

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

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.

Creator: Stafford, Lewis, d. 1863

Date: March 1861-January 1863

Callnumber: Kate Newland Coll. #457, Box 1 Folders 3-4

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225929

Item Identifier: 225929

www.kansasmemory.org/item/225929

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more look refreshing with its greenness.
The last-three or four days has added
much to the beauty of this lonely country.
I do not think we shall be able to
start on the New Mexico expedition
untill the very last of this month.
The showman and jugglers have
arrived at this place, and are doing
considerable in their line of business.
For my part-I have not yet been to
see any of them. There is less drunkenness
at this place than I have witnessed
for a long time. Yesterday, some of
our Kansas 1st Regt, captured a couple
of young raphsby cutting down a large
tree in which they were. We get the
Leavenworth Tapers three days after
they are issued. So our means for
getting the latest news is almost equal-
led by our last summer experience.
Some are anxiously expecting to be
ordered to Tennessee, but our army there

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under Genl Halleck is over one
hundred and fifty-thousand strong -
With the assistance of our troops
approaching by the way of New Orleans
They will soon settle the question in
that part of Uncle Samuels dominions
Having made up our minds to go to New
Mexico it would be quite a disappointment
to a great many, to not go. There is a great
scarcity of news with me at this time, and
you must excuse me for so short a
letter. I will write soon and remain
as ever.

Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

P.S. Write me soon. Give my
respects to your mother -

L. S.



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

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. I never was your last of being received before I had answered the first. That I had the man, who carries the mails, 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 - J. 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 4th Regt. 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 -

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Kati, 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-offering,
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 the joy I felt, as well as surprise -
to know, you loved me, and did, at the time, I offered my love to
you. Now, 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~~ ^{bundle} 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, Kati, 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 Feb-
ruary, 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

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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 ^{towards 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 = Let if you deem it right to forget me, I shall, as a matter of course, take it. as 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 ^{devotly} ~~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 correspondence

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 ~~both~~ arrived here last night. Mess. 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. I 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 short-comings, 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

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[1862, May 12]

Fort Leavenworth Kansas

My Dear Kate:

Yesterday I wrote you and hope you have received the letter. I now am writing on the Steam Boat, in my room. We are all ready to go to Leavenworth and battle has been the order of the day. The assembly has just concluded, so off we go soon. I made every arrangement possible to accommodate your mother. The note and mortgage are not in Kansas. But I think the interest will be stopped. I concluded to have your mother deed me 80 acres and then the mortgage will be released. There is no other safe way for her. Should I release the mortgage and by some means it should get into another party's possession she would loose all. I hope and expect to return, but may not. And should I release the mortgage and keep it in my possession and the Judge should not be able to redeem it from me, it would have to be foreclosed & I might not be able to secure it at the sale, then she would loose all. If she deeds me one half and you the other. When we are married I will make you a deed to my half. And you then will have it all.

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under your control - Mr Ream - will correspond with
your mother some in regard to the matter, he thinks
the Judge ought - to sign a deed with your mother
and is going to propose it - to the Judge - I left my business
with Mr Mc Baton - The sum necessary to release the
mortgage is (\$432.16) if there has been no interest - paid on the
note. The money is deposited with Scott, Kerr & Co - for
the purpose of redeeming the mortgage - Whatever is done
I hope will never cause any difficulty - between you mother
and the Judge - The boat is cast loose and we are afloat -
I must close in time to mail this at Leavenworth -
as we pass - When you write direct - to ~~the~~ ^{1st} Regt Kansas Vols
me - ~~at~~ ^{at} Genl Mitchell's Brigade - Pittsburgh Tennessee -
I will write you between here and St Louis -
Excuse my brevity - Good bye with love forever -
Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

Missouri River

May 29th 1862 -

My Dear Kate:

The steamer, Robt. Lambell
is hurrying us on to our destination, we are now below
Jefferson City - and expect to reach St. Louis tomorrow morn-
ing. The boat stopped at Leavenworth City - where we got
most of our drunken men aboard. One of my men
I expect has fallen over board. You may perhaps remem-
ber "Si," the cooper, a German from Grass Knopp Falls.
He was very drunk when brought aboard and was
last seen by those who knew him about 9 o'clock at
night. A man fell into the river soon after, and
as he has not since been seen, we all suppose him
to be drowned. He was a good soldier, but whiskey
did the job for this poor fellow. I have witnessed more
times in regard to drunkenness, than on that day, but surely
it is a disgusting sight to see men brought on board of
the boat dead drunk. We have a more sober lot of officers
in our Regt. than I have yet seen in any other, but I cannot
say so of the men. Your letter of the 24th and one of the 19th
have been read with much interest. Oh, Kate, you know
not how much your pleading for me not to go South, has
affected me. And had there not been a great necessity for
more men in that direction, I think your intercessions
would not have been in vain. But our Country has

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in very great danger near Washington lately and any
success for the rebels will cause them to use greater
efforts against our troops in every other place - In short
as ~~soon~~ I do ~~not~~ believe you would ask me to stay at
home - I will try to remember one part of your request, the
other I never can forget - I think, should you request it;
that I will return home in the fall. I have a good
offer to go into business with an old partner of mine
Mr E. A. Squire when I return. I shall have to go to
Holtton which I do not like. Yet I suppose I could
endure it, if nothing better should offer itself to me -
This is the last of the three letters you wished me to write
in reply to those of yours. Some of our officers endeavored
to resign but their resignations were not accepted -
Lieut. Col. Larned when he thought we were going to
New Mexico resigned but when he learned that we were
going to Tennessee he recalled his resignation as it had
not been accepted and is now with us. I wish I had
some news to write to you, but everything on the boat is
a round of sameness. The same sky overhead, the same
muddy stream of water below us, and nearly the
same land and sea views are presented to the sight hourly.
I have endeavored to write with pen and ink, but there
is such a rolling of the boat that it was impossible
to do so and make it readable. You may experience
some difficulty in this pencil writing. Kate, I said
Mr Ream as we stopped at Leavenworth City on
our way down from the Fort and he informed

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ed me he had written to the Judge and relation
to our proposed about the land. I should never
forgive myself it. I were to be the means of any
difficulty between your mother and the Judge -
It is enough to have his unity for other causes
than this. Should he execute the deed to me
for one half of the land, it will be more
more than I expect. However it is not nec-
essary for me to say any more about this
matter. Our Soldiers are healthy and look
now as though they would never be sick -
But we shall know soon all about the
Southern climate. I hope all will have
good health and be able to do their duty
to put down this unholly rebellion as
soon as possible. I will if possible
write you while we remain at St. Louis
morning, noon and night of the I am
fondly dreaming. I hope always to prove
that I am worthy of your love and respect
Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

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Paducah Kentucky
June 1st - 1862 -

My Dear Kate:

We have just arrived at this place. It is now near to 10 o'clock P.M. We left St. Louis yesterday about noon. At that place we changed from the boat Robt Campbell to the Hiawatha. This boat is loaded down with Government Stores, Ammunition, Soldiers &c - for Pittsburgh Landing. The trip so far has been very pleasant and all has gone off finely. The boat is a leaky old tub of a thing, and a slight accident would send us all into the water, in a shape we did not contract to be conveyed in. The scenery on the Mississippi River below St. Louis for some distance on the MO side is quite interesting if not enterprising. It resembles to some extent the scenery on the Hudson. I never before have travelled below St. Louis. At this season of the year it is much pleasanter to travel if one were on an excursion of pleasure, than at any other time. The high, rocky bluffs are now covered with vines and scrubby oaks, that are now in their brightest dress of green. We stopped at Cairo a short time. Here is the junction of the Ohio and Miss Rivers. The Ohio River appears to be almost as large as the Miss. I believe it discharges a volume of water as near if not as large as the Miss. It is more majestic and pretty in appearance than

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the Mississippi River in my estimation. At this place is the junction of the Tennessee River with the Ohio. I thought when I commenced this letter that I would have time to finish it before the boat left. But soon after I began writing, the boat came and sat down at the table, and soon he had a half dozen of the officers about him who began to tell all sorts of anecdotes, and for fear I might get some of them into the letter I suspended writing until some later period. May 2nd finds us steaming up the Tennessee River. The scenery is quite pretty and the country looks habitable. We are now fast approaching "Lincoln's Land of Cotton," the rebels have evacuated Corinth. Why don't they say come from Corinth. It seems a much better term. Where they propose to stop is not yet learned. The nearer we get to the seat of war, the less we know what is occurring. I wish they would own to their several homes, and behave themselves in the future then there would be some on the federal side of the house who would do likewise. We got new guns for our men while at St. Louis and turned the old arms over to the Ordnance Department. The boys are fond of their new arms and only want an opportunity to test the qualities of the same. We are enjoying ourselves finely on board of this boat. There are no ladies with us, yet the officers behave themselves as nice as if they were in church. Some are writing, as I am, perhaps, to those they love some are reading some playing cards, not for money and others, are playing chess, all seem to be well.

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contented. I have occupied most of the day, time since we started in looking at the country. I love the scenery, it is something so different from our Kansas prairies that it carries me back to my native state. Home, yes I love it and those that are there. I love my Kansas home, and one there, better than any friend I ever had in any other place. And I sincerely hope the time may arrive in which I may be able to fully satisfy that one, that I do love her, and her, only. Labor, for her happiness, will be sweet to me. I hope you will receive all the letters I have written to you. When you write send the letters to well I will direct you on an envelope. It is the easiest way for me to explain. I hope you will write soon as I wish to hear from you very much. I will write as often as I can but you must sometimes be patient if you do not receive letters for some time. I do not yet know where we may go, and we may have some long, hard marches to make which will deprive me of time in which to write. But off of this I'm thinking, meanwhile.

Yours Affectionately
Lewis Stafford

P.S. Excuse me for writing in such a straggling style - excuse mistakes of head as well as of heart. Give your mother my best respects.
Lewis

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence



Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

Columbus Kentucky
June 8th 1862-

My Dear Kate:

It appears that Uncle Samuel is a very indulgent and kind old fellow, because he takes me around and shows us so much of the country. The Regt arrived at this place today after making a long journey up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg. The old boat was very heavily loaded and leaked badly and the water in the Tennessee River at this season not being of sufficient depth for so heavily loaded a boat as the Hiawatha, ~~and~~ it made slow travelling. As soon as we arrived at Pittsburg the Col received orders to proceed to this place. But as we arrived there in the night, and the same boat was to carry us here which being loaded with freight for Pittsburg, would take one day at least, to unload its freight. The Col gave all hands permission to go and see the battle field. I set out early in the morning and went over a great portion of the place where the battle was fought. The scene of conflict extended for a distance of between five and six miles square. There are only two or three log buildings at the landing called Pittsburg and three or four farm houses in the area of the battle field. So the destruction of property belonging to individuals was very small. How I wish I could

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describe the appearance of the scene of the late conflict - so that you might see it as I said it - But as I cannot - I will only endeavor to state that - which interested me particularly - The ground where the battle was fought - is covered with heavy timber, and was with thick underbrush before the fight - except the few farms, which barely broke the monotony of the forest - scene - The bruised and shattered trunks and limbs of the trees will long bear evidence of the showers of iron and leaden hail - Trees from twenty inches to two feet through are frequently seen pierced through the center of their bodies by canon balls - And to show an extreme case when the bullets flew fast and thick, I mention a tree about twenty inches in diameter, that was perforated with fifty-three rifle balls, while one grape shot stuck it - making in all, from my own counting fifty-four marks - All about this place for several rods, the small brush was cut off at the height of my breast - by the deadly missiles that flew thick and fast - The small timber was very thick at this place, but its destruction was as complete as though it had been cut down with a bush hook - A few rods from here a rebel battery was captured and recaptured several times and at last fell into the hands of our troops completely demolished - It was there in its ruined condition, when I went on this field - There were, however, only four guns, the other two were removed some time since, and one had been remounted, and repaired so as to be removable -

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It still exhibited stains of blood as it was pushed forth from the body of some soldier, who nobly stood by his work - The cannon were in an open field close to the woods. The dead of the Federalists were buried by the companies to which they belonged - But not so with the Rebels. They were buried at the spot where they fell and terrible indeed was the sight as one passed the little mounds of earth, their last resting place - I could not long endure such a scene as was presented in these graves to my sight - I did not go to Shiloh chapel which is the place where the battle commenced - Tired by my ramble and sad with the scenes of warfare I returned to the boat - to reflection and rest - I hope I am a wiser if not a better man, by the results of that morning's walk. Oh, how horrible is war and particularly this one - Great God why were men made with such passions as make them wish to destroy each other - Theorists can talk of improvement in the social system of our universe, but the result of our actions level us with the most barbarous nations of heathen days - The intelligence of mankind is now trained to convert to implements of destruction, such as the world never saw before, that which should be made to conduce to the happiness and comfort. Thousands who frantically rush at each other, to shed their hearts' best blood.

It is astonishing to think how many miles this Regt. has travelled since its organization. It nearly averages sixteen miles a day during the whole time - In my last letter I said that this country was

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inhabitable, when telling you about the Tennessee River. Well I think I was mistaken. for there is not a town on the river as far as we went as large as Osawatomie. It may be that the river overflows its banks to such an extent as to render it impossible to make farms and build cities along its banks. But I only wish that we had a river of its size and length. Traversing the State of Kansas. It is a charming, beautiful river, its banks high and covered with the dense primeval forest, the stream deep and clear and winding its way through the land like a giant snake, into the Ohio. The only thing I did not like was the monotony of the scenery. Had there been more farms with neat white cottages, it would have been far more beautiful.

Where we go from this place I cannot imagine. Memphis is ours. The Rebels appear to think the game is up with them. I hope it is. I hope our country will come out of this ~~difficultly~~ more wise and better than when this unhappy difficulty began.

Columbus is but a small town on the Mississippi River. It is very strongly fortified and a few thousand men could defend it against a very large army. The rebels had it very strongly fortified but nevertheless evacuated it, one fine day, on the approach of the "Yanks" with their gunboats. The fortifications are on high bluffs and command the country for miles around as well as the river for miles each way. It seems they were foolish to leave so strong a place. But I guess their commissary suggested the propriety of the act and it has a great influence with soldiers, particularly when they are hungry. After we passed Fort Henry in going to Pittsburg some five miles above the Fort it was found necessary to unload some freight, we stopped on our way down to take the same on board the boat. There by chance happened to be some country people at the landing among them was an old lady who had two sons that were taken prisoner at Fort Henry by our troops. She said she was glad of it for now they could get enough to eat implying that they did not get enough to eat while in the rebel army.

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I have been very derelict in fulfilling
 of repeated promises to write to you -
 But my excuse is a justifiable one
 as I presume you will think, when I
 tell you, that the Regt left Columbus on
 Monday last - and we have come about
 30 miles on our way towards Humboldt
 a town on the Ohio & Mobile R. Road - near
 90 miles from Columbus and in a North
 East direction, by the map, from Memphis -
 Our marching has been exceedingly slow
 for the road, for the most of the way
 ran through the heaviest timbered land
 I ever saw - I was surprised to find
 so much timber land, so few farms,
 where I had expected to find large
 plantations swarming with negroes, at
 Camp, ^{Humboldt} woods.
 June 22nd / 62.

My Dear Kate:

You may, perhaps, think

I have been very derelict in fulfilling
 of repeated promises to write to you -
 But my excuse is a justifiable one
 as I presume you will think, when I
 tell you, that the Regt left Columbus on
 Monday last - and we have come about
 30 miles on our way towards Humboldt
 a town on the Ohio & Mobile R. Road - near
 90 miles from Columbus and in a North
 East direction, by the map, from Memphis -
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 for the road, for the most of the way
 ran through the heaviest timbered land
 I ever saw - I was surprised to find
 so much timber land, so few farms,
 where I had expected to find large
 plantations swarming with negroes, at

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work in large fields of corn, cotton and tobacco. I will not hesitate in saying that more than two thirds of the distance from this place to Columbus is one vast forest with, however, a few good farms, whose existence, man has carved out of the great woods. It was very pleasant indeed, to stroll leisurely along in the shade of the giant oak and Poplar, the wide spreading branches of the Beech and Maple. Would you not think it romantic in one to wish always to roam in the deep shade of the trees of this old forest, with no cares and no troubles? But occasionally we passed through some swamps so desperately mean that they beggar all description. None it was that our transportation teams got stuck fast in the deep mud and were got out only the next minute to find themselves in deeper mud. But we are thankful those swamps are not very wide and, not numerous in number.

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The most of the land could be converted into farms, that would be paradises to the men who are now fighting in this unholy rebellion against so good a government as ours. The climate is delightful, so far as we have experienced it. It is not any warmer than in Kansas, for I find it quite convenient to use a blanket for cover, the nights are so cool. Whether it will be so in a few weeks hence, I can not learn from anyone who knows. The men of this Regt. are healthier than when in Kansas, in the months of February & March. There are very few sick and they not dangerously so. I hope the same good fortune will attend us during our sojourn in "Secesia", I am well.

How anxiously I have been waiting to hear from you, no one knows but myself. It is now nearly a month since I heard from you. I endeavor to console myself for the scarcity of your letters, by very

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frequently looking at your miniature -
I know not what I should do, if I had not
this representative of one I love, to look at.
and muse over. Indeed I should not forget
the one it represents. For very few hours
pass without Kate being thought of by me -
Time seems to pass away so slowly now when
I am so far from you. May the day soon
come when I can welcome sweet Kate once
more, and be happy in the presence of her
I so truly, fondly love -

If Miss Allen's lover is in the 7th Kansas Regt
and I can learn his name I will find
him, and we can sympathize with each other,
as once you said she and you did -
We are camped near them. Genl Mitchell
Head Quarters are near this place. He has two
Lieutenants as Aid de Camps, who belong to the
2nd Regt. - Pratt and Lytle. Both of them
are fine fellows. Which one of them wrote
you the letter - perhaps neither of them.
I ought not to be inquisitive, I will tell
you sometime why I ask. It is not jealousy
that prompts me, I assure you, although
they would be dangerous rivals either of them
would give me for making the inquiry and do as you
think best about answering it. The 2nd man
leaves early tomorrow for Union City, which is
the only town near here. We came here today
and are camped in the woods, close beside
a stream of running water as large as the
Grasshopper. I will write as soon as we get
to Humboldt until then remain me as
affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

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Frederick 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 stimulate their voracious drinking propensities. Dry as to amusements, and to those who love to shake the fantastic toe. Dry as to good companions of the feminine gender. Dry, dry, dry because we missed the smiling faces of those we love to pass 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 county people come to the Board-Market 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 the high handed proceedings as were taken by the secession party. Three Regts of Rebels were raised here.

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the people here are very kind and sociable - 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 often get 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 disrespect with all the troops - Several of their officers have been arrested for violating orders - Col Anthony - Capt Burriest & Reffert are among the number - Their proceedings are worthy the acts of noted robbers, not of 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 their 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 order 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 correspondence

I received a letter from your Uncle Mr. Reagin a few days since. He ^{gives} ~~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 ~~we~~ ^{one} knows. 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. ~~Less~~ ^{made} at 6 o'clock ^{the} 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 back to the army 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 kept on after we got started, but they changed their minds for some reason and those of us who were on their way we 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 send 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 correspondence

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 & remain

Affectionately Yours
Lewis Stafford

P.S. give my respects to your mother -
excuse my bad writing -

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

Trouton Terrace —
July 12th 1862 —

My Dear Kate:

If I was assured the letters I write are duly received by you, I would ask you in every one of them, to excuse me for writing such bad ones. I often think my letters are not readable and agreeable to you. I wish I could make them so. But, I am so well aware of the fact, that my letters are so very common-places, I almost-despair in my attempts to make them worthy your perusal and acknowledgement. Ever having in my memory a promise, to write often to you, I do not hesitate to execute the promise, but I beg you, if my productions in letter writing do not reach your expectations, as to quality, to believe that I condemn myself heartily, for having the assurance to send you so uninteresting correspondence. But, I am, at this point, in a dilemma. What is there about which to write, that would interest you? I am afraid my letter will be as common-place as any of my previous ones. But assuming you would like to know of the whereabouts of the Kansas 11th, its doings, at present and its future prospective movements, I find but little difficulty in putting on paper, in homely phraseology, all the little knowledge I possess in reference to the same.

Lewis Stafford to Kate Newland correspondence

Our Regt. still remains at Trenton. Its business as far as possible to discover, is to guard hard bread and beans for the Government, the R. Road and peach gardens for the citizens of Tennessee - Thousands of other soldiers are engaged in this novel way of fighting the rebels. It appears to me that the war is conducted in a strange manner. This guarding the homes and property of the rebels does not go far in bringing them to acknowledge once more the Union and Constitution. It should it seems, appear plain to the eyes of most of men, that the great efforts they made lately near Richmond, to gobble up our army, required another sort of policy to bring them to their senses. If Uncle Samuel will invest some one with the proper authority to terminate this war according to justice in such cases, it would not take long to lodge the intelligent portion of rebellion in security, in the coal and iron mines of Pennsylvania or the copper mines of Lake Superior, to serve out the remainder of their rebellious days, in manual labor. Then make the Union people of the revolted states protect their own homes, life and liberty - Until some such policy is adopted, the rebellion will never be put down. It is just as good a thing as they want, to have their wives and children protected by our bayonets, and furnished the very food they eat by people of the Union States, while they are exerting their energies to succeed in their revolution. The soldiers at this place are having

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an easy, quiet-time of it- at-present. The citizens are disposed to be social, although they heartily sympathize with the rebellion. They would celebrate any day upon which the Federal soldiers were driven from the South. It is to be hoped such an event will never occur but they are loth to believe to the contrary. I have but little disposition to mingle in such society. It appears extremely hypocritical in all its bearings. The society there is, without doubt, as good as anywhere in the South. The town is 30 year old and there were many wealthy people in and about this place. From all that has come under my observation the people here, have nothing, with which to boast over the people of the North. They have less refinement as a class. It is expected we will remain here till cool weather. It is very warm here now. The same weather exceeds that of Kansas. For there, there is a breeze, while here, breezes are the exception and they are rare in this heavily timbered country. It is now understood that the Army in the South will remain inactive during the hot weather. The poor soldiers near Richmond, Va. do not have such a luxury granted them. Our mail arrives so irregular that we have not received the full details of the late terrible battles fought. But enough has been received to inform us that the contest for six days was dreadful, and that the loss of life was great. We hope soon to hear that Richmond is in Federal hands and that the blow struck to gain it, will be the death blow to the Rebellion.