

Transcriptions and Summaries

Series I: Correspondence from Milton Weaver

Folder 1: November 1861

Item 1

Camp Low
Nov. 19, 1861

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Informs parents of his diet. Writes of his company's dress parade and predicts to return home soon. Mentions how cold it is when he stands "garde."

Item 2

Camp Low
Nov. [?] 23, 1861

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Tells parents about his tough, Prussian drillmaster and the rigors of his military drilling. Asks about friends back home and relates how he wants a furlough and how difficult it is to obtain one. Writes of his guard duty. Expresses a wish to return home. Asks for people to payback a loan. Mentions his soreness from marching 17 miles. Asks parents to tell Fanny he is "coming home."

Folder 2: January 1862 – June 1862

Item 1

Camp Low [Greene County?]
January 27, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Sends greetings. Discusses camp life and looks forward to receiving a gun. Expects regiment to receive the best guns because they are the best from Ohio. Proudly describes his colonel and the colonel's horse. Mentions Felix Zollicoffer's death and predicts a quick end to the war. Details the grueling drills done by his company. Describes the court martial of a Mr. [Cummins?]. Mentions drilling once again, describing his regiment as "well drild." Discusses the varying competency of his officers. Regrets that there are no more furloughs.

Item 2

Camp Low
January 29, 1862

Milton Weaver to Charley Powel

Mentions regimental drills--expressing pleasure at seeing an entire regiment drill. Reports that his colonel is securing arms for his regiment. Regrets being inactive. Mentions a court martial and the service of a "Negro" cook. Asks friend to visit him. Describes his "good officers" and seems particularly proud of his Prussian drill officer, von Shrader. Laments the death of Colonel Lowe[?] and mentions the "sick in the hospital." Wishes to return home.

Item 3

Camp Lowe

January 21, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Sends salutations. Speaks of military drilling and anticipates his regiment receiving the best arms. Brags about his regiment's skill and his Prussian officer. Expresses his opinion of Colonel Moody and mentions a court martial. Claims to be "getting as fat as [a] hog." Relates that his regiment has been ordered to guard a bridge; expresses disappointment with camp life. Asks parents to visit him. Discusses lack of wage payment, the noisy conditions of camp life, and the dismal chances of obtaining a furlough. Points out that his writing is improving yet concludes that he still "can't write verry well."

Item 4

Camp Lowe

February 19, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Thankful for his mittens, a gift from his mother, and for his good shoes. Fellow soldiers will receive boots, but he will not. Optimistic about acquiring a furlough, receiving his first paycheck, and seeing a quick end to the war. Claims to be in the best-drilled regiment from his state. Drills in the rain and snow. Invites parents to visit him.

Item 5

Camp Lowe

February 22, 1862

Chilton Weaver to Robert Weaver

[Although it contains the name of a different writer, this letter reads like one written by Milton.]

Reports that his regiment is finally fully manned and has orders to go to Camp Chase and guard prisoners. Relates that he has received letters from extended family. Writes of his guard duty. Joyful about moving to another place. Laments that father has not visited him like he "promest."

Item 6

Columbus Camp Chase
March 7, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has a young girl weeping into the arms of a gallant, departing soldier. Ink is faded, making reading difficult.]

Describes march to statehouse, the saluting of the governor of Ohio, the first rationing of food, and guarding Confederate prisoners. Predicts a long stay at Camp Chase. Mentions his mustering into service and expected salary. Encourages parents to visit camp.

Item 7

Columbus Camp Chase
March 31, 1862

Milton Weaver to Robert Weaver

[A poem is printed on the stationery.]

Predicts that his regiment will guard Confederate prisoners throughout the summer. Experienced a false alarm about an escaping prisoners. Predicts major victories in April and discusses drilling and health issues in camp. Disappointed that father has not written to him. Sent a “likeness” to his father. Wants to be paid, so he can visit family. Asks for parents to send him money, so he can buy a furlough. Discusses extended family members.

Item 8

Columbus Camp Chase
April 2, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father, Robert Weaver

[Stationery has a drawing of an American sailor surrounded by patriotic symbols—flag and eagle—and tools of navigation.]

Mentions his first wage payment and has assigned it to be paid to his father. Wants it saved so he can use it on furlough. Wants his mother to buy a new dress. Refuses to send money in a letter for fear of losing it in the mail.

Item 9

Columbus Camp Chase
April 16, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has a picture of General Ambrose Burnside.]

Describes the reason why his company has not been paid. Explains how some men from Columbus sell poisoned food to “secesh” prisoners. Discusses the bad health conditions of his camp. Describes incoming prisoners and the requirements to guard them. Describes the bayonet wounding of a prisoner. Mentions receiving letters from Sarah. Promises to visit home once he is paid, especially since he is approximately 100 miles from home.

Item 10

Nashville, Tennessee
April 26, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Describes his march and steamboat travel from Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio to Nashville, Tennessee. Passed Fort Donelson and Fort Zollicoffer *en route* and describes battleground sites. Sent paycheck to father via a friend. Enjoyed his travel along the Cumberland River. Likes his present camp better than Camp Chase. Camps now in the land of the “secesh and negros.” Tells father to save \$5 for him and allows him to use the rest of his pay.

Item 11

Nashville, Tennessee
May 3, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has a picture of a soldier, valiantly carrying an American flag.]
Enjoys his duties at Nashville: guarding the city, the Zollicoffer family, and General Davenport [?]. Describes the sights and sounds of occupied Nashville. Is proud that military “Governor Johnston” complimented his regiment. Describes the beauty of Tennessee. Relates how certain “secesh” women insulted a Union officer, who, in turn, quarantined them. [There remains a page that is faded and undistinguishable to the naked eye.]

Item 12

Nashville, Tennessee
May 12, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Describes his guard duty around Nashville and the number of troops in Nashville. Loves the environment of Tennessee, except for the hot weather. Sent \$25 to his father via a friend. Discusses an upcoming election in Nashville and the requirement placed on former “secesh” in order to vote. Mentions the Battle of Lebanon. Worried about father not receiving his “likeness.”

Item 13

Camp Tod[?]
Nashville, Tennessee
May 23, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
Mentions his portrait and the likelihood of him having another taken; is proud of it. Wants to visit home. Predicts a quick end to the war. Sends more money home.

Item 14

Camp Tod
Nashville, Tennessee
June 7, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Stationery has an imprint of General Hunter.]
Describes his guard duty in the rain; slept on logs in the river. Mentions a picket skirmish. Predicts the war to be over in three months. Advises father on the wheat crop. Asks if parents received his portrait. Describes compatriots as homesick and how the "secesh" and "Union folk" treat soldiers. Asks for family members to write to him.

Item 15

Camp Tod
Nashville, Tennessee
June 10, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Stationery has an eagle flying and carrying an American flag underneath a "Union and Liberty" banner.]
Writes of a Confederate attack on Murfreesboro, the freeing of "Rebles," and how his regiment was sent via rail to track down the escaped prisoners. Describes the Cumberland mountains as "chuck full of secesh"; reinforcements are needed. Mentions secessionist atrocities committed against loyalists. Likes his current military action. Lists the regiments that have joined his in this endeavor. Explains the sentiments of the residents of Murfreesboro.

Folder 3: July 1862- December 1862

Item 1

Camp Tod [?]
July 1, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has drawing of an American flag atop a globe.]
Uncertain of duration of stay in Nashville; enjoys the city. Unsure whether to send more money home; Wants to know whether his mother received last check; Asks about the harvest back home. Writes of guard duty in an apple orchard. Worried about whether mother received money. Asks mother to write to him; misses communication with family.

Item 2

Camp Tod
Nashville, Tennessee

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Stationery has regiment's and colonel's name amidst cannons, shells, American flags, and an eagle.]
Thankful to receive letter from his mother. Has marching orders to go to Huntsville, Alabama. Promises to write once in Huntsville. Bought a pair of shoes.

Item 3

Nashville, Tennessee
July 15, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Stationery has drawing of Major General Henry Halleck.]
Mentions fighting at Bowling Green, Kentucky and how his regiment followed the Confederates. Describes the grueling march, Confederate activity in Murfreesboro, and advancement on Nashville. Claims Union forces will burn Nashville if they lose a battle for it and describes the fortification of the city. Relates the Unionist sentiment in Bowling Green and the beautiful countryside. Writes of a family friend's difficulty marching. Asks for postage from parents. Explains how his Captain "gave out."

Item 4

Franklin Headquarters, 74th
August 15, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
Writes of the "fine times" in Franklin—no drills. Reports that Confederates raid rail lines near Mill Springs and describes a raid on Confederates. Believes Rebel raiders should be hung. They have "taken all the citizens," for they are suspected of raiding the rails. States the importance of guarding railroad and brags that General Negley stated that his regiment was the best one. Claims to get what he wants by confiscating it and justifies such action by remembering the Rebels started

the war. Wishes to return home. Relates how a family friend wishes the war to end.

Item 5

August 13, 1862

Milton Weaver to Uncle and Aunt [Chilton Weaver to Daniel Weaver]
Appreciated family's letter. Details duty around Franklin. Mentions "Negroes" working on bridges and explains how taking slaves makes "rebles" mad. Describes raids on Union rail lines and the retaliation of the Union cavalry on raiders. Brags that one Yankee can beat three Rebels. Speaks of duty and the confiscation of civilian goods. Makes slaves dig up potatoes for him. Likes Tennessee peaches. Wants to see more men in Ohio drafted because it would make a difference.

Item 6

Nashville, Tennessee

September 5, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Explains why he has not written; Confederates had destroyed bridges around Nashville. Explains work between Columbia and Nashville and how "thousands of Negroes" are working on rails. Comments on Bragg's advance on Nashville and the need for more soldiers. Advises father not to enlist; war is not for a family man. Predicts "sharp fighting." Allays fears that Confederates will invade Ohio. He does not fear starvation because citizens have ample goods to supply troops. Mentions a gun accident in camp.

Item 7

Nashville, Tennessee

November 8, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother [Chilton Weaver to Ann Weaver]
Uncertain of the length of stay in Nashville. Mentions General Rosecrans' arrival. Describes in detail a battle near Nashville. Enjoys talking with people from other Ohio regiments; some he has not seen in awhile. Disappointed that there is "nothing in twelve miles" to eat. Hopes his mother has not forgotten him since he has been fighting for two years. Wishes to return home. Writes of inflation and starving conditions in Nashville.

Item 8

Camp Nashville, Tennessee

November 11, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has an American eagle holding the "E Pluribus Unum" banner in the middle of a circle with the abbreviations of every state of the Union stationed around it.]

Had been sick for two weeks, but wants to stay with company; marched most of the time but rode in wagon for two days. Wants to rest and recover. Describes Nashville as "not nice." Describes his tour of the state capitol and the march from Bowling Green, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee. Company needs more tents; living in crowded conditions. Confederate army had dried all the springs. Marched until he could hardly walk and was so thirsty that he drank water unfit for washing hands.

Item 9

Nashville, Tennessee
November 23, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Thankful for a letter from his mother. Details regiment's move from Nashville to Mill Creek. Mentions burned bridges. Hears the noise of battle near Murfreesboro. Likes military life more than ever. Reports the diminishing size of his company. Wants to be paid. Requests family to write often.

Item 10

Camp near Nashville
December 17, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

[Stationery has an American eagle resting on two American flags crossed together with trains and boats in the background.]

Thankful for package and letter from mother. Mentions regiment's move from Mill Creek to south of Nashville. Claims that General Rosecrans thought his division was the cleanest of his troops. Mentions Confederates encamping at Murfreesboro. Describes an attack on pickets. Praises his captain. Asks mother to buy gifts for family with the money he sends home.

Item 11

Camp Hamilton near Nashville
December 21, 1862

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Speculates about leaving Nashville soon. Glad for ample food, regrets heavy duty. Relates how he can see the enemy's picket's fires. Asks mother to dissuade father from asking his captain for a discharge. Claims to enjoy the army more than ever. Tells of a soldier committing suicide.

Folder 4: January 1863 – June 1863

Item 1

Murfreesboro
January 14, 1863

Milton Weaver to Ann Weaver
Happy to receive letter from parents. Camped near Murfreesboro. Mentions the “verry hard time” and suffering the troops experienced. Describes the hard fighting of Stones River where men were “mowed down” and wonders how anyone escaped alive. Admits that Rebels can actually fight, describes Colonel Moody’s performance in battle, and the strange tactics of Confederates, who would “do anything” to win. Asks for notification when parents receive his money. Asks them for their “likenesses.”

Item 2

Camp at Murfreesboro
January 31, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Faded writing makes this letter difficult to read.]
Writes of the City Guard and its duties. Describes how his company captured six “Reble” cannons in battle. Glad that his mother received the money he had sent.

Item 3

Camp at Murfreesboro
February 10, 1863

Milton Weaver to Ann Weaver
[Stationary has a drawing of George Washington, the Constitution, and the American flag in the upper left corner.]
Glad to receive letter from mother. Tells mother not to send any food, for he has “plenty to eat.” Describes cannon fire, the dying wounded, and the Hospital. Asks for a newspaper. Informs parents that Confederates leave their lines and join the Union army. Predicts war to end by Spring. Wishes he was home, visiting family. Upset that certain uncles do not write.

Item 4

Camp at Murfreesboro
February 13, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother
[Stationery has an eagle above the inscription, “The Bird of Freedom.”]

Is extremely happy to receive a letter from mother and cherishes the “likenesses” of his family. Gives extensive financial advice to parents concerning wheat crop. Mentions the availability of rations, the rails between Nashville and Murfreesboro, and his good clothing. Allays the fears of his mother. Estimates the number of troops in Tennessee to be 300,000. Wants to show his cousin, in a neighboring camp, the photos of his family.

Item 5

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
March 15, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother, Ann Weaver
Describes scouting missions and makes mention of the constant skirmishing. Says the army needs more conscripts. Encourages father in his business endeavors. Discusses pay. Writes of a wounded Lieutenant and states that Colonel Moody will preach to them. Wonders if his uncle is mad at him. Sent parents cotton seed.

Item 6

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 1, 1863

Milton Weaver to Ann Weaver
Writes of a move to another camp, so company could build fortifications. Describes work on fortifications, four hours a day, and doubts whether Confederates can capture the city. Assures mother that he is fine and that the army provides soldiers with more than ample amounts of food. Amazed that Confederates have lasted so long. Wants “Vallandingham men” in Ohio conscripted or hanged. Encourages his father to be economically independent. Writes of the beautiful scenery in Tennessee and its good fruit. Inquires about family and is perplexed about his uncle’s lack of communication with him.

Item 7

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 12, 1863

Milton Weaver to Ann Weaver
Wants to stay in Murfreesboro. Likes building warehouses and erecting fortifications. Claims that such work “just soots” him. Describes Confederate raids on rail cars. Predicts a “more vigorous” approach by Union commanders in future battles. Reports that he received a “secesh” letter from a friend. Asks about his father’s farming endeavors: tobacco crop. Sent songs home and promises to send more.

Item 8

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 22, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Asks parents to write more. Writes about family members. Discusses the upcoming revival and the preparations done for it. His division might move. Glad mother received his money. Promises to send money. Sends a song. Enjoys looking at family pictures.

Item 9

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 28, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Regrets the death of an acquaintance. Expresses a desire to stay in Murfreesboro and predicts that the Union army will be more aggressive in future campaigns. Promises to send money to parents. Prefers military life over any other career. Wants to see his family. Worried if parents will receive his money.

Item 10

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
May 12, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Glad to receive letter from mother and worried that his family was ill. Claims that receiving a letter lifts his spirits, so he encourages family to write more frequently. Believes Hooker has captured Richmond, Virginia; troops are celebrating. Says that the Union army has only just begun to fight while the Confederates are exhausted. Writes of Vallyandigham. Is appointed regimental cook. Worried if parents received his money. Mentions looking at family pictures. Encourages his father to write more and asks mother to tell him who are the Confederate sympathizers.

Item 11

74 Regt. O.V.I.
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Glad to receive a letter and that parents received his money. Writes of the entrenchment around city. Boasts of a quick victory if Confederates attack. Expresses disdain for Copperheads in Ohio. Describes scenery around camp. Writes of Colonel Moody's resignation, calls him "tyranicle," and wants to avoid Methodist preachers. Claims to have ample provisions and be in good health.

Item 12

Camp Decherd Station
July 28, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Claims to be “fat, ragged, and sausy.” Describes Confederate retreat from Decherd Station and the present repair work. Regiment’s only activity is to drill for four hours each day. Claims to be having a good time and living “like a priest.” Visited a friend who served in another regiment. Describes the activities of Confederate General Morgan and people’s reaction to his efforts of early 1863. States that army is “whipping” Confederates at “every point.” Army is in “good condishen and fine spirits.” Expects regiment to move and a battle, soon. Regrets the deaths of family and friends and neighbors in Ohio. Expects war to end soon. Asks mother for stamps and to encourage family to write to him.

Folder 5: July 1863 – December 1863

Item 1

Macklemorous Cave
September 16, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

I am Happy to hav the privilige of addressing you with a few lines to let you know that I am well as could be Exspected for the hard ships that we have endured of late—We started from Kave [?] Springs on the first day of September And marched for ten days Our Division lef the advance through Alabama and in to Georgia to cut-off Braggs Retreat to Atlanta—General Negley Run his Division in Before braggs whole army to –keep him for [next three words illegible] this was in the morning of the tenth and we fought him for two days on the Evening of the twelfth we could not hold out nay longer and we fell back a bout one mile the Reason of that they had a bout six men to one of us and we had to save our wagon train from being captured
Our [?] is verry bright But the Rebels layed thick over the ground we was verry lucky this time we only had one mad kild Rosecranes whole army is down here now The Rebels is laying in line of battle with in four miles here We have orders to leave in the morning at four o clock I can not tell you where we are going mother I am in hopes that you will hear Glorious news from us in a few days mother I have not got know chance to write this time for we are not allowed to write and only when there is an order to the Effect It is to dark I can not see to write I am setting on the ground and have got a light built out of some wood I Received a letter from Aunt Josephine she was well she stated that she wanted you to write

Mother I would like to give you the Details of our marches we marched over some offel larg mountains I must stop you must write to oftener I have not received a letter from you for more than a month.

Your Affectionate Son

Item 2

Chattanooga, Tennessee

September 24, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

I am happy to have the privilege of addressing you with a few lines to let you know that I am well as could be expected for the hard ships We have Endured of late. I Received your letter a few days ago. I found me on the Battle-field. Mother you do not know how much good it done me to hear from you. I suppose you have Received the letter that I write on the Thirteenth of this month. I states in it about our grand move. We left Kave[?] Springs on the first of this month and we have been going day and night for the last 24 days. We have fought one of the hardest Battels of the war. We have fought three men to one and I think we have wone the prize. For two days we fought them face to face and hand to hand. Mother the seen was offel. The ground layed covered with dead and wounded. The Rebels got Reinforcements from Richmond and from the south. They was surtain that they would whip us out but I think they have misd.

We are now at Chattanooga and the Rebs is with canon shot of us. We are fortifying day and night. I don't think can do anything. There is two Corps a Coming from grants army and General Burnside's is with in supporting distance of here. I think this is the desiding battle. I think we have just been Released of the skirmish line night before last. We had a hard fight with the Devels. They planted a mast Battery on us and they advanced in a mast Closed in Column. There was an Indiane Regt supporting our left. The Rebs pured in thare shot so that this Indian Regt Run and left our Regiment to fight the Battle. This Indiana Regt got in the Rear of us and comenced shooting at us. We maid a charge and drove the Rebels our selves. Mother I have almost got not to fighting. I would be verry glad if we could go in Camp a while for we are wore out for the want of sleep and we are so [?] We have not lost quite as many men in this Battle as we did at Stone River. We had two kild dead out of our company and there is four missing. I can not tell what has be come of them. Mother I don't feel lik writing much this time. When I write a gain I will give you more of the partickulars. I would like to hear from lib. I guess they have all forgotten me. Mother I want you to write often to me for you are the only wone that writes to me.

Your Affectionate Son,

You must excuse my scribbling for I do not feel like writing.
The 35th Ohio has been in this Battle. I have not seen the boys since the fight. Tell All the Children that I would like to see them. I must tell you that Wm. Cambell was kild. I have seen Harrison Seunks [?] Regt was all cut to peces so he sayed. I will try and go over to see my cousins some of these days to see if they are a live.

Item 3

Chattanooga, Tennessee
October 3, 1863

Dear Father and Mother

It is with pleasure that I seat my self down write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and am getting a long as well as could be Exspected For the hard ships We have Endured of late. I states in my last letter of the 24th tha tI Received it while on the battle field. Mother it done me a great deal of good to hear from you. I have been looking for a letter form you for the last weak but have not Recevived none. I would have written sooner but you know how It has been since the first of September last. Mother I thought that I would give you a little account of our marches since that time. I don't know if it will be interesting to or not. On the first day of sept we cross the Tenn River. It was a about Twelve o' clock at night when we cross [?] It was a tegous [?] job to get out train over for We had to cross on pontoons. After We got a cross We marched two miles And there we stoped for the night. We had not hardely layed down when the Order came to march. We got up and Roasted some sow belly and ate a hard tack. And was soon on our line of march. On the secons day the order was to March to Bridgeport on the Tenn River. We had a fatiguing march for we had to march in the Rear of the train. We arrived with in two miles of that place And I got so dark that we could not get the train along any further. We layed down a bout three hours on the night of the second. The order was given for us to be Redy to march in half an hour. We was soon Redy to cross what was called the big sandy mountain. We onely marched a bout three miles on the third day for we had to push Every wagon up. We got all of our train up the mountain a bout dark. I was detaild to go on picket. I went on and stood all night and in the morning I was Releaved by our Company coming in the advance. This was the fourth our company throughout as skirmishes. We marched over mountains and through thicket until dark. We wanted to get to the foot of the Big sandy mountains whare thare was a learg spring thare. We encamped for one day. It came in verry good for we was all tired. And on the sixth We marched down a valley. I did not learn the name of It. On the seventh We marched to a mountain that was called the Big look out mountain. It was a wonderfull learg mountain. It took us two days to cross this mountain for the Rebels had blockaded the Road and It took some time to clear It out so that We could get a long on the night for our

Division was in the advance. And facing the whole Rebel Army there was a gap a bout three miles be low here. And if we would get it. It cut off the Rebels Retreat. And so on the morning of the tenth The order was given quick time march. The Roads was verry dusty and We had to carry our knapsacks after We had advance a bout one mile we met with the Rebel Skirmishes. We presst them verry strong and at last gaind the gap. And the first that we new We seen the Rebels comeing through a woods on our left. General Negley Rid up to our[?] our Regt and orderd us to pitch in for them. We had a hot time for a while but at last they gave a way and we followed them about a half mile when We was orderd in. We onely had a bout five thousand men and was way in Georgia in the heart of Rebeldom. On the night of the seventh We had we had a heard fight and We found out that we would all be taken. We fell back about two miles and that night Generla Brenen the third Division Come in to Reinforce us. Major Generla Thomas I think if he was down here he would think he would think It was war. I had to go through what we have to he would not think it was nice. I would give most any-thing in the world If onely coulede here what they are doing up in Ohio. I would like to know about Ervin. I thought perhaps that he was a conscript. I would like to know if you receivd that discharge paper of mine. I forgot to leave it at home with you when I was thare. Mother I don't feal much like writing today I have mentioned the Reason thare is hard fighting going on now on the Right of us. The boys are a burraing the dead to day. It will not do to let them lay so long on the battle filed for it so warm that htye soon smell. Tell the Children that I would like to see them. I often think a bout them while the battle Rages. If I live to get through these battles I will by and send them a nice present. Mother I have agot a good honorable position. The Colonel mada na application. The company officers he wanted Each office to pick The Bravest of Commisend officer out of Each camp for a Cullour Guard. They Picked Eigght out of the Regt. The Colonel sayed he wanted men that would stand by the flags until the last before they should fall. We took the position in time of Peral. We got the detail on he seventh of May. We have not got any thing Els to do. We don't have to stand or go on camp Drill or no Fatigue so We will have nice times of It. I will werry your patience If I keep on. All I ask is just to write to me one letter and If you have got any thing against me tell me what It is. Thare must be something up for I have never Receivd one letter from you since I left home. I think it is to bad once I thought that I would stop writing to. Then again I thought you might of written to me and they have got miscarried. Derect your letter to Chattanooga Tenn Company F 74th OV Regt In care of Capt Crook

Pleas answer this thing,
Milton Weaver

I sen My Love to all of my Enquiring friend If thare is any. Tell father that I send my Love to him and all of the Rest of the family.

Item 4

Chattanooga Tennessee
November 10, 1863

Milton Weaver to Mother

Too busy to write to mother because of military duties—guarding wagon trains to Alabama. Likes current winter camp. Claims soldiers have had little to eat, but is hopeful that provisions will soon arrive. Describes camp's close proximity to the Confederate camp and the shelling between camps. Predicts a big battle in the winter of 63-64. Talks to Rebel pickets. Ordered to not fire on pickets, unless they advance. Performs guard duty in the cold. Rejoices to finally receive letter from mother and her lock of hair. Still asks her to write more. Received other letters from friends.

Item 5

Chattanooga, Tennessee
December 3, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Describes the November 24 attack on the Rebels' left flank. Captured a Confederate battery. Describes Hooker's attack on Lookout Mountain, General Sherman's maneuvering around and attack on Missionary Ridge, Confederate cannonading of Union troops, and the surrender and capture of Confederates. Claims soldiers fired at General Bragg when he retreated. Has insufficient rations; stole a Georgia sheep. Complains of a weak stomach. Promises to have photo made of himself. Describes enclosed gifts to family.

Item 6

Chattanooga, Tennessee
December 22, 1863

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Complains of not receiving letter from parents. Writes of constant picket duty and fortification labor. Speculates about the morale of Bragg's army and reminds parents of the Army of the Cumberland's victories, wishing others were like it so the war would have a quick end. Looking forward to the draft because veterans need a respite. Likes "soldiering" yet wants to be done with it. Says the cost of a "likeness" is exorbitant. Inquires about money sent home. Sends greetings to family.

Folder 6: 1864

Item 1

Chattanooga, Tennessee
January 11, 1864

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Glad to receive letter. Describes everyone and everything as “fine.” Tries to settle discrepancy among family members about a photo. Promises to send “likenesses” of other troop members to parents.

Item 2

Parkers Gap, Tennessee
April 28, 1864

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Marched to Graysville, Georgia to join Brigade. Prefers guard duty to boring camp life. Resumed drilling in camp. Is humored by the green recruits. Predicts another campaign against the Confederates. Complains of the hot weather. Compliments his mother on her cooking. Wants to come home as soon as the new recruits are trained. Brags about his watch. Complains of not receiving a letter from his mother; calls her action “careless.”

Item 3

In Line of Battle,
Near Marietta, Georgia
June 25, 1864

Milton Weaver to Dear and Most Affectionate Sister [Lib]

Writes letter while “johnnys” fire at him. Brags about what all he has been through and how his regiment has always been victorious. Laments that he never got letters from her and how he felt alone while others received mail. Scolds her for not writing. Is confused about his relationship with his family. Tells how they prepared for a “Rebel” attack. Is upset at the new recruits and is dejected by the hard campaigns.

Item 4

In Line of Battle
Near Marietta, Georgia
June 26, 1864

Milton Weaver to Dear and Most Respected Mother

Encourages his sick mother, discusses his good health, and attempts to allay his mother’s fears about his situation. Rejoices that his mother has written him and changed his opinion of her. Still criticizes his father and brother for not writing. Describes troop movement near Atlanta and

Mount Kennesaw [?] and speculates about the morale of Confederates and a quick end to the war. Is tired of fighting, complaining about the length of the campaign. Writes of cousins in another regiment and of recent casualties in his regiment.

Item 5

Chattahoochie River, Georgia
July 11, 1864

Milton Weaver to Mother

Describes evacuation of Confederates from an entrenched position and the Union capture of the River. Writes while resting after a hard fight. Describes in great detail the advance on Confederate positions. Mentions chaplain's sermon. Wants to stop fighting. Describes the horrific task of burying the dead, victims of Rebel "outlaws," and the ghost towns of Georgia. Is positive that Confederates must know the end is near. Lists all the relatives who write him. Complains of hot weather. Sends regards to family. Inquires about his father's work.

Item 6

In Line of Battle Near Atlanta, Georgia
July 25, 1864

Milton Weaver to Mother

Glad to receive letters from home. Describes three month campaign as the "hardest" yet expresses determination to fight until the end. Describes "hard fighting" after capture of the Chattahoochie. Predicts quick fall of Atlanta. Captured "Reb" tobacco. Discusses bombardment of Atlanta. Ends letter amidst the roar of 20lb guns.

Item 7

In the Line of Battle Atlanta, Georgia
August 9, 1864

Milton Weaver to Mother

Rejoices to be alive, especially since others are sick and dying from fatigue. Writes of troop movement around Atlanta, capture of rails, and the battle of Atlanta. Brags on the veteran-status of his corps, its success and steady advance. Wishes war would end. Mentions that the 35th Ohio returned home. Tells family to not send him tobacco. Worries about being repaid money from a homebound compatriot; gives father advice on obtaining it. Encourages family to write to him. Writes amidst rifle fire: "Never seen that Johnny yet [who] could stop me from writing."

Item 8

Camp in Line of Battle Near Atlanta, Georgia

August 21, 1864

Milton Weaver to Mother

Misses receiving regular correspondence. Enjoys a Sabbath service. Resting from six days of fighting by bathing, eating, and attending worship services. Can see Atlanta from his camp and the “red, hot balls” ripping through it. Mention Confederate General Hood and fighting on the right. Wants more recruits so the war will end soon. Speaks of comfortable conditions in camp. Questions the ability of new recruits and states the value of veterans. Sends a lock of his “sun-burnt hair.” Encourages family member to get money by being a substitute.

Folder 7: Undated Correspondence

Item 1

Columbus Camp Chase
[no day, 1862?]

Milton Weaver to Father

Has marching orders to Nashville and tells specifically how troops will arrive there; excited about seeing new places; asks mother to write him; wants to leave Camp Chase; will save his gold dollar, a gift [?]; tells father to pick up money he sent to him.

Item 2

Nashville, Tennessee
October 26, [1862?]

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Describes camp conditions in Nashville; lives in a warehouse; refuses to write war news for fear of enemy “interception”; recently visited by cousins; sees snow in Nashville.

Item 3

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
June 22, [1863?]

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Glad to be alive; Afflicted with a sore eye; Regiment drills frequently; Expects a march somewhere soon; Wants conscription to occur; Saw deserters punished; States that new colonel is a “douzen” times better than Colonel Moody; Sends greeting to everyone in family.

Item 4

Chattanooga, Tennessee
November 1, [1863?]

Milton Weaver to Father and Mother

Guarding camp; Complains of his short hair; Comments that no sutlers admitted to camp; Writes of the siege of Chattanooga; describes picket duty and reveals his attitude toward Confederates; Expects little winter action; Has not seen cousins; Discusses money situation with parents.

Item 5

In the Line of Battle Near Marietta, Georgia
June 24, [1864?]

Milton Weaver to Mother

Apologizes to mother for scolding her for not writing; explains why he acted disrespectfully: jealous of others receiving letters when he needed encouragement; thankful to survive forty days of battle; writes of his closeness to death; explains why he did not write for twelve days; explains his tough, writing conditions: musket and cannon fire.

Item 6:

[no place]
[no date]

Milton Weaver to Mother

Asks for a hat and complains of the sun's heat; inspection is that night; apologizes for writing on poor quality paper.
Includes a poem entitled: "How the Soldier Loves Home"
Misses home and family; pensively stares at the stars and remembers home; ends on an optimistic note, anticipating a better day.

Series II: Correspondence to Milton Weaver

Folder 1: August 1862 – December 1864

Item 1

Montgomery, Ohio
August 7, [1862?]

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

Informs Milton of sickness in the family; hopes he goes no farther South than Nashville. Discusses conscription in the county, believes the Waymires [Copperheads] will be drafted, and fearful her husband will be drafted. Remarks that there is good money in volunteering. Worried about a Confederate invasion of the North. Commends him for being brave. Inquires about local boys in other regiments. Assures him that she writes him "nearly every week" and that father will not sell wheat crop for a cheap price.

Item 2

Montgomery, Ohio
February 9, 1863

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

[Letter is torn at the top.]

Glad to receive letter from son and know about his good health but anxious about him being in another battle. Hopes the war will end soon; talks of inflation and homefront conditions—namely food. Misses son's company. Sent two pairs of socks to him. Received money that he sent them and had "likenesses" made. Father wants to borrow money from him to pay rent. Reports of local boys killed near Nashville. Writes of her sickness and how all family members had "likenesses" made.

Item 3

Camp Nelson, Kentucky
December 22, 1863

Harrison C. Rop [?] [cousin] and J. M. Neill [friend] to Milton Weaver
Harrison: Received Milton's letter. Describes his troops movements and claims to have "the finest regiment." Wants to be near Chattanooga.
J. M.: Sends salutations and asks is Milton has seen "hard times."
Predicts a quick end to war.

Item 4

Montgomery County, Ohio
August 2, [?]

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

Complains of Copperheads and hopes they are conscripted. Discusses two regiments being formed in home county; husband and other son placed their name in the lottery. Condemns "cowards" and praises her son for his bravery. Encourages him to take care of himself. Father sends money to Milton. Advises Milton to save money and not send a lot home. Informs Milton of family's and friend's activities. Apologizes for not writing to his cousins in another regiment and for her husband's and daughter's carelessness in writing others. Sends love and expresses wish to eat dinner with him again.

Item 5

Montgomery County, Ohio
October 7, [?]

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

Worries about her son, especially after hearing news of the latest battle. Father especially worried, pacing the floor "day and night" until Milton's next letter arrived. Worries about her nephews fighting in Tennessee and

inquires about them. Commends Milton for writing his Aunt and makes excuses for daughter's and husband's lack of writing. Informs him that his Butternut uncle and family argue. Writes of Butternut and loyalist meetings. Wishes to see her son, worries constantly about him, almost to the point of "crazy," and wonders whether Milton will return home. Describes his sisters' activities.

Item 6

Montgomery County, Ohio
November 18, [?]

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

Glad to receive letters from him, was worried about him. Father was drafted, but was exempt. Pleased to know that the neighbors would have helped if his father was drafted. Writes of relatives with sore throats, a dangerous sickness. Writes of other friends and family and encourages Milton to write to them. Misses her son and wants him back home. Writes of his younger siblings and their activities.

Item 7

Union, Montgomery County, Ohio
December 27, 1864

Ann Weaver to Milton

Worried about Milton after learning of a new battle; thankful to learn he survived. Eager to learn of nephew's status. Laments that many from Montgomery are dead. Wants the draft to occur and an aggressive effort to end quickly the war, for too many Montgomery countians have died. Wonders if Milton will return home; promises to never let him enlist again. Extremely anxious about his status. Father searched constantly for information regarding his status. Explains why she writes less frequently. Has not received the money sent to them. Wants to know about his cousins' status. Asks why he has not written people back home. Offers information regarding family members, father's tobacco crop, and a friend's marriage.

Folder 2: Undated Correspondence

Item 1

[no place]
[no date]

Ann Weaver to Milton Weaver

Inquiring on behalf of neighbor the status of his son fighting in Tennessee. Tells son to be careful and wishes he was home. Informs him of the well-being of his extended family.

Series III: Correspondence to Richard and Ann Weaver

Folder 1: 1856 – 1860

Item 1

Hamilton
October 7, 1856

Rachel [niece] to Uncle and Aunt, [Richard and Ann Weaver?]
Regrets not receiving a letter or a visit from them. Writes of the political rallies (Democratic convention) of that year, at least 50,000 attended one. Describes speakers, processions, music, decorations, and handouts, with extracts from Washington and Jefferson's speeches, and the party booths. Enjoyed the all-day event. Asks for family to write.

Item 2

Cedar Grove
Franklin County
April 22, 1858

Thomas [?] Litton to Brother and Sister, Robert and Ann Weaver
Asks if they received letter and why they have not written. Mentions the upcoming marriage of a relative. Frustrated from not hearing from Samuel in California. Sends love, blessings, and prayers.

Item 3

[no date. Must be sometime between 1858 and 1860. See contents of this letter and that of April 22.]

Hannah Litton to Dear Brother and Sister [Richard and Ann Weaver]
Regrets not writing until now. Had been ill, then others became sick. Moved because, with a new baby, house was too small. Discusses the happenings of common acquaintances. Wants to go to church. Rejoices that God's grace has kept her alive; she waits to fulfill some heavenly purpose.

Folder 2: September 1864 – February 1866

Item 1

Atlanta Headquarters
September 9, 1864

Captain Walter Crook to Richard Weaver
Informs him that his son, Milton, died in the line of battle on September 1. Describes the victorious attack in which Milton died. Describes Milton's wound and burial place. Lists regiment's casualty rate. Compliments Milton's personality and character. Will send his belongings to them.

Item 2

Atlanta, Georgia
September 10, 1864

From [?] to Dear Wife

[Tells of Milton Weaver's death and where buried.]

Sends salutations and asks about children's well being. Promises to send money to alleviate poor conditions. Describes in detail the battle of Jonesboro, particularly the attack on "Rebel" forces and stand against their heavy fire. Describes mass grave of Confederates. Tells how all of the 74th Ohio were buried in one grave, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Jonesboro, on the Macon side. Describes mortal wound of [Milton Weaver?]; shot in the head, near the ear.

Item 3

Hamilton
October 9, [1864?]

Hannah Litton to Sister [Ann Weaver]

Sends love to Robert, husband. Was worried because sons were in the army, yet remained confident in God's care. Describes sickness in the family, including the death of an infant. Sends condolences at the loss of her son, Milton Weaver and is thankful her sons are alive. Says her loss was Milton's gain. Encourages sister to find solace in a loving God and the Bible. Assures sister that all will meet in heaven one day.

Item 4

Hamilton
November, 8, 1864

Tom Conklin to Dear Uncle and Aunt

Writes of trip from Dayton and visit with his mother and voting experience. He voted for Lincoln and rejoices that Lincoln won: a "great day for our country." Mentions the birth of a friend's child.

Item 5

Cedar Grove, Indiana
February 19, 1866

Thomas Litton to Ann Weaver

Writes of sending "likenesses" to relatives and receiving little thanks for it. Inquires about a Tavern stand. Expresses desire to find job to care for his sick wife. Informs her of his the whereabouts and happenings of his family. Asks about his brother, Robert, and tells of his newly purchase forty acres.

Series IV: Collected Poems of Richard Weaver

Folder 1: Undated Poems

Item 1

[no date]

Poem: "The Joys of Friendship"

Summary--The benefits of friendship; others' need of friendship; the obligation to be friendly; the emptiness of life without friends.

Item 2

[no date]

Poem: "For What do We Live"

Lists several things that make life worth living.

Item 3

[no date]

Poem: "Soldiers Mind is not at rest"

Summary and highlights: The troubled mind of a soldier; the benefits of peace; optimistic about future and freedom; a sense of duty and nationalism.

Item 4

[no date]

Poem: Untitled

Summary: the duty to send a lady friend a valentine; the joy a gift might bring to his valentine; her virtue is priceless and he is unworthy of her.

Item 5

[no date]

Poem by Chilton Weaver: "McAfee"

Story of an orphaned boy; reared by uncle; married a good wife; regretted poisoning her; admonished young men to keep good company; said goodbye to friends before death.

Item 6

August 2, 1864

Poem: "Sherman in his kareer"

[with note to mother and father]

Summary: Union capture of Marietta; jokes of the Rebel's miscalculations and brags about Sherman; Hood's charge on Union lines; calls Confederate soldiers "braves" and their generals "chieftains."

Note: Writes of a visit from someone back home; writes poem for his little siblings while waiting for regiment to start marching.

Series V: Miscellaneous Items of Milton Weaver and Family

Folder 1: Envelopes 1862-1864

Item 1

Nineteen Envelopes

[Some have patriotic and war themes on them. Others have personal drawings and doodling on them.]

Folder 2: Invitations and Bills of Sale

Item 1

February 17, 1864

Invitation: Milton Weaver to Charles C. Dodson, William Hoffman, and J. McCarter.

Invitation to a party held at Evins Waymires's house.

Item 2

February 27, 1888

An 1888 Bill of Sale, Robert Weaver.

Item 3

Tippecanoe City, Ohio

September 18, 1894

Reward of \$10, Robert Weaver.

Item 4

Dayton, Ohio

August 11, 1866

[?] to Mr. Wilson

Invitation to a party at Miss Carrie [Badore?].

Folder 3: Recipes

Item 1

Recipe for toothache medicine.

Item 2

Recipe for Hair Wash.

Series VI: Photographs

Folder 1: Undated Tintype of Milton Weaver