

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp Logon Shawneetown Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1862 [English]

Dear Parents and Siblings

I grasp the quill to write you all a few lines to put you in the know that I received a letter from Schulnicks [difficult to read name] and learned from it that you are all still healthy, which gives me much pleasure. I received a letter from Adolf Fieber this week and learned from it that Phillip is in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He says that his brother John is in Louisville but he did not say whether or not he is enlisted. There are really many boats going down the river to Columbus, Kentucky and from there to Cornith, Mississippi. One regiment is from Ohio it was the 63<sup>rd</sup> and the 112<sup>th</sup> they've been merged together [End page 1]

they did not have rifles, one of their Germans told me. That they will not receive any until they get to Cornith. He told me that he saw the 108<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Kentucky. Gunships go up and down the river almost every day. There is one lying about 25 miles from here they took away about 30 rebels from there and the rebels threatened to go there and take the Union men in exchange for the Rebels. Our exksizih[r ?] master his time is up and (he) the officers do not want to push him and so he is going home. I wish that he would stay another month as I am near to him [*ich gleiche ihn*]. I think he is a fine man. Our first and second Lieutenants are both home the first is on leave and the other is [End Page 2] sick he has not been here since I was home and he is still not much better. When you all write again also let me know how much the wheat is worth and also let me know what Friedrich Negeley [difficult to read name] is doing.

I don't know much more to write. I wrote Phillip. I'm sending you all the letter from Adolf Fieber and you all can read it (write) for yourselves

My kindest Regards to you all,

Johanes D. Fieber [German Signature]

Remainder of letter (to brother, Uly Fieber) in English

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp Logon Shawneetown Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1862 [English]

Dear Parents and Siblings

I grasp the quill to write you all a few lines to put you in the know about how things are going with me. I am still healthy and energetic. I actually weigh heavier than I have ever weighed in my life I weigh 149 ½ pounds, which is 20 pounds heavier than how I came here. We have received our overcoats they are of quite good quality much better than I had guessed. I think that things will soon get going again [End Page 1] in the South since I do not think that so many soldiers would be going to the South for nothing if there weren't something going on. I heard that 40,000 men passed by Cairo going to the South. I do not think that we will stay the whole winter since the officers have posted a letter to leave from here and have sent to the governor that we should pack all of our things and want to leave from here to go to the South. I think this will also happen. I have also sent Adolf a letter but have not yet received a reply. When you all write again, [End Page 2] also let me know how you are making out with the grain and what it actually is worth. and what the wheat is worth but don't sell any for under a dollar a bushel. You all could write a letter and send it back down with the First Lieutenant he will be coming down by next Friday so you all have to write as quickly as you receive this letter. He'll be coming down Plank Road.

I have to close my letter since the boys want to get going.

My kindest regards to you all,

I remain your faithful son

Johanes D Fieber [German signature]

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp Logon Shawneetown Ills Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1862 [English]

Dear Parents and Siblings through an opportunity to send you all a few lines with Schulnis I grasp the quill to put you all in the know about how things are going with me. I am still fresh and [illegable] Last Saturday nine steam boats filled with soldiers went by here going south and on Sunday 6 more went by going south The majority were Ohio regiments but the Regiment Philipp is in has not passed by yet. Word also [End Page 1] came last week that we will be split up and half the regiment will go about [illegable] miles down river from here to establish our winter quarters there. I do not yet know, however, which companies will go. I do not think, though, that our company will go. And then I have heard again that we could also leave from here entirely and will also go down river to Memphis in about 2 or 3 weeks I cannot say if it is true but I have a firm belief that it is and if any of you all still want to come down here then you should best come down soon. [End Page 2]

We have received our knapsacks and haversacks and watter bottles and a few tents, but by far not enough for the entire regiment. I also heard last week that a captain of guerilla or robber band burned through with his team and took with him about \$50,000 dollars from the stolen goods [illegable] the cashier of the regiment

Also, a captain of a company of robbers was taken prisoner and 100 men He was in command of a company when they shot on a steam ship when I was home he was caught in Caseyville [English] and is being taken to Louisville [English]. This morning [End Page 3] another two regiments of soldiers went down the river, both from Ohio. The weather today is quite cold an it is actually snowing a bit. I know no further news. When you all write again, let me know if you will soon be done harvesting the grain and what it is worth. and if you have received a letter from Louise. I must close my letter as it is time to go to bed. I am still healty and hope you are also so when these few lines reach you.

My heartfelt regards to you all

I remain, until death, your faithful son

Johanes D. Fieber [German Signature]

Write Soon

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp Near Carrollton Louisiana 8 miles above New Orleans August 14 1863 [English]

Very Esteemed Parents and Siblings I grasp the quill to write you all a few lines and put you in the know of where I am know. We boarded a steam boat at 9 o'clock on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month but we did not depart.. We had to wait until until the next morning at 10 o'clock until we got our money. We were paid out. Previously we were paid before we left Natchez [English]. At first we thought we were to go to Port Hudson [English] we came to Port Hudson [English] after the first day and many went on land that night to sleep because there were too many on the boat to be able to lie down well. and we went on again the next [day] [End Page 1] and arrived here at 10 o'clock at night and we then had to unload the boat but luckily we did not need to work until the next morning because many others were there before us so it was not our shift until the next morning. and in the morning [word repeat] we came here and we [word repeat] set up our tents but how long [word repeat] we will stay here, that I do not know. Since we have so often quickly gone from one place to the next. I think next time we will go to Mobile [English]. Now I want to let you all know how the country is it is as beautiful country as I have ever seen and most of the plantations below Port Hudson [English] have not been destroyed and the sugar cane is growing on them and houses along the river are the finest [End Page 2] one could hope to see. I have not yet been in the city of New Orleans I think I will be going down there in a few days. Yesterday a soldier was shot because he shot a Major. He took it quite lightly, as he said he had done it to save himself. and he also said that if he had been a common soldier, nothing would have been said, or even that he had done the right thing. I have a newspaper with the whole story in it that I will send to you all and then you can see all about it and when you are finished with it, then you can go to the printer Clark [English] in Grayville [English] and tell him that I sent you all to him.

I know no further news. I am still healthy and hope that these few lines [End Page 3] will reach you.

My heartfelt regards to you all

I remain your faithful son until [last word crossed out]

John. D. Fieber [English Signature]

Send your letters to

Co "H" 87<sup>th</sup> Regt Ills Vols

12 Division 2 Brig 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps

in care of Capt Jacobs

New Orleans La

[English]

P.S. I think I will send my money home as quickly as I get a chance to.

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp Near Carrollton La Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1863 [English]  
[....?]

Dear Parents and Siblings

I grasp the quill to write you all a few lines to put you in the know about how things are going with me. I am still quite healthy I had diarrhea but it is getting quite better again. It has rained every day since we have been here. We had to move our camp yesterday in the hard rain. We are now about 6 miles from New Orleans [English] and there are very many troops here and still more and more are coming down and I think that when they have enough here it will be off to Mobile [English] or another strong point. The weather is colder here than I had thought. One can handle it quite well. It is a quite good place [End Page 1] to be as one can get much of what one wants and one can get it quite inexpensively. I wrote you all a letter when we first came here but I do not know if you all received it or not as I believe it went the New York [English] route and it takes so long to go that way. Quite [many] boats are going up and down the river now. We have still not received any letters since we have been here and we are [beginning to be anxious] to receive letters from you all. Write and let me know if you have heard from Louisa [English] recently and if Phillip has come back again and if you are all still healthy.

August 21<sup>st</sup> 1860

I heard this morning that we will not be staying [End Page 2] here much longer and it also appears to be so as all of the sick are being sent to New Orleans [English] to a Convalesant Camp [English]. That is a place for those who are not sick enough to go to the hospital and I think that is a pretty good chance to get away [*und das denke ich ist eine ziemliche gute ausicht das fort gehen thun*]. I have not yet been in New Orleans [English] but I want to go there before we leave from here. Write and let me know if they've drawn lots in Illinois and if they drew Julius' name and how those who were drawn are taking it on average. Captain Enlow [English] has stepped down and there are now only three captains in the regiment of the 10 who were originally in the regiment. We received two months' pay before we left Natchez [English] but [End Page 3] have not sent any of it home because the Express Agent [English] said that it would go the New York [English] route and we thought if we waited a few days we could send it up the Mississippi River.

Don't know anything else so I ought to close my letter for this time. I hope these few lines reach you all in good health.

My heartfelt regards to you all

I remain your faithful son

Johanes D Fieber [German/English Signature]

Address [your letters?]

Co "H" 87 Regt Ills Vols/ 2 Brigade 12<sup>th</sup> Division 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps/ New Orleans La

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Camp near Franklin, La. January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1864 [English]

Very Esteemed Parents and Siblings

I grasp the quill to write you all a few lines to put you in the know about how things are going with me. So far, I am healthy and energetic [considering] how hard I have had it since I've been away from home. I am free from the diarrhea that I got on the march from Vicksburg to Jackson. And all the men in the company are healthier than they have been since we have been away from home and they have more to do. We are having better times now that we have had since we have been on this march. Since we do not need to because it is nights up, then when we were in New Iberia it was not often that our people slept in their tents two nights in a row. Since they had to stand watch. We are now as well prepared for the cold weather as we have ever been. Each tent has a stove that makes it quite warm. Many people have told me that it does not get cold in the south in the winter when they were here so they must have had it differently since one feels the cold here just as bad as where you all are, only it doesn't last as long and recently there has been much rain here which makes it quite filthy and in many places one can hardly get though with the wagons. [End Page 1]

We have now fallen back 28 miles and I think we will remain here until it gets better again. We get enough fresh meat The orders are against that the boys shouldn't take anything but they always get enough fresh pork. I think when we leave from here we will go along the sea [translator's note: the German is "See," which really means lake in High German] to Texas. They guys who were taken prisoner have been exchanged and have returned to their regiments. But I did not get to see them. They supposedly looked quite starved. They saw quite hard times. I think the people who live here in this area will have quite hard times when we're done since pretty much everything that can be removed has been taken. Many regiments are going home now on 60 days leave it is the troops who have already been soldiers for two years or more and those who re-enlist for 3 more years get a \$402 dollar bounty ["bounty" is written in English] and entire regiments are re-enlisting much more than I thought

I have still not received a letter from you all since Marian Coulter brought me one and this seems like a long time. I would like to hear if Mother has returned and how things look for you all I also wrote Phillip a letter but have not yet received a [End Page 2] reply from him either Also let me know if Jim West and John Kuykendoll are still home and if they are not yet healthy. And if Father received the items from Lieutenant Johns that I sent him. Also let me know if you all have sold my Philly or not and if the Cowlings have heard from Dick recently and where he is and also William Jacobs. Also let me know how much money I have sent to you all since I have been away from home, as I have not put down anything, and how much of it you all have lent out and who has it. Everything together grain and wheat money and everything that I have. As I would like to know how much it all is.

I don't know much more to write so I ought to close my letter

My heartfelt regards to all of you  
I remain your faithful son,  
John D. Fieber [English signature]

P.S. My kind regards to the entire Cowlings [English] Family and all of my friends. I heard today that Jeff Walker [English] is home and that they are having good times where you all are. We had a quite New Years [English] since we could not have anything to drink it was one of the most quiet New Years that I [End Page 3] have ever seen. I hope that you all had a good time.

93-57-L

Letters of John D. Fieber, 1862-1864

Head Quarters Co. "H" 87<sup>th</sup> Ills Vols 111<sup>th</sup> Inf  
Near Franklin Louisiana  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 1864  
[English]

Dear Parents and Siblings,

I grasp the quill to put you all in the know that I correctly received the letter that you sent with James West [English] and have seen in it that you are all still fresh and healthy, which pleases me to the heart. I have from it that Father wants to put the house up for sale if I were in his place I would also do it as it is more trouble than it's worth when the rent doesn't bring enough with which to have it shingled. It seems you should do well enough with it to buy the 40 acres land as now you can clear more land there at home You all wrote that the [End Page 1] weather was so cold and that one of Simon's ears froze but that it got better, which is very good. I also got the package that you all sent with James West [English] it makes me happy that you all sent it [and I am proud that] I can say that it came from home. but as far as grain is concerned, we get enough and when we can't cut it we can buy it, as we can buy draught apples here for 7 ½ cents per pound so there's pretty much one in every basket and we always have fresh bread and when we can't get it already baked then we get flour and have our cook bake it. We've got it pretty good. There are only two remaining cavalry regiments here our regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana [English] and we have plenty to do. Our horses are quite deteriorated. We had inspection yesterday and nearly half of our horses were declared unsatisfactory and I think we will soon get better ones. I think we will become a cavalry regiment and that we will get swords and pistols. That means that we will soon go to New Orleans [English] to get them. I wrote you all a letter since we have been here in which I said that we're fixed up pretty well here but we've had to leave the place again and start off fresh again. We all had stoves but now we're quite well established again but as soon as we're well established we have to move on again. The health of the regiment is mostly good, but we've lost two men to sickness they had both already been sickly for a long time the one man came to us from the Hospital [English] in New Iberia [English] and got sick again and had to go to the Hospital [English] again and I thought he had been sent to New Orleans [English] and one day I went once to the Hospital [German/English] and asked about him and they told me that he had just died. and we were so close and knew nothing about it. His name was Silus M. Fowler [English] his wife lives in New Harmony [English]. The other one his name was Sylvanus Bunting [English] He also left behind a wife and a small child His parents live [illegable] Albion [English]. There are always Rebels trailing us, even as we retreat, but not terribly many the people who live here, they are afraid that we will leave from here and then they think that the Rebels will come here and that they will have to go into the Rebel Army.

I know no further news so I ought to close my letter. I am fresh and healthy and hope you are also so when these few lines reach you.

John D. Fieber [English Signature]