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**"WITH THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY IN EAST TEXAS:  
THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF  
PVT. ISAAC DUNBAR AFFLECK"**

ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, JR.

and

RALPH A. WOOSTER

In the late fall of 1864 the Confederate offensive to rid Missouri and Arkansas of Union invaders ended. Confederate General Sterling Price was repulsed by Union forces in Missouri and General John Magruder was unable to defeat Union General Steele at Little Rock. The movement that had begun with such hopes and optimism ended with frustration and failure. Participating in the general Arkansas campaign were the cavalry troops of Major General John A. Wharton of Texas. When the campaign ended many of them were pulled back into East Texas and for the rest of the war were stationed here.

One company attached to Wharton's cavalry was that commanded by Captain Dave Terry and comprised largely of soldiers recruited in central Texas. "Terry's Scouts," as they styled themselves, had been together throughout much of the war, serving earlier under Brigadier General B. F. Terry in the colorful 8th Texas Cavalry Regiment known as "Terry's Texas Rangers." Their service had carried them through three years of fighting in Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Serving as a private in "Terry's Scouts" as the unit pulled back into East Texas was young Isaac Dunbar Affleck, son of the noted Southern agricultural reformer, Thomas Affleck. Private Affleck, known to friends and family as "Dunnie," had spent his childhood days on a plantation near Natchez, Mississippi, where his father planted cotton and operated the largest nursery in the lower South. The elder Affleck had moved to Mississippi from Cincinnati in 1842 and had become a staunch defender of slavery and the plantation system as well as the publisher of the widely circulated *Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation Calendar*. In the late 1850's the Affleck family moved to Texas and established a plantation home, "Glenblythe," near Brenham.

With the outbreak of the Civil War seventeen-year-old Dunnie had joined Terry's Texas Rangers and, except for a brief period in which he served as a civilian clerk at Magruder's headquarters near Houston, remained with the cavalry during the war.

Throughout the war young Affleck was a faithful letter writer, sending home small tablets by couriers starting for Texas. The originals of these tablets are now in the possession of Dunnie's son, Mr. Thomas Dunbar Affleck of Galveston, Texas, who graciously allowed the editors to reproduce them. The ones reproduced here describe three months service in East Texas, December, 1864, through February, 1865. From their contents it is obvious that "Terry's Scouts" were quite pleased with conditions prevailing in East Texas. From the letters it is difficult to remember that the war is almost over and the Union is victorious. The usual picture of a beaten

and bleeding South is not found here; Dinnie's letters reflect gaiety and good times. The war seems far away and almost forgotten.

Dunbar Affleck to Mrs. Thomas Affleck

Camp near Camden, Rusk Co., Texas  
December 3rd 1864

My dear Mother: After an absence of nearly eight months, I am again in Texas and with hopes of spending a merry Christmas with you all at home. We left Murfreesboro Arks a week ago yesterday, and have been traveling at the rates of twenty miles a day ever since and have not had the time or rather have not felt like writing until this evening. We are on the way to Natchidotches [Nacogdoches] where we are to await orders from Genl Wharton,<sup>1</sup> and it is understood or rather expected that all get furloughs from there. I believe that I shall get [torn] any are given because I sent up an application while at Murfreesboro, but it did not get to Washington<sup>2</sup> until after Genl. Wharton left, and I have not heard from it yet. The reason I sent it up was, I received a note from Jared Groce<sup>3</sup> written the day before the Genl left, stating that if I would "write out an application and get Capt Terry<sup>4</sup> to approve and take it up with him, he would use his influence with the Genl to get his approval also," but I did not get his note until the day after or until after Dave Terry had left. I wrote out my application and sent it down to Capt McNelly<sup>5</sup> with a note to Capt T. & one to Jared Groce, but Capt T. did not get the one I wrote him and I don't suppose Jared got either the note or application until four or five days after. I am in hopes though that I shall hear from it when I get to Natchidotches. Genl Wharton is at Shreveport I think, and Capt Terry has sent one of the company with dispatch to him asking what he must do. We had a very pleasant time while at Murfreesboro we became acquainted with a great many of the citizens around in the country and we found some of them very kind to our sick and us also. We had a party or dance I should call it as there was [illegible] we were about to have a grand ball the evening of the day we left, we had been making preparations for several days previous and had lots of turkies, chickens, eggs, and had considered making cake, when Terry come in, and told the company to cook up three days rations and be ready to march at day light the next morning on the road for Texas. The order was heard with shouts of joy and there was no sleep that night. My mess had a dozen chickens, two turkies, about six dozen eggs, two hams and a half of a hog. We divided one half with the boys that had nothing, the other half we cooked up, and brought along with us, but after it was gone we were unable to procure any thing else, and since then we have been living on slim rations. At Marshall yesterday we received [illegible] river, it was received at Shreveport [illegible] as being official from Genl Smith.<sup>6</sup> Genl S. had given old U. S. Grant the first whipping that the yankees ever received [illegible] he lost in killed captured, and wounded, sixty thousand [torn] I think. It was also telegraphed that Sherman had surrendered to Hood with twenty thousand blue coats;<sup>7</sup> but I don't believe any thing I hear and only half I see, and then it has to have the signature of some big General to make it good. But I must close for to night as it is late. I shall mail this at Henderson to morrow. If you have sent my horses and things on before you get this I don't know what will become of them unless the person you sent

them by hear where we are at and send them to me, if you have not sint them I wish you would keep them at home until you hear from me again.

Good bye again, and with love to Aunt Margaret and cousins and my best love to Pa Brother and yourself

I remain your Affectionate son

P. S. Alex<sup>s</sup> sends howde to all

Dunbar Affleck to Mrs. Thomas Affleck<sup>o</sup>

Nacogdoches Texas

Jan 31st 1865

My dear Mother: I have attempted to write to you two, or three times, but have made a botch every time though I hope I shall sucede this time. I have been able to think of nothing, and wish for nothing else, but to be back at our "Home sweet home" ever since I left there. When I left home last year I regretd leaving very much, though not half as much as I did this time, but I shall hope that the time will be short, before I am with you again and I will enjoy myself a great deal more than I did during this last furlough.

I will now give you a detailed account of our trip through to this place. The first day we only went sixteen miles (in eight miles of Washington) because of some business that Capt McNelly had to attend to. The next day Capt Mc and myself left the others and went by Plantersville to call on some friends of his a Mr Green, very clever people and we were both received very kindly by them. The next morning we left there and rode to Huntsville by dark. We expected to rejoin Lt Stone, and Mr. McNelly<sup>10</sup> there but were disapointed they had gone by Crocket. We put up at the Hotel at H. for the night and by nine o'clock started by way of Sumpter. We rode that day within four miles of there. The next day we rode within ten miles of Homer, and Sunday we reached this place. We learned at Hd Qrs that Terrys and McNellys Companies had gone to Sulphur Springs twenty five miles distant from this place, and were camped there. Sunday evening Lt Stone reached here with the pack mules and negroes about four hours after we did. We intended starting yesterday but were prevented by the rain which has been falling without intermission ever since both yesterday, and today; and the weather is so disagreeable, that we are forced to remain where we are for fear that exposure will make us sick. I forgot to tell you that I had a hard chill the other day, on Saturday I think it was. It lasted about two hours and the feaver about the same length of time. It made me very sick and I was compelled to stop at a cabbin on the road until I was able to sit my horse again. But it soon passed off, and I was as well as ever in a little while. The next day and yesterday I kept it off by taking peper, both red and black, and I am happy to say that I missed both days. Last evening Capt McNelly, Lt Stone and myself visited Genl Edwards<sup>11</sup> family. Genl E. is a very clever old gentleman and very hospitable. He is one of the old revolutionary heroes. The fort here was built by him and defended against a superior force of the Mexicans. Mrs. E. is a very nice old lady and I like her very much. I also met Miss Wells a daughter of Maj Wells who use to teach at Jefferson College. His widow lives here. Miss W. is a very interesting young lady though not pretty much. Her mother she says has spoken often of you, and your kindness to her

while at Washington. She invited me to go down and call on her mother before I went away but it is raining too hard for me to do so, but if it slackens up sufficiently I shall go down. There was two other young ladies there. A daughter of Genl Edwards and a Miss Arnold both very nice young ladies. We spent several hours very pleasantly with them, and got back to our rooms about twelve o'clock. We have poor living here at the Hotel, nothing but corn bread and bacon and molasses. We bought some chickens in the country and with my sossages coffee &c we get along pretty well we got some flour from the commissaries but it is so black and gritty we can not eat it, it is the best they have and what they are issuing to the soldiers. Oh! how I hate to get back to camp it almost makes me sick to think about it.

I will write again in a few days a long letter. Let me hear from you and Pa soon. I must close this now so that I can mail it this evening. With much love to Pa Brother Aunt Margaret and cousins—and a great deal of love for you

I remain

Your devoted son

P. S. Capt McNelly and Lt Stone send their kindest regards to both you and Pa. Alex also sends howde to all.

Dunbar Affleck to Mrs. Thomas Affleck

Camp Terry's Scouts

Mt Zion<sup>12</sup> Feb 5th / 65

My dear Mother: I have let a week pass by, without writing home, but I will not let another day pass but will now drop you a few lines though I am nearly freezing it is so cold here in the Church where I now am. I could not write by a camp fire, because of the noise and the smoke which nearly blinds me. For those reasons and several others which I will mention hereafter, I know you will not scure me, though I deserve it, for you know that after spending such a long time at our comfortable and pleasant home with every thing that heart could wish, it is rather hard, I say to come out here and undergo every exposure, and forego all those pleasures and comforts. I know that you are anxious about me, and that a few lines from me are always acceptable yet I will offer my excuse, and let you judge if I am not excusable, for once. Well, to begin. My last letter was written from Nacogdoches last Tuesday I believe. On Wednesday we left there while it was still raining but we did so because we thought it was clearing up; we were mistaken as soon as we started the rain poured down in torrents and we were in a short time in spite of every precortion, drenched to the skin. We had a creek to cross which was just swollen enough to wet nearly all my things on my mule. We then separated as Capt McNelly's Co was camped about 20 miles about west of Terrys, and I come on to the Company alone. I had to swim a very large creek, but fortunately there was several old sleepers standing of a bridge, and on them I carried all my baggage over safe. I then swam over sitting my horse and leading the pack mule—the current was very swift but with a road I manged to pull old Paint out. We then rode on to camp here; which place I reached just at dark, though in no pleasant humor as I was both wet and tired, but I found a hearty welcome and was soon as comfortable

as ever, and until twelve o'clock we sat recounting all our doings while on furlough. There was about thirty men in camp when I reached there, and three officers Capt Terry Lt Blake and Lt Crocket—Lt Hardiman hasn't got in yet. We are camped at an old Camp meeting house or ground. Sheds have been erected, and were occupied by the Co when they reached here, and all are well satisfied and have made themselves comfortable. My mess and the Capts occupy the church to sleep in though our kitchen and dining room are in one of the rooms of the shed. It has been very unpleasant during all last week. From the time I reached here until Saturday night it rained hard when it blew up a norther and has been freezing cold ever since. I have not ventured away from the fire until yesterday morning when I and three others went out to try and net a few quails, but we did not succeed, because the ground or woods were so boggy that we could not ride out of the road. We tried it once but our horses went up to their bellies in the yielding sand and we were forced to make back tracks as soon as possible. The place where we borrowed the net is about two miles from Camp and the Gentleman is very kind to us, and we spent a very pleasant day, there, after we took the net back, but that which added most to our enjoyment, was the presence of three very pretty and interesting young ladies. It is so cold I must go to the fire and warm. On Thursday we are to have a party at a house near here; it is partly got up by the boys but mostly by the citizens who are very kind to us. It is given to the Co, and they promise us that if the men behave themselves like gentlemen, they will yet give us another that will be worthy of us; but from what I understand this one is to be a grand affair, or at least they are to give us a nice supper and will also have dancing. Capt Terry says that he will do everything in his power to make the men behave themselves like gentlemen, he says if a man brings whiskey there or comes drunk or under the influence of liquor he will immediately have them to be taken out and tied to a tree and let him remain there until morning, and I for one will assist in doing it, and I don't think that any gentleman in the Co will hesitate to assist, because our character can be ruined by one man and the people judge us all by the conduct of one man and form their opinion accordingly. We live high here, we are feasting all the time. I never lived better in camp we get every thing the country affords—Chickens eggs turkeys bacon, sausage meat and butter, but they are getting scarce now, and something else is little more hard to get, that is our purses are becoming light, because of our excessives. We got plenty of forage both corn and fodder for our horses; though they only allow us to draw for one horse, and when I cannot hook enough for my two extra horses I have to send out and buy it, and spending so much money has nearly broke me. Alex sprained his arm very badly yesterday evening, he was running and fell down the muscles of his arm a few inches below the shoulder striking a root, and hurt him very much, and today he is laid up in bed. But I hope and expect in a few days he will be well again. I miss him very much as I have to attend to my horses now myself. While at Nacogdoches I received an invitation through Capt McNelly from Genl Edwards to call round and see them. We (Capt McN Lt Stone and my self) spent a very pleasant evening there. Mrs. E. is a Sister of Mrs. Maj Wells and is a very pleasant lady and the old Genl is a very clever gentleman. I met there

Miss Wells a daughter of Maj Wells a very interesting young lady though not very pretty she says her mother speaks often of you and hearing that I was in town invited me round to see, but I could not do it. I also met two other young ladies Miss Edwards a daughter of Genl Es, and Miss Arnold too very pleasant ladies.

Now Mama I wish to speak to you confidentially. You have always feared that I should love some young lady that would not make me a good wife. Now I acknowledge that I have been in fault in that respect. The only girl that I ever loved enough to take for a wife was Mary Cone, who I loved devotedly and still love, though I can say with truth that she was and is unworthy of the love of any man. You and Pa both cautioned and advice in regard to my paying attention to Miss Lucy was unnecessary as I told you at the time, because she was only looked upon by me as a sister and I love her as such Though I think that she is worthy of all the love I, or any one else could bestow upon her, though I would not marry her if I could. And now Ma I have only one more word to say, and I have determined to do it. The next woman that I love enough take for a wife I shall marry her if it take a life time to accomplish it.

I have nothing in the world to do here in Camp and we are all becoming so lazy that it takes all of my energy (which is not much as you know) to bring myself to do any thing. Day after to morrow we have the party and from what I hear, I have no doubt, but what it will come off finely, and we are all looking forward to it with great impatience. The people here are so kind that they are spoiling us, so that we shall never be fit for duty again and hard living. There are gentlemen in here every day, who live round in the neighborhood, and they insist on some of the boys going home with them to take dinner or stay all night which invitations are generally accepted but not because we have nothing in camp to eat we live better here than I ever did in camp before—we have abundance to eat though we buy a great many things around in the country. But I am nearly to the end of the Chapter and must close, but will write again after the frolic. I sent Alex out to a home to day with [omission] will be well in three or four days. Please write to me often I am so anxious to hear from home.

With much love to Pa Brother and yourself and Aunt M. and all my friends I remain

Your Affectionate son

P.S. It is currently reported here that an armistice of 90 days has been declared. It is either true or we are to have some hard fighting to do soon. I dont care which.

Dunbar Affleck to Mrs. Thomas Affleck

Camp Terrys Scouts  
Mt. Zion Feb. 16th. /'65

Dearest Mother: More than a week has passed since I last wrote home but I could not help it though I have a poor excuse to offer; I have not felt like writing, though I have had plenty to write about, and another reason is, I have received no letters from home since I have been here, tho that is no excuse, because I know you, and Pa both have written, but the letters have been delayed on the way. I feel tired this morning, because of the

fatigues of yesterday and a poor nights rest; but I will try and give you a synopsis of the last week's pleasures and hardships, but of the latter there has been but very little. I wrote you that a party was to be given us last Thursday evening. It surpassed our expectations and we enjoyed ourselves very much. The Company was marched up to the place which is four miles from here, and we arrived there precisely at 3 o'clock and found a large Co of ladies already congregated at Dr Atteways house where we had a very good dinner, and about half after hour we went up to the Masonic Lodge about three hundred yards distant and commenced dancing, which was kept up without intermission until two o'clock in the morning. We had refreshments of coffee and cake all through the night, which prevented us from becoming sleapy. The laides consisted of considerably of a mixed croud which was not very pleasant to the ladies who were present or to those of us who noticed it. But it was not difficult for me to find out the ladies, and class them from the rest, and with three or four I enjoyed myself as much as I ever did at such places which was not very much because you know I seldom dance, and I am poorly gifted with gab or not as much so, as most of the boys are, tho I manage to hold my own, and as for dancing I am so clumsy that I hate to get on the floor, and make a goose of my self, but I do, do [torn] some times. I believe I was interduced to every young lady in the neighborhood that was worth knowing. The next Friday I, and four others went to a party fourteen miles from here, though when we started we wouldn't turn back, and we reached the place about eight o'clock and found them dancing and as merry as could be. We were introduced I believe to every one, and I danced one set and for a short time enjoyed myself very much tho nearly all were pine woods girls. But Alas! I was taken very sick suddenly and had a severe headache which nearly killed me, so I took my seat in a corner and remained there during the evening but I had not been in my seat more than a few minutes when a young laday come and took a set by me. She was the only one that I had not been introduced to, but was because she had not been in the room before. She was the prettiest and most refined and intellectual lady in the room by far. She saw that I was suffering I suppose, and tooke the seat by me, and asked me if I was sick and what was the matter, as soon as I told her, she went out and brought in a bottle of camphur and bathed my head with it. I was astonished and a little [torn] pleded at what she was doing, but of course did not say any thing against it but submitted with pleasure. You cant imagine how soon my head was releaved under her administration, or nearly so, if not entirely [torn] was sufficient any way to enable me to enjoy myself there in the corner talking to her until we were ready to go, wich was about one o'clock. We reched camp just as day was braking, and of course did very little but sleep during the day, with the exception of witnessing a couple of horse races in the evening. Sunday Capt Terry and my self went to town to Church, but unfortunately were too late, tho we had the pleasure [torn] dining with two very pretty young ladies by invitation. Monday I remained in camp but here we enjoyed ourselves also. A great many young ladies come out and spent most of the day in Camp with us; and we had horse races, gander pulling and other amusements. The ladies did not like our pulling at the old gander, it was too cruel for them, and it was for us also, but it was new and we did not mind it much. I suppose you have heard of them often but have never witnessed the performance,



so I will give you the program. In the first place a pole was fixed with the end projecting over the road sufficiently high for a man to reach the geoses head with his hands when the goose is tied up. The feathers are then all picked off of his head and neck and soft soap or grease is applied very thick, and he is then tied up to the end of the pole by his feet, and he is then ready for execution. A list is then made out of the names of those that are to pull and they pay a quarter for the privilege and a purse is made up in that way. They then run at the goose in rotation and the one that gets his head takes the purse, and pays for the goose. I pulled at him three or four times, but did not pull his head of course, but I will never do it again. Tuesday I received a message from Capt McNelly telling me to meet him at Nacogdoches that evening; I asked Capt Terry to let me go down and he said he would and sent a dispatch by me. I went down, but Capt McNelly was not there and I was very much disapointed. I stayed at Hd Qrs that night and spent a very pleasant evening with Jared Groce Maj Runnels Capt Davis and Col Herndon. They were all well tho Jared does not look as well as he did the last time I saw him. I come back [torn] camp yesterday evening and Maj Runnels come with me. To night another party or ball is to be given to the Co at Mt Enterprise by the Citizens and is, I understand to be a grand afare about two hundred persons are invited. I suppose I will go but dont feal much like it now. Tomorrow night another party or rather a packet dinner like the first is to be given to us the same place and will dance in the same house. It seems as if the people [torn] are determined [torn] weary us with parties and balls, I never saw the like before. No soldiers have ever been treated as we have been here, since the war began. Not excepting Capt Nichols Battery. Some of us receive invitations every day from every Citizen that comes to camp to go home with him and take dinner or supper with him or stay all night, and it is difficult to get off they insist so strongly. I dont mind soldiering in this way, but it is the last and best time we will ever have, and out to make the most of it. I heard at Hd Qrs that all the cavelry are to be moved down on the Brazos along the line of the railroad so as to be ready and convinient in case of [torn] move by the enemy [torn] our coat and where we can get plenty of forage. Our Company it is thought will be moved to Navasota and will camp near there. If so I will be near home, which will be very pleasant for me for I can go home often, and with a little persasion when we get there I can get him to move up a little nearer to our neighborhood. But I will know when I write again more about it; Genl Wharton has gone to Shreaveport now to get permission to move his Hd Qrs there. He will be back tomorrow or next day. But I am at the end of my book already so I must close. This book cant have as many pages in it as the others, but I am [torn] the end of my teather and must close. Give my kindest regards to Capt Nichols & Lt Gardener and my love to Aunt Margaret & cousins also Aunt Pollie and all there. And with much love Pa Brother and yourself I remain

Your most Affectionate son

I must add a PS though I hate to do it and for this purpose too. My expences out here cost considerable and with the high living that we have had here, I am broak flat I have not a red and if Pa can sind me some specie I will be very thankful. You know that we draw nothing from the Govt and all the variety [torn] have for our mess [torn] has to be paid for

out of our own pockets and our only reliance for supplies we have is from those at home.

Alexs arm is nearly well from the sprain he received and [torn] in camp and is able to do something and wait on me. I wish that you would have me a pair of fine boots made of that calf skin you give me and send them on with the [illegible] that you intended having made for me. As I am minus any thing nice.

Dunbar Affleck to Mrs. Thomas Affleck

Camp Terry's Scouts  
Mt. Zion Feb. 20th. 1865

Dear Mother: You can not feel hurt, at not receiving letters from me regularly, hereafter, because I have been here nearly a month and have not heard, nor received a line from any of you since my arrival here. I do not doubt but what you have written to me, though it is strange that none have reached me. Yet I apply it to the mails and hope and look for a pile of letters every day. I wrote you last Friday but did not post it until Sunday evening, owing to my disipation up to that time. I wrote you that a party was to be given to our Company in Mt. Enterprise that night by the Citizens of this neighborhood but it was a poor thing and did not afford any of us much pleasure. We got ready and started from Camp after dark; and when we got to the place we found the house crowded to excess by parts of three companies who had come without invitation, and we were all very much anoyed as there were not many ladies there. We stood there presence very patiently for some time, but we soon got tired, and then we went to work to put them out (all excepting those of Capt McNellys Co who were present and who behaved themselves) but we found it very difficult because they would take insults very patiently and would not fight so we were content with making the place very disagreeable to them and they all soon left with the exception of our two companies, but the boys were not satisfied with that because we wanted to breake it up with a row. Most of the young ladies left on one pretince and another until there was only six or eight left. I then got a partner and danced two sets with her, the last two, and we then broak up and come to camp very tired though it was only about one o'clock, when we started but it was three before we got to bed. The next morning we had to prepared for the other frolic and dinner which was to ge given to us that day. It was about nine o'clock A.M. before we arose, and in the invitation we were requested to be at the place by 11 A.M. so we had to hurry. We reched the place (which was the same, where the first was given) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour after the time appointed and found about 50 or 60 ladies present awaiting us. The music immediately struck up, and they danced until three. And we were then invited to dinner, which was set on a long table under large shade trees. They had abundance of provisions, and of the best kind too, and every one enjoyed it especialy we soldiers. We then danced until sun set, then eat supper and we found the table as amply set as it was at dinner. We then saw all the ladies off and come to camp, and here we kept up the frolic until about three o'clock that night before we went to bed. And all day sunday we lay in bed sleeping. I want now to leave this place, and go over on the Brazos as soon as possible, the

people here intend giving us another frolic next week if we remain here that long, but I hope for that reason we wont stay, because I never was so worn out in my life before, but it is because of the exercise which I have never been use to and which I have been compelled to take, and I feel now as I would never go to another dance or frolic.

Feb. 21st. After a ride of seven or eight miles in the rain, I have again an opportunity of adding a few lines to my letter, and perhaps finish it, if I have time before dark. There is little, or now news in camp everything is quit. Genl Wharton passed through Mt. Enterprise last evening on his way back to Nacogdoches from Shreveport. Capt. Terry went in to see him on business, and received orders to be ready to march by day after tomorrow tho he did not say to what point we would be ordered, but it is supposed that we will go to Navesota and go into camp there, but I dont know as to whether I am correct or not, but hope it is true, for then I will be in less than a days ride of home and can see all of you often. But I must close for it is just as I expected too dark to write, but will send this off tomorrow.

Feb. 22nd. I feel some what wrose from my exposure yesterday in the rain, tho I am not sick, but a little unwell. Black clouds are rolling over us, with thunder in the distance and we have every prospect of hard rin this morning. There is to be a big race in camp to day, between one of the company horses, and a three year old race horse belonging to an outsider. The purse is for the sum of \$2700. distance a quarter of a mile, there is about \$3000 out side bets also. I dont think that I will bet any thing—one reason is I am very unlucky, and another is I have no stakes to put. I am broak flat.

A courier came in last night, or rather before day this morning with dispatches and we all thought that they were orders for us to move immediately, but found that it was of no importance, only an order for Capt Terry forbiding him to run any more races in the Co. after the one already got up. The people in this neighborhood overwhelm us with kindness, we cant go to a house without their insisting or compelling us to remain all day. And there never was a set of soldiers that stood higher with the Citizens than we do. There has not been a single depridation committed by the Co. since we have been here, not even a hog killed, and that is saying a great deal for us you know. It could be the same way every where with all soldiers if the citizens would act as they do there. It makes them feel as if they had friends, but when they are not noticed, and complaints always being made, they dont care for any thing, and do them all the harm they can. I only speak as I feel myself, and believe that is feelings of all soldiers. But I am at the end of my book, and must close. Alex is well with the exception of his arm which is not well entirely from the sprain he received, he sends howdu to all. Give my love to Aunt Margaret and cousins also Aunt Pollie and all there, and kind regards to my Battery Friends and with much love to Pa Brother and yourself.

I remain your

Affectionte son

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Major General John A. Wharton commanded the Confederate cavalry in the Arkansas offensive. Wharton had entered Confederate service in 1861

as captain of Company B of Terry's Texas Rangers. When Terry was killed in December, 1861, at Woodsonville, Kentucky, Wharton was elected colonel and assumed command of the regiment. Wharton, a lawyer and planter, was one of Texas' great planters, holding \$236,000 in property, including 133 slaves, in 1860. See Walter P. Webb, editor, *The Handbook of Texas* (2 vols.; Austin, 1952), II, 889, for a brief life sketch.

<sup>2</sup>Affleck referred here to Washington, Arkansas. Wharton made his headquarters here during the autumn campaign of 1864. Robert W. Williams, Jr., and Ralph A. Wooster, "With Wharton's Cavalry in Arkansas," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, XXI (Autumn, 1962), 265.

<sup>3</sup>Jared Groce was one of the four sons of Leonard W. Groce, grandson of the Jared E. Groce of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred," the original American settlers of Texas. The Affleck and Groce families had been friendly since the Affleck family had moved to Texas from Mississippi in 1859. Thomas Affleck had corresponded with Leonard W. Groce about the proposed move of his family to Texas since June 1854, had enlisted Groce's aid in procuring land and at one time had offered to buy part of Groce's land. Young Jared had three brothers, Leonard, Billy, and Jack, in Confederate service and all were for a time attached to Terry's Texas Rangers. Thomas Affleck to L. W. Groce, June 30, 1854; July 5, 1854; March 17, 1854; April 2, 1855, in Affleck Papers, located in the Department of Manuscripts and Archives, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and *The Handbook of Texas*, I, 738-39.

<sup>4</sup>Dave Terry from Washington County was Dinnie's company commander.

<sup>5</sup>Leander H. McNelly, a native of Virginia, had come to Texas in 1860 and had settled in Washington County. In September 1861, he enlisted in Confederate service as a member of the Texas Mounted Volunteers. He subsequently participated in the New Mexico campaign, battle of Galveston, and Louisiana campaigns. In December, 1863, he was given a commission as captain of scouts to raise a company of mounted troops in Texas. This unit later played a spectacular role in the defeat of Banks' Red River campaign. After the war McNelly became well known as a captain of Texas Rangers. *Handbook of Texas*, II, 125-26. For McNelly's role in the Rangers, see Walter P. Webb, *The Texas Rangers* (New York, 1935); and George Durham, *Taming the Nueces Strip: The Story of McNelly's Rangers* (Austin, 1962).

<sup>6</sup>Edmund Kirby Smith had been promoted to lieutenant general in 1862 as a result of his achievements in the Kentucky invasion. In 1863 he was given command of the Trans-Mississippi Department and later promoted to full general. After the fall of Vicksburg his power was so extensive in his department that it was frequently called "Kirby-Smithdom." See Joseph H. Parks, *General Edmund Kirby Smith, C.S.A.* (Baton Rouge, 1954).

<sup>7</sup>One of the many unfounded rumors reported by Dinnie in his letters; Sherman was continuing his march on to the sea.

<sup>8</sup>Alex was the young Negro body servant who had accompanied Dinnie in the Arkansas offensive.

<sup>9</sup>Dinnie had been home on furlough in late December and early January. This was the first letter written after he returned to his military unit.

<sup>10</sup>There may have been two McNellys in the company or Affleck may have unintentionally written the wrong name.

<sup>11</sup>Haden Harrison Edwards, a native of Virginia, was the son of Haden Edwards who had led in the Fredonian Rebellion of the late 1820's. Haden Harrison Edwards served during the Texas Revolution and in the Army of the Republic thereafter, attaining the rank of brigadier general. Later he had served in the Congress of the Republic, the state legislature, and finally the secession convention of 1861. He was always involved in land speculation in East Texas and the federal census of 1860 lists him with \$150,000 in real property. See *Handbook of Texas*, I, 547, and Mss. returns of Schedule 1 of the U. S. Census, 1860.

<sup>12</sup>Mt. Zion is about three miles northeast of Mt. Enterprise. For many years it has been a Negro cemetery.