

Ware Roots and Branches

Newsletter of the
Ware Family Association
Issue No. 15 – Winter 2009



“I Once More Take My Pen In Hand”

*Excerpts from the Civil War Letters of Albert B. Lee and Dexter Ware Mack
and letters to the soldiers from Sobrina Mack Dort and Justus Hurd Ware*

*Transcribed and annotated
by Ann Mullins Tindall*

In the January 2004 issue of *Roots & Branches*, we published the first installment of excerpts from Civil War letters written by three young Illinois Ware descendants -- Wilbur Fisk Lee, Albert Blanding Lee, and Dexter Ware Mack. The letters are addressed to their cousin, Justus Hurd Ware, who was farming and raising a family in Butler Grove Township. Dexter, born in 1833, was 30 years old when the letters were written; Justus was 29. The two cousins met in 1838 when Dexter's parents, Calvin and Huldah Ware Mack, moved from New Hampshire to Butler Grove Twp.¹ Wilbur and Albert Lee, first cousins to both Justus and Dexter, were about ten years younger. Their parents, Daniel and Maria Ware Lee, settled in Montgomery Co. in 1856.² Huldah Mack and Maria Lee were half-sisters, the daughters of Captain Benjamin Ware of Gilsum, N.H.

Wilbur, Albert and Dexter served in the 126th Illinois Infantry Regiment, Company F, at various posts in Tennessee and Arkansas from September 4, 1862, until July 12, 1865. This was a second enlistment for Albert. In 1861 he was taken prisoner while serving with the 1st Illinois cavalry in Missouri. After participating in the capture of Little Rock, Ark., on

September 10, 1863, their regiment marched to DeVall's Bluff, Arkansas, on the White River about fifty miles east of Little Rock. Wilbur did not make the march to DeVall's Bluff with the regiment because of illness. He died "of a fever" at Helena, Ark., on September 18, 1863. The Lee family suffered another blow in Sept. 1864, when a younger son, Morrell Chapin Lee, who served with the 143rd Illinois Infantry, died in Pulaski Co., Illinois, on his way home.

The soldiers' letters saved by Justus passed down to his son, George, who later in life entrusted them to a friend, Burrese Seymour, who preserved them in four notebooks. Burrese's daughter, Barbara Strang, shared the letters with WFA before our 2003 meeting. The excerpts in this issue were written in 1864 and 1865, while Dexter and Albert were camped at DeVall's Bluff, Ark. We also publish for the first time four letters written to Dexter by his sister Sobrina and by his cousin Justus. These letters were preserved in the Mack family and shared with us by Marjie Mack.

The process of transcribing, annotating and indexing has been an arduous task with many interruptions. But the project had my undivided attention in February 2008 during a month-long recovery following a hip replacement surgery. As I transcribed the letters, I chose not to change or correct what the soldiers wrote; however, for ease of reading, I have added periods at the end of sentences. The underlines are those words that were underlined by the writer. It's time to share more of the letters!

¹ *Roots & Branches*, Issue #14, featured the Mack family history.

² The story of Daniel and Maria Lee was published in several installments in previous issues of *Roots & Branches*.

Albert wrote:

Nov 11th 63

Dear Cousin

I once more take my pen in hand to break the silence which has so long interrupted us. I read the letter that you wrote to Dexter and was glad to hear how you were all prospering. At present I am well with the exception of some chills which have taken me down a notch or two as usual. You have before this



*A Christmas Dinner on the outer picket line.
From Civil War drawing collection
Library of Congress*

heard of the particulars of Wilbur's Death³ and as you have experienced the loss of a Beloved Father you can sympathise with me in this great affliction. For it is the greatest trial my friend that has ever happened.

Cousin Deck⁴ is my chum now. I am glad to have so good a friend. He is allways the same Social, Cheerful & generous. And now allmost a brother to me. We often talk of you and the past events of life. We had an interesting prayer meeting the other night. All enjoyed ourselves well and felt that God was there. We were greatly encouraged to go on in the way to heaven. I would like to step in your quiet Church some Sabbath and hear one Sermon.

Albert wrote:

Thursday 12th [1863]

The mail has arrived and I recieved your welcome Letter of Oct 21st. I was truly glad to hear from you again To hear that although Death had taken away some of your neighbors it had not entered your peaceful home to leave sorrow behind. I am

³ Albert's brother, Wilbur Fiske Lee, died in Helena, Ark., on Sept. 18, 1863.

⁴ Deck is Albert's nickname for Dexter.

sorry that the Frost injured the crops so. I Think This year has been a hard one on Farmers from accounts.

Dexter wrote:

Nov 13th 1863

We have been bulding our winter quarter & have got them almost compleated. our mess got an old log house & moved it some 2 or 3 miles & then we added another apartment to it for a kitchen with a mud fire place that takes in about four foot wood at one end & a longuer table acrost on side that we eat our grub off of in the sitting room. we have 6 bunks three high two in a bunk me & Albert have a top bunk

Buisness is quite lively to day as thare was 6 or 7 boats arived here to day fetching provisions & clothing & sutler goods & one bardge boat had on it 18 box cars for the Little Rock road I should like to see you all very much inead but I do not see eny prospects for a furlow for me at presant so I should haft to be contented with my lot. But have one consolation that if we never meat on earth again I have Grait faith that we will meat in heaven where parting will be no more & we should strive dalley to live so as to feal ashurd that we are prepared to dy. May God grant we may be so un speackble happy as to meat in heaven with all your family thare to sing Gods praise for ever more Amen.



Soldiers in front of Wood Hut (Winter Quarters)

Albert wrote:

Dec. 26th 1863

I am not enjoying very good health at present. the Fever and Ague is still in my system and gives me an occasional shake to remind me that he is still alive Cousin D.'s as hearty as a Coon. We are talking of getting our Likenesses taken and send them to you I

wish It had been done when Wilbur was alive. But he is dead and gone. I look for him But he is no more. I wish his remains were interred in the Grove Burying Ground. Guerrillas are occasionally seen prowling around this place. It is not safe to venture out unarmed or alone. A Corporal of Co. B was out hunting Deer a few weeks ago and taken prisoner and afterwards shot with his own gun. I saw his corpse Poor Fellow Shot down in the prime of life by these worse than savages. And these are the men that many in the north would league with and call Brothers. ___ this is the mode of warfare that is upheld by the President of the Southern Confederacy.

Dexter wrote:

Feb. 11th 1864

I am well at this time as usual & Albert is well we but one man in the hospital out of our Co that is much sick several have got the sore eyes. Riley Osborn⁵ & several of the Granthams⁶ have had them very bad but are getting better now. one man died ~~out~~ in Co. D 9th. his name was Sam Bennet⁷ of Hillsboro. he was a new recruit for that Co. he had been here about ten days or two weeks. he died with the Deleriom tremonds. so much for Whiskey. Dear Cousin you



J. Riley Osborn

have now idea the amount of whiskey there is drank in the army young men forming habits that will lead them on to a drunkards Grave if they do not reform which not many of them will do We hire our cooking done. it cost our mess about .15cts per week for our cooking & washing 5 cts of a pice. our variety is not all that hart could wish but we content our selves of thinking of the past & hoping for the future. we buy considerable here although at extravagant prices. we have good meay chances to make money here to pay our expenses that we never have had at any other place.

⁵ Corporal James Riley Osborn, a neighbor in Butler Grove Township, volunteered in 1861, served as a Corporal in Company F, 126 Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He may have served in other companies. Many times volunteers served first in one company, returned home briefly, and then served in other companies.

⁶ Four men from the Grantham family of Irving, Ill., were also serving in the regiment: Ezekiel; John P., who died at Irving on September 9, 1864; Thomas; and William, who was discharged March 3, 1864, on disability.

⁷ Pvt. Samuel S. Bennett died on February 10, 1864, in the hospital at Duvall's Bluff.

Albert wrote:

March 9th 1864.

Norris Richmond⁸ arrived safely with the Peaches, Honey etc. sent by the kind friends at home. Be assured they will be appreciated and your kindness gratefully remembered. We have already made way with a couple of cans which were pronounced excellent by the boys, and we was reminded of (what now seems as) old times. For such things are indeed rarities to us soldiers. Do you recollect the time that peaches were so plenty and how we made them go with milk at the rate of a Bowlful at a time. Those were pleasant times Dear Cousin. Since then many changes have passed over our heads. Changes we shall never forget while we sojourn in this vale of tears. But we have had some pleasant times since then too. Yet, the scents of sorrow seem to cast a gloom over all past enjoyments and future looks dark sometimes when we think of changes yet to come. But why should we keep our thoughts allways on the dark side. Dexter & myself have built us a comfortable little house and we are not so much crowded for room as we have been. We have a good time together. I have not much news to write Things go on as usual. Some little talk of marching orders &c. But no appearance of our leaving the place as I see.

Albert wrote:

April 9th 1864

I am in good health at present and hope this will find you well also. There is considerable sickness now prevailing in the company but more dangerously sick. Willard Weber⁹ has been in the Hospital threatened with an attack of the Fever. But I understand he is better todayCousin Dexter is "Hale and Hearty" as you ever saw him. We have had our pictures taken and Intended to have had them sent by Reuben Kellog who left a short time since for Nokomis on a sick furlough. But he was gone before we thought and It may be some time before another chance occurs. I think perhaps we will send it by mail. Our duty is very heavy here now. We are constantly expecting an

⁸ Richmond, a native of Butler County, Ohio, married Mary Louise "Lulu" Ware, daughter of Enoch and Louisa (Atwood) Ware on January 11, 1866. Lulu's father and Albert's mother were half-siblings, both children of Capt. Benjamin Ware of Gilsum, N.H.

⁹ Albert's cousin, Jane Kendrick, had been married to Willard Weber's brother, Jacob, but Jane died young, before the war.

attack from the Rebels I have been on picket every day nearly for the past week. Our earthworks have'been greatly strengthened and a substantial Fort made and every thing made in readiness to recieve the foe in the best manner possible. A sharp fight occured up the river the other day. The rebs lost heavily. Our force numbered 300. The Rebels 900. Col Andrews Had his horse shot from under him and his coat pierced with bullets. his sabre was shot away also. I learn that the Copperheads are very quiet by today's paper and perhaps it will prove a good lesson for them If they will not take heed. Let the blood of the slaughtered men be on their own heads. I tell you Justus I had rather hear of a defeat to our arms on the field Than this one instance of the uprising of the foul Comtempible traitors at home. Though I would be sorry to hear of any several to our arms at the present time. It encourages the Enemies of the Union more than anything that they hear.Our mess which now consists of Six worthy members. Named respectively L. L. Whitaker. Wm. M. Brown D. T. Hefley C. J. Lipe. D. W. Mack Esq.¹⁰ & myself are getting along finely. We are getting to look upon soldiering as we used to upon farming. it is our every day business now. I long for the day to come when we will "lay down the musket" and return to the old pursuit.

The time is flying. I suppose Bro Livengood¹¹ is still preaching to you regularly Will you give him my kind regards when you see him. I would like to hear him preach a sermon again. My respects to J.H. Dort¹² & family, Merrill, Oscar¹³ & all the friends.

Albert wrote:

April 16th 1864

I had not heard of J.C.W's marriage before you wrote. And as you may well imagine I was thunderstruck at the news. I had long ago concluded that Jake was one of those who would live and die an old Bachelor. But

¹⁰ Lyman L. Whitaker, William M. Brown, Daniel T. Hefley all of Irving; Columbus J. Lipe, of Hillsboro; cousin Dexter Ware Mack

¹¹ Rev. Jeremiah Livengood, the first minister at Ware's Grove Lutheran Church in Butler Grove Township. Albert's cousin, Jerome Kendrick, married Rev. Livengood's daughter, Jane Rebecca.

¹² Joseph Hartley Dort married Sobrina Mack, another of Albert's cousins.

¹³ Merrill and Oscar are Dexter's brothers.

The 126th Illinois Regiment Infantry

Ware descendant soldiers were Wilbur Fisk Lee, Albert Blanding Lee, and Dexter Ware Mack

HISTORY: The regiment was organized at Alton, Illinois, and mustered in September 4, 1862. The regiment moved to Columbus. Ky., thence to Bolivar and LaGrange, Tenn., November 20-28, 1862. Attached to District of Jackson, 13th Army Corps (Old), Department of the Tennessee, to December, 1862; to 3rd Brigade, District of Jackson, 16th Army Corps, to March, 1862; to 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 16th Army Corps, to May, 1863; to 2nd Brigade, Kim-ball's Provisional Division, 16th Army Corps, to July, 1863; to 2nd Brigade, Kimball's Division, District of Eastern Arkansas, to August, 1863; to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Arkansas Expedition, to January, 1864; to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 7th Army Corps, Dept. of the Arkansas, to March, 1864; to 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Army Corps, to February, 1865. Unattached, 7th Army Corps, mouth of White River, Ark., to July, 1865.

SERVICE: Duty at LaGrange, Tenn., until January, 1863. (6 Companies moved to Jackson, Tenn., December 19, 1862; thence moved to Humboldt, Tenn. R.R. crossing at Fork Deer River December 20. Action at Humboldt December 21.) 4 Companies on duty at Jackson, Tenn., and 6 Companies at Humboldt, Tenn., January to March 25; then at Jackson until May 25, 1863. Moved to Vicksburg, Miss., May 25-28. Siege of Vicksburg May 28-July 4. Moved to Helena. Ark., July 24. Expedition against Little Rock, Ark., August 1-September 10. Bayou Fourche and capture of Little Rock September 10. Moved to Duvall's Bluff October 24, and duty there until August 19, 1864. Action at Clinton June 25-26. Moved to Pine Bluff, Ark., August 19, and duty there until February 12, 1865. Scouts from Pine Bluff toward Camden and Monticello January 26-31. At mouth of White River, Ark., until June 12, and at Pine Bluff until July 12. Mustered out July 12, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 6 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 4 Officers and 192 Enlisted men by disease. Total 202.

Source: *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* by Frederick H. Dyer (Part 3)

late events prove that my thoughts took the wrong conclusion. you may be assured that Dexter and I had a big laugh over the circumstance. I imagine the farm House &c. will undergo great change within the next few months..... I see you are still improving "Shop and buggy House" added to the buildings. Well, we are improving here too. Making railroads, Houses, Forts, Ware Houses, Hotels, &c &c. Our Fort was dedicated yesterday. 12 rounds of Artillery were fired at the hoisting of the flag. But Cousin D. (Dexter Ware Mack) & myself were rolling cotton bales. We had taken a contract to put 60 bales on the Steamer Silver Wave and did not like to leave our work. We made five dollars apiece by working hard all day.
[See letter below from Justus Ware dated May 10, 1864]

Dexter wrote:

May 25th 1864

....was truly glad to hear from my old friend once more. it found me well as usual. I was truly glad to here of your prosperity in this world & increase of your Family (Carrie Susan, born on 5 May 1864) I must say it took me on surprise.....I wish your baby had been a boy & then you could have named it after me. Albert is well or was few days ago he has gone up the river now on an escort to Jackson Port (on the White River about 75 miles north of De Valls Bluf). they are going to withdraw the troops from that place our Regt has been guarding boats up there to take them supplies all winter & now they see fit to take them away. troops are arriving every day here of late from up the river. most of are stopping here & waiting further orders. I think that ~~that~~ a large force will be kept here to fall back to in case of necessity. this place should be held at all hazards We have been looking for an attack on this place here of late but have not seen any of the rebels yet. We have quite cheering News of the Army under General Grant I have great faith in Grant. I believe that he will well take Richmond if takes all summer. He is a man that is calculate to do wonders because he will have his own way & will carry out his plans My Faith is strong in our Cause all though it may take some time to yet to crush out this wicked rebellion. I do not think I will get any chance to come home on a furlow I should like to very much
this fall but it is very doubtful.

[See letter below from Justus Ware to Dexter and Albert, dated June 26, 1864]

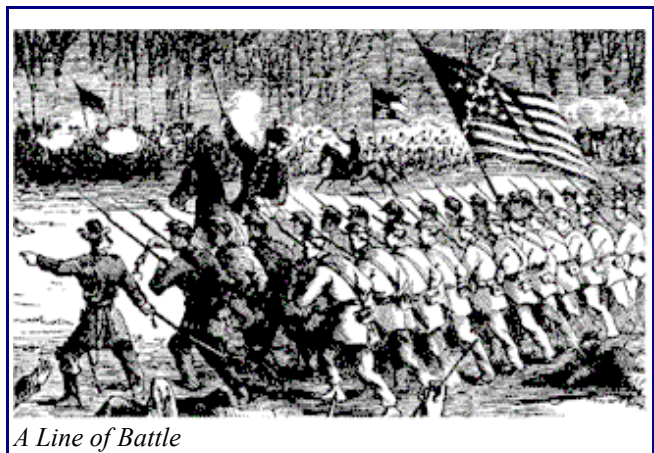
Albert wrote:

July 6th A. D. 1864

I am aware it is a very busy season of the year with you. I can almost imagine I see you hard at work. It is about the time you usually commence Haying. And I'll warrant you are puffing and sweating in the hot sun. Among the dreadful "Bumble bees nests." Or being Jolted about on the Old "Manny Mower". at night you are tired and quickly surrender to "Old Morpheus." Perchance before you sleep you think of your "Soldier" Cousins and "breathe a prayer" for their safety. Be assured you are not forgotten here. And the time is rolling around when if our lives are spared we will meet "face to face," and talk over the scenes of the past without using this silent-way of penning our thought to each Other.

The weather is very warm. We have moved our Camp and are living in tents now. There are six of Our Tent. we enjoy ourselves well. Have made a Shade in front and find it adds much to our Comfort. The Rebels are getting quiet bold in this locality. We hear a great many rumors every day. Yesterday they captured some Beef Cattle not far from here.

An expedition... left the Bluff on the 25th of June. ... We arrived at Clarendon the following day Between 8 & 9 o'clock. The force was landed and Skirmishers sent out upon our right & front Marching 1/2 a mile north of the town We found the Rebels posted in the skirts of an old cornfield. We formed in Line of Battle in the Belt of woods in front. Cos E, D. of our Regt were thrown out as Skirmishers and our whole Line moved forward. ... When we got in the middle of the field the Rebels opened on us with their Cannon. But their shells all Burst rather high. And the skirmishers pressing them so closely. Our Battery



only got one shot at them before they “skedaddled. They fell back about a half mile and took position again. this time they got our range better and several were wounded by the Bursting shell. A few shots from the Battery Compelled them to beat a hasty retreat-as before, Our Cavalry in pursuit.

We rested a while Made Coffee, and started on after him. Marched until dark and Bivouacked. D [Dexter] & I Slept on an Oil cloth. With a few Bushes over our head for a protection against the Dew. At Early Dawn we ~~are~~ were on the march again. It was very warm and we were hurried on allmost on the Double Quck. Sometimes wading through swamps & Bayous. Oblijed to drink water that was covered with scum and full of “wiggie tails” Yet Our Co. stood the march extemely well. The 12th Michigan veterans Braged that they would out march us. But when night came They were the ones that were “played out” not us. A good many gave out, some fell down in the rank, sunstruck. Whenever a halt was ordered it was the signal for a general rush for “Shade and water.” There were two words which fell on our ears with anything but a pleasant sound. “Attention,” “Forward!” When we came to camp at night What few had strength enough to cheer Let out and shouted their best. For a half hour the boys kept coming in Looking as though they could go no farther. Were glad to roll down most any place and rest their weary limbs. A nights rest, even on the damp ground was a great relief to all and a good Cup of Coffee (which appears indespensible on a march) Forms the greater part of our Breakfast and makes us feel like new men. When I left the Bluff I was quite unwell But felt better on the march. I took the best care of myself I knew how, or I would have given out. We drove Old Shelby¹⁴ to Cash River¹⁵ a distance of 30 miles or more. Cavalry constantly skirmishing with his rear guard. But in view of the difficulty in crossing and being out of rations we were compelled to return. Our Regt presented a novel sight on the way back some of the boys threw away their shoes preferring to take it barefoot. their example spread to the rest and soon two thirds of the boys were fixed for the swamp by swinging their shoes on their guns and rolling up their pants to their knees. Sometimes splashing through the mud or wading knee deep in the water. Sometimes there would be a long stretch of water. In we went with a whoop. Some

loosing their equilibrium were completely ducked, and caused much merriment. But generally the unlucky one took it in a joke and went ahead as though nothing had happened.

We reached Clarendon on the 29th Tired and Hungry. The result of the Expedition was the Capture of 2 Cannon taken from the “Queen City” which were found in the swamps and Six or Eight prisoners one of whom was a spy. Our loss was 1 killed & 16 wounded. That of the Rebls 15 Killed & 60 wounded. Our Cavalry were ferried across the river and we went aboard the transport Kate Hart arriving at the Bluff again at 10 oclock at night. So you may imajine we did but little besides sleeping for a day or so. Well Jet I will tell you how we spent the 4th at this place. On the evening of the third at Dress Parade There was an order From Col Miljner Company Post That the 4th was to be given the boys as a Holliday and no fatigue or Guards should be detailed more than was absolutley necessary. So, on the 4th The boys thought they were at liberty to do as they pleased. And as the “4th of July only comes once in a year” the officers thought a little “whiskey would add to the occasion. And they soon found it did. But perhaps the boys were a little too patriotic to suil-ale. A little strong drink and they wanted more. And getting their heads up they made a charge on a lot of Beer on the Landing. Bursting in the heads of the Barrels under the nose of the Col Comanding and every body else. What did they care. It bade fair to end in a general riot. The Sutlers comenced closing their doors. Charley Yates Post Baker had his stock of Pies levied on and they all disappeared without ceremony. Our Regt was called out And had to quell the fuss with fixed Bayonets. So instead of enjoying the comfort of even a rest on the 4th of July, 1864, I was on Patroll guard on account of a few men who were slaves to Liquor. The sober men of the Regt were oblijed to forgoe their comfort. Nothing so disgusts me as to see men making brutes of themselves. I was surprised to see men, who at home were said to be temperals relling along under the influence of Beastly intoxication. God grant I may never see such a sight again. It is mainly owing to the example of the officers that such a state of things occurred. When you write tell me How you spent the 4th. Shall I ever forget the fourth of July 2 years ago. How pleasantly we were all situated then. What changes have transpired since then.

14 Gen. Joseph Orville “Jo” Shelby.

15 The river was the Cache River

My sheet is full. Cousin D. is fighting flies on his Bunk. This is for both of us. Hoping ere another fourth rolls round We will meet again.
Love to all

Albert wrote:

July 22nd 1864

A detail of 17 men from our Co. including myself are on Daily Extra duty. Our Business is to unload Boats we get extra pay. I think it will be beneficial to me for I have generally had better health while working regularly than other wise. This morning we moved a large Casting weighing 4800 pounds from the landing to the Car platform a distance of 20 rod or more. The Quarter Master who employs us told us we might “fall in for whiskey”. But as I never indulge in even a “wee drop of the crater” I fell out for camp. So I have a chance to pen you a few lines I am ashamed to say that many who I thought to call friends are Drinking a good deal. If you want to know how I spent the 4th and what I saw read my last letter but one that I wrote home. My pen refuses to rewrite such scenes. Men, Respectable men at home, Making brutes of themselves here It bad enough even to think of.

But let's change the subject. It is a very pleasant day today comfortably cool. Last night and yesterday it was warm. But the wind has changed to the north. And as it is fanning me through our open tent. I think how far it comes from it is cool. Must come from way up north, in “America” as the boys say. How do I know but what this same Breeze passed over Cousin Jet in the Hayfield and recieved his egaculation of “That's bully”. Or Aunt Sally¹⁶ stops her sewing and takes a fresh breath for fear the cool wind will not last long. Or perhaps it is toying with the curls of little Mary¹⁷ as she sits in the door and laughingly says “Ma, what a nice wind.” All this is imajination Pictures. I wish I could see the reality. I am glad you were satisfied with our pictures, although poor. they will give you some Idea how we appeared while being shot by the Daguerrean Artist. It was not a very enviable position for soldiers even. And the loss of my Moustache can be bourne, since then I have become rather shaggy about the chin. As Deck can

¹⁶ A reference to Sarah “Sally” Slayback Ware, Justus' mother.

¹⁷ Mary is Justus and Luceba Ware's daughter, Mary Flora, born in November of 1862.

testify The general health of the Regt is good. Samuel Mann¹⁸ of Co. Died ... after a short Illness . I dont know whether you were aquainted with him or not. He was a christian. A member of our Praying Band. He was one of the few who brought his religion here and practiced it. He superintended our Prayer meeting at Camp Terry¹⁹ and has always stood firm. I thought a great deal of Mr. Mann. In his death we have lost one of our best Soldiers. Another call to be prepared. Oh: that all would improve the golden Hours of Health to prepare for death. How important, Yet how little thought of or attended to. My sheet admonishes me that I must close.- That God may bless you with Health & Happiness.



Copy of Dexter (left) and Albert's (right) tintype

Dexter wrote:

July 25th 1864

We are very glade that you got those pictures we sent if you priz them as highley as you say you do. We did not like them after they was taken & talked of having them taken over but Kept neglecting it till we had a first rate chance to send them & then it was to late. you are Perfectley welcom to them Justus. I have now dout that you would be glad to see us & to give us harty shake of the hand. I think I can truly say it would be equally as gratfying to us. May God grant that we may meat as we have in former timesI often think of the enjoyments of home life compard with that of a Soldires & my hart runs out after them. but I try to make my self as happy & contented as I well can under the presant circumstances. I tell you

¹⁸ Pvt. Samuel H. Mann of Hillsboro died of disease on July 19, 1864, in the Regimental hospital at Du Vall's Bluff, Arkansas. Mann, age 36, was a married farmer and a native of Henderson County, Kentucky.

¹⁹ Camp Terry was located at Mattoon, Illinois, where Albert wrote his first letter to Justus Ware on Sept. 4, 1862.

what it is it often cheers my heart when I think that there are so many Friends & relatives thinking of us & praying for us

I was very glad that you went to St Louis to the Sanitary fair.²⁰ It gives you an idea of what is being done for the Soldiers. May God Grant that we may duly appreciate that which we receive from their hand & properly apply it to our good. Several of the boys from our CP have gone home on sick furlows that live in Irving. One was Posey Grantham.²¹ Perhaps you know him. Also Wm Brown Marion Satterley Frank Cook. Not much chance for a well man to get a furlow.....

Albert wrote:

July 29th A.D. 1864

We did not expect any remuneration for those Homey Portraits. Were satisfied if they even were acceptable. But as you have sent so many Stamps to us we will try and return a few on the letters we write to let you know you are remembered here. I received two other letters when I got yours. One from My Dear Mother²² and the other was from Cousin Mattie Kendrick.²³ You may well imagine I was one of the Jubilant ones. It is not very often I am so lucky in that line. The weather is warm. And if the gentle singing in the tent is any sign, Mosquitoes are plenty. They are marshalling their legions for a night attack. I believe I'll have to quit until tomorrow, and start a smoke, for one has already Charged Bayonets on me with good success.

Saturday. We are expecting a fleet of Boats up today. I have just returned from work on the Levee. We loaded a ponderous Hay Press on the cars. It is going out to the Big Prairie 5 miles from here. Uncle Sam is making Hay. It is cheaper than to buy at the north and ship. There are hundreds of acres of fine prairie grass near the R.R. A lot of men are cutting & baling. There are several Buckeye Mowers rattling there in true Ill. style ____ In your last letter you spoke of the Death of

Thos Colvin.²⁴ I was so surprised at the unlooked for event. I thought a good deal of Thomas. How Suddenly death sometimes comes! So short a time since we were going to school together. Little did either of us think that the quiet Little Graveyard²⁵ near which we were so pleasantly pursuing our studies that in so short a time one of us would be sleeping there. The sleep of Death, Yet tis so- Of those who mingled there to store their minds with useful Knowledge How many remain. They are nearly all scattered: ~~Three~~Six are dead. Tis indeed a sad picture to look upon. Oh! that It may remind us that It is not long when we too must lay aside everything pertaining to this world To try ~~those~~ the things of Eternity.

My regards to Merrill, Oscar & family. Uncle O. (Obadiah Ware) and all inquiring Friends That yourself & Family may be blest with Health & Happiness is the wish of
Your Aff Cousin
Albert B. Lee
Co. "F." 126th Regt Ill. Vol. Inf

The following four letters, contributed by WFA member Marjie Mack, were written to Dexter Ware Mack, Company F, 126 Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, at Pine Bluff and DuValls Bluff, Ark., by his sister, Sobrina Huldah (Mack) Dort, and his cousin Justus Hurd Ware, from their farm homes in Butler. One letter is addressed to both Dexter and Albert.

Portions that are underlined indicate that the original document was not clear. Periods have been inserted at the end of sentences for ease of reading.

23 Martha H. Kendrick, called "Mattie," a cousin to Albert and Dexter, was 16 in 1864. Her parents were Rev. John Clark Kendrick and his wife Rebecca, daughter of Captain Benjamin Ware of Gilsum, New Hampshire.

24 Probably a reference to the son of Thomas and Matilda Colvin, who lived in Butler Grove Township in 1860. The son, Thomas, would have been about 19 years old if he died in 1864. He had nine brothers and sisters.

25 Ware's Grove Cemetery lies adjacent to the church that Justus Hurd and others in the community built. Both the church and the cemetery are on a hill (actually an esker left by an ancient retreating glacier) that runs north and south for several miles in Butler Grove Township.

20 The U.S. government created the U.S. States Sanitary Commission in June of 1861 to assist the Army Medical Bureau. The Western Sanitary Commission was created in September of 1861. See article on page ** for a description of the Sanitary Fair in St. Louis attended by Justus Ware.

21 John P. Grantham, son of Ezekiel, one of four Grantham brothers serving in the War.

22 Maria Ware Lee.

Sabrina Dort wrote:
Butler Aug 28th²⁶1864
Dear Brother²⁷

I seate myself once more this beautifull sabath morning to answer your kind and welcome letter which wee have just received. I am very sorry to hear of your poor health and I cincerly hope this may find you well again. we are all well as comon. Hartley²⁸ is complaining but has gone to Sabath School and I am all alone with the exceptions of the baby²⁹ and she is sleeping. it is rather lonesome these times staying alone. I do not feel so safe now as I used to before the Guarilles wer around. there is some stealing going on all the time. they guard Butler now. nights they have pickets out on bluegrass and also up in Germany so you can see what we have come to but shall be very thankfull if it gets no worse. I suppose you take the Hillsboro paper and have heard all the particulars of the expedition that went to disperse robbers. Hartley went there was not many left home but wimnan and children. the next thing happened was the hanging of Frank Philips little boy. it is the general opinion that the girl that lives there is the guilty one but nothing can be proven.

Dear Brother one weeke has passed³⁰ and brought a greate many changes. on laste friday Davids Ware's folks buried their little girl.³¹ she had the disentery and today Old Mr. Davis was buired at Montgomery.

26 A Sunday.

27 The letter is to Dexter Mack, Sabrina's brother. She is two years older than Dexter.

28 Sabrina married Joseph Hartley Dort on April 3, 1851. He was always referred to in letters Hartley.

29 The baby referred to is the Dort's youngest child, Lucy, born in 1864. The Dorts' three oldest children, Helen, George and an unnamed female, all died in infancy. A son, Samuel born in 1860 died the previous year on July 31, 1863. Their son Clinton, born November 29, 1858, was the only child to live to adulthood. The baby, Lucy, died in 1877 at the age of 13.

30 Sabrina was apparently side-tracked and resumed writing this letter on the following Sunday, September 4.

31 Theoda Ware was 14 months old at her death. She was the Ware's fourth child, first daughter. Lestina Ware's letter to her parents in New Hampshire gives Theoda's time of death as a few minutes after midnight on Friday, September 2. She may have been buried later that day. The Westcott Ware Genealogy incorrectly states the date of death as September 4.

we have just returned from the funeral about sundown and the clouds look dark and there is a thunder storm approaching as the rain begins to fall. John Colvin³² and Samuel Hugg³³ came riding up in haste. they had herd that there was suspicious acting men at our house while we wer gone and they wer standing in the door they saw a fire in the direction of Weldges.³⁴ hey thought it was the house and they all left in a hurry but since they have gone we can see it is the barn. what a blessing that it is not the house for Sharlotte Colvin is there sick and not expected to live. how dreadfull it would of been. Henry is gone to the state of Mishegan for sheepe Mence (illeg.) was here the other day. she told me that Henry took his top buggy and his sulky to pieces and put them in the barn and got locks for the doors so that his best horses could be locked up but we can see by this that there is one that has the key to all things. how misterious ar his ways. Oh that we would more fully put our trust in him at all times. there is no treasureing up things in this life. if they would hear his voice speaking to them to seek an interest in Our blessed Savior and lay up for themselves treasures in heaven. they remain the same they did when you left. the more they get the more they want. I saw Uncle Lee³⁵ today. he said Aunt was not very well. last week went to see Roselma³⁶ found them all well but Clinton has a felon on his thumb had not done any thing for a weeke. I shall have to stop writing for this evening for the bugs are swarming into my face and eyes. we recieved that mony that you sent all right but I forgot to mention it.

Sept the 5 I once more seate myself to finish this letter I gues you will think that it takes me a longe time. it hard to get mutch time to write. amidst the

32 The 1870 census shows a John (Jno) Colvin, 56 years old, born in Ireland about 1813, living in Butler with 3 or 4 children, including Charlotte, age 17.

33 Samuel was probably a brother of Elizabeth Hugg, who married Dexter and Sabrina's brother, Oscar Calvin Mack.

34 In the 1870 census the only Welge family at Butler was Henry Welge, age 29, a farmer, listed right after O. Ware, age 75 (Obadiah.) His wife was Martha, 24 and they had a one-year-old son, William. "Jno" G., 19, was also in the home along with a domestic servant. Henry would have been about 23 years old in 1864.

35 Uncle Lee may be the Rev. Daniel Lee, who married Huldah Mack's younger half-sister, Maria Ware Lee.

36 Roselma was Sabrina and Dexter's sister, who married DeWitt Clinton Burris.

house work and baby there is not chance for writing. Hartley has returned from the fire. they were very fortunate saved the horse and the rest of the traps, I cannot write a very long letter for the want of time. let us hear from you as often as convenient. I hope this will find you feeling a great deal better. let us cherish the fond hope that we shall meet again if not in this world in a land more glorious and more bright. our love and best wishes to Albert and accept a large share for yourself. I will write all the particulars about your business next time. I am very sleepy indeed and my writing looks like it
Good night
Sobrina H Dort to DWM

Sobrina wrote:
Butler April 30 1865
Dear Brother³⁷

It is with pleasure that I once more resume the pen after so long. a time that seems long to me and doubtless still longer to you. I will not attempt to mention all that has transpired. only those that will interest you most. since I last wrote to you our little family has had the measles. they were quite sick but their lives were spared and we are now in the enjoyment of good health for which I will praise the giver God.

Hartley has returned from NH³⁸ after an absence of nearly four weeks. he was well all the time and had a first rate good time. he found the most of them well they were making maple sugar just as fast as they could. they sent us a nice nibble not forgetting Dexter. there is about one pound and if you want it sent by mail say the word and if not I will keep it till you come. he stayed with Aunt Rachel one night and Aunt Rispa³⁹ the same and Uncle Solomon.⁴⁰ Uncle Chilion's folk⁴¹ were not well and he did not stay there over

³⁷ Dexter.

³⁸ New Hampshire, the birthplace of both Hartley and Sobrina.

³⁹ Rispa Mack Howard, Calvin's sister, lived in Marlow, New Hampshire.

⁴⁰ Solomon Mack, born May 23, 1805, was Sobrina's uncle, brother of her father, Calvin Mack.

⁴¹ Chilion Mack (pronounced ky-lon) born July 26, 1802, was a brother of Calvin Mack. Chilion married

night. Nelie Spooner⁴² lives there. they have one child Urbanah⁴³ lives at home. she has two children. Aunt Louisa⁴⁴ went with Hartley and stayed there. Elen and Douglas went with her and Alonso was already there. he thinks of staying this summer. Elisabeth Crane has got a divorce. she lives at her father's. Hattie⁴⁵ and Elisabeth are keeping house for Uncle Orlando.⁴⁶ they do not hear from Ann very often. the last they heard from her she was in Detroit.

Last week Tuesday Nicholas Davis⁴⁷ dropped down dead in the field. he was complaining some. I suppose it was heart disease. this is another warning that we be also ready for in such an hour as you think not the son of man cometh. Nicholas was a professor of religion and a kind neighbor. the family seems to be fast passing away. We received a letter from you last week and was glad to hear that you were well and in good spirits. I do not wonder that you were so well pleased with the news.⁴⁸ it was a general time of rejoicing put long before this there has a dark shadow passed over our whole land. the Bible tells us that after much merriment then comes heaviness of heart. there was funeral services held in all the towns. the churches were dressed in mourning. the stores closed and kinds of work suspended. all seem to mourn over the death of President Lincoln. I hope that the war is over and that

Hannah Ware. Their daughter, Hannah Adelaide, then married a cousin, Lucius Ware, and they resided for a few years in Montgomery County.

⁴² "Nelie" Spooner may refer to Chilion's daughter, Ellen Augusta, who married Calvin W. Spooner.

⁴³ Mary Urbanah Mack, born March 14, 1833, was Calvin's niece, therefore Sobrina's cousin.

⁴⁴ Louisa Polley Mansfield was the third wife of Orlando Mack. Alonso was her son by a prior marriage.

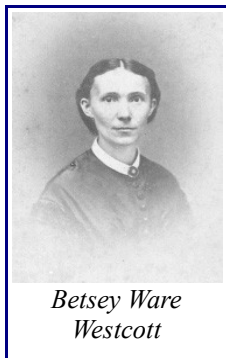
⁴⁵ Hattie F. was the dau. of Orlando and Sarah Arnold Mack, born Jan. 3, 1844, died Jan. 23, 1851.

⁴⁶ Orlando Mack b. Sept. 23, 1799 was the brother of Calvin Mack

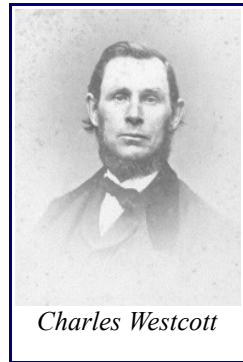
⁴⁷ Davis was a neighbor of the Dorts, only about 36 years old at his death.

⁴⁸ A reference to the end of the war. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The joy was soon followed by news of the shooting of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14 and his death the next morning. A funeral train transported his body back to Springfield, Ill., where his body was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery. John Wilkes Booth was shot and killed on April 26.

peace is near at hand and that Dexter will be making tracks this way⁴⁹ we are having a very wet spring. this is the last day of april and there is no oats sown of any account. the grass and trees look beautifull. there is a good prospect of fruit of all kinds. we are expecting Betsy and Charley⁵⁰ this spring. I think that Uncle Obediah lots uppon their coming very mutch and it is not to be wondered at for it looks hard for an old man not to have one child that thinks enough of him to stay with him.

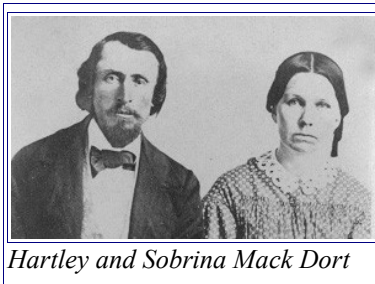


Betsey Ware Westcott



Charles Westcott

I have written all that I think of that will interest you. I will now bring my letter to a close as it is getting quite latev there is to be a Sunday School picnic at Cherry Grove. Wares Grove Butler Asbury Blue Grass and Chery Grove are invited next Saturday. please write as often as you can. we all join in sending our love and best wishes this from your Brother and Sister
Sobrina H Dort
I send you a quid of spruce gum chew. May the 2nd we have just received your mony from jacob Webber⁵¹ all right.



Hartley and Sobrina Mack Dort

You will probably know you would have one mule this spring and we would like to have your stock bred to this spring. I am

49 Dexter mustered out on 12 July 1865.

50 Betsey Ware, daughter of Obadiah, married Charles Westcott in Montgomery Co. in 1861. He was from N. Scituate, R.I. Their first two children were born there in 1862 and 1864. Their move back to Illinois probably occurred soon after this letter was written.

51 Jacob was the widower of Jane Rebecca Kendrick, dau. of Rebecca and Rev. John Clark Kendrick.

breeding to horses. all together no more mules for mee for a while
Yours Truly J H Dort
(PS write soon)

Justus Ware wrote:
Butler, Ill May 10th 1864
Cousin Dexter

After a long delay I again take the pen to write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. Since I last wrote to you we have had another girl baby⁵² added to our family. She was bornd the 5th of this month. She is a great fat child weighed 11 lbs before dressed is a proper child for which we feel very thankful. Luciba is getting along very well. Our little Mary⁵³ is getting so she runs all around. we have had the second shoe made for her. it is a great support to her and she walks a great deal better than ever we expected. she wants to be out doors all the time when the weather is pleasant. We think she is smart enough to make up for her deformity but you know that parents are apt to think their children are smart. she begins to speak some words. she can say pappah very plane. This seems to be a great year for Babies. there is or will be 15 or 20 babies around in this vacinity and so fare the majority have been girls. I tell my folks we are going to have peace. according to the old sign well the mountand is going to do something for the school. I will give you a list of a few J Scherer girl.⁵⁴ John Scherer girl. Danniell Scherer girl. Augustus Klemey boy.⁵⁵ Mr Inlocs boy. bornd the

52 Carrie Susan was born May 5, 1864. She died Dec. 1, 1866.

53 Mary Flora was born Nov. 29, 1862. Mary Ware Mullins' recalled: "I remember Mary F. as an adult, wearing an elevated shoe, using a crutch, living with "Uncle" Jim and "Aunt" Amy Busby (her sister,) and wearing very heavy glasses. Mary F. was always busy doing something, particularly braiding and sewing rugs. Many of the braided rugs that Mom Ware had were made by Mary. The story I remember is that she broke her hip in a horse and buggy accident as a young adult, and they sent her to Chicago to get the best of care. I never heard that she was crippled as a child."

54 Probably Mary C. Scherer, daughter of Jacob Wagner and Sarah S. Lefler Scherer, whose birth was about May 1864 based on the 1880 census record. Jacob's first wife was Electa Ware, daughter of Obadiah and Elect Post Ware, who died Oct, 7, 1861 at age 32.

same day as ours J.H. Dorts girl.⁵⁶ Mr. Printenays girl.⁵⁷ Ths. Colvins⁵⁸ expected and others too numerous to mention. Well I guess I have wrote enough on this subject. There is considerable excitement among the boys here. now the war fever is raging pretty severe. I think it will pretty near clean out the prairie for one hundred days. Marshall Elder⁵⁹ Alonzo Mansfield⁶⁰ Marion & Thomas Colvin⁶¹ besides a good many from Bluegrass⁶² and several from Butler.⁶³ James Seward⁶⁴ is captain of a company they are getting up in at Butler Hillsboro Irving & Litchfield. at last account they wer getting

55 An Adolphus H. Klemme, 1864-1944, is buried at Ware's Grove. May be a reference to a relative of Mary Klemme who married Wesley C. Burris, son of Roselma H. Mack and DeWitt Clinton Burris.

56 Lucy L., b. 1864 and d. 18 Apr 1877, was the daughter of Sobrina aand Hartley Dort.

57 A Minnie E. Punttenney 1864-1940 is buried at Ware's Grove.

58 A burial at Ware's Grove for Emma A. Colvin, daughter of Thomas and Perlina, who died 10 Feb 1865, age 6 mos. 17 days. (A Thomas Colvin, Hillsboro, enlisted as a Private 9 May 1864, enlisted 11 June 1864 in Co. H 143rd IL Inf. He died 6 July 1864 in Memphis, TN. We don't know if this is the same Thomas.

59 Marshall Elder, Hillsboro, enlisted May 5, 1864, as a Private, mustered out Sept. 16, 1864, in Co. H 143rd IL Inf. for 100 days. This regiment was organized at Mattoon, Ill., and mustered in June 11, 1864, for 100 days. On June 16, it moved for Memphis, Tenn., on the 19th was assigned to the 4th brigade, District of Memphis, and on July 12, was assigned to the 3rd brigade. On July 27, it was ordered to report to Brig.-Gen. Buford at Helena, Ark., arrived there on the following day and was assigned to garrison duty. On Sept. 10, it moved northward and proceeded to Mattoon, where it was mustered out Sept. 26, 1864. (Source for 143rd: Ancestry.com American Civil War Regiments database of 868 men, pp.31-35)

60 William A. Mansfield, Hillsboro, enlisted as a Private on May 5, 1864, enlisted June 22, 1864, in Co. H 143rd IL Inf., mustered out Sept. 26, 1864, in Mattoon, IL.

61 Francis M. Colvin, Hillsboro, enlisted as a Private on May 5, 1864, Co. H on June 11, 1864, and died Sept 13, 1864 at Helena, Ark. Thomas Colvin, Hillsboro, enlisted as a Private on May 8, 1864, enlisted June 11, 1864, in Co. H 143rd Illinois Inf. He died July 6, 1864, in Memphis, Tenn. The regimental history lists only one enlisted soldier as killed or mortally wounded.

62 Mary Ware Mullins: "Maybe a reference to Bluegrass School which was out north and a little west of where Aunt Wilma Turner lived, close to the Burris neighborhood."

along very well. we are getting news that Grant is begining to move toward Richmond. it is reported he has been driving the rebels from their positions but there is nothing reliable yet. I expect there will be some awful fitting done before long. I hope they will succeed in breaking up the nest at Richmond. I think that would be one severe blow to the rebels. I suppose you hurd J. C. Webber⁶⁵ was married at last. he has been sick nearly three weeks of fever and dont seem to be getting much better. yet he has had Dr. Harper tending him and you know he is not fit to doctor any body. all he is fit for is to drink whiskey and I beleave if Jake was to let him tend him much longer he would use him up. today he concluded he would try old doctor Hilles. I hope he will get him up again. I think Jake has got a first rate wife. She has wated on him and done any thing for him any woman could do.

I have built me a shop & buggy barn. it is 16X24 & in the north end I keep my buggy & my shop room is 16X16 ft square. I have four windows in the shop roomv it makes me a very nice shop where I can keep my tools dry and then I have the old shop for my plows and plunder. I have a man hired by the name of Blaney. he is from Ohio last Spring. he is a very good hand. he is a cousin of John Coverts. he went into the service the same fall you did. was at the battle of Errys Mill ky. but he was taken sick and was in the Hospittal over a year and then he got a discharg. he has a good many things to tell of a soldiers life but if he could stand it he would be into it again. since my

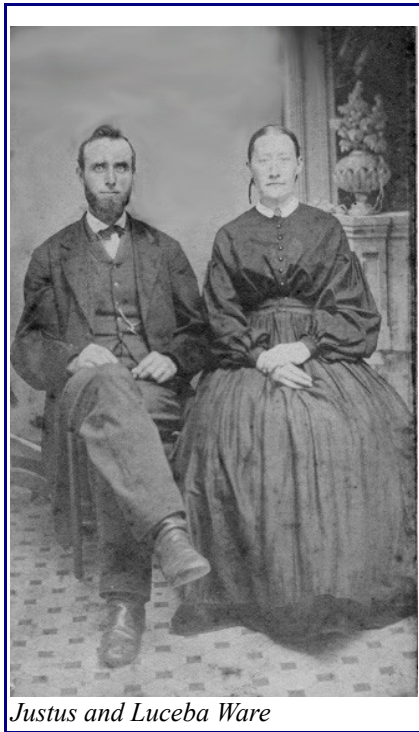
63 It should be noted that Albert and Wilbur Lee's brother, Morrill C. Lee is listed on the Co H 143rd IL Inf roster also, although no mention of him is made in this letter. He enlisted as a resident of Mattoon, Ill. (probably an error) on May 27, 1864, enlisted in Co. H on June 11, 1864, and died Sept. 19, 1864, in Mound City, Ill.

64 James G. Seward, Butler, enlisted as Captain and commissioned in Co. H on June 11, 1864. He died on Sept. 25, 1864.

65 Possibly Jacob Webber, who married Jane Rebecca Kendrick, dau. of John Clark and Rebecca Ware Kendrick. Jane died Aug. 21, 1858, at age 28, leaving daughter, Ellen Lestina, age 3. No record of a second marriage. He served in Co. F of the 126th with the Lee boys and Dexter Mack, but was discharged on disability July 11, 1863. In Albert Lee's letter of April 10, 1863. from Jackson, Tenn., Jacob is mentioned as a mail carrier..."He enjoys tolerable health now but is too feeble to do much duty." Albert mentions Jacob's discharge in his letter of July 17, 1863, from Haines

first writing I hear Henry Ware⁶⁶ has enlisted to go in the one hundred day call. I expect Uncle Oby dont like it at all for he has no one to work for him but a little boy. I expect wages will be a big price here about harvest times. I sold my big Prince horse a few days ago for one hundred and seventy five dollars. Mr Burrus⁶⁷ sold his to the same man for two hundred dollars. they will both go in a match team horses sell for a big price now. tell Albert I have received his two last letters and shall answer them soon. Please write soon

I remane as ever
your cincere Cousin Justus H. Ware



Justus and Luceba Ware

Justus wrote:

Butler Ill June 26th 1864

Dear Cousins Dexter & Albert

I thought I would address you both in one letter as I owe you both a letter. We are all well and hope this will find you both the same. I received your pictures today all safe. I am much pleased with them. call

Bluff, Miss.

⁶⁶ Henry has not been found on a Civil War roster database. Uncle Oby was Henry's father, Obadiah, born in 1795 in New Hampshire, died in Illinois in 1876.

⁶⁷ Probably DeWitt Clinton Burriss who married Roselma H. Mack, sister to Dexter and Sobrina.

them very good. am very glad to see you both looking so well. them pictures I prize very highly. I thank you very much for them. there is no presant of more value to me than pictures of absent friends especialy my old friends and mates who have gone forth in defence of our countrys rights and I hope the day is not fare distant when I shall be able to welcome you bothe home with a warm grasp of the hand to enjoy the peace and quiet of home again. you may think while we are so highly favored here we almost forget the soldiers but that is not so. I often think when I can lay down at night and take my rest that likely you are posted off on some solitary picket not fare from the rebbells.

About a month ago I went to St. Louis to the Sanitary fair.⁶⁸ Mr. Harris⁶⁹ & Fred Jacob Scherer⁷⁰ we all went down the same time. I did not regret the time & expense. they had a nice large building erected on purpos for the occasion. it was made mostly of plank so it could be taken down and used for other purposes. on the inside it was decorated in splendid stile. I didn't think there was so many flags in St. Louis as I saw in that building. Everything was gotten up in stile. the floor was sawdust. in the center was florell hall or arber that was round and extended to the roof of the building that was ornamented with red white and blue drums flags swords muskets bayonetts bugals and so forth all in regular order. and on each side of this arber was a nice fountain of water playing all the time among the shrub and flowers. it realy was a cool plese and all any one had to do when he was dry was to step up to the soda fountain and get a nice glass of soda for one dime only. and when any one was hungry one dime would let any one into the New England kitchen and look round. it realy was amusing to see the wimen all dressed in old stile with large hair combs and caps all as old fashioned as could be and great large fire place and bake oven. they had thanksgiving diner for 75 cts. I went in and took supper for 50 cts. the addmittance to the fair was 50 cts. was open from 10 AM till 10 at night there was

⁶⁸ See article below describing the history of the Sanitary Commissions and more about the 1864 Fair in St. Louis.

⁶⁹ Probably Thomas Harris who married Huldah "Huldy" Ware, dau. of Obadiah and Electa Post Ware.

⁷⁰ Jacob Scherer was the husband of Electa Ware, a daughter of Obadiah and Electa Post Ware. We don't know if he had a brother Fred.

nearly every thing to be seen and bought you could mention. I saw the relics of Washington⁷¹ his coat vest pants two swords gun cane coffee boiler money chest. these were all in a large case with glass in front. I could not tell you all I saw for it would be tedious with the pen.

I had all my _____ the second time this year but it looks nice now but is small. there was a goodeal of trouble about corn coming up but I think if frost holds off we will have good corn crops. the wheat crop has come out wonderful to what was expected in the spring. I think it will be the best it has been for several years. oats looks very well. harvest wages will range from two to three dollars per day. Merrill⁷² told me a few days ago he should give up his castor beans and do the ground in wheat this fall. says he planted his beans too soon this year for they rotted in the ground. Merrill is not going to see any of the girls that I know of. he might be going to see a half dozen and I not hear of it. the next time you write to him just ask him if he likes to fish for Bass and see what he will say. that is the name of a girl that lives at Printeneys.⁷³ I now he don't like her but I like to plague him about her to take in some of his pond party this Spring. I don't know as there is any sign of his getting married soon. he goes to partys. some is about all the time. I hear of his being out from home.

the young folks had a surprise party at our house two or three weeks ago. there was about 23 young folks presant. between you and me I think Jerome Kendrick⁷⁴ is begining to think about another wife.

from what I can hear that he has got his eye on one of Mr Livingood's girls. Mr Livingood has three girls⁷⁵ about grown. it will stand you in hand so be on the look out there when you get back. you see it would be so handy for you but that will be just as you like. I was only just intimating what might be done. I think you are getting about old enough to marry by this time and I think when you get home you had better put rite in in earnest. I should like to see you settled down upon the hill with a loving wife and a cherube on each knee pulling away at your whiskers and saying pappah. I think you would be one happy man yes happy. I hope you will take my fun all in good part. You wished to know who this Mr Young was. I expect you would know him better by Al Young.⁷⁶ he used to study law in Hillsboro. He is Sherriff of this County. Albert know him well for he was in Walters Company.⁷⁷

I must close for this time. you must give me creadit for being so prompt by writing to me soon.
From your cousin Justus H Ware

[and a postscript]



Mary E. Ware, ca.1861

Mary Ware⁷⁸ is going to school at Jacksonville, Illinois

⁷¹ Most likely an exhibit of George Washington memorabilia.

⁷² Merrill Mack, b. Dec. 31, 1838, was the brother of Dexter Ware Mack. He married Susan Nail on Aug. 24, 1873.

⁷³ Mary Ware Mullins identified this name as Puntteney. They lived just north of Ware's Grove School. The 1870 census lists this Puntteney family: Jas. N., 37, Mary A. 31, Martha, 19, Chas. L., 11, Lizzie Etta, 9, Minnie S. 5, and Sarah E., 1. The 1930 census lists a Minney Puntteney, age 60, born about 1869 in Illinois, then living in Litchfield.

⁷⁴ *Illinois Statewide Marriage Records 1763-1900* show that Jerome Kendrick married Amanda Wooten on September 18, 1864, in Montgomery County. Justus' comments in his June letter seem to imply Amanda had died. The Westcott genealogy gives her death as 1865. Jerome married second Rebecca Ann Livengood on Nov.

28, 1866, in Montgomery County. Her father, Rev. Jeremiah Livengood organized Ware's Grove Lutheran Church, of which Justus was a major supporter.

⁷⁵ Source: ancestry.com Ill. Marriage Records 1851-1900: Frances E. Livengood married William T. Hoes on Dec. 23, 1866, in Montgomery Co, Ill. The third daughter, Amanda Mary, married Reuben George.

⁷⁶ This may be William Albion Young who married Mary Ellen Ware, daughter of Obadiah and Electa Ware, on November 29, 1866, in Montgomery County. William A. Young was Q.M. Sergeant in Co. E 1st Cavalry, with Albert Lee.

⁷⁷ Capt. Paul Walters of Co. E 1st Cavalry, in which Albert served from Aug. 8 to Oct. 11, 1861.

⁷⁸ Mary Ellen Ware, see footnote 75, *supra*, likely attended the Illinois Female College, later named MacMurray College. Illinois College was founded in Jacksonville in 1829, but did not admit females until 1903.

The Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair of 1864

by Emily Osborn

After the fall of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, made civil war inevitable, women on both sides began preparations to aid soldiers. On the eastern seaboard they formed the Central Association of Relief, but the leaders found it hard to determine what was needed. A New York pastor, Dr. Henry Bellows, advised the organization to take on things which the government could not do. This led to the idea of a Sanitary Commission. At first, the War Department opposed it and President Lincoln called it a “fifth wheel to the coach;” however, public concern carried the day and the U.S. States Sanitary Commission was created on June 13, 1861. The primary goal of the commission was to assist in providing care for sick and wounded soldiers in the U.S. Army. Their projects focussed on the prevention of disease among the volunteer soldiers. They monitored diet, clothing, cooks, camp grounds.⁷⁹

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, fought near Springfield, Missouri, on August 10, 1861, suddenly brought similar wartime issues to the Midwest. The battle filled every hospital ward in St. Louis with wounded men. Union supporters in St. Louis joined with Jessie Benton Fremont, wife of Gen. John Fremont, and the St. Louis Ladies Union Aid Society to provide better care for the sick and the wounded. They founded the independent Western Sanitary Commission on Sept. 5, 1861. This new commission outfitted steam boats to provide care for the sick and wounded on battlefields along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.⁸⁰

By the beginning of 1864, however, the Western Sanitary Commission was running out of funds. They decided to hold a fair to raise money, an idea that met with enthusiasm from many St. Louis residents, who donated, time, money, and goods for the fair. By the time the fair opened on May 17, 1864, businessmen in St. Louis and other cities in the north already had contributed two hundred thousand dollars.

A University of Chicago professor, Galusha Anderson, who lived in St. Louis during the Civil War has described the Sanitary Fair in great detail. A large building on twelfth street was used for the site of the fair. It was five hundred feet long, with two 100-foot wings extending from the main building. In the center was an octagonal area, 75-feet in diameter and 50-feet high, lavishly decorated with mottoes, national banners, arbors of evergreens and flowers and battle trophies – primarily flags and weapons captured from the rebels.⁸¹

The fair included a curiosity shop, skating park, floral park, gallery of fine arts, merchandise for sale, displays of agricultural implements and sewing machines, art work, and an exhibition of gold and silver bars from Nevada. There were restaurants, such as the New England and the Holland kitchen, “where patriotic women cooked and washed dishes for the union and where the hungry ate for the same lofty purpose.”⁸² In the evening, the building was bright with gas lights, bands played, and people strolled below the “stars and stripes,” displayed everywhere.⁸³

Anderson wrote, “The Germans, being so large a part of our population, and so ardently devoted to the maintenance of the Union, were given a large space in the building, where they patriotically sold lager beer, and a host of people patriotically drank it. Very many connected with the Fair strongly objected to this, but being in the minority were unable to prevent it.”⁸⁴ A German spokesman assured the Fair organizers that Lager beer would not make men drunk and, if any one were to get drunk, the Germans had already engaged the police to take him to the “calaboose.”

The fair was a success. The proceeds were \$554,591.00. Based on the Consumer Price Index, that sum today would be the equivalent of about 7.5 million dollars!

⁷⁹ *The Sanitary Commission and Other Relief Agencies.* From <http://www.civilwarhome.com>

⁸⁰ See “*Hospital Steamers of the Western Sanitary Commission,*” article at following url: <http://users.stlcc.edu/mfuller/luas/>

⁸¹ Anderson, Galusha. *The Story of a Border City during the Civil War.* 1908. pp. 310-311.

⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 312.

⁸³ *Ibid.*.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 311-312.

About the Ware Family Association

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June 25-28, 2009 - Butler, Illinois
Mark your calendars.

Fun with your cousins:
visiting the Lincoln Library,
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meeting "Lucy Mack,"
sharing family trees and heirlooms,
discovering the English origins of Robert Ware.

Ware Tombstones - Photographs can be found at findagrave.com

Ware Genealogy - Go to Rootsweb.com and click on Family Trees. Under Advanced search, type in our database code: aemt40

Direct inquiries about Ware genealogy to the following:
Ann Tindall -- tinviking@aol.com
Patricia Olmstead --
Ben Kinsey -- jkinsey17@comcast.net

Publications - *Ware Roots and Branches*, is published twice each year and is distributed primarily by email in PDF format. *WFA e-News*, our email bulletin, is published on an as needed basis to communicate organizational news and events and to report on births, deaths, marriages of family.



Morning Light in The Valley of Death Gettysburg

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