
H. Austin Civil War correspondence

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4-9-1864

1864-04-09, Hiram to Susan

H. Hiram Austin

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Identifier

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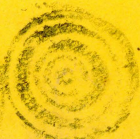
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Mrs Susan Austin
Fox Lake
Dodge Co

Wisconsin



9-Apr 1864

No 1 S, Y Louis April 7th 1864

I arrived here last night at eleven o'clock & laid in the cars till morning I spread a car cushion on the floor between the seat & laid there till morning, we went to the office at 9 o'clock & was sworn in & then we was to appear again at 3 o'clock we went at 5 & was dismissed till 9 in the morning we went to see E & staid there about three minits then we went to the store & spoke to Jim as we went along he went down to the cars with us & the express train started before the luggage got there then we had to take the accomodation train to Chicago & we got there at 11 o'clock at night, ~~we~~ we started from Chicago at half past eight in the morning & arrived at St Louis at 11 o'clock at night, first class carpenters gets 60 dollars per month second class

52 1/2 Oris goes as second class
April 9 we have not had any
orders where to go ye & nor know cantell
ye what place we are going to If I had
known what wages was here before I
started I should come on my own hook
I could get 3 Dollars to 3 50 per day
here & if I had went to Chatinoga
on my own hook I could get 4 Dollars
& board I feel as well now as I have
done since last fall & I think that
my heath will be good down here
There is some of the nicest country in
Illinois that any on could ask for
& I think that I can find a better
place to live in than Fox Lake
before I get back I think a man
could live cheaper here than he could
in Fox Lake by what I can learn
I can tell better as time goes on
we did not draw any pay till we was sworn
in & we had to board our selves till we
got here we got here wednesday night some

have been drawing pay for three
days, that is we get pay for the time
whether we work or not the times is
going on, the boys are all tired of stay-
ing here on their own, there is a man
came with us from Harcon that I knew
in Naville, & Elver Foreman of Fox
Lake has a brother with us he came
from Harcon, Saturday & Pm
reported at the Office & our
orders is to go to the boarding
& stay till sent for so I send
you this to let you know how
we get along so far we have
rambled around the city consider-
able for the time we have
been here, Orvis said that he
gave you 12 dollars & I want
you to raise all the money that
you want to get the fence &
get the wood cut & all other work
done when I tell you where to
write send me the fox lake paper

of the 6 of April I write
all the news going & how they
all get a long it is far warmer here
than it is up there it is so cramped
here for bed room that some of the
men that is the last in have to ^{lay}
on the table or floor with out a bed or
blanket & they dont complain of cold
I must say good to you & George
for this time it is the hardest
job for me to think that six
must pass round before I can
see you a gain but the time
will soon pass round there was
36 went down with Deane & myself
all of them have left wives & children
but they all say it that six months
will soon pass round still it
would be a great consolation to see
you once a week I will write
& let you know where to direct a
letter as soon as I find out
So good by my dear sweet wife
H Austin

[[Austin Correspondence #1]]

[[Page 1- Envelope]]

[[image- red three cents U.S. postage stamp]]

Mrs Susan Austin
Fox Lake
Dodge Co
Wisconsin

[[image- faded black circle stamp: ST. LOUIS APR 10]]

[[image- faded black concentric circles insignia]]

[[different handwriting in a ballpoint pen:]] 9. Apr 1864

[[Page 2- Letter]]

No 1 S, T Louis April 9th 1864
[[embossing print: HOLYOKE, CO.]]

I arrived here last
night at eleven O'clock & laid in
the cars till morning I spread a car
cushion on the floor between the seat
& laid there till morning, we went to the
office at 9 O'clock I was sworn in &
then we was to appear again at 3
O'clock we went at 5 & was dismissed
till 9 in the morning
we went to see CO & staid there a bout
three minits then we went to the stoor . I
spoke to Jim as we went along he went
down to the cars with us & the express tra
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to Chicago & we got there at 11 O, C at
[[strikethrough]] April 9 [[/strikethrough]] night we started from Chicago at
half past eight in the morning
& arrived at St Louis at 11 O'clock
at night, first class carpenters
gets 60 dollars per month second class

[[Page 3- Letter]]

52 ½ Orvis goes as second class
April 9 we have not had any
orders where to go ye & no won can tell
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I could get [[one word?]] dollars to 3.50 per day
here & if I had went to Chatinoga
on my own hook I could get 4 dollars
& board I feel as well now as I have
done since last fall & I think that
my health will be good down here
There is some of the nicest country in
Illinois that any on could ask for
& I think that I can find a better
place to live in than Fox Lake
be fore I get back I think a man
could live cheaper here than he could
in Fox Lake by what I can learn
I can tell better as Time goes on
we did not draw any pay till we was sworn
in & we had to board our selves till we
got here we got here Wednes day night so we

[[Page 4- Letter]]

Have been drawing pay for three
days that is we get pay for the time
whether we work or not the time is a
going on, the boy are all tired of stay-
ing here on their own, there is a man
came with us from Horicon that I knew
in Maville, & Elver Tremans of Fox
Lake has a brother with us he come
from Horicon, Saturday I [[P--?]]
reported at the office & our
orders is to go to the boarding
& stay till sent for so I send
you this to let you know how
we get along so far we have
rambled arround the city consider-
able for the time we have
been here, Orvis said that he
gave you 12 dollars & I want
you to youse all the money that
you want to get the fence &
get the wood cut & all other work
done when I tell you where to
write send me the Fox Lake paper

[[Page 5- Letter]]

of the 6 of April I write
all the news going & how they
all get a long it is far warmer here
than it is up their it is so cramped
here for bed room that some of the
men that is the last in have to lay
on the table or floor with out bed or
blanket & they don't com plain of cold
I must say good to you & George
for this time it is the hardest
job for me to think that six
must pass round before I can
see you a gain but the time
will soon pass round thir was
36 went down with Deana & mosts
all of them have left wives & children
but they all say it that six months
will soon pass round still it
would be a great consolation to see
you one a week I will write
& let you know where to direct a
letter as soon as I find out
so good by my sweet wife

H Austin