumed there will be no fighting. However, it is determined to protect the Union men in Mo. I have enjoyed camp life as well as could be expected. But all I have seen of

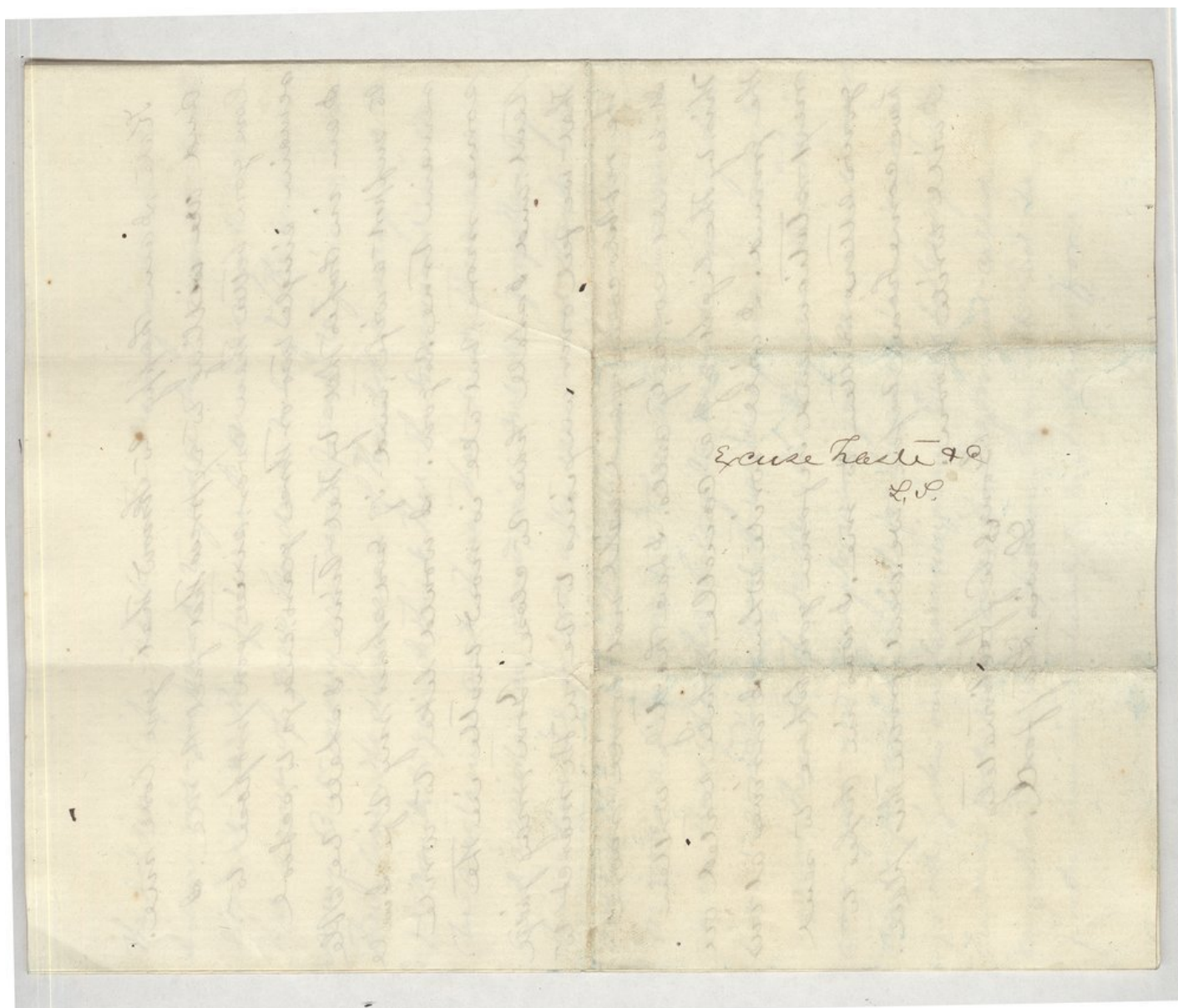
Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

The Soldier's life, has been the sunny side, and I am not prepared to judge how much I shall like it in the future. I am sorry to learn that some of your kindred belong to the Confederate Army. But many are now forced to join or lose their lives. The discussion of this topic may not be pleasant to you. I think that the Government will be sustained and those that lend their aid and assistance now, will not be forgotten by those who will follow after us. I do not think me over ambitious or enthusiastic in this matter. We need a Government, to have a home, to secure to us the rights that belong to us and history shows that it sometimes cost thousands of lives in order to secure these for the people. The boys are all enthusiastic just now. Every boy has just come into our tent - for an envelop. For Birmingham I am, it is a good joke on Birmingham. Perhaps Henry thinks he can fool some one. The Major just called. He says that in his opinion there will not be a gun fired. This is certainly to be hoped for.

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Kate, I am happy to know that - you love me.
~~and are willing to express that fact to me.~~ I
 love you better than ever, since you propose to
 remain single two or three years, and go to school.
 I am in hopes that - by that time I shall be able
 to support a wife, and if God spare my life, I will
 remain true to you. I would like to write
 some more, but all is now bustle in the
 tent, and I shall have to close. You may judge
 that - we feel over anxious to be on the march to
 the rebels country, and will not write more.
 It is not so, duty calls. I have hastily written
 this, by the light of a candle, while seated on
 the ground. I will write when I arrive at our
 next station, and inform you where to send
 your letters, written to me. I was in hopes to
 have come home before we went from this place.
 I will write soon.

Yours Affectionately
 Lewis Stafford.





Springton Mo
January 17th 1862

My Dear Kate:

The Regt. arrived at this place on the 12th inst. We left the town of Tipton on New Years day, early in the morning, and proceeded on our way towards Kansas City, expecting to have arrived there, before this date. The weather is now, and has been very cold, during the few days past. It was soldiering, indeed, to march as we have done, through sleet and mud, snow and frozen ground, camping out wherever night overtook us. I had no idea that I could endure what I have, or that others could do so. But it seems an easy job to endure whatever hardships a soldier is or may be called upon to do. We are in the heart of the enemy's country, where secession has had a long



but it is to be hoped its last day. Our
folks are executing some move-
ments that take them ^{the dearest} by surprise, and
not a few of the most noted of the
robble clan are, at this moment,
enjoying the luxuries of a prison &
bar walls and iron chains. It is
the only way to bring them to a just ap-
preciation of the powers of the Federal
Government. The Robbles have held and
had things all their own way in this
place for a long time. If the 1st K. U.
were to stop here long, secession would
get pretty well used up. Should they
attempt to fight us, they would not
find "Home Guards" to contend with,
and their pretty town of Lexington
would pay the folly of their rash under-
taking. We are enjoying ourselves
very finely, in doors. But out of
doors it is quite too cold to derive
much pleasure from the few



means we here possibly, for making
 time pass easily from our
 hands. I can hardly believe that
 nine months have passed since we
 bade each other good bye. But whether
 we take note of time or not, there
 is always something soothing to the
 mind, to recall the last happy hours
 we enjoyed together. The Regt. will
 proceed, shortly, to Kansas City.
 When we arrive there, I will get as
 soon as is possible, a leave of ab-
 sence, to go home. I expect and
 hope you are enjoying yourself
 in the many pleasant parties and
 rides, that are presented to you and
 your kind friends this winter.
 Let the heart-merry, merry be,
 Show that thy brow from care is free;
 While kind wishes even for thee.
 Are doubly wished by the subscriber.
 Who is affectionately and truly
 Yours
 Lewis Stafford



N.S. I wrote a letter to send to you, when
we left Tipton, but - hearing that the
R.R. roads were torn up by the
rebels. I thought - I might see you
before the letter would reach our
place, and did not send it.
Tomorrow Capt. Allen of the 8th
Kansas Regt. leaves us for home
and I send this by him to put
in the office at Kansas City.
Lewis Stafford



Planters House
Leavenworth July 20
February 6th 1862

My Dear Kate.

I recd your letter of the 3^d inst. at this place. We arrived here on Tuesday about - 1 o'clock P.M. It seemed that - every man, woman and child came forth to greet the Regt. home. We were received in this city - as no other body of men ever we received. Every thing was proper and fitting, and well did the "Gallant First" appreciate the ovation. All was done that - could have been done to make the weary Soldier of this Regt. happy. It - was a grand sight - and I for one shall never forget it. As soon as Col. Deitsler reported to Maj. Carl Hunter, he received orders to proceed forthwith to



Fort Scott. But some of the prominent citizens of this City - interceded in behalf of our coming here, with Hunter, and he countermanded the order so much as to let us come. The Col gives all of us permission to be absent until the 16th of the month, at which time we are to report, at Lawrence. I intended to have gone home to-day, but have been so busy that I could not get away. I shall leave tomorrow if it is possible. You may look for me most any day I cannot say which. Clayton has been made a Lieut Colonel in the 5th Regt., and leaves on Friday. So far my time has been paid to the looking after the affairs of the company. I will be in a hurry until I get where you are. I am as anxious to hear the many things you wish



To tell me, as anyone could be.
We go to Fort Scott soon. How
long we may stay there is impos-
sible for one to tell. I want to say
something in relation to our
future hopes and expectations, but
will defer it - until I see you
which will not be many days
distant - Until then I am as
ever affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

P.S. Excuse haste, a bad pen
and the bluntness of a soldier.
L.S.



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Fort-Riley - Kansas.
May 10th 1862.

My Dear Kate:

Your letter of the 8th inst. came to hand a short time after I had written one in reply to yours of May 4th. So near was your last of being received before I had answered the first. That I had the man, who carries the mail, make to and from the P. O. for the Regt. sit down in my tent and wait while I finished writing. Your last letter has opened my eyes to that, which I had never expected, and never dreamed of, even - I hardly know what to write, or how to write. I really think I ought not to write, yet a fate impells me to do so. I think I can tell now, what you have been told - And, I only repeat the assertions, of my other letter, that all you have heard are base lies. No one, has ever heard me speak anything of the kind you intimate, as having been told you - I know of no one, who can for one moment pretend that I ever said, the stuff they make me say - Who is it? are they Topeka friends? I never mentioned your name to any one that lives in that place - I, H. Bennett excepted, and never to him, only, in the most respectful manner, as I know he will say, although not so good a friend as he might be - And, whenever, I have spoken your name to any of my G. Falls friends, it has been in answer to inquiries, and no one will dare say, I ever said anything that would cause you to believe, I did not love you - To casual acquaintances, they neither, know anything relating to our affairs -

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Kate, my love is no pretended love - It is as earnest and pure as ever emanated from man's heart - I love you for yourself - I loved you a long time before I told you as much - dating back as far as to my getting your ring - Since that time I have not ceased to love you, and respect you - When you replied to my first heart offerings, the first I ever made, I thought my heart would burst at your reply - But after days of reflection, I considered, if I could not be a lover, I might - and would be, a friend - I never expected any more, than, that; perhaps, you might consider me in the light of a poor friend - The rest you know well enough - It was near, if not just one year ago - Then the few words you spoke to me - no words of mine can express they joy I felt, as well as surprise - to know, you loved me, and did, at the time, I offered my love to you - You, "now", "want an understanding" - to know whether I am playing the false lover, to deceive you - winning your affections to cast them aside after a time, as I would a bag of flowers - and assert; "if I am a going to do so, now is the time - Oh cruel cruel words, they struck my heart like a sharp knife - I will not tell you my feelings, for it would ^{not} be manlike - You well know, Kate, that three years was the time you set, before you would marry - Last fall, you said you would marry at any time I might name, if I only would resign - In the month of February, I was permitted to see you, and then I thought it was well enough understood that, I would resign in the fall, and then we would be married - Afterwards when it was understood that ~~he~~ he was to go to New Mexico, was it not mutually agreed upon, by us, that I should return from the army sometime next spring and, that; then we would be married - Now, what besides can I do

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

in order to convince you that; I am in earnest. I told you it would be better for me to remain, in the Army, a short time longer. You said, you would not marry as long as I remained in the army, and said you would like to go to school this summer. Now if I am wrong in any particular, I pray you set me right. And what now, can I do to prove that; I love you better than my life? What can I say that; I have not said, that will convince you I never shake one word, in which, there was any disrespect ^{to you} ~~to you~~ or want of any love for you. I have recounted all, from the beginning, briefly, to show you that; I have acted from pure motives, only. I really thought you would give me more credit for honesty than you have. I desire above all other things, to retain your love and respect. But if you deem it right to forget me, I shall, as a matter of course, take it. It is philosophically as I can, yet never shall I cease to remember, Kate. It seems that I am fated, not to enjoy your love. But I ask you to recollect this, Kate, that; as long as the blood courses in my veins and my heart to beat; I shall love you faithfully and ^{devotely} ~~truly~~. Let my future actions, speak, my approval or condemnation, by you, if my past have not already done so. It is supposed to be the darkest just-before day. And, I hope the sunshine of love, will shine upon you, at all times. And I pray your life may be one of happiness. Excuse me for mistakes. Write me soon and let me know if you are yet, convinced I am honest.

Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

P.S. Kate, will you give me the names of
of those who are making this mess. Please do—Lewis.

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Sunday Morning-

The sun shines down very hot, and there is to be a grand review and inspection of all the troops this morning at 8 1/2 o'clock. I wish you were here to see it. Capt. Watkins and Lieut. Tucker ~~arrived~~ arrived here last night. Mrs. Tucker is a resident of Topeka or near that place.

Kate, I have read and reread your last letter, and then read it over and over again, & believe you will, believe me, for I never told you anything yet, but the truth. I did not reply in the body of my letter, to your question: want to know what your intention is? Now, Kate, my intention is to do right, and let the friends know. I purpose to fulfill every portion of my promises to you, and if they are fulfilled, to do all I can as a man to make you happy. Could mortal do more. You must recollect the infirmity of humanity. The weaknesses and shortcomings, and forgive him, who freely forgives all these. I will write soon and hope in the meantime, you will write to me.

Yours with much love.

Lewis Stafford



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

Fontenot Tennessee
July 5th 1862

A dry old 4th it was for the Kansas first-
and other soldiers stationed at this place. Dry to the whole, as to
news for which we are more than usually eager to get - dry to
the majority of the boys because they could not do justice to so
memorable day without getting on a "glorious bender" and there
was nothing in this town at all calculated to elevate or stimu-
late their voracious drinking propensities. Dry as to amusements,
and to those who love to shake the fantastical toe. Dry as to good
companions of the feminine gender. Dry, dry, dry because we missed
the smiling faces of those we love too far such holidays with - Dry as
to every thing except the hot weather and of it there is a sufficiency -
We have been in this place one week - It is a pretty inland town of
perhaps a thousand inhabitants were the citizens all at home - The
country is thickly settled with good farmers - But secessionism has passed
its scorpion sting over this portion of the country and blasted the
fair fruits of industry and peace - It is represented that this county has
or had, a majority of Union people, until previous to the secession of the
State. Hundreds of the country people come to the Dorset Marshall to
take the oath of allegiance - It seems from their version of the affair
that armed men from Alabama and Miss came here and forced
them into the position they have occupied - But it seems strange
that in a county where there was 900 majority against secession
that that majority would so quietly submit to have their rights
thus quietly destroyed, without even making a demonstration
against so high handed proceedings as were taken by the sec-
ession party - Three Regts of Rebels were raised here -

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

the people here are very kind and sociable to the Lincolnites - But the officers and men of the troops here behave themselves properly and the citizens cannot help admiring us for our conduct - The citizens freely say they had rather have the 1st Kansas here than any other troops they have seen, not excepting their own rebel Regiments - In fact - men do not feel yet the praise that the 1st Kansas get - At first we were considered "Jayhawkers" but it did not take long to convince the people to the contrary - The 7th Kansas, the Jayhawk Regiment, has acted fully up to the name they acquired in Mo. They are a disgrace to Kansas Soldiers - There are a few good men in that Regt - but they are hidden by the mass of rascals - thieves and villains perpetrated by the majority - They are in great disrepute with all the troops - Several of their officers have been arrested for violating orders - Col Anthony - Capt Murdock & Rafferty are among the number - Their proceedings are worthy the acts of noted robbers, not soldiers, whose uniform they disgrace - It is not a mere matter of stealing pigs and chickens, with the men of that Regt - but they visit the houses of the people and compel them to give up their money and other valuables - Men tell me this who have no reason to dispute - They are now on their way to Corinth - and once under Genl Halleck they will walk straight - or catch the consequences - Last Friday there was a great commotion among the troops - caused by the telegraph news - all the troops hereabouts were ordered to Columbus - it is now supposed with the intention of sending us to Richmond - A part of our Regt was started off and we got as far as Union City - some 20 miles from this place - when we got orders to return to our Regt - next day - There seems to have been a great battle at Richmond but we get no details of the affair - We believe Genl McPherson still holds his own

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

I received a letter from your Uncle Mr. Ream a few days since. He ^{gives} me some valuable information. I shall be happy, when I return home to become better acquainted with him. We have not had any mail matter here for several days. What the reason for its detention is I do not know. We have a dull time at present. But it is better than to be marching in the hot sun. There is one hour's drill early in the morning. ^{then} Parade at 6 o'clock ^{then} toward morning immediately after. This is all we do that tastes of labor. The balance of the time is passed in reading and strolling through town when it is not too warm to do so. Then we go blackberrying as there is an abundance of them in this country and have been getting ripe for some time past. Our Rail Road ride on the 1st of July, somewhat relieved us from the monotony that exists here. It appears that the Secretary of War ordered 25,000 troops from this department to the vicinity of Richmond. I wish we had left on after we got started, but they changed their minds for some reason and those of us who were on their way were ordered back and the order calling for the troops countermanded. In front of our camp is to be heard every morning, a mocking bird, singing after the manner of all birds and none in particular. I often have wished that I had the noisy fellow and could send him to you. It is reported here that there is a drought in Kansas this year, and that there are thousands of locusts eating up every green thing. This if true is to be lamented. I saw by the papers that there was rain on the 22nd of June. But it may not have benefited the country much. Kansas will be depopulated, should there be as great a drought this year as there was in 60. It will be of no use to stop in such a country and try to get a living where the very elements are striving to starve the people. I hope it is not as bad as it has been represented. If the rain falls on the just and unjust alike it seems there is an exception to the great rule in Kansas.

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

We have plenty of rain here - Not too much. Yet enough to keep every
growing thing fresh and green. Several of our Officers proposed to
resign. They agreed to do so on the 4th of July. I do not know if they did so -
But if they did it will only be the beginning. I know one who will do
so in such a case. But they have talked about it so long that I
begin to doubt them. I hope soon to hear from you. It seems
an age since your last letter. Remember me as ever faithful
in love I remain

Affectionately Yours

Lewis Stafford

P.S. Give my respects to your mother -

Excuse my bad writing -



Trenton Tenn
July 31st 1862—

My Dear Kate:

The rain is pattering on the roof of my tent, sweet music. Our Regt. still remains here. We are all enjoying good health, as usual. On Monday last, the Hon Emmons Sheridge addressed the citizens of this county, at this place. The occasion was marred by a report of a fight with the Rebels at Hundolt, about twelve miles from here. At 9 o'clock A.M. our Regt. formed in line, and with music playing and banners flying we were marched through the Town of Trenton, in our best soldier clothe and keeping step to the music that brought women and children to the doors & windows.



Passing through the town and about-
a half a mile beyond to the woods
we were halted, and stacked arms.
We all expected to listen to the speaker
as he is one of Tenn's truest & bravest
Union men. The Col. in order to
give all, an opportunity to hear the
address, had caused the Cavalry &
Artillery to be present under arms.
We had been on the ground scarce
15 minutes before the assembly was
dismissed by the bugler, and a rush
to arms was made with dispatch
and energy. We then thought there
was some fighting to be done. But
it turned out that we were marched
back to camp and ordered to be in
readiness to march at a moment's
notice. Our leaving the meeting
in so hurried a manner, the Cavalry
going off in long lines as fast
as horse flesh could carry them.

merely finished the speaking - But soon learning the truth, the citizens about 1000 remained and the object of the meeting accomplished. This scare was caused by about 170 mounted guerrillas, who approached the R Road below Humboldt and set it on fire & then ran. They attacked a company of our cavalry and caused them to run after the most approved McCallan style. No one was seriously hurt - as is generally the case with those who don't stop to see who they are fighting. A number of the citizens I learn, have been arrested in the neighborhood, where the R Road was burnt. The road was soon put in running order and the rebels did not accomplish their purpose. There is fighting most every day on the line of R Road from Memphis to Leavenworth, we learn Grand Junction.

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

was taken yesterday - The enemy have assumed the offensive. since their success at Richmond. While Federal troops are guarding the R-R Roads in small detachments, they are doing everything to harass them to death - we have been as calm at this place as could be expected, but have been keeping wide awake, lest the rebels should come down some morning and pick us up before we had had our breakfast - Col Seibert will not permit his command here, to be surprised - I don't really believe they will attempt to come so far north as this place. I confidently believe there will be another battle soon in South Lane, very soon else the rebels are only making a feint - to cover some other movement - This war does not appear to be so near a close as when it first commenced - I think it will be finished up immediately, or as soon as Gen Lane organizes his two Kansas Negro Regiments - I think they and he will finish the business. It will be a dark spot - whenever they chance to be, and may be a good place for some men to go to cover up their wickedness - and sinners being preferable to list -

Time, like a swift-passing cloud
is flying away - I often wish myself
with you - For, "dear art-Thou to me
now, as in that-hour when first-
Love's wave of feeling, spray-like broke
into bright-utterance, and we said
we loved" - My only anxiety, now is
to be able to render my Kate, happy -
with your woman's counsel and my
experience. I feel as though we could
smooth out-a path in the world's
highways-and travel this life in
comfort-with happiness and love -
What-are your opinions, my love
in regard to an interesting
subject-of this kind - I suppose you
will call me stupid for writing so
often, so much that-is uninteresting
Give my respects to your Mother
and remember I am

Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford



Aug 1st 1862

Since I began this letter, I have learned that the report, in relation to the taking of land and location of other places on the R.R. Road, had no foundation in truth. All these places are in our possession. Accept to-day's offering of love, with my prayer for your happiness
Lewis



Miss
Mouth of the Barrow River
January 24th 1863

My Dear Kate:

The fleet containing Genl
McArthur's Division arrived at this place yesterday -
Here we found Genl McLeernaud's Army, some
of the troops on land but most of them on the
boats. Nothing of interest transpired on our
voyage down the river. We passed Helena
the second day from Memphis, at which place
I left a letter to be sent by mail to you -
I had hoped, that at Helena, I would find
the 5th Kansas, the Regt. in which is Swigle, Willy
and Ed Pierce, as well as Col Clayton and
many others whom I am acquainted with.
But the 5th had been gone some two weeks from
there, on an expedition to Little Rock, Ark.
I know nothing of the intentions or purposes
of our Army, and can scarcely give a definite
opinion. But of all things they do attempt -
I really hope, the plan is not to take
Vicksburg by an assault. We may succeed
in such an attempt, but I doubt. Men however
brave they may be, will hesitate and falter when
they have long beforehand, become convinced that
almost certain death awaits them in an



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

undertaking of the kind that will present
itself at Ficksburg - It is well, that we do not
understand the plans of our Gents. But we only
hope that their plans may be those of success.
I thought long ago; I could not endure the
service but a short time, and now I only would
that I have been able to do so - There is not a day
scarcely an hour, in which my thoughts do not
revert back to home and particularly thee -
Kate. I do not know as I have studied your heart
aright, but I believe it - the embodiment of love,
enduring patience and forgiveness. I love without
selfishness, a patience linked with forgiveness, to
endure the slight and neglect offered towards your
warm and generous heart - forgiveness to forgive the
short comings, and negligence to respond in an
equal manner to the pure love of your warm heart.
offerings - Yes I believe all this and more. I have often
thought how strange a courtship ours has been,
with you to excite me to be noble and do right -
The false character others would dress me in, and
the passions of youth, to restrain among those
who would be my friends but in truth are my
worst enemies, and in a place and under
circumstances best adapted to bring disgrace
and dishonor, upon our teachers and ourselves.
amid all this covering of darkness, your image of
love and forgiveness has shone resplendent, asking

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

me to ever press onward, that the day was not far distant
in which you would flight, that love and faith to
me, and that we might be happy - What would life
be worth without happiness in knowing we possessed
the love of the one, loved better than all the rest
the sum of all human happiness is love - Love begins
with hatred. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick"

Indeed Kate, nothing in this world would give me
more pleasure than to grasp you once more by the
hand and listen to your voice. This may seem like
a school boys passion, but not it is something more.
I would know if you entertain the same feelings
towards me, as you once did. That if time, my
own actions, nor the actions of friends have wrought
no change in your feelings. Do not think I dis-
trust you - But the pleasure to hear the assurance
that I am still loved by you, would be a real happiness.
And how anxiously I am awaiting for the time to
come in which I may be made glad by getting
home - I have never yet thought, I should not
return. I have no ambition to allay, that keeps
me here. I am here because, circumstances compell
it to be so - I hope these things soon will change.
Until then remember me as

Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

We just now got orders
to disembark and go into camp, but to hold our-
selves in readiness to get aboard the boats at a mom-
ent's warning. But what an awful country for the
poor soldier. Death stares him in the face, in
more ways than one. The country is low and flat
the banks of the river are naturally overflowed, but
the people have built levees or high embankments
to keep the water from overflowing the whole country.
Strange indeed look the trees covered with moss.
The moss is a dirty greenish color, and is pendant,
hanging down to the ground often. There is no
natural scenery along the river, and the artifi-
cial lanes its charms, when one thinks of the
great evil, the war that is desolating the country.
The river Mississippi is a picture of sublime
grandeur, but the sameness of its banks, scenery
gives it a dull sluggish appearance. But of
what a volume of water, it rolls on, and on,
as it has done for centuries, in its proud majesty,
unaffected by the influences of civilization, and
the aggressions of men. Boom, bang. There the
gun boats are at it. Our army is now engaged in
digging across the bend, to turn the river away from
Vicksburg. Tomorrow it is expected it will be
open. What then. I can't tell for more of it I know
But good bye, write soon and think of him who
so often thinks of you.
Lewis Stafford

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland

5

Camp Lincoln Fort Leavenworth

June 13th 1861

Dear Kate.

Your kind reply came to hand, and it was with pleasure that I perused it[s] contents. All is excitement in Camp now. It is 2 o'clock in the morning. At midnight six companies received orders to march to Kansas City. The company to which I belong is one of the six. We are to march in about two hours. Thinking that it might not be inopportune to write you a few lines, I hastened to that object, while the Captain and Spalding are fast asleep by my side. The Government sent some five or six companies of regulars to K. City yesterday. The force will be some sixteen hundred strong. It is presumed there will be no fighting. However, it is determined to protect the Union men in Mo. I have enjoyed camp life as well as could be expected. But all I have seen of the soldiers' life, has been the sunny side, and I am not prepared to judge how much I shall like it in the future. I am sorry to learn that some of your kindred belong to the Confederate Army. But many are now forced to join or lose their lives. The discussion of this topic may not be pleasant to you. I think that the Government will be sustained and those that lend their aid and assistance now, will not be forgotten by those who will follow after us. Do not think me over ambitious or enthusiastic in this matter. We need a Government, to have a home, to secure to us the rights that belong to us and history shows that it sometimes cost thousands of lives in order to secure these for the people. The boys are all enthusiasm just now. Henry Cowan just came into our tent for an envelop for Cunningham, it is a good joke on Cunningham. Perhaps Henry thinks he can fool some one. The Major just called, he says that in his opinion there will not be a gun fired. This is certainly to be hoped for.

Kate, I am happy to know that you love me. and are willing to express that fact to me. I love you better than ever, since you propose to remain single two or three years, and go to school. I am in hopes that by