

[On printed letterhead with cut of woman standing next to column circled by ribbon reading, "UNION."]

Bridgport Alabama

Oct the 18 63

Dear wife it is with pleasure that i try to write you a few lines once more i am well and hope when you read this you and the children are well, the last leter i have had from home was written the fiftenth of last month it seames like a greate while but we begin to get male again now and i hope to hear from home soon now we are at the same place that we land at in Alabama and think that we shal stay their some time yet we are hear to do guard duty and their will have to be som here all the tim to guard the railroad and bridg for all of rosy [Major General William S. Rosecrans] supplies has to go over this road, there is a good many of the gray backs deserting and coming into our lines every day and we are taking some prisners all the time, there is a good many woming and children coming into our lines every day and some that lives near has to come and draw rations of our commissaries, it is a rather rough country a round hear there is mountains on all sides of us here we do not have quite as good water here as in verginnia other ways from that there is not mutch diffrence it may be a little warmer here we lay about half a mile from the river, some of the nicest land that i ever have seen was in Ohio and indiana if it was healthy in ohio i should like to live their, there is some that thinks that we have not bin exchanged write if you have seen it in any of the papers i cannot think of any more to write this time writ often good by

Amandy Clements

James W Clements

[On printed letterhead with cut of flag-motif shield set on star sending rays "North, South, East, West."]

Nov the 7, 63

Bridgport Alabamma

my Dear wife one and all i will try to write you a few lines to let you know that i am well and what i am a doing i have bin detailed to work building a new boat to run on the river we have got it done now and i am a runing on it doing guard duty they have got two more to build i think i shal stay hear some time our regt has gone to the front, they had a fight on look out mountain the 28 of Oct some of the wounded come down on the boat with me the boat runs up within __ miles of Chatnoga it is the roughest country i ever see mountains as hight as you can look

i got the leter you wrote me yesterday dated the 3 and was very glad to get it for it had bin six weeks since i had heard from home the mail is very iregular hear i have not writen in two weeks i have bin [waiting] to hear from home and i have not had mutch of a chance for the last week, i am in hopes that i shal get some pay soon for i know you need it they owe me six months pay now, tel the children i have not got any tools to make rings with but if i donot make them some before i get home i will then, you wrote our folks talk of moving up their and i hope they have write who they sold to

Wenesday Nov the 18, 63

Bridgeport Ala

my Dear wife i once more try to write you a few lines to let you know that i am well i am to work helping build another boat at bridgeport i have bin to work for about a month now i can stay as long as i have a mind to they have promised me extry pay but donot know how mutch, i got my pay yesterday 78 dollars and i will send 20 twenty dollars in this leter and write another a Sunday and send you the rest for i am a litle afraid to send it all at once for mail is not very regular use what you want of it get you and the children some good close so as to be comfortble, the weather is warm and dry hear we are all looking for a big batle at chatnoga every day now it is time to go to work now and i wont write any more this time but i will write every thing i can think of a Sunday write as soon as you get this send me twenty five cents worth of stamps for there is none hear to be got

Amandy Clements

J W Clements

Sunday Nov the 22, 63

Bridgeport Alabamy

My Dear Amandy one and all i will try once more to write a few lines to let you know that i am well i am at bridgeport yet to work on a boat they are a going to build five more and it will take all winter so i think i shal stay till the boats are finished, there is four of us out of my regt and we have got us a good tent with a fire place in it and we live first rate we have soft bread all of the time, not i will try to tell you somthing about the rebs their deserting and coming into our lines every day one day last week their was 250 and the next day their was 60 come to bridgeport there is lot of rebs fanyles comes here to get read of being drafted their was 800 of the rebs soldiers come into our lines with their guns and turned in and say they are a going to try it on our side. a bout niger Regt i never have seen but one and that was guarding railroad back towards Nashville there is lots of them around here she ones and all, you wanted me to write about my confine i was in the guard house a few days but went whare i pleased so it didnot hurt me much that is all there is to that, i will put twenty dollars into this leter i sent one last wenesday with the same and i will write another next Sunday and send 12 or 15 dollars in it, i am agoing to pay black fitch [Private Blackmon B. Fitch, Co. E] 10 dollars you must keep all you want of this for i think it is a chance if we get any more for four months i would not pay old put more than twenty dollars this time look out for your selfe first for i have woried some about you lately for feare you had got out of mony, i have some homes of geting home in the spring but i am afraid i shal not get their to help you do the chores this winter write how litle sorrel gets along we are looking for a big fight every day up neare chattanoga and i think if they do it will be about the last big one we shal have, i cannot think of any thing more this time tel the children pa has not forgotten them give my love to all inquiring frends write as sone as you get this so i shal know that you have got them

Direct your leters to James W Clements Bridgeport Alabamy in care of Capt [Arthur] Edwards
AQM

Amandy Clements

J W Clements

January the 2, 1864

Bridgeport Alabamy

My Dear wife

it being the commencement of another year i thought i would try to write a few lines to let you know that i am well as common, i received your leter of the 15 new years day and was glad to hear that you wer all well tell Ella pa was glad to get a leter from her and hoped she got the writing book and haty and alma that they got some nice presant, i am sorry Ell is selling off his stock and things write in your next if he has sold his farm or not, it has bin very cold here for the last two days the ice has frozen so that it will hold a man to walk acrost quite a pond, i have sent you sixty 60 dollars in three difrent leters i haint done any thing for over a week they have got out of lumber and am living first rate tell them felers they need no be so fraid to come down here they can see the country and not cost them any thing, i donot think their will be mutch more fighting the rebs are geting so they cannot get any force together of any greate force, ask ____ what corps [name obscured by tear] is in or what General is in command you will have to excuse me for not writing any longer ones for there is still times here their has nothing bin going on for new years or christmas their has two felers gon up to the regt and they will fetch my leters down so good by for this time

from J W Clements

to Amandy Clements

write often

[Fragment, written during the winter of 1863-1864 at Bridgeport, Alabama.]

i am having easy times of it this winter i have got a good shanty and live pretty well we bought
a bushel of potatoes the other day

i want you to write often and tell me how the children and all the rest gets a long and all you can
think of and i will do the same

direct your letters

Bridgeport Alabama

in Care of Capt [Arthur] Edwards AQM

Amandy Clements

James W Clements

Thursday Feb the 18, 63 [1864]

Bridgeport Alabama

Dear Amandy i thought i would try my hand at writing you a few lines to let you know that i [am] well and hoping when you read this that you are all well, you wrote that sam talked of selling that land to saxton let him sell it if he wants to the intres and all will amount to over two hundred dollars if he does sell it get som one to get the intrest on it you must do as you think best it will be all right. i am a going to send another ring i have nothing else to do so i make a ring once and a while i donot know but the men their will all be after you having so many rings this one is made out of a fews out of a rebs shell that they shot at our boys off from lookout mountain the weather is rather colder no a days i am whare i have bin all winter i canot think of any thing more this time only you wrote that [name obscured by fold] had give haty 50 cents to by her a lamb with and i am going to send one dollar to alma and Nety to by them one with if you can find them in the spring you can get the if you have to pay a litle more no more this time

to Amandy Clements

from James W Clements

tell Father i should like to have him to write me a leter

March the 10, 63

Bridgeport Alabama

My Dear wife i received your kind and welcome leter that contained the news of mrs Mcgregor suing you i think they are geting their backs up considerbly but let them go it i donot think they will make mutch tell Pa i want him to do the best he can and when i get home i will pay him in some way for it, but you must not let it trouble you i should like to be their a litle while myself i cannot give you any advice a bout it to amount to any thing only i think we have as mutch mony to spend as they have, Jo knows more a bout it than i do but i think they are paying up well for past favors, i have sent fifteen Dollars in the two last each has fifteen apeice in them and i shal have twenty more to send soon but guess i shalnot send it till i hear from that i have sent i am well and was very glad to hear that you wer all well so take things as easy as you can know more this time

Amandy Clements

J W Clements

[On illustrated letterhead with cut of soldier, stacked muskets, cannon, and tent surmounted by flag.]

Sunday March the 20, 64

Bridgeport Alabama

Dear wife i received your leter of the 8 and 10 this morning and was very glad to hear from you and hear that you wer all well, i am well as common and would like to be their and spend the Sabath with you and the children, you wrote you would like to have me write about the three years men staing more than three years, the veterans will have to stay as long as the war lasts but none others they cannot hold me but three years but this war cannot last one year longer for the rebs will desert this spring as fast as they can get into our lines that is the most of them, they are not a going to fight as hard as they have done, altho they tore one rail up near talihoma and stoped a train and burnt some of the cars, our men catched some of them and their was some of them that had drawed rations here at Bridgeport from us they had ougt to hang them to the first limb i got my pay last week from uncle sam and they made a mistake and pade me two months to mutch but i shal not send it yet for i think i shal get some extra pay first next month and i will send it all togather their will be some fifty five or sixty dollars and i think i shal express it to dunkirk i have sent thirty dollars that i have not heard from yet, you can pay Parkhurst twenty dollars if you think best or a bout that about seeding i think if you can get the seeded you had beter have that below the barn seeded and whare the wheat was out by the paster, it has bin very cold the fore part of this month for this country, i guess i have not told you about the wimin i see when i was up to the regt their was quite a lot of them along the railroad that had come down off from the mountains and put up some litle shanties and i did not see one that was over twelve years old but that look so she had bin eating dryed aples

[On illustrated letterhead with cut of figure holding wreath and flag.]

Bridgeport Alabama

March the 29, 64

My Dear Companion

our boys of our Regt received orders to day to return to our Regt again there is some talk of our going back to the potomac but how that is i dont know, we have no reason to complain for we have bin here amost six months [There appears to be some passages missing.] So you will have to direct your leters to the Regt again and for fear you have forgotten how to direct them i will tell you 154 Regt 11 corpse first Brigade Seckond division Army of the cumberland unless you know that the corpse has gon to the potomac then put on DC in place of the army of the cumberland, March the 31 we are going to start for the Regt to day

i have Express fifty four dollars to you to dunkirk and i expressed it in Joes name so he could draw it for you but if you had rater have it in your [name] write in your next leter and i will send it so i shal put them both in to day so the mony will be their as soon as you get this leter i will write to you again soon, and write if there is an express office in westfield from your affectionate husban to his Wife

[On illustrated letterhead with cut of soldier, stacked muskets, cannon, and tent surmounted by flag.]

Lookout Valley

Sunday April the 3, 64

My Dear wife and Children

I will try to write you a few lines to let you know that i am well, i have got back to the Regt and i found the boys all well, the talk is that we will stay here and guard railroad this spring, the peach and aples trees are i blow in the valy and it looks like spring i sent you fifty five dollars in a package directed it to dunkirk it started from Bridgeport the first of this month and i sent it in Joes name so he can get it their no stir around hear at presant so there is nothing mutch to write, it is about five miles to chattanoga from here but i mean to go their and see if i can find frank Hunt for i would like to see him, you will have to excuse me from writing any more this time for i have not had time to look around any yet write often and i will do the same so good by for this time

to Amandy Clements

from J W Clements

Wenesday April the 20, 64

Camp 154 Regt. Tennessee

my Dear wife

i received your ever welcome leter of the 6 and was very glad to hear that you wer all well i am well and having a very easy time i have bin out on picket once there is not much picketing to do here. there is talk of our going back to talihoma to guard the railroad their. the 11 and 12 corpse have bin consolidated and we ar in another Division now and our division is their, but you can direct the leters the same until i write difrent, i was over to Chattanooga on Saturday and see Ken Hunt his time is out in a bout three weeks and he thinks he will go home then he did not know me at first for he was not looking for me their he is well and tough, i went down a foot and went into the cave in lookout mountain i went in a litle ways but any on can go in 30 or 40 miles, i guess i shal have to tell you what i had for dinner a Sunday i had som greens and they wer very good i am going out to morrow and try for a mess of pigions for they are prety plenty around here the spring is very backward here but not mutch rain

i am looking for a leter from you every day now to see if you got the last mony that i sent you cannot get more than two thirds of the leters i send i am a fraid some of them ar ___ care of their in stockton bu if they be they had beter be a litle carful, every thing is very still here so ther is nothing new to write. a bout that bel that i was a ringing at Bridgeport i have explained twice before but you have not got the leters so i will tell you now it was to call the men out to work and to dinner and when to quit at night and what it was rung at night for was to let them know that every thing was all right
so no more this time

from James W Clements

to his wife Amand Clements

write often

Tuesday May 3, 1864

Camp 154 Regt Lookout Valley

My Dear Companion and Children

I received your kind letter of the 23 of April yesterday and was very glad to hear from home you wrote that you had bad luck and lost your old cow but one bad streak is apt to be folowed by another that mony and the old cow is quite a looss, but we can stand that well enough as long as we have our health i shal feel satesfide health is worth more than mony these times my health is very good now i feel the best now that i have since i have bin in the army, and i think it looks the most like the wars closing it ever has i think this spring will finish it they have had a fight out in front and took eleven hundred prisoners the troop have most all gon to the front but our division and the talk is that we have got martching orders but i donot car how quick for i want the thing wound up, it is very nice wether here now and the roads ar dry and not warm enough to be uncomfortble, you wrote that you had let out a peice of the old pasture to plant with potatoes and i am very glad of it and that is just what i want you to do, do with things their as you think best and it will be all right

i have expressed a box to westfield in Edds Clements name and i want him to get it you can tell him about it the first time you see him it will be their in about one week after you get this letter tel him there is one over coat for him in it, and one for me, and one for mc bride [Devilleo McBride] and there is a vest for mc bride send mc brides to Harvy Newell, the first chance you get, and there is one for William O Case [Sergeant, Co. E] have Edd express it to Walter Burgess quincy, and there is a blanket for Charles Anderson [Private, Co. E] send that down to A W Hunts, Brockton there is Names on all the things so you can tell who they belong to and the one that is to go to quincy has got the directions on it tell Edd the express charges ar all paid.

womin i am in greate hopes now that i will be their with you next winter then we will have litl sorel broke and have a sleigh ride once an a while tell the children pa cant think of mutch to write to them now only if they get their lambs they must take good care of them and see how big they can make them by the time i get home

So good by for this time

[May 3, 1864, continued]

Amandy Clements

writ in your next letter how to direct to our folks for i burnt up home letters the other day and did not think about that one

May th 21, 64

My Dear Companion and Children

i once more try my hand to write you a few lines to let you know that i am wel and all right yet their has bin some midling hard fighting here for the past two weeks but have come to a halt now the army is a bout twenty miles below Dalton the yanks made them get up and clime out of their on double quick time and have fowelowed them to here i do not think our loss is very hevvy but canot tell we have took quite a lot of prisoners but donot know how many of them there is a greate many flying reports i the army so i cannot tell yet about the number of prisoners but there is forty eight going by now two weeks ago to morrow our regt was i a fight at a place cald dug gap we was at it from about three oclock til un dark when we had to go back in the valy their was eight killed and nineteen missing forty eight wounded in our regt and then the next Sunday we was in a few minit and that is all the fighting we have had Jimmy Haywood [Private James B. Haywood, Co. E] was wounded the last day but not very bad he and one other had his finger shot off that was all out of our company Jimmy Haywood was wounded in the leg, i will try and tell you a litle about the country it is a most all woods and mountains but there is some good land, they had lots of corn planted and comenced hoing it but left in a hurry there is considerble wheat sowed but our felows are pastring it down to the ground the wheat is all headed out, there is good water as far as we have gon yet, i have not heard from home since i started i think this war will not last very mutch longer write as ofte as you can and i will do the same

from your afectionat Husband
to his wife Amandy Clements

July the 29, 64

My Dear Amandy and Children

i will try my hand at writing you a few lines to let you know that i am well and all right yet i received a leter from you two day ago and was glad to hear that you wer all well i am within two miles and a half of atlanta now, the 20 of this month the rebs attacted the 20 corps and drove us back a litle and then the thing changed and we licked them nicely we had advanced and had not got any breast works built up yet that night they fel back about two miles we have got good works now and i think they will leav atlanta in a few days for we have them flanked almost around, they hold only on rail road and that is the macon road. you Said Jo wanted to take the colt and yous her for her keeping and i think it would be well enough and i think you had beter sell some of your stock i have som hops of geting home yet this winter but cannot tell yet i think after we get atlanta that we shal have a rest i heard that Thomas was at home and has had the bone taken out of his arm from his elbow to his shoulder but was geting along well i hear that their has bin another call for men it will make some of them stick out their eyse I cannot think of any thing more this time write as of ten as you can so good by for this time

from your husband

James W Clements

i forgot to tel you that our men can shel the sity any time if they want

[Fragment circa December 1864 or January 1865, Savannah, Georgia, on U.S. Sanitary Commission letterhead, marked page 3.]

very plenty, i had the privledg to martching through milledgville the capitol of Georgia but didnt See any thing of govenner Brown for he had left and mos all the rest, the las i see of Atlanta was the flames and smoak curling around over the tree tops as i martch along, i received two letter from you yesterday and was very glad to hear from you once more for it seamed a great while since i had heard from home one was dated the 6 and the other the 14th write often and let me know how you are geting along you said you had choped wood some but i would not do it i would hire some choped i cannot think of any thing more to write this time so good by

J W C I

A C

Sept. the 7, 1864

Camp in Atlanty

My Dear wife and Children

i will try to write a few lines to let you know whare i am and how i am geting a long i have had the diarhea for a few days but have got over it now and feel prety well a gain, we are in camp right in the edge of the sity it is quite a nice place and looks like a northern town i was up through main streat yesterday, we got lots of tobacco the first night that we got into the sity, there is a greate many northen people in here, i think this campaign is over for a spel now it has bin a long and rather tough one but we have got atlanty at last and the rebs ar about thirty miles beyond the sity now, i suppose the draft has gon off i want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know who is drafted and all about it and if any of them run a way to canada, tell the children pa got that litle bunch of wool and i think it very nice i think it will do to make me some stockings of when i get home, there is lots of womin a round hear but their most all built like a ten foot slab a litle round in the bely and rather dark complection but i think the caus of that is chewing tobacko and snuff, write how you ar geting a long farming and if your potatoes ar doing any thing i got a leter from ben a few days ago he said dolly had bin out their a visiting and that you wer all well and i shal write to him in a few days

you wrote that george and alice had had fel out of bed and that George was taking it rather hard i should think it would make him hang his head a litle but it is something that i was not looking for i should think old Mrs Bilings would sputer some about it,

the last letter i got from home was Aug the 14 but am look for one every day now, i will try to write a litle oftener now and i want you to do the same, i am in hopes we shal git our pay soon now for it has bin good while since i have sent any home

So no more this time

Amandy Clements

James W Clements

[Fragment, September-November 1864, Atlanta, Georgia]

round

is after them

guard Atlanta and

this winter i dont have very hard time

i have to work on forts some and go on picket once and the while but it dos not seem hadly

natural for i cannot hear the bullets whistle around me now as they did this summer but every

thing is very quiet here at presant and hope it will remain so the sity is very strong fortifide and

we ar making it more so

Camp near Goldsboro NC

March the 27, 65

My dear wife and children i am haply for the priviledg of writing a few lines to you for it has bin a greate while since i have had a chance to, i left Savannah the 27 of January and this is the first chance i hav had to send a letter a way it is the first that we have had any communications i have travled all over South Carolina and a part of North but the army has come to a halt now for a while their has bin som fighting near Goldsboro but it is all quiet at preasant, i have bin well all of the time and enjoid my self first rate i have not had any knapsack to carry as usual and a horse or mule to ride when i wanted and the wagons has not had much to do to them there is three carpenters of us so we have a very easy time of it the army has lived off of the country by foraging the same as from Atlanta but we have not left any thing for the rebs we have jst striped South Carolina, i received two leters from you last night and was very glad to see them for it seamed that i never would get another for it had bin so long since i had heard from home, a bout Albert Hunt [Private Elbert Hunt, Co. E] he is rather a hard nut and there is know telling wheather he sent any money or not but i will see him and see what he says a bout it i know he had some mony at Savannah and i will see the old chaplin [Chaplain William W. Norton] and then i will write to you you wrote that the snow has bin very deep their i have thought of you very often and wondred how you was geting along but this is the last for me i the army and i hope i may be their to help you next winter, i have not seen any snow this winter at all the trees ar most all leaved out and peach trees have bin in blow for two weeks or more the weather is like June at home i started for Kingston last thursday with the teams after rations and got back last night i donot know how soldiers families are going to get a long for every thing is so very high, i see an order in the paper last Friday that all sixty two mens time expired the 15 of August and if that is so i have not but a litle over four months to stay i cannot think of any thing more tell father and mother i have not forgotten them but suppose they ar their and one letter will do for all

from J W Clements

to his wife Amandy Clements