

LOVE AND WAR

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF JAMES HARRISON GOODNOW

INTRODUCTION

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2017

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Cleveland Ohio
Feb 29th 1864

My dear Wife

Our Regt has just returned
from a trip to Dalton, or to that vicinity
I am sorry - And as we had some
fighting there I suppose you will be
nervous until you hear that I am safe
as I am most certainly - This is our
mustn't day and I am counting on
for the Regt for I am as I am very busy
you must excuse me if this is very short
And I will take the first opportunity to
write fully we were gone six days and had
a good deal of shooting and saw some
rebels and some of them shot at us too
but we got back with all the men
we started with for all which we
are very thankful.

Your aff. husband
James Goodnow

DEDICATED TO JAMES HARRISON GOODNOW

TO NANCY, MARGARET AND HELEN GOODNOW, AND TO ANN TAYLOR

WHOSE WORK AND CARE ACHIEVED THE PRESERVATION OF THESE LETTERS

AND TO JACK, WHO NOW "KNOWS" JAMES GOODNOW ALMOST AS WELL AS I DO

FOREWORD

Between May 1862 and September 1864, James Goodnow marched through Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia – rose to Lieutenant Colonel in the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry – worried about his family – and endured the personal passage of the soldier. Through it all, he wrote home.

Nancy (Lattimore) Goodnow treasured 85 of her husband's wartime letters. After Nancy's death, James' second wife, Margaret Virginia Williams, took care of the collection and added one later letter and some military documents. In 1952 James' and Margaret's daughter Helen (Goodnow) Taylor donated the collection to the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, where it is preserved as the Goodnow Papers.

This Introduction aims to acquaint readers with James Goodnow's Civil War letters in their historical and genealogical context.¹ The accompanying disk contains searchable transcriptions of the full text, which were prepared by Helen's daughter-in-law Ann (Kraft) Taylor from photocopies, digitized and in 2017 re-validated against the originals. They preserve the original spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, paragraphing and vernacular usages – including disrespectful terms for Black people that were commonly heard when slavery was practiced in the United States. Editor's interpolations appear in brackets and italics.



Margaret (Williams) Goodnow (top), Helen (Goodnow) Taylor, baby Virginia Taylor, ca.1910. Photo: Goodnow Family.

The Introduction includes a *Goodnow Letters Inventory* (listing when and where all the letters were written); *Family and Friends of James and Nancy Goodnow* (identifying people named in the letters), and a genealogical sketch of the Goodnow family. The disk also includes transcribed reports from the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies ("O.R.") that were authored by Lt. Col. Goodnow or dealt with his service (*James Goodnow action reports.pdf*)² and an incomparable source for military events, FROM VICKSBURG TO RALEIGH, an eyewitness history of the 12th Indiana written shortly after the war's end by Regimental Chaplain Moses D. Gage³ (*From Vicksburg to Raleigh.pdf*).

The care for James Goodnow's written legacy by generations of his family, along with the dedicated documentation of his regiment's contributions, make this compilation possible.

Mary (Taylor) Kadlecek, November 2017

¹ Detailed genealogical citations appear in the Genealogical Sketch at the end of this introduction.

² THE WAR OF THE REBELLION: A COMPILATION OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES, Series I–Volume XXXVIII–In Five Parts; Part III Reports. War Department" Washington: Government Printing Office. 1891. NARA, National Archives Library, Oct. 24 1988. Accessed August 2017, <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html> . Hereafter cited as O.R. Transcribed by Mary Kadlecek

³ Gage, M.D., Chaplain: FROM VICKSBURG TO RALEIGH, A Complete History of the Twelfth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry and the Campaigns of Grant and Sherman, with an Outline of the Great Rebellion; Chicago, Clarke & Co., Publishers, 1865. Digital copy from New York Public Library, accessed at Internet Archive (archive.org).

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MAP

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LOVE AND WAR: INTRODUCTION

PROLOGUE

James Harrison Goodnow was born 1 October 1826 into an energetic and striving Indiana pioneer family. Although James did not appear in the record by name until more than two decades after his birth, his family's story gives insight into his formative years.

As a child, James' father Samuel Goodnow (1799-1848) migrated with his New Hampshire-bred parents to Delaware County, New York. In 1819 young Samuel migrated again – on his own – to the new state of Indiana in the former Northwest Territory. His skills as a trained surveyor were doubtless in demand as these vast federal lands were being settled.

By 1823, Samuel had saved \$100 to buy his own 80 acres of newly-opened land, in Jackson County in south central Indiana.⁴ The next year he and Elizabeth Logan married; two years later James was born, reportedly at Danville, Hendricks County, Indiana.⁵

Samuel had a successful career as a surveyor in Indiana and Iowa.⁶ He also farmed, taught country school and before long was elected to office: in 1835 he became Surveyor for Jefferson County in southern Indiana. About that time, Samuel settled his family – which also included Charles (b. probably 27 June 1830); John Lewis (b. 28 Nov 1832), and Margaret S. (b. May 1837) – in the Jefferson County Town of Lancaster, a town known as a center of the anti-slavery sentiment so evident in James' letters.

Elizabeth/Betsey (Logan) Goodnow was a granddaughter of a Harrison family from Virginia. The Harrison name was well known in Indiana and nationally: Indiana's first territorial governor, William Henry Harrison (only distantly related to Elizabeth's Harrison line), was famous as the victor in the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe. In 1841, he was elected President of the U.S. on the Whig Party ticket, under the popular slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too."

Also in 1841, Samuel Goodnow, a lifelong Whig, won election for the first time to the Indiana State Legislature. After four years representing Jefferson County in the Indiana House of Representatives, he stood for election to the State Senate, where he served until his death in 1848.

James Enters the Record

Samuel and Betsey's eldest son, James Harrison Goodnow, was married on 30 November 1847 to Nancy Tanner Lattimore, daughter of Presbyterian Pastor Daniel Lattimore of Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana and his wife, Damsel/Damon/Martha(?) McGannon.

Shortly afterward, Samuel penned the earliest letter in the Goodnow Papers collection. Written in a style suggesting an easy confidence between father and son, this letter mentioned illness that

⁴ US GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS, 1796-1907; original certificate photocopied from Ancestry online database 9/26/2008; plat map obtained from Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN.

⁵ Authoritative sources largely agree with James Goodnow's headstone on the 1 Oct 1826 birth date. Theodore J.F. Banvard and Goodenow Family Association: GOODENOWS WHO ORIGINATED IN SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 1638 A.D: Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1994 gives the birth date and place shown here, citing Hazel Goodnow. Other sources show a variety of birthplaces.

⁶ Wilson, George R., C.E., L.L.B.: EARLY INDIANA TRAILS AND SURVEYS, Indiana Historical Society Publications, Volume 6, No. 3; Indianapolis: C.E. Pauley & Co., 1919; page 446 - quotes from an 1835 survey report submitted by Samuel Goodnow.

troubled Samuel, reported the purchase of several classic books for a good price, and offered this admirable advice to his newlywed son:

Excerpt, Samuel Goodnow to James Goodnow - Indianapolis IN, 12 December 1847

“From the little acquaintance I have had with Nancy I have no doubt she will be all you have hoped, but she expects you to be industrious and that you will always treat her with kindness and affectionate regard and for want of the last consideration the best disposition may be changed.”



*Samuel Goodnow's headstone in McKay-Stites Cemetery, T. Smyrna, Jefferson Co., Indiana.
Photo: Mary Kadlecak*

Samuel's death on 16 September 1848 thrust the young couple into broader family responsibilities and a wider political world. The *Madison Daily Banner* of 1 January 1849 reported that James Goodnow would represent Lancaster Township at the Whig nominating convention for state offices. Though he was likely appointed in honor of his recently-deceased father, still James' attendance at the convention would have brought him to the attention of influential men and introduced him into Indiana politics.

James merged his household with that of his widowed mother, and at age 23 was enumerated as head of household in Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana. The 1850 US census listed James (age 23) and Nancy (22); their two-year-old son

Samuel (b. 26 October 1848); James' mother Elizabeth, and his teenaged siblings John Lewis Goodnow and Margaret Goodnow. Also recorded was Elizabeth's three-year-old niece Sarah Williams, possibly visiting from her home in Madison, Jefferson Co., Indiana. Thirty years later James, then widowed, would marry Sarah's sister Margaret.

Prosperity and Misfortune

During the 1850s, James seems to have been successful as a building contractor – a Presbyterian church built ca.1852 in Scipio, Jennings County is attributed to him.⁷ He apparently also had some skill at milling, perhaps a natural adjunct to carpentry in a time when mill equipment was typically made of wood.

In July 1856, James paid the substantial sum of \$12,000 for a two-acre property in the Village of Greensburg, Decatur County, Indiana and opened a flour mill called Greensburgh Mills.⁸ Within two years his young business failed, likely because the Panic of 1857 starved it of credit (as banks failed) and of customers (in the depression that followed).

James dissolved Greensburgh Mills in November 1858, transferring all his assets (not only the business, but also his family's Greensburg home) to agents who would liquidate them and pay the business' debts.⁹ The final blow in this life-changing avalanche of losses probably came in May 1860,

⁷ Jennings County (IN) Historical Society: JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA, 1816-1999, Turner Publishing Co, June 15, 1999; page 125

⁸ Deed of purchase, 9 July 1856, DECATUR COUNTY DEED BOOK X, pp. 409-410; provided by Decatur County Historian Russell Wilhoit from Decatur County Registrar of Deeds.

⁹ DECATUR COUNTY DEED BOOK 1, pp 166-170.

when the Indiana Supreme Court upheld Decatur County's taking of 100 cords of wood from James Goodnow for unpaid taxes.¹⁰ Later, James was to confess that this financial catastrophe had left him with "deadness and apathy of feeling" that caused him to show insufficient confidence in Nancy and to feel that he would never recover his former buoyancy of mind.¹¹

In January 1859, the Goodnows and their three sons – 10 year old Sam, Daniel (b. ca.1854) and John Finley (b. ca.1858) – left Greensburg. Six months or so later, the 1860 US Census found the family in Geneva, Jennings Co., sharing an address with Nancy's 25-year-old brother Finley Lattimore, a family named Wood with eight children, and Bridget Feeny (17, noted as attending school). James, the head of this household, gave his occupation as miller: possibly he worked in the Geneva mill of his brother John Lewis Goodnow. Christmas 1860 saw the birth of the Goodnows' only daughter, Isabel.

Before James left for army service in 1862 the Goodnows moved back to Vernon, where Nancy and the children would have the help of family and of a considerable network of relatives, longtime friends and business associates. The steadfast respect and affection of these relations and neighbors (some of whom were creditors when the mill failed) suggest that the Goodnows' associates saw their financial losses as resulting more from unavoidable misfortune than personal failings.

LETTERS HOME FROM A MAN AT WAR

On May 27, 1862 James Harrison Goodnow, age 36, was mustered into the 12th Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry for the War of the Rebellion. For the next two years and three months, this husband, father and officer had one foot in the military world of camps and battles, the other in the family world of relationships and home events.

For modern readers, the letters James Goodnow wrote during his army service bring alive two parallel stories: his wartime experience, and his family's struggle to remain whole through worry and separation. Nearly all of the surviving Civil War letters open with accounts of camp life or military actions. At the end of each letter come loving and reassuring words for Nancy and the children, often naming extended family, neighbors and friends as well. Read in sequence, the letters bring to life stories of army and home just as a journal would:

A civilian learns to command and make strategic assessments of the war as he experiences it.

A soldier rubs the rough edges off war stories for his wife and children, but still shares some unfiltered observations of camp and campaign.

A rising officer watches over the well-being of soldiers he recruited from Jennings County, "the poor privates who came out with us on our promise to stay with and see to them."¹²

A husband tries to heal rifts and to support his wife when he cannot come home to help.

A father alternates between empathy and exasperation with a teenaged son.

¹⁰ REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF INDIANA, Vol XIV, Merrill & Co: Indianapolis, IN, 1861 pp 465-467 Cones v. Wilson and Another - accessed 4/17/14 at Google Books (http://books.google.kg/books/about/Reports_of_Cases_Argued_and_Determined_i.html?id=Bq4LAAAYAAJ)

¹¹ Letter, James Goodnow to Nancy, 27 April 1863, Goodnow Papers Collection, Library of Congress.

¹² Letter, James Goodnow to Nancy, 14 January 1863.

For military descriptions and family information alone, these letters would be interesting. But James' accounts are particularly vivid, and his comments on military and domestic dramas, surprisingly revealing. He sometimes brags a little, but more often he complains, doubts himself and even admits to pain: both he and Nancy apparently could write what was on their minds without fear of losing the other's esteem. This mutual confidence, along with a certain wry perspective on people and events, probably explains James' successful balance between army and home.

This Introduction tells James' stories with excerpts from his letters, identified by date and person addressed and, where military matters are discussed, the place where James said he was writing. Not all the Civil War letters are excerpted, but the *Goodnow Letters Inventory* at the end of this volume gives the excerpts their context in the full collection.

Civilians Becoming Soldiers: 1862

In spring 1862, James Goodnow was assigned to set up a company of the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry at Indianapolis, Indiana. Recruiting from Jennings and neighboring counties for a three-year enlistment, James was commissioned Captain of Company A.

Captain Goodnow had just three months to transition from country businessman to wartime leader. Though he had no illusions about his own readiness, he energetically set out to acquire military discipline and impart it to hardy countrymen who could shoot straight and march tirelessly but had no notion of drill or army practices.

James' Civil War letters include a few accounts from this too-brief startup period. They show the fledgling captain enrolling troops, training recruits, requisitioning supplies and dealing with the inevitable politics of his new setting.

Before there was time to fully equip and train the troops, however, the 12th Indiana was moved to Kentucky, one of four slave states that remained in the Union but contributed recruits to both armies. A strong force of experienced Rebel troops had been deployed to bring the state into the Confederacy. This fight would not wait until Captain Goodnow's company was ready.

Inds [Indianapolis] July 31, 1862 [Quoted in full]

Dear Nancy

I have had no time or opportunity to write you until now and have but little time yet. We have been in a perfect stew about our Lieutenants. Conner¹³ tried to get the men on his side – failing to do that he went to the Colonel and got him to say that Conner must be 1st Lieut – you may depend there was some swearing done over it. I got them reconciled however and yesterday they unanimously voted for me for Capt and George Wright for 2nd Lieut. Reiley is thrown out and feels badly but submits like a man.

We are filling up slowly – will be filled against next Wednesday. The Col. sweetened Conner by promising to fill the Co. against then. I will then get my commission as Captain then and I will then try to come to see you for as long a time as possible. I am tolerably well. Kiss all the children for me and believe me when I tell you I am yours faithfully.

James Goodnow

¹³ Lieutenant John B. Conner of Vernon. James also made several mention of Private Tom Reiley of Vernon. For identification of other Jennings County soldiers and family members named in James Goodnow's letters, see "Family and Friends of James and Nancy Goodnow."

To Nancy - Camp Ashland near Lexington KY, 21 Aug 1862

"I was in command of the camp when the tents were struck Tuesday morning and I observed that *[those of one company]*...were not struck. I went over to see about it. The men crowded around me and swore that they would not move an inch until they got their bounty. I reasoned with them as well as I could but to very little purpose. I then turned to their officer and told him to see that every preparation was made to move immediately if he valued his commission – how he managed it I don't know but I noticed the tents were all down in less than ten minutes. ...I feel green in the business but do the best I can."

To Nancy - Camp near Richmond 26 miles South of Lexington KY, 28 Aug 1862

"Word came to Lexington Friday last that the rebels were threatening *[Richmond, Kentucky]*.¹⁴ So three Regiments of us – 12th & 66th Ind. & 95th Ohio all under command of Col. Link – started for this place Saturday morning about 7 A.M. ... Our regiment led and my company led it so I was in the advance all the time. ...We marched in and had just got our guns stacked and ready to get our suppers when the Adjutant came galloping up saying 'turn out' that they were fighting in Richmond and we must go there that night. The boys got their guns in about a half a minute and we marched out into the Road, I having all I could do with them from breaking into a run.

Well the Col ordered us to move on and for me to take half of my company and flank out 200 yards to the right of the road and to give Wright the other half to flank on the left and for us to keep the woods and corn fields cleaned out as the Brigade advanced. So out we went over fences and through the corn and brush – double quick – for about 7 miles dropping a man here and there who would give out and fall into the road.

...The order was given throw everything away but guns and cartridge boxes and go double-quick and we threw away knapsacks, blankets and haversacks and went forward on a run. I got into town, gathered up my company and was ready with the first. It was then about midnight. As the rebels did not make their appearance the Col. ordered the men to sleep on their arms in the street and ordered me to take my company a half mile out south on the road to the battle field and picket for the night.

I went out divided my men and disposed of them behind fences on each side of the road and called for four volunteers to go a quarter of a mile ahead to give alarm in case the rebels approached. Tom Reiley had got a gun and left the wagons to go ahead with us and he stepped out first and three others followed. I sent them forward and lay down on the grass and was asleep in less than a minute. I woke up at day break and found we were still safe the rebels having retreated in the night.

Since then I have been on picket one day, out foraging two days and the balance of the time have been drilling and getting all the rest I could. I am very well and enjoy the life first rate. Our teams have not yet come up and we have no tents and very few blankets and have to sleep in the open air on the ground. This goes hard with some of the men – we have 14 on the sick list – but it does not hurt me in the least. All the men from town are well except Irby Wagner he has chills but is not dangerous. He is as tough as a pine knot – he is a noble boy."

To Nancy from Richmond KY, 29 Aug 1862

..."We have a hard time here No tents and not half enough to eat. These Kentuckians are willing we should fight for them, but don't seem very willing to feed us. Our Regiment curses Kentucky daily and hourly. Gen Nelson our commander is a Kentuckian and a slaveholder and seems more afraid that we will hurt the people here than he is afraid of our starving."

¹⁴ Richmond, KY, held by Union forces, was targeted by Maj. General Kirby Smith and a force of some 15,000 veteran Confederate troops.

First Blood; Interval

A reader cannot tell from Captain Goodnow's surviving letters that on 30 August 1862 the raw recruits of the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry met an overwhelming force of veteran Confederate troops near Richmond, Kentucky, and experienced battle in its most disastrous form. However, by the report of Brigadier General Charles Cruft, who commanded the Union Second Brigade, Army of Kentucky, the 12th Indiana was in the thick of a fierce daylong fight that came to be known as the Battle of Richmond. James Goodnow's service record shows his capture and parole on that date.¹⁵

The 12th Indiana, part of two brigades of recent Union recruits, put forth heroic efforts. General Cruft's report of the battle mentioned the 12th Indiana holding the line and serving as a rallying point for panicked troops. He described the engagement as "an attack by at least 15,000 well-disciplined troops, under experienced officers, upon 6,250 citizens, ignorant of war, without officers of experience." He added, "The wonder really is that the latter fought so well for a whole day, could be twice rallied after being panic-stricken, and that any escaped slaughter or capture."¹⁶

In the end, Confederate forces took Richmond, and the 12th Indiana suffered heavy casualties (including the mortal wounding of its commander, Colonel William Link). Captain Goodnow and his troops were among some 4,000 prisoners captured by the Confederates and paroled the same day. A letter of 9 September focused on the outcome for Jennings County soldiers, but did not mention fighting untrained, suffering horrific casualties or being taken prisoner.

The paroled regiment moved back to Indianapolis, remaining there for nearly two months until exchange was negotiated for an equal number of captured Confederate soldiers. The troops were rested, supplied and refitted for duty in the South. Shortly after James' promotion to Major (effective 17 November 1862), the exchange was made and the regiment returned to the fight.

To Nancy - Richmond KY, 9 Sept 1862

"I write you a line to tell you I am well and patiently waiting for the recovery of two or three of our boys before I return.

"Abe Wagner and John Bard of Paris and a young man named Garard all of my company are still seriously wounded and unable to be removed. Abe and Garard will be well enough to go home next week. We have sent to Cinti [*Cincinnati, Ohio*] for a train of Ambulances to remove our wounded within our lines. It will probably be here about the first of next week, when I will take the boys and go. Tell Abe's folks that his arm will be saved and that he is as plucky as ever. Abe is one of the best boys I ever saw. A real bright resolute boy. I got no wound except in my coat sleeve: It is slightly wounded but I think you can easily doctor that with a needle and thread. I am doing what I can for the wounded and am boarding with a very pleasant family. I am passing for an unmarried man here – how do you enjoy that –

"Kiss the children for me and believe me when I say I want to see you all as soon as possible. My respects to all who may enquire for me."

¹⁵ Approval form for claim #1189216 from Medical Division, Bureau of Pensions, US Department of Interior, Washington, DC.; accessed September, 2009 in J.H. Goodnow pension file, NARA, Washington DC. Notes on military record: "Prisoner of War Records show him captured and paroled at Richmond, Ky Aug 30/62."

¹⁶ Charles Cruft, Brigadier-General Commanding Second Brigade, (Union) Army of Kentucky: Report of September 5, 1862, O.R., Series 1, Vol. 16, CHAP. XXVIII. Richmond, Ky. Pp 919-921

To Nancy - Indianapolis IN, 20 Nov 1862

"I was told when we came to Inapls [*Indianapolis*] Tuesday that I was appointed Major of the Reg^t – So the papers said – but up to yesterday evening we received no commissions and were told yesterday about noon by the Adjutant General that the announcement in the papers was premature. I went down to the State House yesterday evening however and got an order for our commissions and am now Major of the 12th. I don't know how well I will fill the place but will try to do honor to myself in the new position. I sent Bob Torbet down home today to buy a horse for me and have bought Saddle and other gear to-day. I sent a copy of my commission to you by Fin.¹⁷

"We are ordered to move from here to-morrow at 2 P.M. and will I understand go to Cairo and Memphis [*Tennessee*]. I heard you were coming up to-morrow and am sorry I can't be here to see you. ... we received no marching orders until to day. So you must not think I did not write before because I did not want to see you for I would be glad to see you once more. I want you to be of good cheer while I am gone for I feel sure I will return and if I should not and should die in the Service I think I could die in no better cause."

The Central Mississippi Campaign

The 12th Indiana left Indianapolis on 23 November 1862 for Memphis, Tennessee. There they joined Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign, tasked with support for a planned assault on Vicksburg, Miss., a Confederate-held city that was vital to control of the lower Mississippi River.

Largely cut off from the outside world, the regiment marched for the first time through an enemy countryside severely scarred by war and guarded strategically important infrastructure captured from the Confederates. According to Chaplain Gage, who distributed the troops' mail, the soldiers received no mail at all for some six weeks, though they were sometimes able to send letters home.¹⁸ The few letters from James during this time show his troops guarding railroad bridges and trackage, always mindful that the Rebels would retake them given a chance.

On 20 December, Confederate troops overwhelmed and razed a critical Union supply and communication base at Holly Springs, Miss. The commanding officer and quartermaster of the 12th Indiana were captured and paroled with the garrison at Holly Springs, but James apparently was not involved. However, no one was immune to the anxiety raised by this incident.

To Nancy – From Camp Near Colerhama MS, 1 December 1862

"You will perceive by glancing at the map that we are about 50 miles S.E. of Memphis. ...We marched for [*Colerhama*] about 2 P.M. Wednesday. We were attached to the 5th Brigade in the 3rd Division of Sherman's Army Corp. The Division is commanded by Brig. Gen. Lauman and the Brigade by Col. Moore of the 33rd Wisconsin – which Regiment is in our Brigade and the Colonel is the ranking officer which gives him command. General Sherman commands the three Divisions constituting a 'Corps d'Armee.' We started to reinforce General Grant whose army lies east of us some 8 or 9 miles near Holly Springs. We were ordered to guard the Division [*supply*] train and to march in the rear of it. We had a nice time Wednesday afternoon and night until 11 or 12 o'clock. Our train was long and went slowly at best and we found all the bridges either torn or burnt down after we got 4 miles out and we had to wait until the teams forded the streams and pushed up hill by hand as most of the hills were so steep the mules could not haul the wagons. Well, we worked on in that way until we came up to the camp. We then

¹⁷ Nancy's brother Finley Lattimore, who at that time was serving in another regiment of Indiana volunteers.

¹⁸ Gage, *FROM VICKSBURG TO RALEIGH*, Ch.IV, Retrospect of the Year (1862)

had to get our suppers and got to bed about 1 a.m. We started next day at 7 A.M. and were put in the advance of the Brigade and have had no teams to guard since. We got to Pigeon Roost Creek 7 miles north of this last Friday night. We lay by over Saturday and came to this place yesterday. We now constitute the right wing of General Grants army as I understand it.

"...The country on our march was on fire for miles on each side of us as we advanced. Jackson's Rebel Cavalry burnt all the cotton within our reach and I am ashamed to confess our soldiers burnt pretty much all the fences and outhouses immediately on the road. The order pro[hi]biting burning and plundering was very strict and most of the officers tried to assist in enforcing it, but enough officers winked at the thing to disgrace us. The 12th Regiment is, I think, the most orderly and best disciplined Regiment in the Corps. I am proud of the reputation it has made and proud of being one of its officers."

To Nancy - Waterford MS, 13 Dec 1862

"We left Wyatt yesterday and marched 12 miles to this place which is on the Miss. Central R.R. and 8 miles South of Holly Springs. Grants Army is mostly South and lying at and near Oxford 14 miles from here and on this Road. ... The Road from Memphis South over which we traveled is infested with Guerillas, and unsafe for parties of less than 100 armed men. Dr. Camfield and two or three others were about two miles in our rear on our second day from Memphis and were captured. The Doctor was set at liberty but the others were paroled. One of the Guerillas told the Doctor he had a good chance to shoot me from the woods the first night we were out but thought it was not safe. I am much obliged to him for refraining."

Winter Quarters, January-June 1863

Sickness and death haunted the regiment's winter camp at Grand Junction, Tennessee. Troops had begun to fall ill in the bitter weather and short rations of the strenuous autumn campaign. A wet, muddy winter camp site with bad water made matters worse, especially among recent recruits who did not yet know how to secure comfort for themselves in winter quarters. Chaplain Gage reported lower mortality after the regiment's move in March to a drier upland site at Neville's Station but, like James, remembered Grand Junction with great sadness.

Slavery, railroads and whiskey came up often in Major Goodnow's letters that winter. Meeting slaveholders and observing life in slave states reinforced his conviction that slavery and the Confederacy were existential threats to the American Republic. Interestingly though, no surviving letter mentioned the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves as of 1 January 1863.

Doubtless aware that railroads were critical to success in this war, James reported guarding them and, several times, mentioned pulling up tracks deemed vulnerable to recapture by the Rebels. Nonetheless, he found guard duty boring, and noted that it demoralized the troops.

Readily-available whiskey, however, was doing more damage, while his own refusal to drink with fellow officers was causing tension with his superior, Lt. Col. Solomon Kempton. In early May, Col. Kempton unexpectedly took sick leave and command of the regiment devolved on Major Goodnow. He used the power of command to limit alcohol, achieving "a quiet, sober time" before the new commander, Col. Reuben Williams, arrived.¹⁹

To Nancy - Grand Junction TN, 11 January 1863

"We hear by our letters received last night that the people of Indiana are tired of the war and want to compromise by giving the Rebels all they ask. I hope that is not so. We might as well go home as try to

¹⁹ Col. Kempton resigned his commission in July, 1863, charged (according to James) with drunkenness and bad conduct.

whip the Rebels – unless we are supported by the people and Government at home. This is not a war for dollars and cents, nor is it a war for territory, but it is to decide whether we are to be a free people and if the Union is dissolved I very much fear that we will not have a Republican form of government very long – but our people are blind and will not see it.”

To Dan Goodnow (age 8) - Grand Junction TN, 11 January 1863

“...Well, Dan you ought to be out here and see our big armies. When we started from Memphis we took three roads out of the city and the army on each road was about three miles long – first the Cavalry went ahead. And then a regiment of infantry and then a Battery of four or five cannon and then infantry and then wagons and so on – and when we got about ten miles out we all joined together in a large bottom [of] a little stream and if you had been there you would have thought there was going to be a battle there was so much noise. The men cheered and yelled and the mules brayed loud enough to make you jump out of your boots.

“But I am very glad you are not here and I am glad we have no fighting nor large armies at home – for wherever the large armies go here they drive the people away from home and take all they have to eat and all their corn and then burn their houses and fences – and a great many little boys down here do not have enough to eat and often have no home.”

To Nancy - Grand Junction TN, 18 January 1863

“... We had a heavy fall of rain last week. ...It rained about two days about as hard as you ever saw rain fall – and that was succeeded by a heavy fall of snow. The snow is yet 3 or 4 inches deep. My feet have been cold the most of the time and an old jaw tooth has been giving me regular fits. We have been doing nothing since I last wrote but to try to keep warm and we have succeeded very poorly. Our men have tents but no fires in them – I have a stove in my tent...”

To Nancy - Grand Junction TN, 8 Feb 1863

“...There is not much going on here except that we are getting our fort along finely. We have great confidence in it and our rifle pits. We think that with our fortifications to help us our 2500 men are a match for 10,000 – and so they are if they fight with determination. I don't feel much uneasiness about the result of an attack on us if the rebels should make one – but I don't think they will attack us before the thing is decided at Vicksburg. ... I have in a great measure got over the nervousness and unpleasant feeling a person will have when first he goes into an enemy's country and I at first looked out anxiously for all signs of danger but I never slept more soundly in my life than I do now. In fact there is a certain fascination about this state of uncertainty and if it were not for being from home – and for some few unpleasant things connected with the management of the Regiment – I believe I would enjoy myself extremely well. But to tell the truth there is too much whiskey used by the officers of our Regiment – and I do not enjoy the company of any man who is never companionable except he is half drunk. If I am to be killed in battle I will die sober – but I would not like to say that for every one here. I have said more on this subject than I ever did before – don't let it go any further.”

To Nancy - Grand Junction TN, 8 March 1863

“We had quite an exciting time here last Saturday evening. About three o'clock we heard heavy firing in the direction of our pickets below Lagrange. We paid little attention to it at first but it continued and seemed to increase until it seemed that two or three regiments were firing – just then orders came from Brigade head quarters for all the troops of the command to form in order of battle. We got in ranks all ready – expecting every minute to [be] ordered to and help them as the firing seemed to be getting heavier and it appeared plain that our men were having a hard time. After a half hour or so the firing ceased and in ten or fifteen minutes more word was sent us that it was only our three regiments of Cavalry firing off their pieces and there was no enemy – well that pleased us although we were a little bored about it too, for every man had made up his mind that a good chance for dying had come at last. And you know that when a man has made up his mind to be a hero such a sudden letting down is apt to make him feel somewhat ridiculous. Our men acted first rate – there was no nervousness that I could discover and every man seemed resolved to do his best.”

To Nancy - Camp at Neville's Station, 19 Miles East of Memphis TN, 15 March 1863

"We are encamped in a nice grove on the Rail Road and the country round here is the finest I have seen since we came out. The Soil is very fertile and well adapted to raising Cotton and the farmers are all rich and what is singular in this country are nearly all at home. Nearly all the men and often nearly all the women and children were gone where we have been heretofore but they don't seem to have taken much part in the war around here – but their neutrality has not enabled them to keep their Slaves. Nearly all the negroes have left – the man on whose farm we are encamped lost thirty five in one batch a few days since. The darkeys are afraid of being sent South and so they leave while they can. The story we have heard so often – that they are contented in slavery – is all gammon. I believe that very few of them appreciate the responsibilities of freedom and only a small number of them are able to take good care of themselves now – but they are not contented in Slavery. Since we of the North have helped to make them the shiftless besotted creatures that they are ... we are paying the penalty for our share in the business and after this war is over will have to be taxed to take care of them until they learn to take care of themselves.

"I am glad though that we began when we did to correct the great national mistake and sin of slavery and that we did not wait until it assumed such large proportions that it could not be suppressed. I am well satisfied that if we were to stop now and let Slavery take root and grow for twenty years that it would strangle our republican form of government. So you understand why I think there is no use of quitting until we conquer the South. I do wish though that this miserable war was ended – I am very tired of it. I have no natural inclination for it and detest the aristocratic tendency of army life. And I think there is no honor or glory attached to anything a man can do here except as he shows he is fighting for principle and that he had rather lose his life than see his country destroyed."

To Nancy - Fort Loomis near Colliersville TN, 18 April 1863

"We are very despondent here about the bad news from Charleston and we are afraid Grant will never take Vicksburg – altogether we think things don't look very promising this Spring. The great struggle is to come yet evidently and who will live to see the end of it. It is fortunate for us that no one can answer that question. The Conscripts²⁰ should have been sent to us before now. I am very much afraid that the rebels will push on us boldly before we get our reinforcements – and the armies being so nearly even in numbers in the South West they may with their generalship beat us after all. This is doubtless the dark side of the subject – but we have nothing to expect of our leaders but blunders and with one or two honorable exceptions our Generals seem only to be in the way of the armies they command. But I will hope for the best and will at all events try to do my own duty."

To Nancy - Camp near Colliersville TN, 25 April 1863

"...I am well and enjoying myself as well as I ever expected I could in the Service. I am getting tolerably proficient in the drill and the business seems more natural to me.

"Our line officers are very clever Gentlemen but we have a great deal of trouble with the Lt Colonel [Solomon Kempton]. He is always or nearly always drunk when he can get whiskey and very disagreeable when drunk. He has very little judgment when sober and when he is drunk he is perfectly wild. He has nearly killed himself by drinking – and I hope he will finish the job up. You at home have no idea of the power [of] a commanding officer in the field and of how much he can annoy and persecute men. He is inordinately vain and has no true gentlemanly feeling and consequently is just a mean dog."

To Nancy - From Head Quarters 12th Ind Vols, Fort Loomis TN, 15 May 1863

"I have been in command here since May 6th – Lt Col. Kempton suddenly took a fancy that he had tuberculosis or some other heavy named disease and he got Dr Lomax to certify that it was necessary to save his life that he should have leave of absence...

²⁰ The Enrollment Act, 12 Stat. 731 (also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act) was passed on 3 March 1863.

"A Citizen or Planter as he calls himself who lives just outside of the guard lines had got to keeping whiskey and he had a lot of our officers at his every night and some of them were drunk all the time. I sent the gentleman an order that any citizen who sold or gave intoxicating liquors to any officer, soldier or camp follower would be sent outside at once. Some of the officers and the citizen got very mad about it. One of the Lieutenants said it was a d-d mean trick. This same Lieutenant had been drunk repeatedly while on duty and I knew if he was charged with it he would be dismissed. So I have given him this week to make a written apology for being drunk while on duty and for speaking disrespectfully of a superior officer and have told him that if he did not apologize in writing and fully that I would bring charges against him and have him tried by Court Martial. ... Whiskey has been the bane of our Regiment and it is destroying hundreds down here daily and while I have the power I will not compromise with it. ... A great many men who were sober when they left home to join the army will even if they live through this war fill drunkards graves at home. I could name a good many that you and I both know but that would be unnecessary. You may rest assured that I am teetotally opposed to drinking – more so now even than when I left home. We have some officers who are excellent, moral men and some few who are actively religious – and we have two or three who are carried away by their love of drink until they have lost all shame and a good many who go with the crowd – so that it rests with the Commander to say whether the Regiment shall be sober or not. We are having a quiet sober time of it now and I hope it will always be so. You have no idea of how much difference it makes in the discipline of the Regiment."

To Nancy - Fort Loomis TN, 18 May 1863

"Col. Williams came since I last wrote you and we are now under his command. You may be sure I rejoice greatly over this for the responsibility of command weighed heavily on me and I was very glad to turn it over – I could not in conscience allow things to go on as they had been doing and I was fighting some bad practice or other during the whole time I administered affairs and that was no pleasant occupation. The officers would not willingly give up what they called their privileges and I would not allow their exercise to the prejudice of good order and discipline and the consequence I had a personal difficulty with one or two of them. But I was right and I had the power and I used it – and would do so again – and I just made one man apologize and then had no more trouble. I am not telling you this to boast of myself for I hope I am not so vain as to try to make myself of more importance than I deserve, but I want first to tell you unreservedly of my thoughts and feelings and in the second place to account for the short letters I sent you – to show you that I was so busy that I really had not time to write. I would begin to write you – thinking I would write a long letter – and I would not write a half dozen lines before someone would come in and interrupt me and this would happen so often that I would give it up in despair, but now I feel more like my former self and have more time to think of home and you."

"... We hear today that Grant is fighting at Vicksburg. I do hope he will take that place before long, but I know when it is taken it will be at the cost of a great many lives."

To Nancy - From HQ, 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps, Collierville TN, 25 May 1863

"I am very much obliged for the socks and sugar. I was needing the socks badly. ... The news is that Grant has either taken Vicksburg or got in his grasp so he will get it and all the disposable force the Rebels have will no doubt be concentrated now to overwhelm Rosecrans and I have no idea Gen. Grant is so blind as not to see it. Rosecrans can be sufficiently reinforced by simply giving up the Road from Memphis to Corinth and sending the forces thus relieved to his assistance and as Vicksburg has gone up I can see no use of our holding this Road but enough of guessing – I am glad of the change for I am tired to death of lying round camp and guarding Rail Roads. Guarding is about as dangerous as active service in the field and has no variety and it makes soldiers so lazy that they soon become careless and lose all military pride – and if we stay on guard much longer I am going to resign and get out of the business. Our Regiment is very healthy and there is absolutely nothing new going on in it. My health has not been very good for some time but I think I only need more exercise to come right again."

Campaign 1863: Vicksburg

In early June 1863, the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry was ordered to Vicksburg Mississippi, where the siege of the city was reaching its climax and control of the Mississippi River was at stake. Together with the Battle of Gettysburg, the surrender of Vicksburg is seen as turning the Civil War in the Union's favor.

The 12th Indiana joined other units at Snyder's Bluff and Haines' Bluff, blocking the Confederate Army from relieving the besieged city from the north. Union forces took Vicksburg on 4 July 1863.

To Nancy - Memphis TN, 8 June 63

"After a pretty weary march since yesterday morning, including some resting by the way, we are here and on the Steamer Belle Memphis and will probably start for Vicksburg or some other Southern Port some time tomorrow. Our whole Division of 14 Infantry Regiments of it are going together.

"I suppose you will be uneasy about my going down there, thinking I am going into danger, but I don't think you need feel any more apprehension than when we were on the Road, for while we were there we were in danger of being killed by bushwhackers or on some scouting party and you would hardly have heard of it. But the Vicksburg fight is a No 1 affair and if a man is killed in that he gets his name in the papers – although it will probably be spelled wrong."

To Nancy - Snyder's Bluff MS, on Yazoo River, 12 miles above the mouth, 13 June 1863

"Well we are in the Vicksburg Army, and I am glad of it. You will think this strange no doubt but I have been so tired of lying round camp and hearing of other men participating in the stirring events of the day that I with the others of the Regiment welcomed the order to move. We are not in the fight at present and probably will not be unless Johnston should try to raise the siege. We are part of the Haine's Bluff army that is set down here and fortifying itself to keep Joseph out and see that Gen Grant has fair play.

"I saw Col Lucas of the 16th [at Chickasaw Bayou]. He said he had been in all the fights round Vicksburg and had been wounded three times slightly. He said the rebels had about 17,000 men in their works round the city but they could not use them or their artillery on account of our Sharp Shooters. He thought we would have the place in a few days. Indeed the whole army is perfectly certain Vicksburg will be ours soon although it is holding out bravely – and it is said the men, women and children are being killed by hundreds in its streets.

"[Snyder's Bluff] is the first hill that comes to the river above its mouth and is about 150 feet above the water. It however is only the first of a succession of hills with deep valleys between that extend across South East to Black River, and it is said that the only road by which Johnston can come into the rear of Vicksburg, except that crossing Black River from Jackson Mud, [is] down through our camp and on the crest of the hill on which we are camped. So you will comprehend that we occupy a rather important position. Gen. Grant understands this and he has us busily engaged fortifying and if the rebels will wait a week we can keep the whole rebel army out. I don't believe they will attack us here. For imperfectly fortified as we are, the force we have here without counting on any assistance can easily keep 50,000 men out."

Snyder's Bluff, June 28 1863

"I only have time to drop you a line to tell you I am well and no battle fought here yet and Vicksburg is not taken. ...The prospect is we will stay here until Vicksburg is taken or until Johnston drives us out. We want him to try it for we think we can whip him far easier than on ground of his own choosing. Tell McClellands folks he is well and Mr. Waters and Weatherinton and Conner and Irby Wagner are well – Hage Wagner is unwell but not dangerous sick."

Campaign 1863: Chattanooga

James Goodnow was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 2 July 1863, shortly before the fall of Vicksburg. About a month later, he was granted home leave due to his wife's persistent ill health. He remained on leave until 25 September.

After his return the regiment moved to Memphis, then set out on an epic trek across Tennessee. They marched a circuitous route from the Mississippi River through Chattanooga all the way to Maryville in East Tennessee, then back to Chattanooga before going into winter camp at Scottsboro, Ala.

The Regiment met Confederate armies at Tunnel Hill and Lookout Mountain (23-25 Nov) and Missionary Ridge (25 Nov). James wrote of the desperate battle on 25 November, and Gage said, "At Missionary Ridge the regiment came under concentrated fire of Rebel batteries, in a position which rendered it impossible to return effective fire."

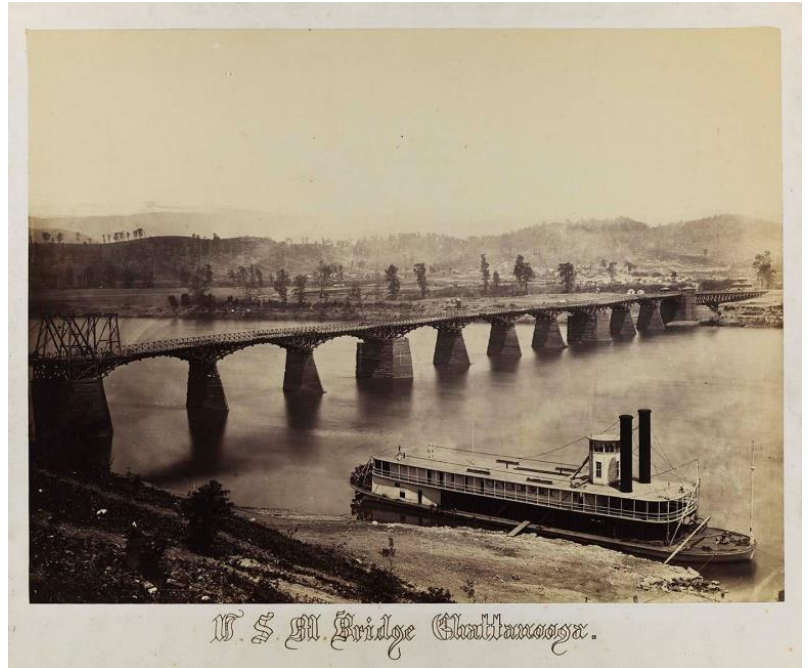
The campaign evoked Gage's unbridled enthusiasm: "No other army ever moved on one unbroken march of seven hundred miles in three months, aided in relieving two beleaguered garrisons, and all with more general cheerfulness" than the 15th Corps, with which the 12th Indiana marched.²¹

Lt. Col. Goodnow's letters reflected these conditions, with a plaintive counterpoint in a series of increasingly urgent messages about boots. By the time their long march reached Chattanooga for the second time, the entire force was in tatters – James wrote that some troops had marched for miles without any shoes, and Gage described their condition as "most pitiable."

James was unable to write home between 16 November and 12 December 1863; possibly the regiment was again incommunicado, as they had been the previous autumn. However, the long and arduous campaign freed the Union loyalists of East Tennessee from Rebel domination and forced the Confederate Army of Tennessee to retreat into Georgia.

To Nancy - Memphis TN, 10 October 1863

"We will probably start for Corinth [Miss.] tomorrow or next day. Sherman will collect a respectable army there and march South Eastwardly and flank Braggs position. That is my guess anyhow. ... Have word sent to Jim Mayfield to make my boots up and send them to me by express. Let him direct to [Memphis] 'to follow the Regiment'."



Bridge and steamer at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Photo: George Barnard, courtesy of Smithsonian American Art Museum

²¹ Gage, Ch. XII, 'Relief of Knoxville,' page 159

To Nancy - Burnsville MS, 20 October 1863

"We have already been over 20 days on the Road and bid fair to be 40 days more. My health is not very good yet but is better than when I left Memphis. I will soon be entirely well again. All the Vernon men are well except Hage Wagner. He is pretty sick with camp diarrhea. He is not dangerous. Mr Waters requests you to say to Mrs Waters that he is well but too busy to write. ...Try to have Mayfield send my boots as soon as possible. Goodbye dear Nancy write often Take good care of your health for my sake."

To Nancy - Burnsville MS, 23 October 1863

"... I am wet and cold having been out all day in a cold rain and do not feel like writing much so you must be content with a short letter and I will write more fully in a day or two – perhaps tomorrow. ...Gen Osterhaus' Division the 1st of our Corps is nearly to Tuscumbia [Alabama] 40 miles ahead. They had a fight day before yesterday and lost 15 or 20 killed and had 30 or 40 wounded – among the killed was Col. Torrence of the 30th Iowa. We in our Division have had no fighting so far and have seen no signs of rebels. ... Try to get McClelland to bring my boots." ²²

To Sam (age 15) - Burnsville MS, 25 October 1863

"...[Burnsville] is a village on the Memphis and Charleston Rail Road. ... It took us ten days to come from Memphis here and you can judge how long we will be in getting to Chattanooga even if the rebels do not oppose our march as they will probably do... I am very certain that if we don't take good care we will have trouble like that at Holly Springs last winter for we have an active enemy watching us. It is not safe to go out side of our picket lines here, there being so many guerillas prowling around. Two men of our Brigade were captured yesterday by them.

"Almost all the men around here have been conscripted and put in the Rebel Army and a great many are in Roddy's command which breaks up in small squads when necessary and they infest the country every where. It is only the strong Sesesh Soldiers that prowl round in this manner, the disaffected conscripts (and there are a good many of them I am told) being kept together and watched. ... [My] health is rather poor yet. I am feeling very much like ague all the time but I keep up and intend to unless I get worse. I guess we will leave this place tomorrow and go forward, that is to say eastward. It is said we will have to take ten days rations which indicates that we will go to Tuscumbia or Florence before stopping. It is a matter of indifference to me where we go. I have long since learned that the best way is to go where I am sent without grumbling or taking care on myself about it."

To Nancy - Fayetteville TN, 9 November 1863

"... There is a wagon train to go to Decherd [Tennessee] in the morning for supplies and I have hopes of being able to send this to the Rail Road in that way. We are to start to Winchester in the morning. My health has been steadily improving and I am now nearly well. I thought while we were at Burnsville that I would be seriously sick but the march has nearly cured me and I can eat as much as anyone now and I think that is a good symptom. ... I hope you have started my boots to me for I am nearly barefoot. You may pay Mayfield for them."

To Nancy - Bridgeport AL, 16 Nov 1863

"We have been on the march all the time since I wrote you. ... We left [Fayetteville] on the 10th and after two days march over very rough stony roads arrived at Decherd Station on the Nashville & Chattanooga Road. We left Decherd on the morning of the 12th and came south down the Rail Road toward Stevenson [Alabama]. After marching five miles we struck the mountains and made about three miles more over the rockiest roughest road I ever saw. We camped that night right in the road, because there was no other ground smooth enough to lie down on. I was officer of the Day and had to ride round and set pickets after night and I think it was the roughest service I ever did. We got off the mountain into the valley of Crow Creek next day about noon. ...

²² Quartermaster John B. McClelland, likely on leave at home in Vernon.

"...I understand the Rebels yet hold about two miles of Lookout Mountain – that part next Chattanooga. I hear cannonading in that direction this morning, and think it likely we will have a lively time unless the rebels leave before we get there. ... Our men have stood the march remarkably well. I believe five have died since we left Memphis and they were all sick when we started. ... Doc Sutton was left at luka very sick and I am afraid is dead by this time. ... Hage Wagner was brought along. I thought for several days [omission] but he is getting well fast – he would have died if he had not had an unusual amount of grit. I am entirely well again although I have had a hard time of it. I have been sick all the time and hardly able for duty. I am beginning to think I have a good constitution or I would not have got well with the rough treatment of my case."

To Nancy - Athens TN, 12 December 1863

"I suppose you think I have been very negligent that I have not written before but I think you will admit my excuse that I have had no opportunity to write when you read the account of our doings since Nov 17th last.

"[Missionary ridge] commences at the river some three or four miles above Chattanooga and runs in a semicircle around and in front of Town... The Rebel right lay on the point in front of us, the center in front and South of Town and the left on Look Out Mountain four miles below town. So you see there was quite a long line of battle. ... After considerable skirmishing we got possession of the top of the hill and planted a battery. The rebs had a battery about a half mile further on – ...Our regiment camped that night at the foot of the hill and judging from the ease with which we effected a lodgment we expected the rebs to evacuate without further fighting. In fact old soldiers are always incredulous as to the probability of a fight. They never believe there is going to be much of a battle until they are right into it.

"Our Brigade got into line next morning about 8 o'clock with orders to swing round against the rail road and feel for the enemy and support Corse's Brigade which was to storm the rebel battery. We were not to bring on a general engagement. We got across the woods and to the fence at the edge of the corn field about 10 A.M. and suddenly became conscious that the rebels were there and intended to fight. We came in sight of four batteries and within about a half mile of them and they greeted our appearance with a storm of shells.

"Our men were ordered to lie down and the Field Officers dismounted without ceremony and sought shelter behind trees. Our Adjutant and Major were behind a tree that was struck and the Adjutant had his skull fractured by a fragment of the shell. Quarter Master McClelland was struck in the foot by a ball that was rolling leisurely along but it had force enough to hurt him severely. A piece of a shell also cut through Lieut Weatherinton's hat and grazed his head, stunning him badly. Several men were wounded here. After lying here for a few minutes we were ordered to move forward, which we did under heavy



Missionary Ridge after the November 1863 fight. Photo: Library of Congress

artillery fire and under the fire of a brigade of rebels that occupied the field in front of us. We went on though, double quick, and made the rebels scamper over the rail road and up the hill. We halted about 150 yards short of the rail road and lay down in the open field and lay there until 3 P.M., the batteries playing on us and the sharp shooters firing on us from the hill side. In the mean time Corse charged the

battery which was in plain sight of us and after two hours hard fighting was repulsed and we were ordered to withdraw which we did in good order and got back to camp at 4 P.M.

"...[We had] nine enlisted men killed and 53 wounded and our Brigade had near 400 killed, wounded and missing. I escaped without a hurt of any kind for which I am very thankful. We started early next morning in pursuit of Bragg who retreated during the night. You know he was defeated on his left and in the center, he having reenforced his right to resist our attack, and so weakened his left and center that they were easily broken. We passed by Chickamauga Station and on to Grayville 20 miles on the road to Atlanta when we stopped one day and tore up the road and burned the bridges and started in the direction of Knoxville Sunday Nov 29th. We went on to Cleveland, the junction of the Dalton & Knoxville and Chattanooga and Knoxville roads. Stayed there a half day to tear up the road toward Dalton, then to Maryville in East Tennessee, within 20 miles of Knoxville where we met messengers from Gen. Burnside with the intelligence that Longstreet was retreating toward Virginia. The 4th AC [Army of the Cumberland] went on to Knoxville and our Corps and the 11th Corps returned to this place where we are awaiting news from some Cavalry movement that is going on. We will probably go back to Chattanooga where I hope we will rest awhile and refit for we are all nearly worn out and nearly naked and somewhat lousy for we have had no change of clothes since leaving Bridgeport.

"Chattanooga Dec. 18th I have carried this in my pocket until now having had no chance to mail it. On our way to Bridgeport again. Will write from there."

To Nancy - Bridgeport AL, 20 December 1863

"...[we] encamped on our battle ground of Nov. 25th. We had bad rainy weather on the march and nothing to eat except what we foraged from the country through which we passed. The good people of East Tennessee will long remember our visit for two reasons – first because we delivered them from Rebel oppression and secondly from the fact that we took all their provisions and live stock and in many instances their wearing apparel and bed quilts, blankets, knives and forks, spoons and any other articles they happened to have on hand. The presence of even a friendly army is the greatest curse that can happen to the inhabitants.

"There was a good reason for our foraging for something to eat for we were started off in a hurry to relieve Burnside and had no rations to take with us and some men had no blankets and I did not blame them for taking covering under which to sleep, but the trouble is that when men are allowed to forage on their own account they always take everything they get their hands on and they soon become a mere thieving mob. Our Generals had finally to stop it. They should never have allowed any man to take any thing himself but should have organized foraging parties under command of proper officers and supplied the men in that way. We have done so much marching that nearly all our clothes are worn out. The shoes especially nearly all gave out and a great many men had to march barefoot for the last few days. It was very hard on them but there was no help for it. We could get no clothing at Chattanooga and the barefoot men were put on boats there and came here by water. We are getting a supply of clothing today and the poor fellows will be more comfortable.

"We had an opportunity to go over the battle ground and I tell you we were glad to see it again. A battle field is always an interesting spot and especially so to one who was in the battle. The ground on which our Regiment lay was scooped out in about a hundred places by shells. Some had exploded and made very large holes and some had struck, ricocheted, scooping out a hole perhaps a foot deep and five or six feet long. The shells would bounce and go perhaps a half mile further before exploding. I found a great deal of torn clothing and a good many bloody spots where men had been hit and in one place I found a large quantity of brains. It was an awful sight. I went up on the hill where 2nd Brigade of our Division had tried to take the rebel works by storm. That place looked worse than our battle field. Trees were shot through by cannon balls and full of bullets and the bushes were cut off for 8 or 10 rods each way as cleanly as though they had been mowed. I found a good many hats and other articles of

clothing with bullet holes in them and all of them bloody and there were three dead rebels lying in the bushes still unburied. I don't think we ought to talk any more about the rebels leaving our dead unburied at Chickamauga. The ground was filled with graves too. I came away sick of seeing battle fields, and almost resolved never to visit one again."

Winter Quarters: January-May 1864

The Regiment's rest in 1864 was more comfortable than the previous winter because the troops had learned to build shelter for themselves, even when rumor insisted that they would move shortly. In a February excursion of several days, the regiment did not come under fire but did accomplish what it was sent out to do: divert a Rebel force that threatened General Sherman's army operating just to the south. In early March, the 12th Indiana Volunteers played a role in what the Official Record calls "the Demonstration at Dalton, Georgia," in which Union divisions tied down a large Rebel contingent to allow Sherman's army latitude to move.

Later in March, James and Nancy had a few days together in Louisville, KY. Then camp was quiet for about a month, except for some drinking and discord. History repeated itself, in the shape of yet another colonel with a drinking problem. James was less patient the second time around.

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 3 January 1864

"Well, we, that is our Division have got pretty well settled down here. The officers have all got their tents up and Stoves in them or chimneys built and the men have mostly got log huts built and their tents stretched over them for a roof. I have got a tent up and have a good floor in it and a chimney built and am writing in as warm a room as that in which you are sitting.

"While we were on the march I had to live with four or five others and with a gang of servants huddled round our fire and could never have any privacy or anything I could call my own. And now I have my tent to myself with one servant to wait on me and am as snug and comfortable as I want to be with the exception that I am not with you and the children. ...

"... It has been so muddy the most of the time since we came that I have had no opportunity to go around and see the country but I am told the land is good between us and the river and well cultivated. The people are nearly all rebels, this county having sent 28 companies to the rebel army and only two to ours. Those who are left at home are very spiteful, especially the women, but they are all candid enough to acknowledge that their cause looks unpromising. I got my dinner the day we arrived here at a house about two miles from here on the road to Stevenson. The man was a bitter Secessionist but talked very guardedly for awhile but we got into an argument on the subject and he got excited enough to say what he really thought on the subject, and when he did get started he gave us what the boys call "Hail Columbia." He said that it had all along been understood by the leaders in the North that all the negroes should be set free and the South brought in complete subjection and that any Southern man of



Enlisted men in front of a typical Civil War camp hut. Photo: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

spunk would fight of course. I told him we had intended at first *[the word "not" seems to have been omitted here]* to free the niggers but we had made up our minds now that it must be done to cripple the rebellion and we would and could whip any and everybody that opposed it. Well, he said he guessed we could whip them and they would have to submit. Two or three of his darkeys were standing by and listening with a great deal of interest and when he acknowledged we could whip the South the darkeys broke out in a loud laugh, and he got so mad he looked as though he could whip them to death. I am glad I have lived to see some of them *[slave owners]* cowed down, and hope to live to see their spirit completely broken. ...

"...I have not got my boots yet. I have written again to Memphis about them."

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 15 January 1864

"... We are all well with very few exceptions, there being not more than a half dozen sick men in the Regiment now. We have all got pretty hardy is one reason of our good health and another reason is that we know how to take care of ourselves better than we did last winter. We were careless about building good quarters then and took comparatively little trouble to fix up, and when cold and rainy weather came we were always taking cold and getting sick from exposure and I have no doubt this carelessness was a cause of a great deal of the sickness and death in the Regiment while we were at Grand Junction.

"We have since learned that health and comfort are worth working for and we have houses about as comfortable as we are used to at home. The men are cheerful too and well satisfied with the Service. As a proof of this full three fourths of the Regiment would have reenlisted as veterans if they could but we had not served long enough.

"... We seem to be perfectly safe here, as we never hear of any rebels on this side of the river and I heard today that they had evacuated Decatur, which lies you know on the South Side. I hope it is true as it saves us the necessity of fighting for it and I am not particularly in favor of fighting if the object can be accomplished without it. ... We are getting plenty of everything but meat now. We only get half rations of pork though and the commissary is ordered to make up the balance due us in beef – but the cattle we can get in the country are so poor that the boys don't want the beef. We are doing very well however and we are having a pretty good time. I have felt all the time since we came here that I was having a much needed rest. My horse too seems to enjoy the rest quite as much as I do."

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 26 January 1864

"... I am now looking anxiously for the January Atlantic and February Atlantic and Harper. I don't get much to read here and I read the Atlantic and try to understand it too. I must confess however that it takes a man of uncommon sense to appreciate some of its articles. Harpers don't make so much pretension and furnishes excellent light reading. I have a good deal of leisure time on my hands and have to put it in at reading or loafing as the roads have been too bad to ride about much.

"I will give you an idea of our life by describing one day's duty to you. Reveille sounds about daylight when the roll is called. Breakfast at 7 AM, when we have another roll call – we call the roll again at 9 AM and at noon and at 3 P.M. We have dress parade at 4^{1/2} P.M. when the roll is called again. We have still another roll call at 7 P.M. and "taps" are sounded at 8 P.M. when every body must be still and lights are extinguished. We have roll calls so frequently to keep the men from going out in the country and committing depredations as they are too apt to do unless they are watched."

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 29 January 1864

"I am well and so are all the men from Jennings as far as I know. We are beginning to have considerable sickness in the Regiment. We are camped in a rather low place and our camp is muddy and the water is not very good. The weather is very changeable too, and all these causes combined are making several cases of fever, and some of them will prove fatal too I am afraid. We have buried two men since we came here. It is a sad thing to have to bury the poor fellows so far from home and friends and it is especially a sad thing to see men die here – men who have passed through battle untouched.

We do not somehow feel that a man killed in battle is lost to us. We rather feel that he is one of us still and that he and the honor attached to his name are ours. We always know where the men killed in battle are buried and consider each grave so filled as one of our marks of honor. But a Soldier dying of disease is generally buried in some obscure spot and few if any remember his resting place. I suppose this will make no difference in the end – that each grave will be found on the Last Day – but if I have to die in the service I want my last breath to pass on some great battle field.”

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 7 February 1864

“On Friday night 30 Jan^y I was awakened about midnight and ordered to get the regiment ready to march at day-light...

“Well we started off, Genl Morgan & Smith commanding the expedition and...arrived at Lebanon, De Kalb Co. Ala. on Tuesday Feb 3rd. Lebanon is in the famous Lookout valley, about thirty five miles South West of Trenton where we went, you remember, just before the battle of Missionary Ridge. ...We staid in the valley overnight and Genl Smith went on toward Rome [*Georgia*] with the Cavalry to reconnoiter and to burn some saltpeter works down there somewhere.

“We heard of a heavy force of Rebels coming against us and sent word back that we would probably be attacked that night. So we had to sleep on our arms and keep one eye open and we all got up at 4 AM and stood in line until daylight waiting for the attack to come – but it did not come. We got word again about 9 that morning that Wheeler and all his force would attack us in two hours sure and that the rebs were surrounding us. They didn’t come though and we started back about noon. The rebs skirmished with our rear until we got out of the valley, but they did not interrupt us after we got on the mountain again. We marched leisurely back getting to the River Friday 5th inst. We staid there until yesterday when we came back to this place. I do not see that we accomplished anything by the trip – But Genl Logan says we drew a large force away from Genl Sherman who is operating below and that we did all that was desired or expected.”

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 10 February 1864

“I am going to try to get out of this Regiment myself by resignation if I can't be transferred to the 122nd. I won't stay any longer than I can help where a man's capacity is gauged by the quart – wine measure. In other words our Colonel²³ is a drunkard and I don't want to serve under him. I can't get along well with him if I don't drink and by my actions approve of his conduct and I will not do that. As I write at 10 o'clock he is on a visit in the regiment and is as drunk and noisy as any fool drunken man can be. I don't want you to repeat this or let anybody know of it. I am not in the habit of writing or speaking this plainly of affairs here but I am provoked beyond endurance tonight.”

To Nancy - Cleveland TN, 21 February 1864

“...I know that the profession of war in time of war is a dangerous one and that I have no certain lease of life – but if I am killed I could not die in a better cause and thousands of men who are as good as or better than I am have risked their lives and are doing it now – while they are no more interested in the preservation of the country than I am. So while I am as afraid of death as any one, I must continue in the service as long as I can or while I am needed.

“But I have learned long since that I can't have everything I want and shall not be much disappointed if I don't get this appointment²⁴ – and I don't want you to feel disappointed either and if you do feel disappointed don't show it to your friend Mrs Waters or any of her class. I don't have much respect for her or her husband either.²⁵ He is not an honest man and she is a tattler and would be glad to see you humiliated because I hold a higher rank than he does. Don't trust her with anything you don't want told. I have heard of a great many things being told about Vernon that Waters told his wife a great many things he should not have told her and that she should have never repeated. And if I wanted

²³ Col. Reuben Williams, commander of the 12th Indiana

²⁴ As Colonel of a new regiment

²⁵ Lieutenant John H. Waters of Vernon.

anything published I would tell Waters and let him publish it through his wife. I despise such people. As to the story about all our officers being under arrest, I suppose that came to you from her. I have been in command of the regiment since January 10th and have put but one officer under arrest and he apologized next morning and I released him. I don't want to get a name of that kind at home as I know I don't deserve it."

To Sam - Scottsboro AL, 6 March 1864 ["Demonstration at Dalton"]

"I wrote to your Mother on the 22nd Feb^y that we had had marching orders but I inclined to believe that we would not leave Cleveland after all. I wrote this about noon that day, and at 7 that night we got orders to march at 5 next morning and report to Gen. Cruft at Red Clay [Georgia]....

"Our line extended across this high hill on top of which the 4th Ind. Battery was planted and to the right across the valley ... and up the side of Rocky face mountain which lay on the other side of the valley and it extended about a half a mile to the left across another valley leading toward Dalton [Georgia] – and Wilder's mounted Infantry, under command of Col. Long, lay to the left of that and occupied another valley. We thus had the Rebels enclosed on our side and Davis was to come up the Rail Road from Chattanooga and take the gap in Rocky faced Mountain through which the Road runs and then we would have them in a trap, for they would have no way to get out except to retreat toward Dalton and if they did that, the valley down which they must go was so narrow that we could have killed or captured the greater portion of them. The plan was a good one but it failed because Davis didn't have enough men to take the gap, and after awhile it became apparent that the rebs had more men than we and the best thing for us to do was to go back. So we marched out about 9 that night – quietly and soberly, but in good order – and went nearly to Ringgold and went to bed about 1 the next morning feeling very much as though Dalton was not evacuated yet.

"Our Brigade was under a great deal of artillery fire that day and a good many bullets passed by on their way to the rear but fortunately no one of us was hurt. Our Regiment was moved around and sent to support of weak points at least twenty times, and I cannot understand how we escaped so well but suppose these things are ordered by Providence. I am very grateful that I escaped – for I hardly expected it."

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 3 April 1864

"There is nothing transpiring here and this waiting without anything to do and having no object in view except to pass off time is the unpleasant part of Soldiering, to me at least. I want to be at home, and if I had any good reason to offer would send in my resignation today. But unfortunately my health is good and if I were to offer as a reason that I don't like the way the Colonel drinks and carries on – I would get a fuss on my hands... I don't see that I can do anything but take things patiently and hope that matters will take a better shape some day.

"My situation is unpleasant though – both the other Field Officers drink and like to associate with men of their own kind and while I am very friendly with Col. Williams and he with me, we associate very little. ...I am friendly with most of our company officers and with a good many others and have no lack of Society but I would be a good deal better satisfied if I could associate with those that my duty requires me to be with most. I could associate with them if I would adopt their habits, but I cannot do that and so I seem to stand alone at Head Quarters."

To Nancy - Scottsboro AL, 13 April 1864

"I am getting tired of this idle life and wish we were moving, or were doing something. After we get started out on a march the officers and men are more sober as they have very little opportunity to get whiskey, but while we are lying still it seems impossible to prevent drunkenness and all the evils attending it. And beside this consideration there is something about a movement especially against an enemy that is exciting and fascinating."

The Atlanta Campaign: May-July 1864

Beginning the first of May, the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry fought its way south from Chattanooga on the Tennessee-Georgia border to Atlanta, remaining on campaign until the capture of the city at the end of August. About two weeks before the fall of Atlanta, James wrote that the regiment had been on duty 112 days without a break, and under fire for most of them. Col. Williams was commanding the brigade for most of that time, so Lt. Col. Goodnow was in command of the regiment.

The Battle of Atlanta (22 July), inaugurated the siege of the city, which the Confederates held until forced to evacuate after losing a battle on 31 August-1 September. The 12th Indiana was in the thick of this campaign: James Goodnow's reports covering the period from 1 May-3 August 1864 mentioned involvement at Resaca (1 May-15 May, with pursuit of the Confederates into the interior of Georgia until 23 May); Dallas (26 May to 28 May); in the vicinity of New Hope Church (28 May-15 June), Kennesaw Mountain (15 June-4 July) and Chattahoochee River (4 July-14 July).²⁶ From 14 July until 28 July, the regiment advanced slowly toward Atlanta, encountering at least one pitched battle (on 28 July at Ezra Church) and daily heavy skirmishing.

The intensity of the actions shows in the losses Lt. Col. Goodnow reported: as of 3 August the regiment had 113 killed, wounded and missing. The death at Ezra Church of Lt. Waters from his home village of Vernon must have caused James particular pain, especially since his letters had more than once alluded to tensions between them.

To Nancy - In Field near Dallas GA, 29 May 1864

"...We made a pretty good line of rifle pits night before last just behind an open field and about twenty yards back in the woods. We did nothing yesterday but skirmish a little until about 4 in the evening when the Rebs came out at us yelling in their usual style and charged on us along the whole line of the 15th and 16th Corps. They came out in the field in front of our Regiment and drove the Skirmishers in and started for our woods not seeming to know that we had any breast works here – some of them got within fifty yards of us before they discovered us and when we opened on them it was laughable to witness their surprise. They tried to cover themselves behind stumps and logs and their officers tried to form them and bring them up but it was of no use – they wouldn't come and they broke in confusion and went back faster than they came, hardly stopping to fire a shot at us. The whole thing was over in fifteen or twenty minutes and the result was that we had three men slightly wounded while we killed and wounded fifty or sixty of them. It was the first time our men had had a chance to fight behind breast works and they enjoyed it hugely. I could not for the life of me keep them from getting on top of the breast



Battlefield at New Hope Church. Photo George N. Barnard, 1864

²⁶ O.R.Series I – Vol. XXXVIII – Part III Reports; pp 301-306

works and shooting or none of them need have been hurt. It is said the rebs lost 3000 men by their charges and were repulsed everywhere. We are lying in our works today and nothing but Skirmishing is going on. The thing is not over yet evidently. Don't feel uneasy about me for I feel under the protection of the same Providence here that I would have to depend on for the preserving of my life if at home."

To Nancy - Acworth GA, 7 June 1864

"...We had orders [May 29th] to move out of our works and go about six or seven miles to the left and toward the Rail Road, Sherman's object seeming to be the moving of the whole army eastward. We started very cautiously about 9 at night, leaving our Skirmishers to hold the line and keep up appearances. ...We – that is our Brigade – had got moved about half a mile and the Brigade next on our left was just getting ready to move when the Rebels attacked our whole line and we were ordered to back to our ditches double quick, which we did and got into position as quick as possible. We got back in the nick of time for our Skirmishers were all driven in except four or five who were firing rapidly and making so much noise that the Rebs were afraid to come on them too fast and they returned as soon as we got up and our part in the row was over, but they kept it up at intervals on our left until 2 next morning. We did not try moving again until Wednesday morning June 1st when we went out at daylight and moved off to the eastward without opposition. We marched about seven miles and relieved Hooker's Corps (20th). We found them behind breast works on the crest of a hill and the Rebs on the brow of the next hill about 125 yards distant. We went in and occupied the works and Hooker came up this way flanking the Rebs. We staid there four days keeping up a constant Skirmishing all the time and were up in line four or five times each day and night thinking the Rebs were attacking us but the gentlemen had no intention of doing that although they tried hard to keep us in a constant state of alarm and being so close our Skirmishers and theirs fixed with great accuracy and a man couldn't show his head without being shot at. We had one man killed here and four or five wounded.

"The Rebs decamped during the night of the 4th leaving a Skirmish line out to deceive us – but we went over and took that in, our Regt taking some 30 or 40 prisoners. We went over into their works early in the morning and found these men and they surrendered without resistance. The Rebels had a very strong position and we could not have driven them out by a direct assault without great loss of life. Gen Sherman did better – he flanked their position and they had to retreat and they can't now make another stand this side of Atlanta if I understand the position.

"I telegraphed you yesterday that myself and all men in 12th from Jennings were unhurt...My health has been pretty good, I am very tired. I find that lying under fire for 8 or 10 days as we did is very apt to worry and exhaust a man. Mr. Waters is in good health and so are all the men from our county. We have had about 70 killed and wounded but none from Jennings."

To Nancy - Big Shanty GA, 14 June 1864

"We are doing very little – in fact nothing at all is going on except a little Skirmishing with an occasional cannon shot. Something will be done soon though no doubt and I think Sherman means to flank them again as he did twice before. Just how he will do it though we none of us see. We have implicit confidence however in his ability to out general them and we are ready to do our best to accomplish any thing he may order us to do. We have had no one hurt in this Regiment since I last wrote. A good many, myself among the number, are aguishly inclined though. Col. Williams has commanded the Brigade and I have commanded the Regiment since May 1st, Col. Loomis having resigned and gone home."

To Nancy - From Camp 12th Ind Vols. 19 miles S.W. of Marietta GA, 5 July 1864

"The rebs were pretty badly used up this time and show plain signs of demoralization and the signs are plainer every time the[y] have to fall back. I think our Corps must have picked up 600 or 800 stragglers and almost every one of them had been in since the war broke out but they said they were tired and beside thought they had no chance to succeed. They all concur in saying that if Johnston gives up Atlanta that the most of his army will leave him.

"I have a strong hope now that we will soon get Atlanta. Although it is best not to be too sanguine for you know 'Man proposes and God disposes.' We are having a very fatiguing campaign – not to speak of the fighting of which we have had enough to satisfy my appetite for blood. We have been out on this campaign 66 days and have been under fire 18 of them – most of the time in the ditches too where we had to lie close and we got dirty and tired."

To Nancy - From Near Chattahoochie River GA, 11 July 1864

"...we got within about two miles of the River on the 5th where we found the Rebs in position on the South side of Nickajack Creek and strongly fortified. ...We entrenched on the north side of the Creek and skirmished and fought with our artillery until the night of the 9th when the Rebs retreated across the river in our front and we shooting across the river at them now. ...Well we have done pretty well so far but we are still eight miles from Atlanta and I don't think the campaign will close before we get that place. I can't tell when we will get there – not before August 1st probably. I have had another little spell of sickness and went to the Hospital three days since and, after taking some quinine and blue mass,²⁷ felt well enough to come back to the Regiment this morning. I am not well yet but am improving and hope to be well soon."

To Nancy - From the Field 3 miles West of Atlanta, 1 August 1864

"Our regiment furnished the skirmishers in our brigade front. I sent Co. "D" in command of Lieut. Waters, the Co. having no officer of its own with it. We had been on the hill about an hour the Rebs shelling us vigorously all the time, when the skirmishers sent in word that the enemy was forming in our front to attack us and in a few minutes the skirmishers were driven in, and Lieut. Waters was killed while coming in. In a very few moments the fight began. The rebs came in three lines and although our fire was very destructive and their men fell fast they seemed determined to drive us and came within 30 steps before we could check them and when they did break and run a great many hid behind stumps and trees on the declivity in front us and kept up a scattering fire from there. They made five distance trial charges like this before they gave it up and we were in the fight almost straight along until nearly 5 PM. ...So our men were all on the front line at least two hours. Our loss was small because the enemy fired up hill at us and over our little breast work and the most of the bullets went over our heads.

"I am very sorry on account of Lieut Waters death and sympathize deeply with poor Mrs Waters. I wrote her on the 29th. I addressed the letter to you. I hope you will get it in due time and send it to her immediately. I escaped without a scratch. I think I have been exceedingly fortunate and am exceedingly thankful for escaping thus far."



*View on the battlefields of Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, 1864.
Photo: Library of Congress*

²⁷ A mercury-based medicine in common use at the time.

The End of the Atlanta Campaign: August-September 1864

The only official report describing the 12th Indiana in the Atlanta campaign's closing days was written by Col. Reuben Williams after he was returned from brigade command to the regiment:

"...on 3^d August my command occupied a position in the main line of battle, where I remained, suffering some considerable loss from the heavy skirmishing in my front, until night of 26th August, when I evacuated my line in obedience to your order. ... On morning of 28th my command was detailed as guard for trains of Department of the Tennessee, in which position I have remained up to present time, with exception of being once called into line of battle..."²⁸

In a series of letters "from the ditches" and "near Atlanta," James described the hard-fought last month of the Atlanta campaign. On 9 August he mentioned Col. Williams' return to the regiment, with bitter words about drinking. Apparently relations between them remained tense.

To Nancy - From the ditches 3 miles from Atlanta GA, 6 August 1864

"From under the surface of the earth, that is sitting in a ditch with an old newspaper for a desk I send you greeting. We have just had a most terrible artillery duel and the guns have fired and the shells exploded faster than I could count – but no one hurt in our regiment. This thing of lying under a heavy cannonading is certainly among the tribulations in a soldiers life. Atlanta is not ours yet and I confess my incapacity to tell when it will be ours. I don't see that we make much progress toward taking the place.

"I am not very sick – only enough to make me weak and light-headed. I will go out the Teams tomorrow – if able and gather up Mr Water's things and I will look up his papers and accounts and settle his business as well as I can. I think she will have to get his back pay herself..."

To Nancy - Marietta GA, 9 August 1864

"I got a temporary leave yesterday to come here to get some clothing as my wearing apparel was greatly dilapidated. I have succeeded in getting a pair of Government blue pants and I also bought a vest from a Sutler. I needed worst of all a blouse but could not get one. My coat is very ragged but I will have to make it do a while longer. I don't care about wearing my new coat while we are in the ditches as I would spoil it in a day or two. "There is no certain prospect of our closing this campaign soon although when I left the front yesterday there were some signs that an evacuation was going on. But we have learned by sad experience that these signs are often delusive. We need rest badly as our army is tired out and we need to rest long enough to reorganize. A great many of our regiments are commanded by captains having lost all their Field Officers and a Captain who is in temporary command only cannot make a regiment as effective as it would otherwise be. As an instance the 2nd Brigade of our Division has seven regiments and only four Field Officers for duty and that is about the proportion throughout the army. We have been singularly fortunate in that respect while we have lost one third of our men and line officers none of the Field Officers have been hurt. We are still lying in the ditches on the front line, having advanced our lines nearly a mile since the battle of the 28th. I am in about my usual health although I am very lean, and I don't think I would weigh much more than one hundred and fifty pounds. I am not really well any of the time but when I think of how many poor fellows have been killed and disabled I think I have good cause to be grateful that I have escaped so well.

"Our Brigade was broken up the other day and Col. Williams returned to the regiment. I think it served him right as he was drunk a great deal of the time, and most of the time wholly unfit for duty in my opinion. I hope he will take warning and quit his ways. I have about concluded to quit as soon as this campaign is over. I can't serve under Williams and keep my self respect.

²⁸ O.R. Series I, Part III Reports, No. 501

"I am a sober man and show very little countenance to a man who is a drunkard. And while the Col. and I get along pretty well together, he knows I have no respect for him and he feels sore about it – and often makes things disagreeable to me. I am going to return to the regiment today where I hope to find a letter from you. Write often."

To Nancy - Camp Four Miles West of Atlanta, 14 August 1864

"I got back from Marietta on the evening of the 9th and found the Regiment had just moved in. We had our Hospital Steward, a man named Martin from Fort-Wayne, killed dead by a bullet through the head that day and one man wounded. Since then we have had only two men hurt, one of them very slight. I have been unwell since the 10th and have done as little duty as I could possibly get off with. I have what they call Remittent Fever.

"We had 3 men killed and 3 wounded in a little charge we made on the 2nd inst. None from our county."

To Nancy - Near Atlanta, 21 August 1864

"... I think it very uncertain when I will be at home, for this place is not taken yet nor does the end seem near and no officer need talk about going home on leave while an active campaign is in progress. And if a man were to offer a resignation now he would probably be dismissed in disgrace. I still intend to offer my resignation as soon as there is a probability that it will be accepted. I am still unwell and have been unable for duty for ten days. My complaint is a torpid liver and general debility....

"We are still in the ditches neither advancing nor retreating but just lying still. We shoot at the rebels when they show themselves and they shoot at us when they see us. We get about one man hurt per day in our Regiment and the other regiments lose about the same way. Our poor fellows are nearly worn out. We have been constantly on duty for 112 days and a great deal of that time under fire and when not under fire they were digging a great deal of the time. And now our friends would hardly know us, we are poor and look care worn and very dirty. The men who have gone through this campaign creditably deserve all honor from their country. I don't understand all that is going on but I can't help believing the Virginia Campaign is almost a complete failure. The rebels are not cooped up at all as I can see and how Gen Grant expects to make them fight on his ground is more than I can see – and it is absurd to talk about their surrendering to him as things are now. And we here are a little the same fix that Grant is. We can't assault their works with any prospect of taking them – and our only chance of getting them out of here seems to be by flanking them on our right and taking or threatening the Macon Rail Road, but the Rebs seem to understand this and they extend their lines as fast as we do. Maybe we can outstretch them and if we do they will have to go further south."

It seems that the 12th Indiana did not participate directly in the battle that decided the fate of Atlanta – a Union victory at Jonesboro, Ga. that forced Atlanta's Confederate commander to withdraw from the city. Like Col. Williams' report, James' only letter from after the fall of Atlanta (which is also the final Civil War letter in the Goodnow Papers) stated that from August 27 the regiment was in the rear, detailed for train guard.

James apparently saw no anticlimax in not being in the field for this great Union victory. Instead, he seemed confident that the Union Armies' success was also his own. By surviving the campaign amid so many hazards, he had earned the opportunity to regain his health and resume his life.

On 15 September 1864, Lt. Col. James Goodnow resigned his commission. The final letter of his military service follows in its entirety:

"East Point 6 Miles South of Atlanta, September 7th 1864

"My dear Wife

"You are doubtless surprised and uneasy because I have not written for so long a time. The reason why is I have had no opportunity since I wrote last (Aug 25th) until now. We evacuated our position near Atlanta on the night of the 26th and marched round our extreme right and struck the Montgomery Rail Road 16 miles S West of Atlanta. We stopped here one day, destroying the Road and waiting for the remainder of the army to come up. The whole army with the exception of the 20th Corps ... joined us and we pushed on for Jonesboro a Station on the Macon Road 23 miles SE of Atlanta. Our Regiment was detailed on the 27th for Train Guard and was in the rear from thence, but the Army of the Tennessee led and took position within a half mile of the Road on the evening of the 30th. [*Confederate General John B.*] Hood seems to have mistaken the movement for a Raid and he sent 15 or 20,000 men under Hardee to oppose it. Hardee took position in front of the Rail Road and charged our Corps on the 31st but was repulsed. On the 1st of September the 4th and 14th Corps crossed the Rail Road on our left and attacked the Rebels on their right flank and drove them out of two lines of entrenchments and captured about 1500 prisoners and eighteen cannon.

"The arrangement was for the 17th corps to cross the Rail Road on our right and attack the Rebel left flank, but they did not get into position until night and the Rebs seeing they were about to be surrounded got out during the night and went South. Our forces pursued them early next morning and they made a stand four miles further down the Road and the balance of their force evacuated Atlanta and made a circuit round us to the East and joined them. The teams were then ordered up here and we came with them and the army has withdrawn and will be here tomorrow. It will probably remain in and around Atlanta long enough to refit and be paid. It is said that the Army of the Tennessee will go into camp here while the Army of the Cumberland occupies Atlanta, while that of the Ohio will camp at Decatur. In the mean time and while we are stopping here I am going to offer my resignation and come home if possible. I am in better health now but I am afraid I can't stand another campaign and think I ought to quit while I can and if I can. I did not get any news from you from Aug 25th until yesterday when I got three letters of Aug. 22, 25th & 28th also Harpers for September. Don't look too strong for me for I don't know whether my resignation will be accepted – rest assured I will come home if I can. My best love to you and give my love to the children and my regards to your mother & Fin & Sis & Dan & Charley's & Wills folks.

"Your aff [*affectionate*] Husband

"James Goodnow"

STORIES FROM HOME

Some of the most interesting and affecting stories in the Goodnow Papers tell of the personal hopes and tragedies of the people who lived through America's Civil War. James' personal notes to his wife and children are excerpted here in sections titled *Fatherhood from Afar* and *The Heart of a Marriage*. The letter immediately following stands alone as a poignant account of sorrows that, war or no war, were regular visitors in mid-Nineteenth Century American villages.

The Deaths of Children

Nancy saved two letters from her Greensburg friend Lizzie Lathrop – a gossip note of January 1863 and a sad 1864 letter recounting the death of Lizzie’s daughter and other Greensburg children and suggesting that James and Nancy also had lost a young child.

“Greensburg, Ind., Jan. 25th 64

“My Dear Friend

“You have thought ere this that I was a long time answering your dear kind letter, but I assure you it was not willingly done. The force of circumstances prevented my writing before. You do not know how pleased I was to get your letter and better pleased when I read that there was a possibility of again seeing you. We are all well at this time but I do not know how long I can say so. Lee is in as good health or better as when you saw him last. Our little boy is all we have left now.

“You are a mother and have passed through the same fiery trial and know all those words contain. Oh! I cannot tell you how Changed our once happy home is since my darling little girl left us for a home in Heaven. She was the light of the house. I wish you could have only known her. She was not quite four years old and know as much as most children at six and seven. I have been told often that she was to smart to live. A Lady told me just yesterday that “she was a wonder to everybody she knew so much for her age.” She was such a little beauty besides – made her a favorite with everybody. It seems to me I never can be happy again as I once was. Our little Louis is great comfort to us but does not take her place. If I was to write what I think of most I should not write of anything but her. You can measure my feelings by your own having experienced the same great loss. ...I have been very busy for a week or two giving my aid in getting up a Fair which takes place (or commences) Thursday of this week. Were you ever on a commitee. If you was you know the trouble of it. I should like so much for you to come this week if it could have been so, but in waiting I can have you all to myself. ...

“Sister Mag’s children have had Whooping cough all winter – nearly all the children in Town have had it but Lou – and he has been where it was often but never took it.

“I think when you get this you will not be able to read it but I can tell you the rest when you come to see me. So that you know I am looking for you is all that is needful. Lee says tell Mrs Goodnoe that we will not take any excuses for not comeing. Oh, if you should disappoint us I do not know what I will do. Write to me what day and hour you will come and I will meet you at the cars,

“Yours with Love, L. Lathrop

“I did not know whether you had heard of Mrs Siling loosing all three of her children this last summer (from the 20th June till about the 1st of August) with Scarlet fever. One of them the first one died the same day our little darling did. She had the same sickness. There was a great many cases and deaths from it here last summer. One death this week said to be that and I heard again it was Spotted fever a dreadful disease that I never heard of till last winter. Mr. Siling has gone south on business and she is at her Fathers now. I think their home must be desolate and drear their little ones all gone. How they live I do not Know.

“Good Night, Lizzie”

Fatherhood from Afar

In committing to be away for many months, James Goodnow showed confidence that Nancy could handle their family without his day-to-day advice and presence. Still, his letters made it clear that he intended to remain a full participant in the family, offering Nancy blunt counsel about the management of household and children, and giving the youngsters emphatic and detailed instructions on how to behave. Nearly every letter closed with expressions of love for the children.

James' expectations for his eldest son, Sam, were especially high. He regularly reminded the teenager of his responsibility for the well-being of his mother and siblings, sometimes expressing disappointment or irritation in fairly strong terms. The directions he gave his children reflected the standard James aspired to for his own behavior. And the tasks he assigned to them paint a picture of daily life in mid-19th Century America.

To Nancy - 20 Nov 1862

"I want you to look well after the children – I don't mean by this that I want you to provide plenty for them to eat for I know you will do that – but I want you to study their dispositions and govern them accordingly.

"For instance Sam should be treated as a reasonable being. You must command yourself before you can command him. Dan is different – being impulsive and excitable and needs firm but gentle management. Johnny needs nothing for two or three years and just breaking in. You will be a better judge of Bel's disposition than I can be. I don't pretend to understand a girl or woman. Don't try to do too much work yourself and above all try to be even tempered. Don't for my sake give way to anger when things go wrong with you. And don't be angry with me for telling you plain truths."

To Sam (age 14) - 20 Nov 1862

"I want you to study to improve yourself while I am gone. You must always bear in mind that you have but a few years to study now. It will not be long before you will have to go out in the world to make your own way – and you will then be too busy to study and your success and usefulness will altogether depend on the way you employ your time now. I want you to bear this in mind constantly. Remember always that your Mother has a right to your help and that you can never do too much for her."

To Sam - 11 January 1863

"[Your letters] came late last night but I did not go to bed until I had read them through – I am gratified to have you remember me and write to me so often. I feel here almost cut off from home and am afraid sometimes that you will all forget that I am out of the family and neglect to write to me. ...I don't want you to think that because I did not write to you I have forgotten you or did not care for you. I think of you and your prospects always. I am sorry to think you were dismissed from school but cannot believe you were deserving of such harsh treatment. I don't think you would willfully go so far astray as to be unworthy to stay in a school. But I do think you should have promised to try to obey in future when asked. I want you to go to the teacher and say to him that I told you to ask him to take you back. Say to him that I told you to promise to try to obey in future – if he is a reasonable man that will be enough and if he does take you back, do your best to obey all the rules of the school."

To Sam - 20 Feb 1863

"... I want you to learn habits of industry and also to learn to not be ashamed of honest labor. You are perhaps not learning as much [at your current job] as you might at some other business – but that does not matter so much – if you learn to practice what you do know and at the same time make yourself strong and healthy, I will be well satisfied ...

"In the meantime do your best to please Mr. Leavitt and he may probably set you to keeping his books after awhile. It is very *[uncertain]* when I will be at home and I want you to act as though you had your own way in life to make. ... I want you to write to me frequently and tell your mind freely. Tell me all about what you are doing and all about your cares and troubles, and you may be sure I will always feel an interest in whatever interests or affects you."

To Dan (age 8) - 20 February 1863

"I am going to write you a short letter so that you may know I have not forgotten you. I get a good many letters from you and I read them all through and am always sorry you do not write more. You must write as plain and straight as you can. Take pains with every letter and you will soon be able to write as well as anybody. Your Mother says you saw and split all the wood. I don't say go in lemons, but I do say there are not many boys of your age can do that much.

"Tell your Mother she ought to be proud of her boys – I am. Whenever you feel like quarreling with Johnny or Sam or you feel like crying don't you do it but just run out into the wood shed and saw a few sticks of wood and see if you don't get in a good humor before you get done. I want you to try that some time and write and tell me whether it is not a good way to get over a mad fit. ..."

To John (age 4) - 20 Feb 1863

"I know you are not large enough and old enough to read it but your Mother will read it to you. I have been wanting to see you for a long time but I am too far away to go home often but I hope I will get to come home some day soon and then we will have a big talk and I mean to bring you and Bel a lot of candy. Johnny – I want you to be the best little boy in Vernon while I am away and I don't want you to say any bad words – or cry much – I want you to be a man."

To Nancy - 15 Mar 1863

"...Tell Sam I hope he will do his part well and take all care off you that he can. Tell him I have confidence in him that he will do right and that he must not disappoint me. He must bear in mind that the happiness of yourself and children and the character of the children also depends on his conduct. If the other children see that he does his duty cheerfully they will learn to do so too but if he is lazy and cross they will be lazy and cross too – and I am sure he would do anything rather than see them spoiled for their whole lives."

To Sam - 6 April 1863

"... I am glad to hear you and the children are well – but very sorry that your mother is in such poor health. I am afraid you have made her do too much work – you ought to make all the fires and you and Dan ought to do nearly all her work for her. Your mother worked hard to take care of you when you were too small to take care of yourself and if she were not your mother you ought in common gratitude make up to her for what she has done for you. I want you to see to it hereafter that she has no more fires to make and that you and Dan get all her wood – milk her cow (I will put the milking on you) and work the garden and help her wash and besides this I want you to take all work off her hands that you can do.

"I am afraid that you did not do right by leaving Mr. Leavitt. I expect the work was hard – but you ought never to quit anything until you have fairly tried it, and found you can't succeed at it. ...The difference between the men who are useful and respected and those who merely live in the world and are of little or no account to it, and for whom nobody cares for or respects – in short those that are called "trifling fellows" just lies in the way they accomplish what they undertake to do. ... I am afraid you will try to find the easy way to do everything. And if you do fall into that habit you are certain never to be worth anything. Try to show me that my fears are groundless."

To Nancy - 15 May 1863

"Just here I want say to Sam that if he has done as I have been told – has made no fires for you and staid out of nights – that in my opinion he had better hire himself out and make his own living for I don't think he promises to pay for his raising. ... Say to him I want him to write to me and tell me truly how it is. I want him to tell me what he does down town of nights and if he has any excuse to offer I want to hear it."

To Nancy - 18 May 1863

"I really don't know what to do with Sam – the boy needs a master I do not doubt and I wish I were there to attend to his case, but you know I can't get out of this thing easily even if I thought it right to do so. I mean to try to get leave of absence to go home as soon as I possibly can but that is very uncertain. If I can go home I will try to settle the gentleman – even if I have to bring him with me when I return."

James was home on leave in August and September, 1863. During this time, he apparently took steps regarding Sam's behavior, reducing some of the tensions that had plagued the family in his absence.

To Nancy - 20 Oct 1863

"Tell Sam I am very glad to hear he is so good a boy since I left and I want him to continue in well doing. I want him to write to me and let me know how he is getting on with his studies. Tell Dan he must write too. I want to see how he is improving in writing. Tell Johnny he must learn to write so he can send me letters and I want him to be a good boy too. Kiss Bel for me and tell her she must not forget me again. Give my regards to your mother and Sis and Dan and Charley's folks and Will Sharpe's."

To Nancy - 16 Nov 1863

"I was a good deal amused with Sam's account of his teacher and with your counter statement. You and he evidently look at the matter from different points of view. But I think Sam is wrong – he must submit himself to the school discipline and do it cheerfully. He must learn sometime that he can't have his own way always, and he may as well learn it now as later in life when it will be harder still."

To Sam - 29 Dec 1863

"Your Mother has written several times asking what you had better do when this term of School is out. My opinion is soon expressed. You had better go to School another term at least and finish up your philosophy and Latin and you had better study Geography, too and read History at home. I want your Mother to buy you Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and I want you to read that through carefully this winter. ... Another thing – I don't want you to read a novel or tale this winter and I am sure you will not if you know it is my wish that you do not. Nor do I wish you to associate with any man or boy, woman or girl who is not perfectly honest and respectable. Be civil to everyone but associate with very few and be particular who those few are. ... I want you to begin now to form the habit of thinking of the rights and happiness of others in all you do. No man can be useful or happy who studies his own gratification alone. Try to be cheerful and contented always and if you will try you will soon be so in fact. I do not mean by all this advice to insinuate that you need it worse than others – but I know that every boy of your age should be careful in forming his habits for those you form now will naturally affect your character in all your future life. Above all things, however, be honest in everything you do, for a man may be agreeable and if he is not honest in word and deed he will never be of any account in the world."

To Nancy - 29 Jan 1864

"I received Sam's letter of 13th yesterday. He gives the agreeable news that you are well again – or as he irreverently expresses it, "Mother has no conniptions now." Just say confidentially to him that I have expressed the opinion that he is very smart – in his own opinion. I am always glad to get his letters – but I don't want any more of that kind of display of talent."

To Nancy - February 21st 1864

I have had no letter from Sam lately – I suppose he don't write because I have not written to him. Make my excuses to him and say that I have had no opportunity. I will write my next letter to him and I want him to write me regularly. I would like for him to go to a commercial college next summer if you can arrange it.

To Nancy - 1 August, 1864

...Tell Sam I want him to be good to you and the children and to set them a good example. Tell him and Dan to write to me often. Kiss Johnny and Bel for me...

The Heart of a Marriage

When James Goodnow went to war in 1862, he and Nancy had three sons and a baby daughter, and apparently had suffered the death of another infant. The financial collapse that caused them to lose their home in Greensburg profoundly changed James, and for a while seems to have led to estrangement between him and Nancy. Even so, she was clearly his most important confidante and the chief focus of his concern and attention.

Some of James' letters to Nancy were especially poignant, in particular his remarkably introspective recognition of harm done to them both by their misfortunes at Greensburg, and his reassurances from the battlefield that he was spiritually ready for death. Most, however, were about everyday concerns and family issues like Nancy's poor health and finding money when his pay was delayed. Some interchanges occurred more than once: anguished explanations that James could not come home when things went wrong; efforts to tease Nancy out of bad moods; slightly edgy one-upmanship over who wrote more (or longer) letters. Yet even when James felt – and said – that his wife was pressing him unfairly, he never failed to express his love and compassion for her.

Beyond James' leave in August-September 1863, the letters mention only one other meeting between the two: in Louisville, Kentucky for a few days in March 1864, just weeks before the regiment joined Sherman's army for the final push to Atlanta, Georgia.

To Nancy - 21 August 1862

"How do you get along – You have no idea of how I want to see you all but I don't think I can possibly see you soon. Write me as soon as you get this and tell me all about your situation. I am afraid you are getting out of money – tell me all about that. I will get no pay before the middle of September and must make some provision for you.

To Nancy - 8 November 1862

"We are promised pay within a few days – probably about the middle of next week. ...I will get Fin to let you have some money if you should need any before pay day. That Buckwheat you spoke of is all mine – I settled with Draper for it. Tell Charley to sell it and pay you for it."

To Nancy - 14 January 1863

"I want you to write me often and don't write me such letters as yours of Dec. 2nd. I passed a sleepless, uncomfortable night after receiving that letter and really must acknowledge that you have had some cause to reproach me with want of confidence. Won't you take into account that I am since we lost our property very suspicious and easily excited and try to help me recover my former tone of mind – instead of viewing all my actions with jealousy and mistrust. That is the main cause – believe me of our troubles – "

To Nancy - 18 January 1863

"Write me soon and tell me whether you have any money yet. I have never been paid yet and it is said now we will not be paid for some time that Government is strapped. I am strapped also that does not trouble me – but I don't know what you will do. I...can only guess at your situation but am afraid it is bad. I wrote Walter to send you \$25. See if you can't borrow \$50 from Will Sharp or Dr. Burt. I am earning money and their pay will be certain."²⁹

To Nancy - 30 January 1863

"You still have no money. You have no idea how badly I feel about that. I can't go home to see to you – but I wrote Walter more than two weeks ago to let you have \$25. You should have it before now. You still write for me to come home – how can I do it – If I were to offer my resignation I would have to give a good reason before it would be accepted... So try to bear this separation bravely – and let us try to profit by the lesson it ought to teach us – that is to endeavor to enjoy each others society better when we are united again. I am spending as little money as possible out here. I assure you I am not wasting any means. I have now just about one dollar in cash. When that gives out – I don't know how to get any more until I am paid. ...you may rest assured I will lose no time in sending you money when I do get it. If you could know I have grieved over your destitution you would think I had still some feeling left."

To Nancy - 8 February 1863

"As for you I hope you have forgiven anything wrong in my conduct toward you and only remember the more pleasant periods of our married life. And believe I will endeavor to do my part toward obliterating all past difficulties...

"We have received no pay yet and don't know certainly when the Paymaster will come round. ... I am very anxious about you. I am afraid you are needing money badly. ...how is it – I have a good sum due me now and you don't know how impatient I am about the delay in paying."

To Nancy - 5 March 1863

"We have had no pay and I am afraid will not have soon. I have over \$600 due me now and if I could only get \$100, could get along on that – I hardly know what to do. See if you can't borrow \$50 from Will Sharpe until I get my pay. I can manage for myself if you can be provided for. Write as soon as you get this and let me know if you can get the money."

To Nancy - 8 March 1863

"I received Harpers for Feb^y and March and the Atlantic for Feb^y. Was glad to get them – please send them regularly – when you have money plenty not otherwise as I can better do without them than you can do without more necessary things."

²⁹ Walter was Nancy's brother, Wallis/Walter Lattimore; Will Sharpe was Nancy's brother-in-law, husband of her sister Isabella; Dr. Burt was a Vernon neighbor; Charley, mentioned in the letter of 8 November, was James' brother Charles Goodnow.

To Nancy - 27 April 1863, marked 'Confidential'

"I am sorry your health is not improving and to show you that this is no mere formal expression of sympathy I have been for some time anxiously looking forward to the time when I might return and prove to you by a life of devotion to you that I never was estranged from you, as you so pertinaciously imagine. I am anxious to let you see that I have thought seriously of the causes that led to our late estrangement, and am resolved to do all that in me lies toward that perfect unity of feeling that should always exist between husband and wife.

"It is very hard for me to confess that I have been in the wrong but I do confess it. I should have shown more confidence. But I want you to understand distinctly that the cause of all my wrong doing lay in the deadness and apathy of feeling that followed our misfortunes at Greensburg. I never have had and never will again have the buoyancy of mind I had before that. Even now when the different life I lead has in a measure given a new current to my thoughts and also hardened in some degree the sensitiveness on that subject that has been the bane of my life for over four years, I cannot that think of Greensburg without an involuntary shudder. Will you not then make allowance for the past when I tell you that I see where I have done wrong and that I have fully resolved that I will not allow that dark shadow to cloud our existence any longer – I love you as my wife and love you dearly and have no feeling toward you except that of perfect confidence and love. I am not given to make much display of my feelings as you well know – and perhaps am not demonstrative enough but my experience has been such as has led me to distrust loud professions and perhaps in my endeavor to stand straight on that subject have leaned a little back –

"As to my not writing enough I think I have written as often as you – and I know I have written longer letters..."

To Nancy - 15 May 1863

"I received your letter of 10th yesterday and am very glad to hear your health is improving. I had almost concluded that you were going into consumption and I think you had better be careful of your health and do as little work as possible."

To Nancy - 22 December 1863

"I send enclosed \$300 and you will find a package of \$40 (Forty dollars) for Mrs Waters. I think I may fairly claim that my letter is more interesting than Water's this time – please own it and oblige."

To Nancy - 15 January 1864

"Sam says in his letter that you were "mad as a rail" when you heard of my applying for Colonel of that new regiment. I think Sam must have slandered you for I will cheerfully testify that you never get mad – unless you are provoked – or vexed. I hope you are not mad now anyhow."

To Nancy - 21 February 1864

"...I know and appreciate the thousand little troubles you have. The trouble in getting Sam up in the morning and in keeping the young ones in order and the little housekeeping trials that I might relieve you of if I were there – and I appreciate too your uneasiness about me and your vexation when you didn't get letters regularly. But you have your usual health, the company of the children and the society of your kinfolks and money enough to live well, so that I don't see but you are about as well situated as any soldier's wife can be. I would like to be with you and will be as soon as circumstances will allow. But I can't come home now I know and I reconcile myself to the situation. ...

"You scold a good deal (I had nearly said a good deal too much) because you don't get enough letters from me. I wrote you just before we started on the Scout to Lebanon and wrote twice after we came back (within about a week) before we started on this trip. And since then have had not opportunity to write until we landed here (on the 17th). This is the second letter I have written since then. Now haven't I done as well as could be expected? I think so. ...I am heartily sick and tired of having [Mr. Waters'] name and his example set up before me in every letter I get from you and I am afraid I will be strongly

tempted to profanity if I don't get a letter in which his name is left out. I do suppose I love you as well as a man ought to love his wife but I don't like to be scolded into saying so."

To Nancy - 22 March 1864

"It looks very dreary this morning and the appearance of things generally gives me the blues. I believe I am a good deal dissatisfied but I guess it comes from home-sickness. I believe I feel worse and want to see you more than if I had not seen you at all at Louisville, but I well know I must not indulge this feeling and will soon get over it I hope. I don't like the surroundings here very much and that helps make me dissatisfied but I will get settled down again in a few days. Take good care of yourself my dear for my sake and remember I love you dearly, always. Tell Sam I want him to get up and make the fires, and I don't want to hear again that he don't do it. Tell Dan & Johnny to be good boys. Kiss Bel for me. ...

"Goodbye Dear Nancy..."

To Nancy - 28 March 1864

"Instead of a letter from you I received one from Sam today dated 24th in which he says you have been very sick and unable to go home but he thinks you are getting a little better and that you are taking medicine for hysteria. I can't understand what is the matter with you and I am very uneasy. Won't you write me yourself as soon as you are able and tell me all about it. I take it for granted that you have been unable to write or you would have written yourself on your arrival at home. I will be very uneasy until I hear from you."

To Nancy - 22 April 1864

"I received Sam's letter of 17th this morning and was glad to get it although it informed me that you were so much offended at me that you would not write. This is a great state of affairs truly. Have you nothing or nobody else to be angry with and have you concluded to try your hand on me. I don't really know what I have done that you should be in a bad humor with me. My letters may have been delayed on the road but that is not my fault, and secondly I don't think you have lost a great deal in not getting them for they are barren of interest. Seriously though I have always written every five days and often in two or three days so I believe it is five or six days since I wrote before but I have been quite unwell and did not feel equal to the task of writing a long letter and I knew you would scold if I wrote a few lines only."

To Nancy - 1 August 1864

"In answer to your question – I hope although my hope is humble that I am on the right road. I try and will try my best to obtain the great prize but my whole life here-to-fore has been so much at variance with the requirements of God's law that I find it very difficult to get the proper start in the new direction and I am frequently very much discouraged – but I try to hope that I am beginning to go in the right way. I think I am willing to come to Christ as humbly as a child would and ask him to save me and I think I believe in Him as the only means of Salvation, but my old habits of doubting trouble me exceedingly. But God helping me I mean to try to be a good Christian. ...

"My love to you my dear and believe me very sincere in it. Give my love to all the children. Tell Sam I want him to be good to you and the children and to set them a good example. Tell him and Dan to write to me often. Kiss Johnny and Bel for me. Give my kindest regards to your Mother and Sis & Dan & Will's folks & Charleys & Dr. Burt's family & to all friends."

To Nancy - 14 August 1864

"Love to you my dear wife and give my love to the children. Tell me in your next how you get money enough to live on. I have \$1300 due me but don't get a cent. I am anxious about you, more than about myself."

EPILOGUE

About a year after James' return from war, the couple's youngest son, William Charles, was born in Indiana, where the family remained for another few years. It is thought that their second son Dan died in 1868 and the Goodnows moved to Minnesota in 1869, but no record of either event has been found.

The 1870 US census found James Goodnow and his family in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, enumerated as "Goodnough": James (age 44, lumbering), Nancy (42, keeping house), Samuel (22, lumbering), John (12, at school), Belle (10, at school) and Charley (age 5); the 1875 Minnesota State Census had the same family configuration. Soon after their arrival in Minneapolis, James set up a lumber business.

Nancy Tanner (Lattimore) Goodnow died on 28 March 1880. The 1880 US Census, enumerated later that year, recorded the motherless family living on Grand Street in Minneapolis with one female servant: James H. (age 53, lumber manufacturer), Sam (31, bookkeeper in bank), John F. (21, student), Belle (19, keeping house) and W. Charles (14, at school). But in the next year, the Goodnows would separate into three households.

Three Goodnow Households

James and Margaret Goodnow. On 30 March 1881, James married his cousin, Margaret Virginia Williams, in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. They had two children: James Carroll (b. 20 July 1882) and Helen (likely birth date 2 November 1884).

The first census that showed this new family was the 1885 Minnesota State Census for Minneapolis, which included neither street address nor occupation. The household consisted of James (age 58), "M.V." (40), James C. (3) and Hellen (1).

A Minnesota Marriage Index for Hennepin County contains a 4 May 1887 marriage record for James Goodnow and Margaret V. Williams; the reason for this apparent remarriage of the couple is not known. About the same time, the family moved to the Village of Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka in Hennepin County, where James and Margaret lived until their deaths. The 1895 Minnesota State Census for Excelsior showed James (age 68) with Margaret V. (50), James C. (12), Helen (10) and Margaret's 25-year-old niece from Indiana, Mary C. Hamant.

John Finley Goodnow. Also in 1881, James' son John Finley Goodnow married Mary Evalyn Hamilton in Red Wing, Goodhue County Minnesota. No 1885 census has been found showing this couple, but burial records suggest that the family lived in Red Wing at least until 1890, when Mary Evalyn died. In all, John and Mary Evalyn Goodnow had four sons: George (1882-1889); Louis Lawther (ca. 1885-1928); John Jr. (1887-1888); Harry Marion (1889-1955). Mary Evalyn, George and John Jr. are buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Red Wing.

An 1893 marriage record from Milwaukee, Wisconsin showed John Finley Goodnow, son of James and Nancy L. Goodnow, marrying Flora E. Powers. No further record regarding Flora (Powers) Goodnow has been found, but there is reason to believe that John Goodnow was married a third time, after 1895, to Elizabeth Gordon.

The **Goodnow Siblings**. The 1885 Minnesota state census showed Sam as head of household, living in Minneapolis with Belle and W.C. Goodnow. In 1895 the State Census showed John (age 35, fuel business) and his sons Louis (10) and Marian (6) with his siblings Samuel (40, no occupation given), Isabel (30) and Charley (25, clerk in fuel business) at 375 E. Grand St. in Minneapolis.

In the last half-decade of the century the Goodnow siblings dispersed. According to the 1900 US Census:

Samuel (b. 1848) lived in a boarding house in Minneapolis. (He later moved to the West Coast. In 1910, still single and working in an office, he was enumerated in Portland, Oregon; he died in 1918 in Seattle, Washington).

John Finley (b. ca. 1858), who was in Singapore serving as US Consul, did not appear in the US Census for 1900. (Though he left office in 1905, John seems to have continued to do business in the Far East and elsewhere and was still abroad when he died in 1907. He is said to be buried in the English Cemetery in Malaga, Spain.)

Belle (b. 1860) was head of a household in Washington, DC that included John's sons Louis and Harry Marion Goodnow; possibly the reason aunt and nephews were living in Washington was to make it easier for the boys to see their father during his leaves from the Far East. (After her brother John's death Isabelle moved back to Minneapolis, where she was enumerated in the 1910 US Census as head of a household that included her two nephews. In 1920, 1930 and 1940, she appeared in US Censuses for Illinois with Marion, his wife and family; she died in 1947 in Belleville, Illinois and is buried in Red Wing, Minn.)

William Charles (Charley/W.C., b. 1865) was enumerated in 1900 in Minneapolis with his wife Elizabeth/Lizzie Goodnow (married 1896) and her brother Frank Pindell Goodnow. (Lizzie was a daughter of James' brother John Lewis Goodnow. According to Ann Taylor, Charley and Lizzie adopted Frank Goodnow's young daughter Evalyn after Frank's death in 1904, raising her to adulthood and educating her at the University of Minnesota.³⁰ Charley died in 1923, and Lizzie in 1955.)

James Goodnow, Businessman

Between 1880 and 1900, James Goodnow variously described himself as a "lumber manufacturer," "lumberman" and "capitalist."³¹ He had a log mark, which was recorded in the Minneapolis lumber district.³² State law required that a log mark be applied to each log before it was moved from the logging site, so ownership of this mark suggests that James either was logging timber on land owned by his own company or was buying timber before it was removed from logging sites, to be processed by his factory.

A history of Minneapolis reports that the firm of Goodnow and Hawley leased a lumber mill "at the foot of Fifth Avenue north on the river bank" from 1878 until 1886, when the mill burned.³³ After Hawley's retirement in 1883, James Goodnow operated the mill alone; after the fire he conducted

³⁰ Ann Taylor: Manuscript account of 1983 interview with Evalyn (Goodnow) Winslow, Hennepin Co.

³¹ 1880 and 1900 US Censuses; 1895 census, and Minneapolis Directory of 1889-1891.

³² Bachmann, Elizabeth M: "Minnesota Log Marks," Minnesota Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 26, No. 2, pp 126-137 (Summer 1945); accessed 2017 at <http://www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/MinnesotaHistory/FeaturedArticles/2602126-137/index.html>. This article says his log mark was "blaze on a girdle R two blazes."

³³ Atwater, Isaac, Ed.: History of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Part 2, Munsell and Co. Publishers, New York, 1893; p.557; further information on p. 683. An address for the company office and mill of "First Street and Fourth Avenue" was printed on stationary that James used around 1886 to send a biographical note on his father to Indiana historians.

the business for a further year, then retired. A second history reports that James Goodnow formed a short-lived partnership, the North Star Lumber Company, with Stephen Crosby Hall, probably around 1884.³⁴ Hall was a substantial operator who had owned and logged vast acreages in Michigan before moving on to Minnesota; he remained a supplier to Goodnow's company even after James retired.

Until at least 1895, John Goodnow continued his father's lumber business with C.D. Lawther, as the firm of Goodnow and Lawther. Later records showed the firm as a fuel business, apparently dealing in coal as well as wood products.

James Goodnow, Veteran

As James Goodnow grew older, his Civil War service seems to have preoccupied him increasingly. In February 1891 he was elected a Companion of the First Class "Original" of the Military Order of Loyal Legions of the United States through the Commandery of the State of California. His membership in this order was transferred to Minnesota in 1894.³⁵

This sequence of events gives some credence (and a possible time frame) to a story recorded by Ann Taylor, based on a childhood memory that Helen (Goodnow) Taylor had passed on to her daughter Virginia. After her mother's death, Virginia told the story to her sister-in-law, who recounted it in a letter:

"When Aunt Virginia was here she told us that Grandpa Goodnow left his wife Margaret and his two children Helen and James. He took off with a woman for California. Dad had never heard the story and it was news to him. Grandma T. kept it a dark secret. ... When he came back to Excelsior [*James*] wasn't well but his wife took him in and took care of him until he died in 1908."³⁶

By 1897, James had joined another Civil War Veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, or GAR. He was an officer in Excelsior, Minnesota Post No. 57 and remained active until his death, which was noted on the post's final muster roll for 1908.

Also in 1897, James wrote the final letter in the Goodnow Papers (reproduced in full below). In it, he asked his son John, who was in Washington being considered for a US consulship, to help expedite his military pension and also to promote a political appointment for James, possibly as postmaster in Excelsior.

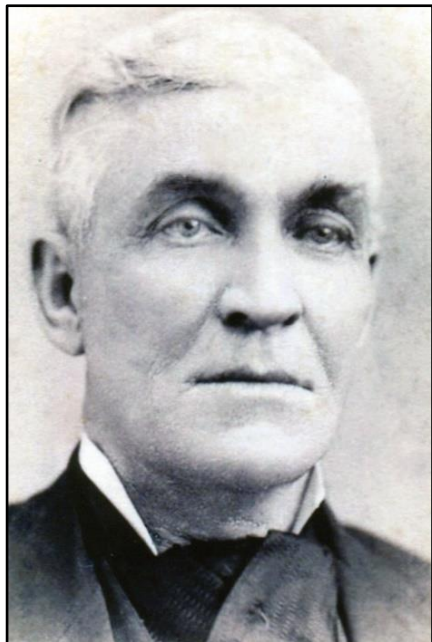
A few days after this letter was sent, John was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as American Consul to Shanghai. On 10 July 1897, the Bureau of Pensions approved James' invalid pension, based on "senile debility, disease of rectum and rheumatism," conditions that were considered at least partly service-connected.³⁷ Apparently the postal appointment never happened, however.

³⁴ Shutter, Marion D. Ed.: *History of Minneapolis, Gateway to the Northwest*; Chicago-Minneapolis, the S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1923, Vol 2, pp 514-518.

³⁵ Insignia 8563; Election Feb. 11 1891; Diploma Oct. 2, 1891. Source: Minnesota Historical Society, Inventory, Vol 32, p. 395; transcribed by Ann Taylor, St. Paul., MN.

³⁶ Note by Ann Taylor, added to typescript page with Minnesota Historical Society transcription of James Goodnow's Civil War record, given ca. 1970 to Mary (Taylor) Kadlecak. "Dad" and "Grandma T." in this quote refer to James Franklin Taylor and his mother, Helen (Goodnow) Taylor.

³⁷ Approval form for claim #1189216 from Medical Division, Bureau of Pensions, US Department of Interior, Washington, DC., dated 10 July 1897. Accessed September, 2009 in J.H. Goodnow pension file, NARA, Washington DC. A condition now associated with James' diagnosis of "remittent fever" is brucellosis, a bacterial infection from contaminated dairy products that often results in liver damage.



*James Harrison Goodnow, ca. 1900.
Photo: Goodnow Family*

Excelsior, July 3 1897

D^r [Dear] John

I suppose you at present have very little time to devote to outside Business. If you have time I wish you would see if you can't get my Pension Claim hurried up. It is No 1189.216, [receipt] of which was acknowledged May 7 last. I also have a claim for back pay in the hands of Henry A. Hayward – Solicitor, Lock Box F, E Capitol Station. I wish you would see him and get any information you can. It is in the auditors Department. My desire for the P.O. here is great remember unless you can give me something better over there. I have watched your fight there with great interest. Washburn is evidently waiting to name a Consul himself and has a political debt to pay too. I think [you] will certainly beat him. I am sure I hope so. I telegraphed for the Gov was [coming]. He told me it was his and Nelson's fight and he would pitch in [when he] got there. Please write as soon as the matter is settled (a telegram would be better) – with best wishes for your success.

Yrs affly [Yours affectionately],

James Goodnow"

By 1899, James' health problems were serious enough to get him admitted to the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he lived at intervals until August 1905.³⁸ He was enumerated twice in the US Census for 1900: in Excelsior with Margaret (enumeration dated June 4-5) and at the National Home (enumerated June 16).

James and Margaret Goodnow Beyond 1900

Helen (Goodnow) Taylor wrote of her father, "... he served three terms as president of the Excelsior Village Council, was a Presbyterian and a long time member of the GAR."³⁹ A local paper reported his election in 1901 as mayor of the Village of Excelsior.⁴⁰

In 1905, James (age 78, lumberman) appeared in the State census for Excelsior with Margaret V. (age 69), James C. (22, clerk), Helen (21, music teacher) and Mary Hamant (29).⁴¹

On 8 August 1908, James Harrison Goodnow died in Excelsior, Hennepin, Minnesota and was buried in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

³⁸ US National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938 [database online]. Ancestry.com Operations Inc. 2007, from Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938

³⁹ Taylor, Helen G: "James Goodnow of Minneapolis," manuscript notes transcribed by Ann Taylor.

⁴⁰ Minneapolis Journal, Wednesday, February 6, 1901.

⁴¹ Margaret was b.1844, which would make her 60 or 61 in 1905, not 69.

Before, during and after her marriage, Margaret Goodnow had a surprisingly varied career. As an unmarried woman in Indiana, she was said to have been a “staunch prohibitionist” and temperance lecturer. During her long widowhood, she maintained the big house in Excelsior – for a while, according to a grandson, by renting rooms to boarders.⁴² She was a beloved grandmother (the youngsters called her “Ganny”), and a fondly remembered aunt.

Margaret served on the Excelsior School Board for more than 30 years, including a term as president during which she oversaw the building of a new high school. She visited Europe in 1913, sending back articles for the Minnetonka Record.⁴³

She was active in community groups like the Women’s Club, the Women’s Relief Corps and literary societies, including a magazine club whose meeting at the Goodnow home in 1901 was recorded in a social column.⁴⁴

Many years later, a community tribute described her as “an educator first of all, patriotic to a degree, friend and counselor to all.”⁴⁵ Mary Hamant remained with her until her death on 15 Sept 1932.



*Margaret Virginia (Williams) Goodnow in the early years of her widowhood.
Photo: Goodnow Family*

Memorials: James Goodnow and his Family

Margaret Virginia (Williams) Goodnow is buried with James in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis. Also buried in the Goodnow Plot are James’ first wife, Nancy Tanner (Lattimore) Goodnow (d. 28 March 1880, Minneapolis), James’ mother Eliza E. (Logan) Goodnow (d. 26 April 1886, Minneapolis) and James’ sister Margaret (Goodnow) (Chambers) Hyatt (d. 15 Jan 1901, Minneapolis).

Ann Taylor recalled that James’ daughter Helen “had a great deal of respect for her father and always insisted he have a flag and flowers on his grave for Memorial Day. Even after she moved away she would ask us to do that for her.

“I’m sure you remember trips to Lakewood,” Ann wrote to James’ great-granddaughter around 1970. “In fact, we did that again this year.”

⁴² George D. Taylor, personal communication, April 2011

⁴³ NARA, Washington DC: MANIFESTS OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT ST. ALBANS, VT, DISTRICT THROUGH CANADIAN PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC PORTS, 1895-1954; Record Group: 85; Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Microfilm Serial: M1464; Microfilm Roll: 224; Line: 20. Accessed 2011, Ancestry.com

⁴⁴ Minneapolis Journal, 17 April 1901, page 10. Accessed 2016 at <http://chronicleingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045366/1901-04-17/ed-1/seq10>

⁴⁵ *Community Pays Honors to Mrs. M. V. Goodnow*, THE MINNETONKA RECORD, Friday March 2, 1928 and *Excelsior Mourns Death of Mrs M.V. Goodnow*, undated (1932).

Letter of 14 August 1864, first page, written from the Atlanta campaign.

Here James mentioned his medical diagnosis of "Remittent Fever."

In Camp Four miles west of Atlanta
Aug 14th 1864

My dear wife

I write from
nearly the same position in which
our Regiment was when I last
wrote. We advanced nearly half
a mile on the 9th and no change
since then. I got back from
Marietta on the Evening of the 9th
and found the Regiment had just
moved in. We had our Hospital
Steward; a man named Martin
from Fort-Wayne killed dead by
a bullet through the head that
day. and one man wounded.
Since then we have had only two
men hurt. one of them very slight
I have been unwell. Since the
10th and have done as little
duty as I could possibly get
off with - I have what they call
Remittent Fever

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

OF JAMES HARRISON GOODNOW AND NANCY (LATTIMORE) GOODNOW

Mentioned in the Goodnow Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

James and Nancy Goodnow's Children in 1862-1864 (Sources: 1850 and 1860 US Federal Censuses, James Goodnow Correspondence)

- **Sam Goodnow** (1849-1918) was Nancy and James' eldest son, aged about 13 at the time of his father's enlistment.
- **Dan Goodnow** (c. 1854; death unknown) was about 8 years old when his father enlisted.
- **John Finley Goodnow** (1858-1907) was about 4 years old in 1862.
- **Isabel (Bel) Goodnow** (1860-1947) was the baby of the family, born c. 25 December 1860, so about 18 months old when James enlisted.

James Harrison Goodnow's Birth Family (Source: 1840 and 1850 US Federal Censuses)

James' father, Samuel Goodnow (1799-1848) was enumerated 1840 in Lancaster, Jefferson Co, IN. His service as an Indiana state legislator explains why he wrote the first letter in the Goodnow Papers (1847) from Indianapolis. In an 1863 letter, James mentioned hearing from Samuel's sister Charlotte about the death of grandfather John Goodenough in Delaware Co, NY.

James' mother, Elizabeth/Betsey Logan (1800-1886) lived for about a decade after her husband Samuel's death with James Harrison's family. Around 1860, she moved to the home of her daughter, Margaret (Goodnow) Chambers; she and Margaret later moved to Minneapolis Minn., where Elizabeth died in 1886. Somewhat surprisingly, James' letters make no reference to his mother (though he did mention at least occasional letters to and from "Sis Chambers").

James' siblings (Charles, John Lewis and Margaret Goodnow) seem to have been close to him during the war. Charles apparently was independent in 1850, when John Lewis, Margaret and their mother were enumerated in James' household. James often ended his letters with greetings to them and their extended families (and plaintive requests that they write to him).

- **Charles Goodnow**, James Harrison's brother, younger by two or four years (b. 1828 or 1830); married Mary Jane Willis in 1853. James usually referred to him as Charley.
- **John Lewis Goodnow** (born c.1832), James Harrison's youngest brother; married Clarissa (Clara) Pindell in 1858. A letter to Sam refers to "Aunt Clara" and "Uncle John."
- **Margaret Goodnow** (born c.1837), was James' only sister; she married John Chambers in 1855. In the letters, she is nearly always called "Sis Chambers." James visited the couple in September 1863, as he passed through Indianapolis, IN on his way back to the regiment after several weeks' leave at home.

Nancy Lattimore Goodnow's Birth Family (Sources: 1850 US Federal Census; Regimental History, 12th Indiana Volunteers)

Nancy's father, Daniel Lattimore was pastor of the Vernon, IN Presbyterian Church until his death around 1857. He is the author of the second letter in the Goodnow Papers. He was born in North Carolina.

Nancy's Mother, Damsel/Damon/Martha (McGannon) Lattimore was born in Kentucky. She apparently was still alive during the Civil War, since James mentions her several times in greetings at the end of his letters.

- **Isabella (Bel) Lattimore and Will Sharpe**, Nancy's older sister and brother-in-law, married 1854 in Jennings Co., Indiana.
- **Finley C. [or O.] (Fin) Lattimore** of Jennings County, Nancy's brother; served in the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, mustered in 9 Feb 1862, mustered out 19 May 1862. He returned from his service aged about 26, around the time James Goodnow left for his service.
- **Mary Ann Lattimore**, Nancy's sister b. about 1845; census records suggest that she never married.
- **Daniel E. Lattimore (Dan)**, Nancy's brother b. c. 1846; possibly married to "**Kate**" (mentioned in letters in conjunction with "Dan").

- **Alexander Lattimore (Alick)** of Vernon, Nancy's brother, age 28, who served as Quartermaster Sergeant of Co. K, 12th Indiana Regiment from 15 May 1861 to 19 May 1862. The letters suggest that he lived in Vernon in 1862-64.
- **Walter O. Lattimore (Wallis)**, Nancy's brother, who served 5 August to 1 Sept 1861 in the 12th Indiana Regiment before transferring to the regular army (19th Infantry), where he served as a Lieutenant.

Recruits from Vernon and Surrounding Towns (Source: Regimental history, 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, Indianapolis, Samuel M. Douglass, State Printer, 1866, Vol II, 1861-1865 [Roster of Officers] and Vol IV, 1861-1865 [Roster of Enlisted Men])

Officers, to whom James usually referred by rank and surname

1. **Lieutenant John B. Conner** of Vernon, mustered in 27 May 1862; promoted to Captain before his resignation on 15 February 1864.
2. **Lieutenant Robert W. Weatherinton** (sometimes spelled Weatherington) of Vernon; mustered in and commissioned 17 Nov. 1862; resigned 30 March 1864.
3. **Lieutenant John H. Waters** of Vernon, recruited as private, promoted to quartermaster sergeant of Company A, then as Lieutenant. Killed in action July 28, 1864. Often referred to as "Mr. Waters."
4. **Second Lieutenant George Wright** of Vernon; mustered in 27 May 1862, dismissed by Court Martial 2 Feb 1863.
5. **Second Lieutenant Allen S. Conner** of Vernon, mustered in 15 July 1862 as corporal; appointed 1st sergeant, promoted 2nd Lieutenant, Company "A"; resigned 16 January 1864.

Enlisted Men, referred to by first/nicknames and last names

1. **Pvt. John H. C. Bard** of Paris, Ind., about 12 miles south of Vernon; mustered in 25 June 1862; died of wounds 20 Sept 1862.
2. **Pvt. Walter Carson** of Dupont, Ind., about 9 miles southeast of Vernon; mustered in 30 June 1862, mustered out 8 June 1865.
3. **James A. McClelland** of Vernon mustered in 16 June 1862, promoted to Quartermaster; honorably discharged 3 May 1864.
4. **Pvt. Thomas J. (T.J.) Reiley** of Vernon, mustered in 8 June 8 1862, discharged 26 Feb 1863.
5. **Pvt. Abram Wagner** of Vernon, mustered in 16 June 1862, discharged for disability 24 May 1863.
6. **Pvt. Hagerman (Hage) Wagner** of Vernon, mustered in 9 Aug 1862, mustered out 8 June 1865.
7. **Pvt. Irby S. Wagner** of Vernon, mustered in 16 June 1862; appointed corporal and commissary sergeant; mustered out 8 June 1865.
8. **Sergeant Robert (Bob) Torbet** of Vernon, mustered in June 16, 1862 as sergeant, but discharged February 26, 1863 as private.
9. **Pvt. John D. ("Doc") Sutton** of Scipio, Ind., about 9 miles northwest of Vernon; mustered in 16 June 1862; died at Memphis 5 Nov 1863. See J. Goodnow letter of November 16, 1863.
10. **Pvt William Steele**, shown on military record as of Scipio. Mustered in 5 July 1862; died luka, Mississippi, 28 Oct 1863.

Friends and Neighbors in Greensburg and Vernon, Indiana

1. **Dr. Burt**, whom James recommended Nancy ask for a loan when the army's pay was late in coming, was probably Dr. Samuel Burt, physician, who was enumerated in 1860 in Vernon. A J.C. Burt appears on the list of James' creditors in the 1858 business dissolution, so there must have been a family friendship between the Goodnows and the Burts.
2. **Lizzie Lathrop** of Greensburg, remained Nancy's friend after the Goodnows' move from Greensburg. She is the author of two letters in the Goodnow Papers collection

ANN TAYLOR'S FOREWORD AND INVENTORY OF LETTERS

This is a true story of the life of a soldier who fought in the Civil War. It is also a story of the lives of the people back home. These letters were written by James Harrison Goodnow. Most of them were written to his wife Nancy Lattimore Goodnow and to Sam Goodnow, his son. The first letter was written by Sam Goodnow, the father of James. It dates back to 1847. There are also letters from friends.

Nancy Goodnow had the foresight to save the letters and at the death of Nancy, they were preserved by Margaret Williams Goodnow, the second wife of James. Margaret saw the historic value of these letters and kept them for her daughter, Helen Goodnow Taylor. In 1952 Helen donated them to the Library of Congress so that these letters would not be lost.

After the Civil War, (probably 1869), the Goodnows moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dan did not move to Minneapolis with them and it is thought he died in Indiana. Another son was born before the move to Minneapolis. His name was William Charles. Nancy died in 1880.

After Nancy's death, James went back to Indiana and married a cousin, Margaret Williams, by whom he had one son James born 1882 and one daughter Helen born 1884. James Harrison Goodnow died Aug. 26, 1908 [*the correct date is 8 August 1908*]. Margaret Goodnow died Sept. 15, 1932. James' mother, Elizabeth Logan Goodnow, died April 26, 1886. Margaret S. Hyatt, a Sister of James, died in 1901. All are buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Anna (Kraft) Taylor
(Mrs. James F. Taylor)

INVENTORY

The Goodnow Papers (Manuscript division, US Library of Congress, Washington DC) include letters, military papers, personal writings and newspaper articles. This chronological inventory lists the 94 letters found in the Goodnow Papers.

Of these, 85 were written by James Harrison Goodnow to his wife Nancy Tanner (Lattimore) Goodnow and their young children, during his service in the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry (May 1862 to September 1864). Eight were sent by friends, relatives or military contacts before or during the Civil War. A single letter of 1897 from James to his son John was added by his second wife, Margaret (Williams) Goodnow.

Numbered items in the inventory are letters in the LOC Goodnow Papers collection. Letters written by James to military officials (a request for leave and a letter resigning his commission) found in the NARA pension file have been inserted for completeness into this digital collection and the inventory, but without a number.

1. 12 Dec.1847, Indianapolis Indiana – Sam Goodnow of Madison, Indiana to his recently-married son James Harrison Goodnow
2. 7 Feb 1848, Butler Co. Ohio – Daniel Lattimore to his daughter Nancy Lattimore Goodnow and son-in-law James Goodnow, living at that time in Madison, IN [envelope]
3. 11 March 1857, Franklin [*probably Indiana*] – Jas. A. McKee, condolences on the death of Daniel Lattimore to Nancy Goodnow
4. 31 July 1862, Ind^s [*Indianapolis IN*] – First preserved letter from James to Nancy after his 27 May 1862 muster into the 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry
5. 16 Aug 1862, Ind^s [*probably Indianapolis IN*] – James to Nancy
6. 21 Aug 1862, Camp Ashland near Lexington KY – James to Nancy
7. 28 Aug 1862, Camp near Richmond, 26 miles South of Lexington KY – James to Nancy
8. 29 Aug 1862, Richmond KY – James to Nancy
9. 9 Sept 1862, Richmond KY – James to Nancy
10. 27 Sept 1862, Camp Morton – James to Nancy
11. 28 Sept 1862, Indianapolis [*IN*] – James to Nancy
12. 30 Oct 1862, Indpls [*IN*] – James to Nancy
13. 8 Nov 1862, Indianapolis [*IN*] – James to Nancy; note to 13-year-old son Sam.
14. 20 Nov 1862, Indianapolis [*IN*] – James to Nancy
15. 20 Nov 1862, Indianapolis [*IN*] – James to Sam
16. 1 Dec 1862, In Camp Near Colerhama, Mississippi – James to Nancy
17. 8 Dec 1862, In Camp at Wyatt[e], MS – James to Nancy
18. 13 Dec 1862, Waterford MS – James to Nancy
19. 22 Dec 1862, In Camp on Tallahatchie River [*MS*] – James to Nancy
20. 1 Jan 1863, Greensburg IN – Mrs. C.G. Doane, Nancy's friend from Greensburg IN to Nancy.
21. 11 January 1863 Grand Junction TN – James to Nancy

22. 11 January 1863 [*Grand Junction TN*] – James to son Sam
23. 11 January 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to 8-year-old son Dan
24. 14 January 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to Nancy
25. 17 Jan 1863, Greensburg IN to Nancy from Mrs Lizzie Lathrop, a friend from Greensburg IN
26. 18 Jan 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to Nancy
27. 30 Jan 1863 [*no location given - probably Grand Junction*] – James to Nancy
28. 8 Feb 1863, Grand Junction, TN – James to Nancy
29. 20 Feb 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to son Sam
30. 20 Feb 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to son Dan
31. 20 Feb 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to 5-year-old son Johnny
32. 5 & 6 March 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to Nancy
33. 8 March 1863, Grand Junction TN – James to Nancy [Ref: *Aunt Charlotte Moore, Harlow Hern, "Grandfather"*]
34. 15 March 1863, In Camp at Nevills Station, Memphis and Charleston Railroad, 19 miles East of Memphis [TN] – James to Nancy
35. 25 March 1863, Camp Neville TN – James to Nancy
36. 30 March 1863, Camp Neville TN – James to Nancy
37. 6 April 1863, Fort Loomis TN – James to son Sam,
38. 6 April 1863, Fort Loomis TN – James to sons Dan and Johnny
39. 18 April 1863, Fort Loomis near Colliersville TN – James to Nancy
40. 25 April 1863, In Camp near Colliersville TN – James to Nancy
41. 27 April 1863, In Camp near Colliersville TN – James to Nancy "Confidential"
42. 11 May 1863 [*No location*] – James to Nancy
43. 15 May 1863, Headquarters 12th Ind Vols, Fort Loomis TN – James to Nancy
44. 18 May 1863, Fort Loomis TN – James to Nancy
45. 25 May 1863, Collierville TN – James to Nancy
46. 27 May 1863, Memphis TN – James to Nancy
47. 4 June 1863, Colliersville TN – James to Nancy
48. 8 June 1863, Memphis TN – James to Nancy
49. 13 June 1863, Snyder's Bluff [MS] on Yazoo River 13 miles above the mouth – James to Nancy
50. 14 June 1863, Murfreesboro TN – Wallis Lattimore (one of Nancy's brothers) to Nancy
51. 28 June 1863, Snyder's Bluff [MS] – James to Nancy
 - UNNUMBERED. 28 July 1863, HQ 12th Ind Vol Infty, Camp Sherman, MS – James to Lt. Col. John A. Rawlins, AA Gen'l, Dept of the Tennessee, re: leave. [From NARA pension file, James Goodnow]
52. 21 Sept 1863, On Board Steamer Continental – James to Nancy
53. 27 Sept 1863, Camp Sherman MS – James to Nancy
54. 10 Oct 1863, Memphis TN – James to Nancy
55. 20 Oct 1863, Burnsville MS – James to Nancy
56. 23 Oct 1863, Burnsville MS – James to Nancy
57. 25 Oct 1863, Burnsville MS – James to son Sam, short note to Nancy
58. 9 Nov 1863, Fayetteville TN – James to Nancy
59. 16 Nov 1863, Bridgeport TN [*More likely Bridgeport AL*] – James to Nancy
60. 12 Dec 1863, Athens TN – James to Nancy
61. 20 Dec 1863, Bridgeport AL – James to Nancy
62. 22 Dec 1863, Bridgeport AL – James to Nancy
63. 29 Dec 1863, Scottsboro, AL – James to Sam
64. 3 Jan 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
65. 15 Jan 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
66. 25 Jan 1864, Greensburg IN – Lizzie Lathrop to Nancy
67. 26 Jan 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
68. 29 Jan 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
69. 7 Feb 1864, Scottsboro, AL – James to Nancy
70. 10 Feb 1864, Scottsboro, AL – James to Nancy
71. 18 Feb 1864, Cleveland TN – James to Nancy
72. 21 & 22 Feb 1864, Cleveland TN – James to Nancy
73. 29 Feb 1864, Cleveland TN – James to Nancy
74. 6 March 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to son Sam
75. 22 March 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
76. 28 March 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
77. 31 March 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
78. 3 April 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
79. 13 April 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy.
80. 22 April 1864, Scottsboro AL – James to Nancy
81. 29 May 1864, In Field near Dallas GA – James to Nancy
82. 7 June 1864, Acworth GA – James to Nancy
83. 14 June 1864, Big Shanty GA – James to Nancy
84. 25 June 1864, Pendleton IN – Moses D. Gage, Chaplain, 12th Indiana Volunteers to Nancy
85. 2 July 1864, Kenesaw Mountain GA – James to Nancy
86. 5 July 1864, Camp 12th Ind Vols 19 miles SW of Marietta GA – James to Nancy
87. 11 July 1864, Near Chattahoochee[e] River GA – James to Nancy
88. 1 August 1864, In Field 3 Miles West of Atlanta [GA] – James to Nancy
89. 6 Aug 1864, In the ditches 3 miles from Atlanta GA – James to Nancy
90. 9 Aug 1864, Marietta GA – James to Nancy
91. 14 Aug 1864, In Camp Four Miles West of Atlanta – James to Nancy
92. 21 Aug 1864, Near Atlanta GA – James to Nancy
93. 7 Sept 1864, East Point 6 Miles South of Atlanta [GA] – James to Nancy
 - UNNUMBERED. 8 Sept 1864, East Point GA – Lt. Col James Goodnow to Major General O.O. Howard, Commanding Dept and Army of the Tenn, resignation; accepted Sept, 15, 1864 [From NARA pension file for James Goodnow]
94. 3 July 1897, Excelsior MM – James to son John

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The principal source for this compilation is the Goodnow Papers Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. The work involved numerous database sources, which are cited in endnotes to the Genealogical Sketch. Periodical sources, family recollections and personal communications are footnoted in the Introduction.

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GENEALOGICAL SKETCH: JAMES HARRISON GOODNOW

JAMES HARRISON GOODNOW was born 1 October 1826, reportedly at Danville, Hendricks County, Indiana.ⁱ He died 8 Aug 1908 in Hennepin County, Minnesota.ⁱⁱ

James Goodnow married 1) 30 November 1847 in Jennings County, Ind.ⁱⁱⁱ **NANCY TANNER LATTIMORE**, b. ca.1828,^{iv} d. 28 March 1880 at Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minn.^v, daughter of Daniel Lattimore (b. ca. 1804, North Carolina;^{vi} d. ca. 1857^{vii}) and his wife Damsel/Damon/Martha? McGannon (b. ca. 1804 in Kentucky, died after 1864^{viii}). The Lattimores were married 25 December 1823.^{ix} 2) 30 March 1881, at Madison, Jefferson, Ind.^x **MARGARET VIRGINIA WILLIAMS**, b. 5 Oct 1844 at Brookville, Ind.,^{xi} d. 15 Sept 1932 at Minneapolis.^{xii} (A marriage between James Goodnow and Margaret Williams also was recorded in 1887 in Hennepin Co., Minn.^{xiii}) Daughter of John Sunderland Williams, b. 2 July 1810 in Ohio, d. 14 Nov 1885 at Madison, Jefferson, Ind.,^{xiv} and Angeline/Angelina Logan, b. 11 Feb 1809 at Harrisonburg, Rockingham, Virginia, d. 29 Feb, 1904 at Indianapolis, Marion, Ind.^{xv} Angeline was sister to James' mother, Elizabeth/Betsey (Logan) Goodnow. The Williams' married ca. 1832.

Children of James Goodnow and Nancy Lattimore:

- i. SAMUEL: b. 1848^{xvi} in Indiana, d. 11 Nov 1918 at Seattle, Washington; unmarried.^{xvii}
- ii. DANIEL: b. ca. 1854 in Indiana, probably d. late 1860s.^{xviii}
- iii. JOHN FINLEY: b. 29 June, 1858 at Greensburg, Decatur, Ind., d. 7 December 1907, possibly at Malaga, Spain. He married (1) *Mary Evalyn Hamilton*, 5 Oct, 1881 at Red Wing, Goodhue, Minn. (d. 16 June 1890 at Minneapolis; burial Red Wing); four sons, two survived to adulthood;^{xix} (2) *Flora E. Powers*, 9 Jul 1893 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin (no offspring).^{xx} 3) Possibly also after 1895, *Elizabeth Gordon*.^{xxi}
- iv. ISABEL (BEL): b. 25 Dec 1860, probably at Geneva, Jennings, Ind.,^{xxii} d. 21 July 1947 at Belleville, St. Clair, Illinois.^{xxiii} Unmarried; brought up her nephews after John Finley's departure for China, then lived with one of them until her death.
- v. WILLIAM CHARLES: b. 7 September 1865 in Ind.,^{xxiv} d. 28 Jan 1923 at Minneapolis,^{xxv} m. 15 Jan 1896 *Elizabeth Amanda Goodnow* at Minneapolis (daughter of James' brother John Lewis Goodnow).^{xxvi}

Children of James Goodnow and Margaret Virginia Williams:

- i. JAMES CARROLL, b. 20 Jul 1882^{xxvii}, d. Dec 1967 at Minneapolis.^{xxviii} He married *Katherine Gordon*, 2 sons.^{xxix}
- ii. HELEN, b. 2 Nov. 1884 at Minneapolis, d. 3 Jan 1969 at Stanford University Hospital, Palo Alto, California.^{xxx} She married October 1908 in Hennepin County, Minn. *Frank Mackey Taylor*,^{xxxi} divorced 1941.^{xxxii} Children: Virginia, b. 9 Feb 1910, George Delmer, b. 14 Feb 1916, James Franklin, b. 12 May 1917.^{xxxiii}

Parents and Siblings of James Harrison Goodnow:

Parents: Samuel Goodnow, b. 20 March 1799 at Dublin, Cheshire, New Hampshire, d. 16 September 1848 at Bedford Springs, Kentucky^{xxxiv} and Elizabeth/Betsey Evaline (Logan) Goodnow, b. 1 Dec 1800 at Cooks Creek, Rockingham Co, Virginia,^{xxxv} d. 26 April 1886 at Minneapolis,^{xxxvi} married 19 October 1824 in Jefferson Co., Ind.^{xxxvii} Betsey was a granddaughter of the politically-prominent Harrison family, which likely accounted for James' middle name.^{xxxviii}

Siblings:

- 1) Charles Goodnow, b. 27 June 1828 (or possibly 1830) at Jefferson, Clark Co., Ind., d. 19 Aug 1870 at Rockford, Ind.^{xxxix} Married 25 December 1853 Mary Jane Willis in Tippecanoe Ind.^{xl}
- 2) John Lewis Goodnow b. 28 Nov 1832 in Indiana, d. 12 Dec 1879 at Edwardsville, Madison, Illinois.^{xli} Married 3 March 1858 Clarissa/Clara Jane Pindell in Jefferson Co. Ind.^{xlii}
- 3) Margaret S. Goodnow, b. May 1837^{xliii} in Indiana, d. 15 Jan 1901^{xliv} at Minneapolis. Married (1) 14 November 1855 John Chambers in Jefferson Co. Ind.^{xlv} (2) 16 May 1883, Eleazar Hyatt at Minneapolis.^{xlvi}

The Colonial progenitor of James' line was Thomas¹ Goodenow, who emigrated in 1638 from the South of England to Sudbury, Mass (b. ca.1608 at Shaftsbury, Wiltshire, England, d. Oct 1666 at Marlboro, Middlesex, Mass.) The line of descent from Thomas¹ Goodenow to James Harrison⁸ Goodnow is: Samuel² (b. 1845 at Sudbury, Middlesex, Mass., d. 7 Aug. 1722 at Marlboro, Middlesex, Mass.); Samuel³ (b. Nov 1675 at Marlboro, d.12 May 1716 at Marlboro); David⁴ (b. 26 Feb 1703 at Marlboro, d. 1778 at Boylston, Worcester, Mass.); Benjamin⁵ Goodenow/Goodenough (b. 1747 at Marlboro, Middlesex, Mass., d. 6 Mar 1825 at Marlborough, Cheshire, New Hampshire); John⁶ Goodenough (b. 2 Aug 1778 at Marlborough, Cheshire, New Hampshire, d. 16 April 1862 at Harpersfield, Delaware, NY); Samuel⁷ Goodnow b. 20 March 1799 at Dublin, Cheshire, New Hampshire, d. 16 September 1848 at Bedford Springs, Trimble, Kentucky).

ⁱ Since no birth records have been found for James, the best source for his birth date is probably his headstone, which shows 1 October 1826. Authoritative sources largely agree on that birth date. Theodore J.F. Banvard and Goodenow Family Association: GOODENOWS WHO ORIGINATED IN SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 1638 A.D; Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1994 (p. 282) has the 1 Oct 1826 birth date and Danville as the birth place, citing Hazel Goodnow. Other sources show a variety of birthplaces.

ⁱⁱ Minnesota Death certificate, photocopy of copy generated 1908 for M V Goodnow Widow's Pension application; JHG pension file, US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington DC. State of Minnesota, MINNESOTA DEATH INDEX, 1908-2002, Minneapolis, MN. USA: Minnesota Department of Health. Certificate No. 004629; Record No. 14643; State File No: 004629; Accessed on Ancestry.com, 2017. James Goodnow headstone, Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis MN.

ⁱⁱⁱ "INDIANA MARRIAGES 1811-2007," database w/ images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1?KMC3-PQ2> : 21 January 2016), James Goodnow and Nancy L. Latimer, 20 Nov 1847; citing Jennings, Indiana, US, various county clerk offices, Indiana; FHL microfilm 549,410

^{iv} Age 22 years reported on 1850 US Federal census, Vernon, Jennings, IN, household of James Goodnow; Roll: 432_155; Page 341; Image 104; Accessed on Ancestry.com 29 May 2017. Nancy could have been born in Jefferson or Jennings County, Ind. A patent dated 2 Sept 1834 records Daniel Lattimore's purchase of 40 acres in Jefferson Co., but the 1840 US Federal census for Jennings Co. shows the family in residence there.

^v MN Death Certificate No. 904026, Board of Health, Mpls. MN; found in James Harrison Goodnow pension packet, NARA, Washington DC.; also Lakewood Cemetery records, Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN.

^{vi} 1850 US Federal Census, Census place: Vernon, Jennings, IN; Roll: M432_155; Page 338B; Image: 104; Found on Ancestry.com

^{vii} Letter of 11 Mar 1857 from Joseph A. McGhee, a colleague or congregant of Daniel Lattimore, referring to "sympathy in the loss we have recently sustained " and continuing, "Such friends as Brother Lattimore was are few & far between."

^{viii} Age 46 recorded (as "Martha") in US Federal Census, 1850, Vernon, IN; Roll: Mrew_155; Page 338B; Image: 104; accessed on Ancestry.com. 2017; mentioned in James Goodnow correspondence in 1864.

^{ix} *Jennings County Ind. Marriages January 1818 to May 1830*. Accessed on Ancestry.com.

^x Marriage License No. 904026, Jefferson Circuit Court, custodian of marriage records of Jefferson County [IN], Madison, IN; certified copy made 14 Sept 1908, included in James Goodnow pension file, NARA, Washington DC. Accessed 2009.

^{xi} Banvard: p 283; 1900 census: "Oct 1844"

^{xii} Transcription from MINNESOTA DEATH INDEX, 1908-2002 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2001; Cemetery record for Section 2, lot 28; notes from Helen Goodnow Taylor, undated.

^{xiii} "MINNESOTA, COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1860-1949," Index and images, FamilySearch , FHL microfilm 1380427.

^{xiv} Both dates published in J.S. Williams obituary, MADISON HERALD, 14 Nov 1885, quoted in Find a Grave Memorial # 46048747, added 18 Feb 2012 - <https://www.findagrave.com>. This article described Williams' career as a printer and newspaper editor, which began around 1830 with the Madison Herald and included work in many Indiana towns (including Brookville, where Margaret was born).

^{xv} Both dates appear on Angelina Logan Williams Find a Grave page, Memorial # 46048747, added 28 Dec 2009 - <https://www.findagrave.com> accessed July 2017. The page includes image of a death notice published in the Indianapolis Sun, 4 March 1904, which mentions birth in Harrisonburg and move in 1811 of Logan family from VA to IN.

^{xvi} Age 2 years in 1850 US Federal census, Vernon, Jennings, IN, enumerated 24 August, 1850; Roll: 432_155; Page 341; Image 104; Accessed on Ancestry.com 29 May 2017

^{xvii} Banvard; p. 282

^{xviii} Banvard: p 282

^{xix} "MINNESOTA, COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1860-1949," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:X2BJ-9H4> : 13 June 2016), **John F Goodnow and Mary E Hamilton, 05 Oct 1881, Goodhue, Minnesota, United States**; citing p. 308, local historical societies and universities, Minnesota; FHL microfilm 1,379,160. Mary Hamilton may have been born in Missouri. Banvard, p. 404 has Greensburg as the location of the marriage

^{xx} WISCONSIN, COUNTY MARRIAGES 1836-1911, Ref. ID cn 1739; GS film # 001013987; Dig Folder # 004541060; Img # 00714

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- ^{xxi} Banvard mentions John's marriage to Elizabeth Gordon.
also, a 1908 passport application filed in Cook Co., IL for Elizabeth Goodnow gives her husband (deceased) as John Goodnow, her birth as Marshall, MN and her current residence as New York, New York.
- ^{xxii} Banvard, p. 282 gives birth date and places her birth in Greensburg, Decatur, IN. However, 1860 US Federal census (which does not show Isabel) places the family in Geneva, Jennings, IN as of 1 June 1860.
- ^{xxiii} ILLINOIS, DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS, 1916-1947 index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2010. URL <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/N3CK-G81>
- ^{xxiv} MINNESOTA DEATHS AND BURIALS, 1835-1990, (transcription); database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:FD3B-YZ4> : 4 December 2014), citing Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, reference cn 18114; FHL microfilm 2,218,094.
- ^{xxv} Previous source, and MINNESOTA DEATH INDEX, 1908-2002 index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9:2014>), Wm Charles Goodnow, 28 Jan 1923; citing MINNESOTA, DEATH INDEX, 1908-2002, Ancestry record 369075, certificate number 018114, Department of Health, Minneapolis.
- ^{xxvi} MINNESOTA, COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1860-1949, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:QJGY-1JPR> : 13 June 2016), William O. Goodnow and Elizabeth Goodnow, 1896.
- ^{xxvii} Banvard p.405; MINNESOTA, BIRTHS AND CHRISTENINGS, 1840-1980 accessed on FamilySearch 4/14/14 URL <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FDH3-197>
- ^{xxviii} UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX, database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:JPP7-249> : 20 May 2014), James Goodnow, Dec 1967; citing US Social Security Administration, *Death Master File*, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).
- ^{xxix} Banvard et al p.405
- ^{xxx} Helen's death certificate gives "2-11-1884" as her birth date; a reading of 2 November would be consistent with the other dates on the certificate. Banvard (p. 405) accepts that date, but also gives a second option of 11 February 1884. Death Certificate, No. 00148, Local Registrar of Vital Statistics, Santa Clara Co., Health Dept. San Jose, CA.
- ^{xxxi} MINNESOTA COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1860-1949, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:VKNT-25N> : 13 June 2016), Frank M Taylor and Helen Goodnow, 1908.
- ^{xxxii} Personal Communication, George D. Taylor, 1 April 2011
- ^{xxxiii} Banvard, p 405
- ^{xxxiv} Tombstone-McKay-Stites Cemetery, Smyrna, Jefferson Co, IN: "Goodnow, Samuel, 20 Mar 1799 - 16 Sep 1848" (photographed by M. Kadlecsek, 9/2008); James Harrison Goodnow biographical note on Samuel Goodnow gives New Hampshire, March 1799; 1800 census record shows John Goodnow/Goodenough in Dublin, NH with wife and male infant; death place: "Parker's Hotel, Bedford Springs, KY," Samuel Goodnow obituary, MADISON DAILY BANNER, Tuesday, September 19, 1848; accessed 12 Sept 2008 Madison, Jefferson Co., IN public library.
- ^{xxxv} Banvard et al, p 179.
- ^{xxxvi} MINNESOTA DEATHS AND BURIALS, 1835-1990, database FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:FDH5-SB8> : 4 December 2-14), Elizabeth E. Goodnow, 26 April 1886 ; citing Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, reference p. 181 #772; FHL microfilm 1,309,403; also Lakewood Cemetery records, Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN.
- ^{xxxvii} INDIANA MARRIAGE COLLECTION-1800-1941; Jefferson County, Indiana, marriage records (original accessed and photocopied in Jefferson County, IN, 9/2008)
- ^{xxxviii} Her mother was Margaret Harrison Logan, daughter of Benjamin Harrison and Mary McClure of Rockingham Co, VA. The Rockingham Co. family were collateral relatives of the Benjamin Harrison who became president of the US in 1841. The obituary of Betsey's sister, Angeline Logan, dated the family's move from Virginia to Indiana as 1811.
- ^{xxxix} Banvard et al p. 283
- ^{xl} INDIANA MARRIAGES, 1780-1992, database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:XF3N-RZL> : 3 December 2014), Goodnow in entry for Charles Goodnow and Mary Jane Willis, 25 Dec 1853; citing reference v 5 p 294; FHL microfilm 872,049.
- ^{xli} Banvard et al, p. 283.
- ^{xlii} INDIANA MARRIAGE RECORD 1855-1861, vol. 9, p 328 (Jefferson County Clerk, Madison, IN., accessed 12 Sept 2008)
- ^{xliii} The 1900 census, on which birth dates were recorded, gives the date as May 1837 – "United States Census, 1900" database w/ images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:M9S6-XVB> : accessed 27 May 2017), Marguerite Hyatt in household of Eleazar Hytatt, Election District 5 Minneapolis city Ward 3, Hennepin, Minnesota, US; citing enumeration district 22, sheet 9B, Family 186, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington DC: NARA, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,766. Most of the censuses in which Margaret was enumerated (US 1850-1900; MN 1895) give her age consistent with the 1837 birth year, though the estimated age on her death record is 1838.
- ^{xliv} MINNESOTA DEATH RECORDS, 1866-1916, database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:XP8B-RJ2> : 4 December 2014), Margaret S. Hyatt, 15 Jan 1901; citing Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, Vol 11 for 1901, Public Health Center, St. Paul; FHL microfilm 1,499,024. Burial: Lakewood Cemetery, Mpls, Hennepin, MN.
- ^{xlv} INDIANA MARRIAGE RECORD 1855-1861, vol. 9, page 19 328 (Jefferson County Clerk, Madison, IN., accessed 12 Sept 2008)
- ^{xlvi} MINNESOTA, COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1860-1949, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:FD88-W5X> : 13 June 2016), E. B. Hyatt and Margaret S. Chambers, 1883.
- ^{xlvii} Banvard
- ^{xlviii} Banvard