

JOEL E. WATERS
Civil War Letters to his brother Samuel Thomas Watters u.n.o.
(10 October 1861 - 13 January 1865)

Page no.	Year	Month	Day	Recipient	Subject
9	1861	October	10		Camp Morgan, Mound City, Ill. Sworn in Oct. 5 for 3 years to the 10 th reg. of Ill volunteers, Co. K, commanded by Capt. Lusk and Col. Morgan. Guarding gun boats as they are being built.
9	1861	November	3		Camp Morgan. Drills 4 hours a day. Has to guard “to keep the boys in camp” so they don’t go out and get drunk.
10	1861	December	15		Camp Morgan. Soldiers imprisoned for drunkenness tried to break out and were shot and wounded. Captains severely punish drunkenness and deny passes but Waters is permitted and doesn’t “get tight.” Brags about cooking, describes food. Is sorry to hear Pete Cay/Kay joined secessionists and says he will “tear a hole in him” if he ever meets him in battle. Gets \$13 per month. Says he leaves everything to Samuel’s son Joel T. if he gets killed. Wants brother-in-law Thomas to write.
12	1862	January	8	Brother, father, sisters, friends	Camp Morgan. Preparing for 5 days’ journey, starting by boat in the morning, destination unknown. Anticipates fighting, is excited, admits this could be his last letter.
13	1862	January	8	unknown	Fragment. Mentions friends George Bartlet and Cornelius Brown. Is unable to send a daguerreotype to Sarah Jane (Samuel’s wife), apparently to update the one she has from 3 years ago.
13	1862	February	10		Birds Point, MO. Describes Battle of Fort Henry. Went to KY since last letter. Anticipates that when he gets the chance he will fight fiercely. Compares camp to Mound City. Sent 2 daguerreotypes.
14	1862	March	3		Birds Point. Describes in detail movements in pursuit of and battles or skirmishes with Jeff Thompson for the past 4 days. Some secessionists take oath of allegiance. Received daguerreotypes of Samuel, Sarah Jane, and the children.
17	1862	March	8		Bertrand, MO. Describes troop movements toward New Madrid and wading through swamps, commanded by General Pope.

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18	1862	March	28	Camp near New Madrid, MO. Describes news of battle for Island No. 10. He is with 42,000 troops unable to cross the river to help. Describes possible troop movements and difficulties with the options. Describes accident with an unexploded shell. Relates war rumors and news. Describes shooting at and wounding a secessionist while on picket guard.
20	1862	April	5	Camp near New Madrid. Describes news of continuing battle for Island No. 10. His regiment and 2 others are under marching orders to leave at any moment, destination unknown but probably over the river.
20	1862	April	6	New Madrid. Hasn't left yet but still under marching orders. Expects to fight when they arrive in the rear of the Island.
21	1862	April	6	New Madrid. Expecting to leave tonight.
21	1862	April	7	Written at 4:00 a.m. Part of letter is missing. Arrived at a hastily abandoned rebel fort. Narrowly misses getting hit by a 32 lb ball.
22	1862	May	5	Camp near Corinth, Mississippi. Describes skirmishes with rebels. Says "I think I am fighting in a good cause." Notes scarcity of newspapers.
23	1862	June	10	Camp 26 miles south from Corinth. Describes battle resulting in evacuation of Corinth. Shoots someone through the neck. Describes making camp in the open air and foraging for food. Describes seeing a good-looking girl for the first time in 3 months. Ends with a note asking about the date of a wedding and promising to "have lob squash for dinner that day."
26	1862	June	20	Camp 4 miles south from Corinth on Ohio and Mobile railroad. Railroads coming into Corinth are being repaired. Anticipates pursuing Beauregard once railroads are repaired restoring provisioning. Describes devastation rebel army left in Corinth. Col. Morgan has been made Brigadier General and is in charge while Paine is out on sick furlough. Expects to be stationed here until fall.
27	1862	August	20	Tuscumbia, Alabama. Have captured 150 rebel prisoners. General Paine returned and took command and directed them to use and take whatever property they want. Describes using black people to cook and drive teams. "The policy is to bleed the rebs in the pocket and body both at once." Morgan will leave and be missed.
28	1862	November	25	Camp Rock River. A lieutenant was dishonorable discharged. Describes "attacking"

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					turkeys and geese. Cumberland River is low due to lack of rain preventing gun boats from attacking the rebels. Hasn't been paid for 5 months and asks for postage stamps.
29	1863	February	20		Nashville. Discusses war news and progress. Discusses at length his negative view of Lincoln's plan to permit black soldiers and his feeling that the abolitionists are prolonging the war. Mentions "copperheads."
30	1863	June	8		Camp Nashville, Tenn. Letter is incomplete. Describes execution of a deserter. Gen. Morgan is going to command the cavalry at the front and is trying to get the 10 th to be mounted to come with. Some soldiers have fallen in love with local women.
31	1863	July	8		Headquarters. Asks about rebels in Harrison County close to home; expresses confidence in Hoosiers and in his brother. Describes July 4 th celebration including a march of the Colored Brigade. There was a partial eclipse of the sun. News of the surrender of Vicksburg to Grant was confirmed.
32	1863	July	28		Fosterville. Is happy to hear that his brother and 700 people from home successfully stood against 5,000 southern cavalry led by John Morgan; sorry to hear that Peter Glenn was killed.
33	1863	September	1		Stevenson, Alabama. Traveled from Fosterville through Shelbyville to Columbia, Linnville, Elkton, and Athens. Encountered rebel deserters. Inflation of confederate scrip at rate of 5 to 1 greenback. Went through Huntsville toward Chattanooga, describes deserted towns. Accompanied by 200 deserters with horses wanting to join and a negro regiment. Now about 35 miles from Chattanooga.
34	1863	September	2		Bridgeport, Ala. Chattanooga was already evacuated when they arrived. News is that Rosecrans has driven rebels to Georgia where they have been fighting for 2 days. Waters has seen 3,000-4,000 rebel deserters and prisoners here. Spending time building sheds for supplies since rebels burned all the houses when they left. A railroad bridge being built over the Tennessee River.
35	1863	October	16		Camp Andersons Crossing 40 miles north east from Bridgeport. Had a forced 12-hour march from Bridgeport in response to rebel cavalry crossing the river above Chattanooga and making a raid. Rain for 4 days has caused Tennessee River to rise, which might permit gun boat travel. Speculates on Chattanooga battle plans. Describes ammunition accident, foraging, scouting for rebels. Laments lack of letters

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					and newspapers.
37	1863	December	21		Camp Caldwell, Tenn. Describes battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain.
39	1864	March	14		Rossville, Georgia. Describes travel back from furlough.
40	1864	April	1		Rossville, Georgia. Tells of a recruit who is homesick due to a letter from his wife and may have joined for the bounty. Speculates that Grant will become president.
41	1864	April	27		Rossville, Georgia. A few cases of smallpox in camp. Speculates on war developments. Asks for fish hooks for catching sun perch in the Chickamauga River.
42	1864	July	11		Camp Chattoahocsee River. Took Alatoona Mountain circa June 15. Rebels fell back to Pine Mountain. Drove them back to Kennesaw Mountain. Rebels shelled them all day. Describes skirmishing until rebels retreated on July 3.
44	1864	August	3		Atlanta. Describes movements of his troop during the Atlanta Campaign. Soldiers are satisfied with Lincoln's nomination.
45	1864	August	13		Near Atlanta. More skirmishing. Speaks of needing rest.
46	1864	September	13		Camp East Point. The campaign has ended after fighting "more or less for 123 days." Gives details of the last battle moves and the part his regiment played. Letter is incomplete and includes portions of other subsequent letters. Previously sent home \$180.
49	1865	January	13		Beaufort, South Carolina. Describes sailing into Port Royal and up the Beaufort River. Some controversy over garrison of free colored troops.