
H. Austin Civil War correspondence

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7-23-1864

1864-07-23, Hiram to Susan

H. Hiram Austin

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Identifier

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Mrs Susan Austin
Trox Lake
Dodge Co
Wisconsin

25 July 1864

Nashville July 23rd 1864

My Dear Wife

your of Tuesday morning
I received last evening I was glad to hear
that you were well I am on the gain
I was down to the ^{yesterday} shop sharpening tools
so I could be ready to go to work Monday
Orvis has got his Discharge from the
hospital he says that it is harder than
than carpentering & he went to work this
morning at carpenter work I hope that
the rains has not washed the garden so
as to ~~hurt~~^{ru} the crop much but we have got
to take our chance with rest of the
world, in reference to buying flower
you can buy what you think best & as
much as you think best & if flower
^{gets} higher instead of being lower & you get
more than you want you can sell it
a gain, but I think from the rains that
you speak of the chinch bugs wont
trouble much more & I think that flower
will be cheaper after harvest than it is now
it generally is, it will depend on the harvest

if wheat should be a better crop than was
or is expected at present it will bring down
flour if it is not flour may go higher
I should like to hear from Eliza before I went
up there then I could make up my mind better
what to do, but you seem so doubtful about my
being able to accomplish any thing more
than an ordinary business so probably it will
be as well for me & you both for me to
stay another six months here as I can get a
80 or 90 Dollars a month in the shipyard
I can get 60 where I am far 6 months more
& have easy work of it but most likely
I should make where I could get the biggest
wages Oris & I was talking it over yesterday
before I got your letter, we did not know whether
we had better stay here or go up in to Iowa
or Minnesota this winter a trap in if we stay
in Fox Lake it is not likely that we could
^{more than} earn our board unless we went to trapping wood
some where & drawing to town & that would
be very hard work & the money that we would
have to pay for a team would by far be more
as many traps as we would want & go a good
ways towards buying provision for the winter

if I stay here I can send you 40 Dollars per
month & I could not earn that in Fox Lake,
clear of my board & clothes & you could perhaps
do a great deal better with the money than
I could I know that I can do with one
third or even less than that of what I earn
now & it grieves ^{me} very much to think that I
have failed to see the wright way so that I
lost instead of gaining but I am thankful
for one thing I never had a farthing of yours
to squander in the way of money what ever
I may have done to cause you so much sad
experience as you say you speak from sad
experience but if it has cost you more tears
& hart rent feeling than it has me I hope
it has hapened for the last time I have allways
tried to appear calm & easy about some things
but it cost me a hard struggle it was not on
my own account if I had been alone in
the world it would been my loss & no one else
but when I loose what rightfully befringed to
you then it caused me many a painful thought
Now you shall have your say for a time that is
in money mater I will try & work where I
can get the most money for my work & send

two thirds or three quarters to you & at the
end of August I can send you money enough so that
you can go up & see Eliza I had rather stay here
& work than to go up there knowing what I do
now I had intended to take it easy this coming
winter but I have no time to loose the place
for me is here where I am shure of my regular
months pay & then there is no risk to run it
is work not play careys a man through this
world, My Darlin love this letter probly will not
be every welcome one to you & it may cost
you som tears but I feel just ~~wrote~~ ^{your} ~~what~~ ^{love}
as I write I have felt ~~bad~~ ^{ever} since I got it
^{might} I could not read it till I got alone because I
could not help cryin I hope if we live to
come together once more that we can come to
a better understanding & a mutual unders-
tanding from thence forward, it all will be
for you to say whether I stay here a nother
six months or come back to Fox Lake when
this six months is out the money is shure as
fast as it is earnt & I am willing to earn it
as long as I am at work I shant be ^{for your sake} into any specu-
lations My Darlin love I commenceed this
yesterday I read it over & over again & I
thought I would throw it away but this morn-
ing read it over again & I thought I might as

(5)

June 20

well tell you my mind now as any time & perhas better &
then we would understand each other better in the future
now my Dear I hope ^{you} will forgive me for all the hard sayings
that I sed to you I knew at the time that there was many
thing said that should not been said but there is time when
a person cant keep silent when they should, There is nothing
of any intrest if it want for your sake I know I have
tried to make it as easy for you as I knew how & hope
there is better days coming it Dont make much difference
where I live if it only suits you, I would just as soon stay here
as any where thing here is not much Deaver here than they are

June 20
① in Fox Lake & wages is double men get from three fifty to
four dollars per day on private works & you can get paid for
five to six & seven dollars per week but if a man has his family it
won't cost so much & a man that is at work for gov't must be can
draw rations so that help considerable in keeping house
Now Darling you & George is all I have to cherish in this world
& I hope that we shall be better & wiser in the future & the
past be forgotten as something that was but never will be a gain
It has been very cold here yesterday & today the night is so cool
that even thickness of a woolen blanket is not warm enough in the
night with a woolen shirt drawers on & my gray coat feels very
comfortable this morning some of the inhabitants say that we are going
to have a hail storm we have not had any rain for two weeks now & the
air looks smoky like indian summer you love write & be plain &
say what I shall do whether I come back to the Lake or whether I stay a
month, six months I leave it all to you good by with all the love I have
sent to you & George
H. Austin

[[Austin Correspondence #4]]

[[Page 1- Envelope]]

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

[[image- illegible faded black circle stamp]]

Mrs Susan Austin
Fox Lake
Dodge Co
Wisconsin

[[different handwriting in a ballpoint pen:]] 25 July 1864

[[Page 2- Letter]]

[[faded embossing mark]]

Nashville July 23th 1864

My Dear Wife

Yours of tuesday morning

I received last evening I was glad to hear
that you was well I am on the gain
I was down to the shop yesterday sharpening tools
so I could be ready to go to work Monday
Orvis has got his discharge from the
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morning at carpenter work I hope that
the rains has not washed the garden so
as to hurt the crops much but we have got
to take our chance with rest of the
work, in refferance to bying flower
you can by what you think best & as
much as you think best & if flower
gets higher instead of being lower & you got
more than you want you can sell it
a gain, but I think from the rains that
you speak of the chince bugs wont
trouble much more * I think that flower
will be cheaper after harvest than it is now
it generaly is, it will depend on the harves

[[Page 3- Letter]]

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or is expected at pres ant it will being down
flower it it is not flower may go higher
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up their then I could make up my mind better
what to do, but you seam so doubtful about my
being able to accomplish any thing more
then an ordinary buisness so probily it will
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stay another six months in the shipyard I can get
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before I got your letter, we didnot know whether
we had better stay here or go up in to Iowa
or Minasota this winter atrap[[?]] in if we stay
in Fox Lake it is not likely that we could
earn more than out board unless we went to chopping wood
some where & drawing to town & that would
be very hard work & the money that we would
have to pay out for a teem would ly four times
as, many traps as we would want & go a good
ways towards bying provision for the winter

[[Page 4- Letter]]

if I stay here I can send you 40 dollars per month & I could not earn that in Fox Lake clear of my board & clothes & you could perhaps do a great deal better with the money than I could I know that I can do with one third or even less than that of what I earn now & it grieves me very much to think that I lost instead of gaining but I am thankful for one thing I never had a fortune of yours to squander in the way of money what ever I may have done to cause you so much sad experience as you say you speak from sad experience but if it has cost you more tears & hurt sent[[?]] feeling than it has me I hope it has hapened for the last time I have all ways tried to appear calm & easy about some things but it cost me a hard struggle it was not on my own account if I had been a lone in the world it would been my loss & no one else but when I loose what rightfully belonged to you then it caused me many a painful thought how you shall have your say for a time that is in money mater I will by & work where I can get the most money for my work & send

[[Page 5- Letter]]

two thirds or three quarters to you & at the
end of August I can send you money enough so that
you can go up & see Eliza I had rather stay here
& work than to go up their knowing what I do
now I had intended to take it easy this coming
winter but I have not time to lose the place
for me is here where I am sure of my regular
months pay & then there is no rest to run it
is work not play careys a man through this
world, My Darlin love this letter probly will not
be a very welcome one to you & it may cost
you some tears but I feel just ~~[[striketrough]]~~ what ~~[[/striketrough]]~~
as. I write I have felt bad ever since I got ~~[[between lines: yours last]]~~
night I could not read it till I got alone because I
could not help cryin I hope if we live to
come together once more that we can come to
a better understanding & a mutual under
standing from thence forward, it all will be
for you to say whether I stay here a nother
six months or come back to Fox Lake when
this six months is out the money is sure as
fast as it is earned & I am willing to earn it ~~[[between lines: for your sake]]~~
as long as I am at work I shant be into any specu
lations My darling love I commence this
yesterday read it over & over again & I
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[[Page 6- Letter]]

[[ballpoint pen:]] 5

[[ballpoint pen:]] June 20

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a person cant keep silent when they should, there is nothing
of any intrest if it want for you sake I know I have
tried to make it as easey for you as I knew how I hope
there is better days coming it don't make much differance
where I live if it only suits you, I would just as soon stay here
as any where thing here is not much dearer here than they are

[[Page 7- Letter]]

[[ballpoint pen:]] 6

[[ballpoint pen:]] June 20

in Fox Lake & wages is Double men get from three fifty to four Dollars per day on privet work & you can get board for five to six & seven Dollars per week but if a man has his family it wont cost so much & a man that is at work for gover mant he can draw rations so that help considerable in keping house

Now darling you & George is all I have to cherish in the world & I hope that we shall be better & wiser in the future & let the pas be forgotten as something that was but never will be a gain It has been very cold here yester day & to day the nights is so cool that even the thickness of a woolin blanket is not warm enough in the night with a woolin shirt drawers on & my gray cote feels very comfortable this morning some of the inhabitance say that we are going to have a hail storme we have not had any rain for two weeks now & the air looks smokey like indian summer you love write & be plane & say what I shall do whether I come back to the Lake or whether I stay a nother six months I leave it all to you good by with all the love I have ~~have~~ to you & george H Austin