

in your next letter I want <sup>to know</sup> how  
much wheat is worth a bushel you  
write in your next. Ectna it will  
soon be pay day again and  
perhaps I may go home then our  
pay is due us the first of march  
if I do not go home then I probably  
shall wait untill the first of may  
which is our next pay day. But I  
am a going to aply for a furlow this  
next pay day and if I cant get it  
I will wait untill the next

Ectna I am getting tired so I must close  
by wishing you all the happiness you  
can take. Hoping that you will remember  
me in your devotions to the creator of  
all things. Trust me Ectna that  
I will prove faithful untill the  
end

from your affectionate Husband

Joseph Durkin

Brigade Hospital

Washington, February, 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Ectna I suppose you wonder why  
I do not write well the reason is I have been  
very sick I was taken with a severe fever on  
my tongue it was difficult for me to  
breathe I was taken to the camp hospital at  
first and then the Doctor ordered me to be  
taken to town to the Brigade Hospital where  
I am now, I am getting well fast wish you  
will give by my sitting up to write to you  
I have excellent care here every thing I can ask  
for and water to attend me, you would think  
to see me I was some great lord, I have a splendid  
room with a stove in it and a sick to sleep on  
with good wolen sheets and a long white night  
gown and white cotton flannel drawers and a  
pair of cloth shoes to slip on when I want to get  
up and then I have a wash dish and soap and  
a fine linen towel in fact every thing I need I  
have all the writing paper and envelopes I want  
and clean cloths to put on every Sunday I could  
not have better if I was to home



that is a married woman living here  
sees that we want for nothing she combs  
our hair and ~~cuts~~ it and turns our whiskers  
and dyes the clonds and sturt up from our  
scalps and oils our hair and makes us  
look like gentleman soldiers she fetches us  
books and pamphlets to read and she feeds  
us preserves and nice jelly in fact every thing  
a sick soldier could want I understand that  
this woman is hired by the government and  
is furnished these things by the soldiers relief  
association, I think I shall be able to go  
back to camp in about a week I received a  
letter from you last night I was up in  
the middle of the night I could not sleep  
and so I set up and the water come and  
handed me a letter with was very acceptable  
you wrot that James wrote they had no  
playing cards in their tent and that it  
was only tent on the ground but what did  
James feebly did not think when he wrote  
of our tent and and an other tent below  
us they do not play cards

that has never been but one game of  
cards played in our tent, and the way it  
happened was this one of the Vermont boys came  
in and brought in a pack of cards and  
wanted to play a game called the high jack  
he played ~~for~~ about ten minutes and  
and some of them said the note was  
that there should be no playing of  
cards in the tent and he put them  
up this was the first and feebly will  
be the last you need not borrow any  
trouble about me paying cards for  
I wont have a pack in the tent if I  
know it I will keep my word and I hope  
you will not borrow any more trouble about  
it Eelna we feebly will have our arms soon  
the second Regiment has got theirs and  
we are to have ours the twentieth of this month  
so we shall not be disbonded Eelna I wrot  
to you in my last if you had seed wheat  
enough to sow in the spring you did not  
tell me any thing about it in your last  
I want you should be sure and let me know



Ebna you tell mother that  
I saw Pat Larnpmon  
Isa Larnpmon boy the one  
they youst to call Bull Neag  
the boys have lots of fun with  
him Mother will remember him  
I also saw Charlie Powell and  
Albert Andrews and Andrew Miller  
and lots of others Charles says he com  
Flatter a little while before he come  
away he said she was as smart as  
a whip Ebna you must write  
often and donot know any  
trouble about me however the  
small pox there has only been  
a few cases and they are properly  
taken care of by them selves  
there is no more simptoms of it  
in camp so I think there is no  
dangers so good by for this time  
from your affectionate Husband

Joseph Durkin

My Hospital  
Washington March 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Ebna I received your letter  
in due time it found me well I  
am gaining in flesh, and feel first  
rate Ebna, I have had a good time  
visiting Charles I have first rate  
times I can do all I have to do in  
two hours and then I go where I  
am a mind to Charles wants I should  
go in his regiment but Concl Berdon  
wont let me go Charles would give  
me a good position, but I cant go  
I found lots of boys I new, and found  
among the rest, Butler Ives, and  
several from Malone I have good times  
among the boys talking over old times  
but Charles regiment is ordered away  
to morrow they are going down the  
river to reinforce Burnside and the  
second regiment of sharp shooters is going  
to they start in the morning from our



Edna we have not got our arms  
yet so we will have to stay as a  
reserve, the great army is moving  
and we shall soon hear of the rebellion  
being crushed out and then we can  
return to our homes in peace Edna  
I wish you could have been here and see  
the army cross the river, they were crossing  
all day and all night and nearly all  
the next day such sights of soldiers  
it seemed as so they could whip  
the world, as far as you could look  
you could see a moving mass a  
wilderness of bayonets and a string  
of cannon that would have reached  
from our house to Lowville, you  
may calculate that the rebels will  
ketch it when our forces overtake  
them but they funnel it out  
and left but our army is after  
them with hot sticks and if they  
dont look sharp they will get  
caught in a trap

Edna I suppose you are out of  
money by what mother wrote to  
Jim, we have not got our pay  
yet and we hear that we wont get  
it untill the first of april I hope  
you will get your states pay if you  
cant you can get some groins of Mr  
Williams at Sun Prairie you must  
manage some way James and I are  
going to send home forty dollars  
as quick as we get our pay this will  
make you all right you must pony  
up them Madison fellows and make them  
pay you Edna you must keep up good  
spirits and it wont be long befor I will  
be back and then we will be glad to see  
each other, you tell Eliam not to sow  
the wheat but to hold it to summer  
and sell it and buy some that is clear  
of oats and I will pay him for his trouble  
you get harvey to attend to it and have  
him see that Eliam furnishes good wheat  
I will write Harvey a line and you give  
it to him



To Mother Durkee

from James Durkee your affectionate

Son

Camp near Yorktown Va  
May <sup>the 2nd</sup> 1862

Friday..

Dear Mother  
it is with regret that I seat myself  
this morning to write you the sad  
and mournfully news <sup>the</sup> of Death  
of Josep he was shot last <sup>night</sup> while on  
Picket as near as I can learn he  
was shot through the head his  
body is in the hands of the Rebels  
it is rather hard news but it cant  
be helped. it was his own fault if  
he had staid in the pit he might  
have not got shot but about 40 rods  
from the pit was an old shed  
whare the rebels was and so was  
determined to burn it. I told him  
not to go there the last words I  
said to him was to caution him  
not to do it nor under take it.



but he was bent on going go  
he would, he was about 30 feet from  
it when he was hit the Rebels made  
a charge on them and the rest  
run and so they took go off the  
man that was with him says  
he was shot in the head but was  
breathing when he left he tried to  
get him away but they fired a  
volley at him and he left so his  
gone he is gone he fell in a good  
cause he died a brave man but  
~~go~~ he was too venturesome I often told  
him of it but he paid no attention  
to me he would rush himself into  
danger when there was no use of  
it but he was born to be killed in  
Battle so it cant be helped he was  
liked by all the company and the boys  
all mourn the loss of him he was  
the first to fall out of our company  
and we hope the time will soon  
come when we shall avenge his

blood I shall have my revenge if  
~~ever~~ I get a chance. oh Mother  
this will be solemn news to you  
and Edna it will cause many  
a tear to be shed but our only hope  
is to God who is able to raise him  
up at the last day then we shall know  
who is right and who is wrong. I shall  
try and get a pass and go as see  
Charles he is about 4 miles from  
here. He had in his pocket about two  
dollars and some postage stamps and  
a receipt of 35 dollars the he and I  
sent by express. I suppose you have  
got it by this time well mother I  
cant think of much more to  
write my head aches so I cant  
hardly see I will have to close  
so good by all write soon

Joseph was shot Thursday night  
about 8 o'clock on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May



James Currier  
Leeds  
June 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

James Currier  
Leeds  
George D. D.

Wm. H. D. D.  
Leeds  
D. D. D.

29

Camp near Bull Run  
June 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mother  
I having a chance  
to send a letter I thought  
I would improve the time  
I am well but feel pretty  
near tired out we have had  
some of the hardest marches  
that ever was and in the  
hottest weather we left our  
old camp near Galinouth  
on the 11<sup>th</sup> have been on the  
march ever since, when  
night comes one has  
no more than 3 or 6 to  
make a stack of guns  
the weather is so warm that  
the men fairly melt right  
down yesterday some 300  
of our men died on account

of the March. I have not  
time to write you all the  
particulars as the Chaklin  
will be here in a few minutes  
to take the mail I have  
stowed the trunk basket  
come up every time but  
some times I could see  
any thing a whistling  
to day we are in the  
vicinity of Bull Run  
on the old Brst. works  
that the Rebels built  
we probably will start on  
to Washington to morrow  
I sent George .6. 45 cents  
did he get it yet I will  
send you some soon  
give my respects to  
all. will soon I have  
not received any mail  
in some time I expect  
soon as soon as we get

to Washin  
will I can't  
think of any more  
so good By for this  
will write more as soon  
as get time  
James Dinkins  
to Mother

George Dinkins  
James Dinkins  
is here by request  
to call at the  
in the morning for  
examination  
you might come home  
Carney Dinkins  
you might come home  
come home by the morning  
now will you come home



1864

Leeds August the 9<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Son,

your letter of May the 1<sup>st</sup>  
came to hand July the 29<sup>th</sup> and it is with much joy  
and satisfaction that I sent myself to answer it I was  
extremely glad to hear that you was alive and  
well and treated well although a prisoner

We are all well and so are all your friends and  
may God bless you and all those that treat you well  
with the same blessing

We are having quite a good  
harvest considering the drouth you must be of good cheer  
James for<sup>was</sup> live in hopes of seeing you again sometime  
your brother Harvey is at Memphis Tenn

you must write to us as often as you can

the friends all send there love to you keep up your  
courage and be home sick I must close good by.  
from your affectionate mother Mrs M R Durkee

to James Durkee



I send ten cents to pay for  
confederate stamp

Jarnes dont you want some money  
shall I send you some write and let me  
know

(Columbian) Henry Huntington is wounded and  
in Hospital at Washington is getting ~~better~~ well



Head Quarters Armies of the United States,

City Point, Va., Feb 6 1865.

Mrs. M. R. Quaker, City Point.  
Madam! Col. VaD

I am directed by the Lieutenant General  
Commanding, to acknowledge the receipt of  
yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1865; and to say that  
every exertion is being made to effect a general  
exchange of all prisoners now held North and South.

Owing, however, to the difficulty of moving large  
bodies of men in the South, by reason of the bad  
condition of the rail roads and other highways,  
much delay will be experienced before our prisoners  
can reach any place where we can receive them.  
Your letter has been referred to Col. J. E. Hullford,  
Assistant Agent of Exchange.

Supplies or money packages for prisoners  
in the South can be sent directed care of  
over



Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Mulford, Assistant  
Agent of Exchange, Fort Monroe, Va.

I am, very respectfully  
Your obdt. servant

E. J. Parker

St. Col & Priv. Secy.

J. E. Mulford  
Fort Monroe  
Va

John D. Johnson  
Chicago  
Oct 14 96



me all the news  
tell him I will be  
home before long and  
some thing good to eat  
will have come on I will  
make it so

~~as soon as~~ all Present

I am as ever

your Affectionate Son

James Durkin

P.S. did you receive the  
last money I sent you  
last Spring \$20

~~to help to help~~

Co E 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Vicksburg Miss

1863  
Camp First Vicksburg April 1<sup>st</sup>

Dear Mother

I would now find  
myself seated in our own  
home writing you a few lines  
to let you know that I am  
yet a live and well and in  
the land of the living

We left Andersonville Ga on  
the 24<sup>th</sup> of March arrived in our  
lines on the last day of the  
month we had a very tedious  
journey had to march from  
Jackson to the Big Black  
river which took 3 days  
marching Mother the last  
day of March was the happiest  
day of my life and one  
that I shall never forget  
We are here now in Camp



Parole how long we shall  
slope I cannot say But as  
soon as I get my discharge  
will soon be with you all  
again which I hope will be  
soon I have suffered a great  
deal since I was captured  
some times I thought I never  
would see home again But  
the good Lord saw fit to  
keep up until I have been  
exchanged for which I am  
very thankful

I received your very welcome letter  
of the 19<sup>th</sup> of August which  
gave me great pleasure to hear  
from you all

Write as soon as you  
get this and let me know  
how you have got along  
since my long absence let  
me know if the army is  
in Memphis or yet and

where I will find him if we  
slope on our way up the  
River I have not drawn any  
new clothes yet but expect to  
soon am in need of them  
very much my health is  
pretty good considering but  
not as it use to be in, C.S.  
We are treated very kindly here  
are getting plenty to eat  
which is something we have not  
had in 11 months

Will Mother I cannot tell  
you how our poor Soldiers  
have suffered so I will not  
attempt to try in this

Only upwards of 14,000 have  
died for want of proper diet  
thousands have starved to death

I cannot think of much to  
write now so I will bring  
this to a close give my  
love to all and write



Charles City Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1868

J. Durkee In Ac with C. W. Rogers & Co

20130 ft Dressed Pine Board, @ 60<sup>ms</sup> 7.80

" 76 " 1 1/4 inch " Plank 870 5.32

" 76 " 3/8 " Scantling 35<sup>ms</sup> 2.66 15.78.

Oct 27 " 1 1/2 " " Shingles 6 1/2 6.50

Nov 14 " 400 ft " Flooring 53<sup>ms</sup> 22.00

" " " 46 " 1/4 " Plank 70 3.22

" " " 14 " " Common Bds 30 4.2 25.64

" " 26 " 32 " 1/2 " Boards 40 1.28

" " " 9 " " Botoms 15 1.35

Dec 2 " 47 ft " Clear Bds 60 2.82

" " " 52 " " 2<sup>nd</sup> " 40 2.08

" " " 4/10<sup>ms</sup> " Slat 5 2.00 6.90

" " 7 " 1 1/10<sup>ms</sup> " Slat 5 8.00

" " " 66 ft " 3/4 Scantling 32 2.11 10.11

" " 1<sup>st</sup> 87 7/12 ft " 3/4 = 12

" 15 " 140 " " 3/4 = 14

" 4 " 64 " " 3/4 = 12

" 16 " 256 " " 3/8 = 12

" 18 " 288 " " 3/4 = 16

" 1460 ft " C 32 46.72

" 550 " " Sheeting 30 16.50

" 3 1/2 " " Shingles 6 21.00

" 180 ft " Stock Bds 36 6.48

" 60 " " Clear Bds 60 3.60

" 779 " " Siding 35 27.24

" 50 " " Com Bds 30 1.50 723.06

17 " 472 " " Flooring 45 21.24 211.86

ford



~~211~~ 86

Contra credit

| Month | Day | By | Cash | Amount |
|-------|-----|----|------|--------|
| Oct   | 10  | By | Cash | 4,00   |
| "     | 19  | "  | "    | 18,00  |
| "     | 24  | "  | "    | 15,00  |
| Nov   | 5   | "  | "    | 15,00  |
| "     | 9   | "  | "    | 20,00  |
| "     | 26  | "  | "    | 20,00  |
| Dec   | 14  | "  | "    | 15,00  |

|      |     |    |   |                      |       |
|------|-----|----|---|----------------------|-------|
| 1869 | Feb | 11 | " | Cash of neighbor     |       |
|      |     |    | " | as per list of Delia | 33.00 |
|      |     |    |   | Balance due          |       |

142.00  
\$69.86

Balance due

C. W. Rogers & Co

per E Higby

This bill of Debts & credit is  
correct as the entries stand on the books  
and I believe them to be true showing a  
full and important <sup>view</sup> of all  
the account of L. Wager & Co with  
J. Dyer  
E. A.

J. Durbin E. A.  
Dated Cheyenne Kansas July 9<sup>th</sup> 1869

W. D. Phelps Bill  
Bal \$69.86



11 Hastings St  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 1873

Brother Harry

Your letter  
I received some time since  
But have delayed in answering  
I have not done very much  
for the past two weeks hardly  
made enough to pay my board  
and not enough to pay postage  
We are having considerable  
winter weather at present  
snowing all the time since  
yesterday.

I received a letter  
from Mother with 2 doll  
in G. B. - and one from  
Harry Church with \$5.00 it  
comes just in the nick of



time to make out my  
Hemstead papers I wish  
you could send me some  
untill I can get to work  
again. I have the promise  
of some good Govs before  
long then can pay you  
back. You want to be  
sure and be here in side  
of six months with your  
\$20.<sup>00</sup> or you will loose your  
claim and also your right  
yours is a very good claim  
and is situated about  
six mile North of Hastings  
And there is a Railroad  
surveyed from here to Grand  
Island which passes one  
corner of yours and just  
about where the Station  
will be built. The People  
of Hall Co and Grand  
Island voted on the 4<sup>th</sup>

whether they would raise  
the \$90.000 Bonds to build  
the road or not. And I have  
not heard ~~whether~~ how it  
has gone. I think you can  
make a good start out of  
you sit if you attend to it  
It is just a nice drive from  
Town and better roads  
you never saw  
I received all the Papers you  
sent very glad to get them  
If you can spare me any  
money you better send it  
immediately as I only have  
till the 24<sup>th</sup> to take my  
papers tell Mother I will  
answer her letter soon  
also Henrys  
remember me to all my  
wining friends  
Morse & James Durkin



24 North Campbell Ave  
Chicago Aug 26, 95.

Dear Mr. Dearke:

I suppose you will be surprised at hearing from one so nearly a stranger to you as I am, but I have thought so much about you since learning of your recent bereavement that I felt I must let you know that you have the most sincere sympathy of both Mr. Faville and myself. We know how sore a trial it is to lose a baby. I lost one, a year old, once, as well as usual, and went to Milwaukee for treatment, and he died while I was so sick they dared not tell me. I know how vain <sup>it is</sup> and yet how much we seem to need human sympathy. I beg you to believe that your lovely boy has only been taken into the school "where he no longer needs your your protection, but Christ - Himself doth rule". It has always been a comfort to me to feel that however much my other boys might do to grieve me, that one was safe, absolutely safe. I know God will speak comfort to your sorrowing hearts as



Mrs. J. O. Dearke,  
St. Louis Rapids,  
Iowa.



only He can, if you will let Him  
He knows what is best as we  
cannot. And after all, this life  
is so short, and so full of trouble  
that it is a great thing to be able  
to say, and feel sure, "It is well  
with the child." I do hope you  
will not give way to despair nor  
question the goodness of our Heaven-  
ly Father, and I am sure you feel  
thankful that he lent you your  
angel boy if only for a few months.  
That you and your husband may  
be better Christians for this trial  
of your faith is what I am sure  
you will desire more than anything  
else. That all the consolations of  
the Bible and religion, may be yours  
and that you may be sure that  
many hearts that you may not even  
think of, sympathize with you in  
your great sorrow, and commend  
you to Him who wounds only to  
heal, is the earnest prayer of

Yours sincerely  
(Mrs) A. L. Farwell.



Book 7007

3000000000

under 1000000000

W. H. Davis

93



Mrs. M. R. Hurkell

Leeds, Columbia  
County Wisconsin  
Win