

## Joseph H. Trego correspondence

### Section 2, Pages 31 - 55

Joseph Harrington Trego was a physician and pioneer from Mound City. He came to Kansas in 1857 and became a "jayhawker." In this correspondence he talks of border warfare, formation of military units, politics, elections, crops, weather, military service in the Third Kansas Brigade Company D, 5th Kansas Cavalry, and life in Linn County, Kansas.

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## Joseph H. Trego correspondence

The Court of Inquiry  
3<sup>rd</sup> Div. A.S.W.  
Camp Helena Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

Sir

You are hereby summoned to appear before a Court of Inquiry of which Colonel Rombauer is president, at 9 o'clock A.M. Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 1862, at the Head Quarters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brig. 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. A.S.W. to give your testimony in the case of fugitive Chas. A. Peirce, then & there to be tried.

By order of the President  
Chas. F. Knispel  
Recorder

To  
Commanding officer  
C. D. 5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cav.



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762 5<sup>th</sup> Brig 3<sup>d</sup> Div 25<sup>th</sup>  
Helena Ark Aug 28 1862

Captain

The records of the Court of inquiry being such  
the next session of the Court will be to morrow 9. O'clock  
a. m. before which you & that man of your Compo.  
is requested to appear

Capt Trego  
5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cav.

R. J. Wombauer  
Col. Pres. of Court





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Mound City Sept 22 [1862]

My Dear Husband

~~I received <sup>a letter</sup> written the 22nd another yesterday reminding me of neglect. I wish thinking would answer the place of writing; you would have no cause to complain then.~~

It is ~~Sunday~~ <sup>after</sup> morning. I went down ~~[to]~~ the garden ~~before~~ breakfast to see how many peaches there were left on the trees. I did not find many, the children commenced picking them, as soon as they were formed. Howard and Rebecca thought they were pretty play things.

However, my journey was not lost as I found the worms were working in the roots and would in time destroy the trees. I worked as long as I could then came to the house, found a few more things that needed my attention. By that time, I was almost ready to defer ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> writing ~~until~~ <sup>til</sup> some time in the week as I have all Summer. I have just been out to eat Watermelon, almost the first this Summer, ~~and~~ would not have had them if Hiram Hunter had not been here to get them for me. Everything is taken <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ town to sell and I have not an opportunity of getting anything only by chance. <sup>#</sup> I suppose you did not <sup>know</sup> that Hiram was Harriet's brother, he was with the Third Reg last summer and winter

... The Black soldiers went to Fort Lincoln yesterday, guarding Rebel prisoners. They have been down in Missouri once, some of the union men came up to see what it meant. I suppose they were alarmed. They say they know which were Union and those that are not; they say (the colored men, I mean) that there were a great many men, told our troops, that they belonged to the Union. When the troops were gone, they would call them all kinds of names. There was a report yesterday that Jim Lane was



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authorized to raise four Reg of Black. Now I must tell you how Jennison is working against <sup>Charles Clark</sup> Capt Seaman/ came here when things were working to suit the men here, with an order from Jennison or rather from Robinson, to Seaman, Seaman told him if he did not go home, he would have him arrested. He went, came back in a few days with an order from Head Quarters, ordering Seaman to give him some kind of Office was the purport, it so happened that some of the darkies was tired of drilling went back to Fort Scott, so Charley was sent after them, but he refused, this was a good joke, but Seaman did as ordered. Charley was in the dark again. When he came again, tried to convince the darkies that if they would go back to Lawrence, would get their arms. This was after Dr. Michel had scared them, and they began to think that it was necessary that they should have some defence.

And another reason they were easily persuaded they had been wanting to go back. (Harriet says to get around the women, that has nothing <sup>to do</sup> / ~~to do~~) and get a little Whisky too. Charley gave them a \$5. bill, and told them to get some beer. When the money was gone, they took the Flag, and started. By this time the matter was inquired into, and Charley soon put into the Guard house and kept there all night. I have not heard much of him since. ...

~~# More about peaches. We have had peach pie, but dont enjoy them half so well as I would if you were here to share with us. Almost every meal some of the children say, Mother, dont you wish Father was here to have some too, sometime I feel more like getting up from the table and leaving, than eating. Then I think perhaps next summer you can be with us, and try to console myself in that way of thinking. I want to see you so much I almost think I will go to Helena.~~

You say you want I should write and tell you how I feel. I shall have to acknowledge that I am incapable. When you come home I will try and tell





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you. If you ever get home again, it is doubtful about my excepting your resignation to leave us again

I wish there was some way that you all could get away from there.

Katie told you about the party she had. Mrs John Watters girls were here, and Sarah, and Mary. We all wished you and several of the Com<sup>OK</sup> were here to enjoy the party with us.

Oh! how I wish the war was over, and slavery abolished. Sometimes I feel as ~~the~~ I could help to kill off some of ~~of~~ our own men, it is really discouraging to see how they manage. All the best men here are wishing that bombshells will be thrown into the White house soon.

The newspapers report great things of <sup>McClellan's</sup> ~~McClellan's~~ late skirmishes, but I don't suppose it will amount to a row of pins.

It is reported that <sup>Cashius M.</sup> ~~Cashius M.~~ Clay is ordered to report to Gen Butler. It will make a strong team. I wish you could have such generals in your department

Dont despair perhaps there will be a change for the better. It was <sup>By the Conservative</sup> reported that Gen Steed is to take Gen Curtis place. I don't know as it will be a satisfactory change...

A part of the time, Eleanor has been combing my hair while I have been writing. one of us will have to wait, it don't work well together. # You wished to know about our Cow. We have had very near enough cream all Summer. A few days ago she <sup>[was]</sup> lost, the other cows, came home, seemed very discontented, and that is the last we have seen her.

It has been so dry, Simpsons cows failed to make butter for us, we were without butter for three weeks; I bought 5 lbs. week before last, that was very nice.

After you left I got Jim to make the garden into sweet potato hills. He made room for 215 plants, only 20 of them died, the rest grew finely,



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only charged 75 cts for the work, got them, set them out, <sup>and</sup> watered them. When they were nearly large enough to eat, Harit found six large hogs in, one morning, of course the garden was plowed. Some of Franks carelessness leaving the bars down. Edwin sold Nick to the artillery comp

I think <sup>that</sup> I have forgotten to tell you about little Harry's death, died in August with the <sup>dysentery</sup> ~~dysentery~~. Mabel just escaped with her life, she could neither ~~neighter~~ walk nor talk for a long time.

Ed is quite unwell with tooth ayeche and face

Well I left off very suddenly <sup>you see</sup> ~~yesterday~~ and have not seen the time since to write. <sup>#</sup> The time passes away and it is night before I am ready for it. The first of the week I commenced clearing the Bookshelf that you put upstairs. <sup>#</sup> we brought the books and put in the Book case thought I would finish the next day and 'tisn't done yet. I have been sleeping down stairs all summer. It seems now I would rather sleep down stairs but I want to fix this room ready for com I cant help thinking you will come to see us. I suppose your Colonel is dead as such is reported. I only hope Montgomery will take his place

It looks a little now, as if the war would amount to something or rather you know what you <sup>are</sup> fighting for, but of corse there will be more desperate fighting. I get more and more anxious every day to see the end. I was visiting at Judge Lowe's on Friday Miss Sarah Watts was there, she said they had lately received a letter from Lt Morse

I hope when this reaches you, it will be cool weather and soon think you will be improving in health, and spirits, and sincerely <sup>17</sup> ~~6~~ hope there will be a change to cause <sup>or</sup> general rejoicing. When ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> cow came home her milk wasnt good, turned the calf in a few times, and we get a right smart lot of milk now. Tom and Rory Balls have been getting some hay for them, and Old Comet.

<sup>A</sup> And he is fat as needs be. Every since Olathe was sacked there has been a picket guard every night. The citizens take turne or pay \$2 fine, one night





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there was a man came near the line, was halted, went on, the second line  
fired at him, chased him, he <sup>ran</sup> ~~went~~ in the brush, that was the last of him,  
at several different times they <sup>have</sup> ~~brought~~ in prisoners. Wheeler, <sup>&</sup> ~~and~~ Curry  
brought in a horse thief the first night they were out. . . .

~~Mrs Lowe tells me they have received another letter from Lt Morse,  
saying you were not so well, I want very much to hear of your recovery.  
I am very near sick thinking of your situation. Please forgive me this time  
for neglect~~

From Your loving Wife





June 1, 1862

Camp Greenwood  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

My Dear Wife

I left Fort. Scott on Monday afternoon in company with Lt. Col. Jenkins, Major Coffman, Chaplain Fisher, Drs. Hedden, and Kelly, Capt Miller and sixty men. We came together as far as Springfield where we stopped half a day. On Friday morning, the Col. and I, with fourteen men started out for this place, the regiment having moved here some days before. We were two days coming through, a distance of 88 miles. Houston - near which we are now camped - is the county seat of Texas County. on the road from Rolla to Genl Curtis' Army and the regt. was ordered here to protect the provision trains that pass over





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this road. I did not find our Company here. They went with a train to Kollar Lake. We will all go there or some other civilized place soon. We are buried up here in a forest where nobody lives and where there is nothing but mountains, covered every where with trees so thick that we can scarcely see the sun. The teams have gone out twenty five or thirty miles to a valley for corn and will not be back for three days. The hills are awful. There are some things attractive too; the high piles of rock, fine springs of clear water running over clean white sand and gravel and the pines. I had my tent pitched this morning - fortunately for me it was left behind with Fairbanks, Mincher and half a dozen others who could not go with the company - Mincher





helped me to gather a lot of pine  
boughs to spread over the ground  
for a carpet, and I am now fixed  
up as nice as an old maid. Yes,  
very like an old maid for I would  
like to be married.

I suppose you received the cactus  
plant that I made arrangements  
to have sent you. Sergt. Heesley  
is an old Quaker friend of mine  
who came to Kansas with Capt.  
Allen. Williams and Seaman  
have gone to Washington, it is  
said, and I think it not unlikely  
that a change for the better will  
be effected in this regiment.

Capt. Clark, a slaveholder in  
Northern Missouri, who has been in  
the regt. Since its organization  
was killed at Springfield a short  
time before we arrived there.



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Although on duty as Officer of the  
 day, he became intoxicated and  
 attempted to force a guard and  
 was shot through the heart, as  
 he should be. A house that had  
 been occupied by a squad of  
 accommodating girls, changed  
 hands and a family moved into  
 it. Those who had been in the habit  
 of visiting the place continued to  
 call without knowing that the former  
 inmates had been removed. This  
 annoyed the present occupants and  
 a guard was placed there to pre-  
 vent intrusion. The guard did  
 a righteous act. An old nut named  
 Rice was in company with Clarke  
 and fired a revolver at the guard and  
 killed a young lady belonging to the  
 family. Her betrothed was present  
 and he in turn fired upon Rice, hitting  
 him in the shoulder, inflicting a dangerous  
 wound.





[1862]

Rolla

Friday morning June 6<sup>th</sup>. I did not have an opportunity  
to send my letter and yesterday I came here myself.  
We came fifty miles through forest and are all very  
well pleased to be out of the wilderness. Col Clayton  
is to take command of this post and we will probably  
remain here for some time. We cannot get anything we  
want here and the whistle of the locomotive sounds  
quite refreshing as a reminder of civilized times.

It carries us away. Your affectionate  
Husband  
ordered away our horses would soon have been made  
there is not even grass there and if we had not the  
new flower to send you but could find nothing  
of interest around on the mountain for some  
day night to day is dull but no rain.

We have had some winter since then  
there is now no fear of the south.  
They have had small-pox in the Regt. but  
they were scouting for Coleman's men  
escaped from their night before last when  
30 miles west of us. Hunting their horses, which  
Rum and one other with him were seen left  
except four that are in Kansas and Chas.



A regiment of Dutch came up from St Louis, last evening. They are on their way to Springfield. It is reported that a large force is marching on Springfield and it is likely that a large additional force will be added to what is already there of our own troops. There may be a good deal of fighting yet in Mo. The Dutch that came up on the cars last evening are a part of Sigel's men.

A company of men, part from Ark. and the rest of this state, under command of one Coleman have been engaged in destroying Gov. trains for some time past. The regt. was ordered into the mountains at Houston to disperse or arrest this party but they are not to be caught in the vicinity of any considerable number of Federals.

Lt. Morse took 400 men, was gone 3 days and brought in, last night, several of the party who had returned to their homes since destroying the last train that started to Genl Curtis. Our Company has been scattered about for two weeks, in five different places but this morning we are all together again.



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*Print*

Lawrence 1st Mo 4th 1863

Dear Friends.

This is a cold and very snowy day, though not near so cold as 1st 2nd & 3d days were. We staid 7th day at night at Brooklin, and coming from there to Lawrence the next morning, I thought I should have frozen, and believe I should, if I had not sat down on the bottom of the wagon, with my back to the cold wind that was blowing a perfect gale, the men had to run most of the way to keep any thing like comfortable.

I went out shopping this forenoon, and did the very best I could in selecting your articles.

Alice I feel a little doubtful about the ribon, I came very near loosing the pattern, thee gave me, and it was only by accident that I found it again, and it was a little soiled which changes the color a little, if the ribon will not do, send me another pattern and I will try again. The stores here are first rate, fitted up in Philadelphia style. I bought some very good calico this morning for 16-2/3 cts per yard, there is a great deal of it, at one of the stores here. I will send a piece of what I got at that price.

Well I must tell you that I like living here first rate. It would take a great deal to induce me to come back to Mound City to live, I know, if you two families were here, you would not want to go back there again, business is brisk, and every body is stirring about as though they had something to do. There are two good milliners here. Maria I have seen a beautiful sleeve pattern, that I know thee would like it would not be hard to make and is so neat, to be trimmed with narrow velvet



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*Quint*

Atkinson July 21st 1863

My Dear Little Wife

Since my last writing I have been on the go almost constantly. The low water in the Mississippi which prevented boats from running made me considerable more trouble and some more expense, having to continue on by rail from Quincy. I left Galesburg Monday morning the 13th and came around to Colona station where I got off thinking I could get a conveyance to Deanington without difficulty, but there just happened to not be one horse in the place so was obliged to foot it for about five miles to Geo. <sup>Sively's</sup> ~~Sively's~~ Geo. carried me on to Henry's. I was some tired and rested there the next day. On Wednesday Henry & self drove down to Allen's. Found the folks flourishing, had all the ripe goose berries and cherries we wanted for one day. Kezia felt very badly for some time <sup>at</sup> ~~and~~ the absence of Mary Ellen but presently she recovered from it and my stay there was a very pleasant one.

Wilmerton proved to be the man from whom Sherman was to obtain money and before he would do anything, he must see the records, so Mr Sherman and wife, Wilmerton and myself started the next morning to Aledo, and had the whole matter fixed up there at once. The next day Henry and I returned to Deanington. I felt unwell in the morning, when I started out and that afternoon I had a good deal of fever and had to lay by. It prevented me from visiting at Yardley's only giving them a call, when I first came to the place. Both the Lizzies came to Henry's the afternoon that I was sick. Saw no one else in that place but Scudder <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ family who were at J Allen's when I returned from Aledo.

The next morning--Saturday--Willet drove me down to Coal valley where I took cars for Rock Island. I had Will fill some teeth for me, took dinner with him, and tea at Mr. Riggs, called at Conant's after dark finding the folks all right side up, and was at the station at 10 O'clock p.m. to take cars



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for Atkinson but ~~could not~~<sup>couldn't</sup> make the trip because the night express dont stop<sup>t</sup> here now. Will was at the depot with me and so I went home with him where I stopped until Monday morning. Arrived at Barclay's yesterday where I found Mother and Amelia. Mother thinks she is afraid to go to Kansas now but will probably go next spring if it should prove to be <sup>(a)</sup>safe place by that time.

They have had seven weeks of dry weather and cold too, lately, which has made crops late and very indifferent. The roads were miserably dusty, traveling in cars was horrible and my eyes are much worse than when I left home. On Sunday we had heavy showers which seems to have extended over a great deal of country. Everybody is busy harvesting, having but commenced, and to-morrow Mr Nowers says they had four inches fall at this place. I shall start to Chicago, where I hope to find a letter waiting for me. It is so cold and disagreeable to day it makes me feel agueish and of course dont take very much pleasure in anything. If I dont find it to my probable advantage to remain in Chicago longer than three days I will finish up my visiting in that time, but if anything can be done to effect a cure of eyes I may remain longer. Mr Nowers is selling goods in this place and Tom Jr is with him. They seem to be doing a good business. Barclay is making himself a good home where his business will in time be good perhaps; certainly if there should be a good market for trees in Iowa and Nebraska as the R. road is extended westward. Ill<sup>inois</sup> is a land of plenty but for climate or any other attractions it is not at all inviting. If southern Kansas should prove capable of producing enough to support a large population and am very well satisfied now that it will get far ahead of this country at the same age of improvement

H M. <sup>Jenny</sup>~~Tregg~~ has moved his family to Galesburg, for the purpose of educating their girls. He and Dow are in the livery business. Mrs. <sup>Jenny's</sup>~~Tregg's~~ health is very poor. Mrs Dow looks pale and unhealthy. Mary looks well but is growing old rapidly, or has at least since I saw her in /59. Helen looks like Lettie used to. Vinia is troubled very much with weak eyes. Fred is a queer looking,

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course looking, dont care for anything at all kind of chap and Frank seems to be smart. Willet is just as he used to be only that he has grown some. Lu. is an uncouth girl in behavior but seems to be a regular genius to study. Little Charley, Yardley's boy dont talk and I could not make anything out of him. The girl is a good solid healthy looking child and seems smart enough. Watson's girl is a little frisky thing, about like Rebecca, and Kezia's charge is a little, fat, contented babe that will probably be very much of a comfort to her and Allen as they are now living alone in the east end of the house. I did not see its father. It seems that Watson as well as most of the people in the neighborhood, do not look upon him with any favor. One reason for it is that his loyalty is very much doubted. Mary Ellen was unfortunate in making his acquaintance and equally fortunate in being called away so early. We have no fires and I have got quite cold sitting still so long so will call this sufficient for the present. With much love to wife and girls, some to Maria but none for our naughty troublesome boys, good bye

Your affectionate H



## Joseph H. Trego correspondence

Nov. 7, 1863

*Send me the stamp in a letter then we have in another letter  
and then in another making 30*

Mayesville Ark. Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Wife

A messenger is about to start to Fort Scott and I will try to pen a few lines to let you know that we have got along all safe so far though, as you see by the date, very slowly. We have a lot of ox teams along which proves to be very much of a hindrance. I left Fort Scott the day after the snow storm which was a very pleasant day as has been every day since. Have had rain two nights but it was of no kind of inconvenience. For three days now it has been remarkably warm and pleasant. All the houses along our route so far are deserted except one, and in Missouri we saw the ruins of many that had been burned. Apples on the trees all spoiled by frost until within the last three days we find plenty that are not damaged. It seems that there has been no freezing here yet. You are no doubt aware that Capt Maxwell has been ordered to report at St Louis when relieved at Fort Smith. It will require about two months to turn over to his successor the vast amount of property now in his charge and to get his business properly adjusted before leaving for St. Louis. Don't know what changes may take place before that time but it is quite possible that I may return home about New Year. We have been receiving a mail from





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Fort Scott every few days and I hope to hear from you before many more days pass by. Write at least once every week and tell me all about every thing, how you have disposed of Blackbird how the pony suits, if you have been to Wahoo's, how the Militia prospers, whether the baby grows &c. &c. L. Master Thomas came up from the army, got in this morning. Was going on to Fort Scott, but meeting us I understand it is his intention to return with us. There is no probability that we shall so much as have a little brush before we get to Fort Smith. Nothing of particular interest has occurred on our march and as the country is desolated there has been nothing of much interest to see on the route except its desolated appearance merely. We have a very good cook, a full supply of provisions, laid in at Ft Scott, and are living well enough. Altogether I am very well satisfied with everything but having to be away from wife and children. We have with us, that is, eating and lodging in our tent, a Mr Atkinson, aged about fifty, who was formerly a slaveholding merchant in Fort Smith and was driven out two years and a half ago. He is now returning to his family, who are yet at Fort Smith. His son whom he left in charge of his affairs has since gone into the Confederate army. I shall not have time to write you any more this time but may again before we reach our destination. Hoping you will not find these nights too very cold, and with ever so much love I must say good night—From your Husband





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Nov. 23, 1863

Fort Smith Ark. Nov. 23<sup>d</sup> 1863.

My Dear little wife

You will see by this that we have arrived at the place of our destination, and all right. The time consumed in making the trip put the office business considerably behind hands so much that we have been very closely confined to the office ever since. We have now been here ten days. Yesterday being Sunday I took a little stroll over the city. The river at this point runs nearly north and the streets, like the Harrison, run N. E. & S. W. and N. W. & S. E.

The principle business street is composed of fine large brick stone houses, a few of them very large. The other streets are largely composed of old tumble down frame shops, sheds, and some log cabins, with an occasional rich establishment displaying a great waste of material and a greater lack of good taste in its arrangements. Pure Southern.

In the Northeastern suburbs, along the river bank, is extensively occupied with private residences. They are nearly all white frames, generally one story, covering over a good deal of ground, and with porticos on two or three sides. The negro quarters are neat and white, and all surrounded with a fence of paling or plank and white washed. There is an abundant growth of young oak trees about 30 or 40 feet in height wherever the occupants choose to let them grow. The streets in this locality are wide side walks are raised, the ground is sufficiently sand to keep it



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from being muddy when wet, and, altogether it is a very pleasant and beautiful spot. I am unable to see what so many families depended upon for such high living as they seemed to have indulged in. The Officers quarters in the garrison are not very extensive, only eight suits of rooms, but they are very commodious, a long way ahead of those at Forts Scott and Leavenworth, but the river is very low, not more than about two feet deep any where across it at the place of fording and not over one hundred yards wide. I was very much surprised to find the water perfectly clear, as I had understood always that the Arkansas was muddy, like the Missouri. As Capt. Washell was notified on his way down that he would be relieved of duty at this post, would not take up quarters, but went into camp and kept everything ready for picking up and marching on short notice, but Genl McNeil desires to keep him here and lately assigned him to duty as Depot S. Master. We expect to pull up stakes and move into quarters as soon as the Capt. can get a suit of rooms put in order. They were not very well cared for by the rebels and need overhauling. I shall be very glad when we make the change because living in a tent with a stove in it does not agree with me at all. We cant regulate the heat, and it gets so full of tobacco smoke every evening as to affect my eyes seriously. I am very well suited with my place and in my state of health could do nothing better for me, taking it all around. Among the curiosities that I have met with





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is the 'mistletoe' which can be seen, every where through the timber now the leaves are off the trees, growing on oaks and elms chiefly.

About our march, we did not have one hour of disagreeable weather while we were on the move. We had two nights of rain, and one afternoon of showery weather while we happened to be laying over a day waiting for the bull-train. Our scouts captured about a dozen bushwhackers on the way down. Genl McNeil is keeping them here to have them ready to hang to telegraph poles whenever the wires may be cut, agreeably to his orders lately issued, and which you have probably seen in the papers. Genl Blunt is here and likely to remain until he shall be reinstated in his command. I hear from those who have a right to know, that McNeil himself wishes Blunt reinstated. They are on very friendly terms and have had several big drinks at which McNeil got gloriously drunk. Cassell who never drinks nor is present at any of their carousals, and for which many of the drinking fraternity dislike him. Says that Blunt never gets drunk, and has always been ready for duty, which he attends to very promptly, though he does certainly imbibe largely. Capt Cassell shows himself a high toned gentleman who dispense vulgarity, and also very practical and precise in his business requirements, which makes him unpopular with many of the officers here who I must say are generally a disgrace to our army. I therefore place much confidence in what he says in matters of fact or of opinion.



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He says of Blunt. "he is a good officer, understanding and attending to the details of business, and equally competent as a soldier when a fight is on hand, but as a man he is grossly immoral." I can see for myself that the appointment of Blunt to this command has not bettered matters in any particular.

There have been misrepresentations with regard to Blunt's operations, as we <sup>hear</sup> there have been with regard to his bringing a large stock of goods to this place on his own private account, of which there is not one word of truth.

Mr Atkinson invited all in our office to come with him to a roast turkey a few days since and on that day I was very glad to see her husband again after two and a half years of absence, and so far is satisfied that Federals have possession of the post but her sympathies are with her former friends, She has one son left in the confederate army and two sons-in-law in the Union army - regulars who are stationed here, one of them a Surgeon the other Genl Barnes. With her husband a union man she is placed in a very uncertain and distracted position. The women left here are generally rebellious, Who cares?

Didn't I forget the studs for my shirt, I wish now that I had thought to get a piece of something to tie around my neck for a kind of scarf and my small breast pin, I am wearing a linen shirt, and think I shall continue to do so since seeing the washing that has been done for some of the outfit. With that I could fix up with little trouble. You can send me the studs by buttoning them into a a fold of the paper inside, and the pins also. Direct letters by way of Springfield Mo, we have a tri-weekly mail from that place.





## Joseph H. Trego correspondence

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Fort Smith Ark. Wednesday eve  
Dec. 24, 1863. Nine O'clock p.m.

My Dear Little Wife,

I have just learned from Mr. Tomlinson that he intends setting out to-morrow morning for Kansas, so I came back to the office as soon as the Lodge closed to dot a few lines to send by him. I wrote you only a few days since and sent by way of St. Louis as there is a regular mail that way three times a week each way and I think I told you then to direct letters by way of Springfield Mo. If not I will now, and also direct to care of Capt. J. G. Haskell, A.Q.M. U.S. Vols. ....

~~I was made glad, very glad, on Friday evening last by receipt of your letter of the 20th ult. Hope you will succeed in getting the church made into a school-house, and a good teacher inside of it.~~

~~We heard to-day of the train which left Fort Scott about the 20th. The advance is expected here to-morrow.~~

~~We moved into quarters last week and now have things in good running order. The rooms are large and pleasant, each one has a fire-place, though it has been so warm all the time since <sup>we</sup> came here--except about three days--if that fires are but little needed indoors. While I think of it, you have not yet sent the jewelry I spoke of in my letter you need not do so at present as the probabilities are strong that I shall be at home by New Year if not sooner. There is nothing new for me to write about, Mr Tomlinson can you <sup>tell</sup> all about the place and also how I have been flirting around with the secesh ladies. I wrote to Rebecca yesterday, so I did~~

~~If I leave here in time to get home before Christmas I will get some mistletoe to carry home. It is very plenty along this river. John, the African who attends in the office wishes me to write for him this evening. He has a beauty somewhere in Kansas to send love to I suppose but dont know~~

## Joseph H. Trego correspondence

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yet, probably will when I get his letter written.

My love to Kate and Eleanor and Helen and Rebecca and Sophy.

I think this will do for this time so good night my love--

from your affectionate Husband