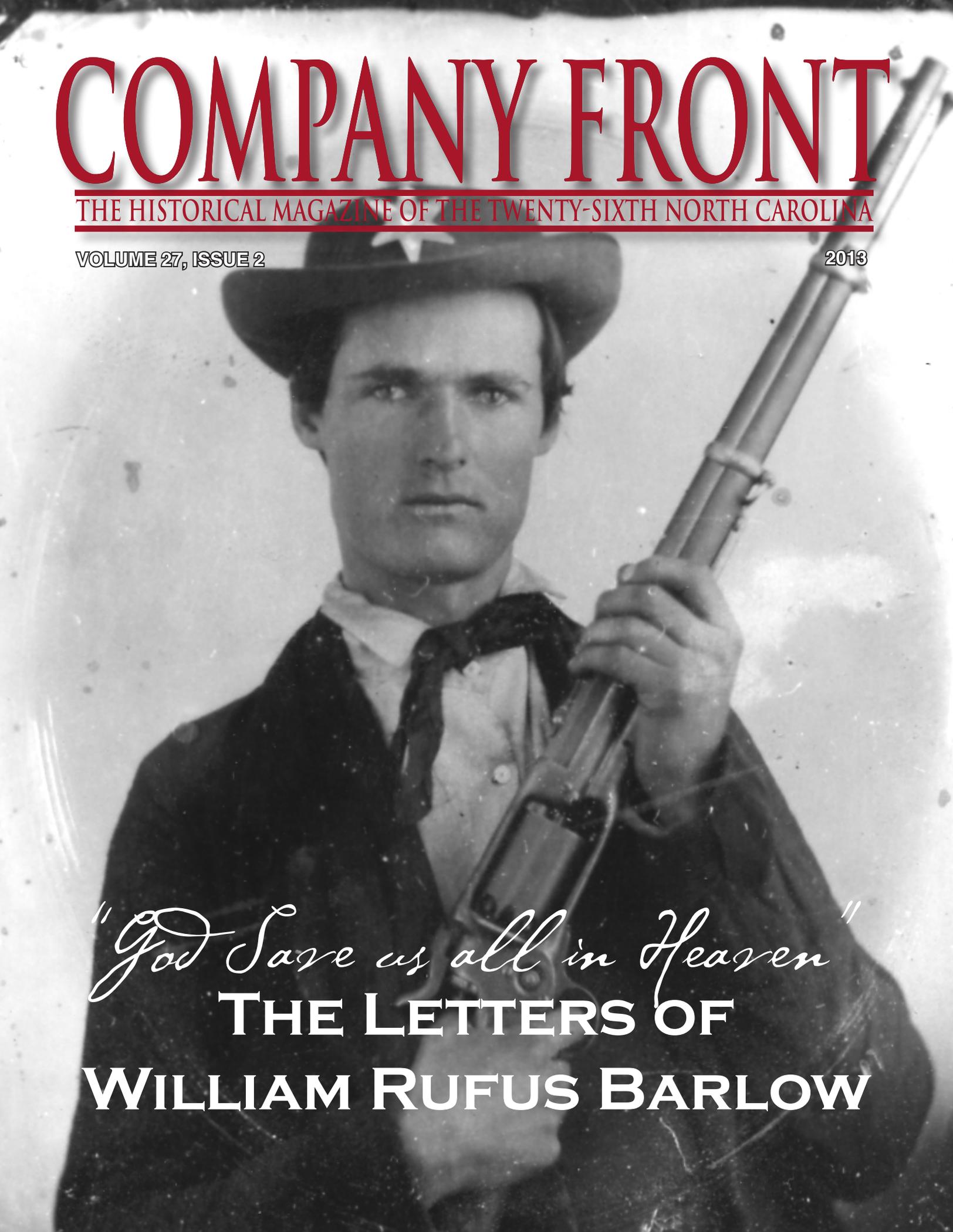


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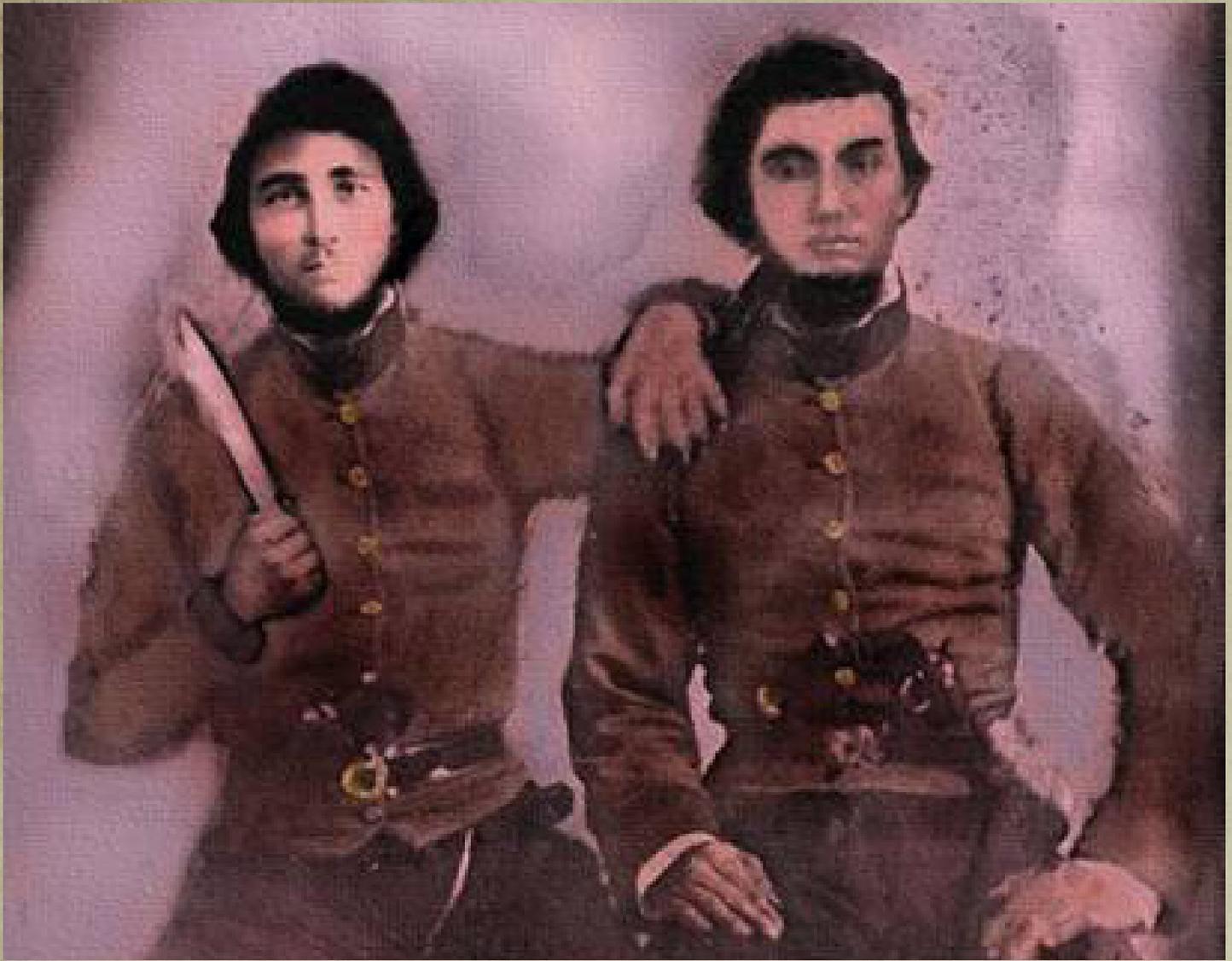
THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2

2013

"God Save us all in Heaven"

**THE LETTERS OF
WILLIAM RUFUS BARLOW**



Front Cover

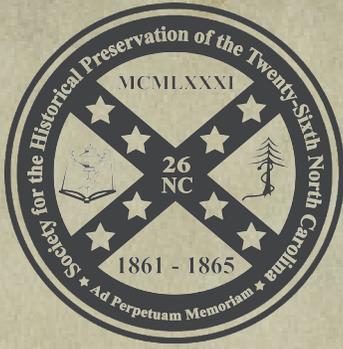
William Rufus Barlow, Company B, 18th Regiment N.C. Troops, a resident of Caldwell County and the author of the letters. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart. The firearm held by Private Barlow in this image is a rapid-fire “sidehammer” Colt Model 1855 Revolving Carbine, in a rare variant known as the “Artillery Model.” This .56 caliber weapon never gained wide acceptance due to its propensity to “chain fire,” or discharge all five chambers of its firing cylinder in one dangerous explosion. This problem may have in part prompted the Federal government to transfer sixty of these long arms to the State of North Carolina on May 7, 1859, and Barlow’s carbine may be one of that number. Other images of North Carolina Confederate soldiers armed with this weapon can be seen in Mast’s *State Troops and Volunteers*, images 2.67, 4.2.12, and 5.4.11. A saber type bayonet could be fixed to this “Artillery Model” carbine. In this typical early war image Barlow appears in civilian clothing with a 6-pointed “secession star” device affixed to his low-crown bowler hat.

Inside Front Cover

John and Larkin C. Barlow, who served together in Company F, 37th Regiment N.C. Troops.
Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart

Back Cover

Colonel Thomas James Purdie, a resident of Bladen County commanded the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops at the Battle of Sharpsburg and was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863.. Courtesy Cape Fear Living History Association



COMPANY FRONT

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Edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr.

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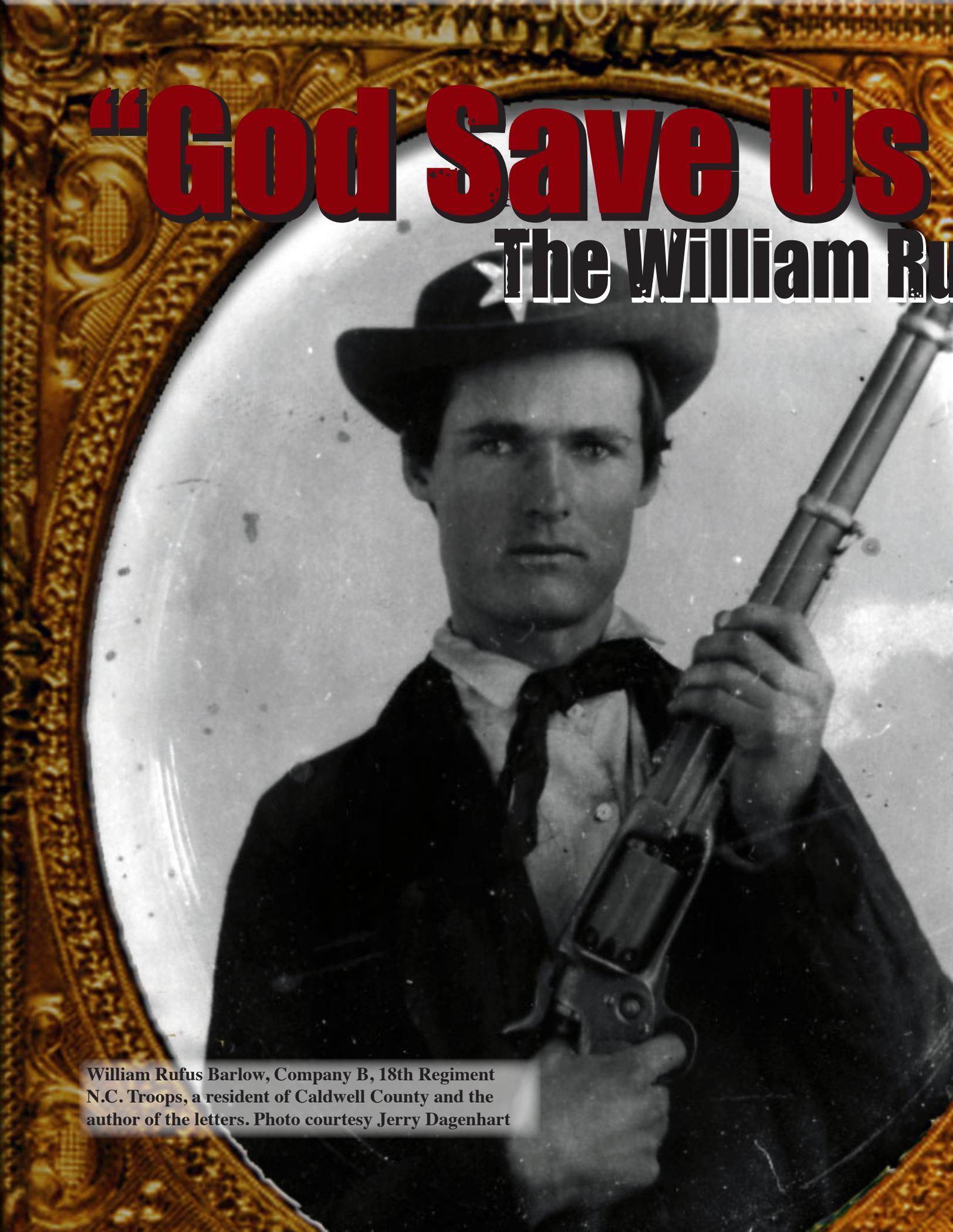
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“God Save Us

The William Rufus



William Rufus Barlow, Company B, 18th Regiment
N.C. Troops, a resident of Caldwell County and the
author of the letters. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart

All in Heaven”

Rufus Barlow Letter Collection

Edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr.

Introduction

The letters of William Rufus Barlow represent the simple feelings and emotions of a citizen of the Old North State who was conscripted into the Confederate Army in the late summer of 1862. Most of the letters are from the soldier to his family, most notably his second wife Elizabeth German Barlow. They express his strongly felt desire to be home with her and his family. The letters span the period from August 1862 to January 1865 and provide a glimpse into the daily life of a Tar Heel soldier who probably wanted nothing more than to live out his life with his wife and children on their small farm in the Kings Creek community of Caldwell County, North Carolina.

In the summer of 1862, Camp Hill, a conscript camp, opened in nearby Iredell County. During the months of August and September the camp welcomed nearly 170 men from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Wilkes counties. Those conscripts were assigned to the 18th Regiment N.C. Troops (8th Regiment N.C. Volunteers), which had sustained nearly three hundred casualties during the summer fighting in Virginia. The men were soon off to war and most joined the 18th North Carolina in time to participate in the bloody Battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland, September 17, 1862.

William Rufus Barlow was among those men. He and seventeen others were assigned to Company B of the 18th North Carolina. Only five of the eighteen ever returned home.

A Note About the Family Connections

Barlow belonged to a large family, and the names of many relatives and friends appear within the letters. Rather than encumber the text with footnotes explaining “who was who” I have placed at the end of the letters a biographical index of all the people mentioned herein. Readers are directed there to learn more about an individual.

William Rufus Barlow’s immediate family connections were complex. He was married twice and his wives (Mary Ann German and Elizabeth German) were first cousins. He had children with both wives; and his two fathers-in-law (Wilburn and James German) were brothers. On the Barlow side it is no simpler. His father was married twice, resulting in a full brother and sister (Thomas W. Barlow and Jane Barlow) and a half-brother (John O. C. Barlow). Furthermore, William and his second wife Elizabeth became the caretakers of John O. C. Barlow’s two youngest children, Benjamin H. and Sarah Jane Barlow, who were orphaned at a young age. Those children, along with William’s own

children, Columbus Marshall Barlow and Sidney Stokes Barlow, are mentioned in almost every letter. Sidney Stokes Barlow, born in 1862, is often referred to as “my little babe” or “my little black-eyed boy.”

William Rufus Barlow’s extended family connections were no less complex as by 1860 Caldwell County was still sparsely populated, with several large families living in the same communities. This closeness led to most of the families being intermarried, thus complicating the genealogical charts. The Kings Creek section where William Rufus Barlow lived followed this pattern. Not only were the Barlow and German families intertwined with one another but, throughout the letter collection other families (Coffey, Davis, Keller, Livingston, and Winkler specifically) are shown to be tied to the Barlow and German families. The family charts listed below will help the reader better understand the family connections and to be able to place each letter in its proper context.

Barlow often mentions a soldier friend named “Mack,” but never with a last name. It is evident that “Mack” was a soldier in the 26th Regiment N. C. Troops (see letter 4). A possible candidate is Wilkes County resident, A. McLenond Davis who was born in 1845. Davis was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on September 21, 1862, and was assigned to Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until he deserted on November 14, 1862, but returned to duty on April 14, 1863. He was present or accounted for until he was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. He deserted prior to August 1, 1863.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the late Sidney Barlow, a descendent of William Rufus Barlow, for providing a transcribed copy of the letters. Thanks also to Dwight Joplin for his assistance in re-typing the letters and to Greg Mast for his grammatical and formatting advice. Al Leonard provided invaluable assistance in performing the final proofreading of the article and his advice was very much appreciated. I would also like to thank Jerry Dagenhart for providing all of the Barlow images throughout this issue. Lastly, I would like to thank Forrest Tate with the Caldwell County Public Library for his assistance in locating several items that were needed to complete this project.

Over the two year process I feel that I have come to know William Rufus Barlow and his kin to the point that when I drive through the Kings Creek community of Caldwell County, I cannot help but think of William Rufus Barlow and his sad story. The title of the article “*God Save Us All in Heaven*” was taken from the words that William Rufus Barlow used to close many of the letters to his wife and family.

For the Tar Heel Soldier,
Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr., Editor
Lenoir, Caldwell County, North Carolina
July 2013

Family Charts

Editor's Note: While compiling the family charts I thought it would help the reader better understand the context of the letters by identifying others with military service in the Civil War. Where possible, they have been noted by simply placing within parenthesis the company and regiment they served in. Please note that quite a few served in either the 13th Tennessee Cavalry or the 2nd or 3rd Regiment N. C. Mounted Infantry – these were Federal units and generally made up of men from eastern Tennessee or western North Carolina.

Barlow Family

Direct lineage to William Rufus Barlow is:

Rev. John Barlow, Sr. (Elizabeth)

to

John Barlow Jr. (Nancy Rash)

to

William Barlow (Lydia Winkler)

to

William Rufus Barlow

- I. Rev. John Barlow, Sr. (born ca. 1740). Moved from Virginia to Wilkes County, N. C. in 1779
 - a. married Elizabeth and had six children, one which was John Barlow, Jr.

- II. John Barlow, Jr. (born ca. 1768 – ca. 1856/57). Born in Albemarle County, Virginia, John and his family moved to the Beaver Creek area of Wilkes County, North Carolina, before 1780. John Jr. is considered the patriarch of the Barlow families in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties. His first wife, Nancy Rash produced six children and his second marriage to Elizabeth Kindall Merritt produced seven children. He was the grandfather of William Rufus Barlow.
 - a) married Nancy Rash (born ca. 1770 – 1800/1802) She and John, Jr. had six children together: Elizabeth, Parrish, William, Eliphalet, Thomas, and Mary (Polly) Barlow.
 1. Elizabeth Barlow m. Martin Livingston (six children born to this marriage)
 1. John Livingston (Co. I, 13th TN Cav. – US)
 2. Nancy m. David Rash
 1. Joseph Rash (Co. I, 58th NCT)
 2. Peyton Rash (Co's M & G, 58th NCT)
 3. Thomas J. Rash (Co. I, 13th TN Cav. – US)

3. Madison Livingston (Co. A, 5th N.C. Reserves)
 4. Mary m. Ambrose Knight
 1. Martha m. William Bentley (Co. H, 55th NCT)
 2. Lucinda m. David M. Knight (Co. E, 39th NCT)
 5. Thomas Livingston (95th Regt. NC Militia)
 6. William Martin Livingston
2. Parrish Barlow m. Mary Land (six children born to this marriage)
 1. Charlotte m. John Holsclaw
 2. Julia m. Thomas Pipes (Co. B, 37th NCT)
 1. William H. Pipes
 3. Hamilton Barlow (Co. H, 58th NCT)
 1. Katurah m. Timothy Boughman (Co. K, 35th NCT)
 2. Smith Barlow (Co. E, 58th NCT)
 3. John Barlow
 4. Horton Barlow
 5. Dicey Barlow (never married)
 6. Emily Barlow (never married)
 3. William Barlow – married (1st) Jane Burch, (2nd) Lydia Winkler (William was the father of four children; one with Jane Burch and three with Lydia Winkler)
 - m. (1st) Jane Burch (one child born to this marriage)
 1. John O. C. Barlow (Co. I, 26th NCT)

Married (1st) Susan Hollar Barlow, (2nd) Louisa Bentley
 - m. (1st) Susan Hollar
 1. Thomas M. Barlow (Co. I, 26th NCT)
 2. William L. Barlow (Co. I, 26th NCT)
 3. Benjamin H. Barlow
 4. James W. Barlow
 5. Sarah Jane Barlow

m. (2nd) Louisa Bentley

6. Nancy Louisa

7. Mary Barlow

8. Ruth Barlow

m. (2nd) Lydia Winkler (three children born to this marriage)

2. William Rufus Barlow (Co. B, 18th NCT) m. (1st) Mary Ann German,
(2nd) Elizabeth German

m. Mary Ann German

1. Columbus Marshall Barlow

m. Elizabeth German

1. Sidney Stokes Barlow

3. Thomas W. Barlow m. Sophronia (Fronney) Barlow

4. Jane m. Thomas Castephens

4. Eliphalet Barlow m. Nancy Bradley (seven children born to this marriage)

1. James Barlow

2. Amanda m. Samuel Brown

3. Milly Barlow

4. John Asbury Barlow

5. Alfred Barlow

6. Pickens Barlow

7. Thomas W. Barlow

5. Thomas Barlow m. Sarah Kilby (five children born to this marriage)

1. Elizabeth m. Reuben Kilby (Co. A, 5th NC Reserves)

2. John Barlow

3. James Linvill Barlow

4. Nancy m. Jesse F. Adams (Co. G, 18th NCT)

5. Arminda

6. Mary (Polly) Barlow m. John Walker (three children born to this marriage)
 1. Sarah m. Jonathan Maltba
 - i. Mary m. William A. Hamby
 - ii. Martha m. Elihu Beach
 - iii. Thomas L. Maltba (Co. H, 55th NCT)
 2. Emily Walker
 3. Arminda Walker

John Barlow, Jr.'s 2nd wife was Elizabeth Kindell Merritt

b) married Elizabeth Kindell Merritt (died between 1840-1850) She and John, Jr. had seven children: Nancy, Joseph, J. Henry, Jane, Braxton, unnamed son, and Larkin Barlow.

1. Nancy Barlow m. Thomas Coffey (seven children born to this marriage)
 1. Calvin Coffey
 2. Rufus Coffey
 3. Larkin Coffey (Co. E, 58th NCT)
 4. Sophronia
 5. Thomas Coffey (Co. K, 58th NCT)
 6. Nancy m. David Ernest
 7. John Coffey

2. Joseph Barlow m. Louisa Laxton (seven children born to this marriage)
 1. Calvin Barlow (Co. I, 26th NCT)
 2. Alfred Barlow
 3. Mary m. Lewis Holder (Co. A, 22nd NCT)
 4. Pickens Barlow (Co. A, 22nd NCT)
 5. Cynthia m. James Milton Sherrill (Co. K, 58th NCT)
 6. Jane m. Thomas B. Knight
 7. Joel Barlow

3. J. Henry Barlow m. Matilda Kilby (six children born to this marriage)
 1. Abraham Barlow (Co. B, 37th NCT)
 2. Larkin Barlow (Co. K, 53rd NCT)
 3. Sarah m. Martin Warren

4. Susan m. Empsey Gragg
5. Thomas J. Barlow (3rd NCMI – US)
6. William H. H. Barlow (Co. H, 55th NCT)

4. Jane Barlow m. Levi Bradley

5. Braxton Barlow m. Charlotte Carlton (eleven children born to this marriage)

1. Lucinda
2. Thomas Martin LeRoy Barlow (Co. C, 26th NCT)
3. Larkin C. Barlow (Co. F, 37th NCT)
4. H. Harrison Barlow (Co. C, 26th NCT)
5. John B. Barlow (Co. F, 37th NCT)
6. Julia C.
7. Martha A.
8. William Franklin Barlow
9. Robert F. Barlow
10. Dr. P. Barlow
11. Mary Ann

6. Son (name not known) died between 1820 – 1830

7. Larkin Barlow (Co. F, 5th N. C. Reserves) m. (1st) Edith Knight, (2nd) Nancy E. Humphries. Larkin was the father of eight children; three with Edith Knight and five with Nancy E. Humphries.

m. Edith Knight (three children born to this marriage)

1. Lavina m. William Wells (Co. C, 18th NCT)
2. James Barlow
3. Eliphalet Barlow (Co. K, 50th NC)

m. (2nd) Nancy E. Humphries (five children born to this marriage after the war)

1. Edith S.

2. John Larkin Barlow
3. Sarah E.
4. Samuel T. Barlow
5. Thomas W. Barlow

German Family

I. Charles German married Katherine Keller. (Eleven children born to this marriage: John, Elizabeth, Nancy, Thomas D, Wilburn, Martha [Mary], Charles, Louis [Lewis], James, Hubbard, and Eliza German. Several of the children and their immediate families moved to Georgia prior to the Civil War, while the rest remained in Caldwell or Wilkes Counties.

II.

1. John German m. Martha Elizabeth McGee
 1. Smith German (Co. D, 18th NCT)
 2. Hamilton German (Co. H, 23rd NCT)
 3. Sarah German

2. Elizabeth German m. John Ashbern Howell
 1. Nancy Howell
 2. William Howell
 3. W. Peyton Howell
 4. Adeline Howell
 5. George Washington Howell (Co. F, 37th NCT)
 6. Elizabeth Howell
 7. Jacob Howell

3. Nancy German m. James A. Brown
 1. William Wilborn Brown (Co. H, 52nd Georgia)
 2. Mary Brown
 3. Rebecca Brown
 4. Charles E. Brown (Co. H, 52nd Georgia)
 5. Nancy A. Brown

6. Martha A. Brown

4. Thomas D. German m. Rebecca Brown
 1. John German (Co. B, 65th Georgia)
 2. Katherine German
 3. Nancy German
 4. Larkin German (Co. B, 65th Georgia)
 5. Mary German
 6. Thomas D. German, II (Co. E, 2nd Georgia)
 7. Noah German

5. Wilburn German m. Jane Tugman
 1. Mary Ann married William Rufus Barlow
 - a. Columbus Marshall Barlow
 2. Martha German
 3. William German (Co. E, 58th NCT)
 4. A. Larkin German (Co. E, 58th NCT)
 5. James German (Co. H & D, 1st N. C. Cav.)
 6. Jane E. German
 7. Phineas H. German
 8. Thomas H. German
 9. Joshua Rufus German

6. Martha (Mary) German m. Justis Davis
 1. John Davis (Co. D, 18th NCT)
 2. W. Leander Davis (Co. D, 18th NCT)
 3. C. Harrison Davis (Co D, 18th NCT)
 4. Louisa Davis
 5. Willborn Davis
 6. Jesse Davis
 7. Thomas Davis

7. Charles German m. Elizabeth Brown
 1. Wellson German
 2. Judson German
 3. Charles G. German (Co. G, 52nd Georgia)
 4. James N. German
 5. Sarah German
 6. Mary Eliza German
 7. Martha Salvina German
 8. Memphis J. German

8. Louis (Lewis) German (Co. A, 5th NC Reserves) m. Sarah Jane Greer
 1. Mary Ann German
 2. William F. German

9. James German (Co. A, 5th NC Reserves) married Nancy NcGinnis
 1. Elizabeth German married William Rufus Barlow
 - a. Sidney Stokes Barlow
 2. Aner Louisa German
 3. James Sidney German
 4. John Finley German

10. Hubbard German (Co. C, 26th NCT) – never married

11. Eliza German m. Jeremiah Ferguson (no children)

* *Editor's Note:* I have placed brackets [] throughout the letters to help the reader identify persons and places mentioned.

Letter # 1

August 24, 1862

State of North Carolina, Ierdill [Iredell] County [Camp Hill]*

Dear Wife [Elizabeth Barlow] & Mother [Lydia Winkler Barlow],

I this day take my pen in hand to let you know that I am tolerable well. Hoping to God that these few lines may reach you to find you all well for which each heart should rejoice to God for such blessings. I sent you word by William [L. Barlow] from the station to send me a pair of pants by Solomon Keller. But if you don't send them before you get these few lines don't send them unless you can send them by somebody that you know will come to me for we are ordered to start tomorrow and we are cooking today for 4 days. But we don't know where we have to go but we expect to Virginia where they are expecting a battle and if Solomon don't come until after we go way it is uncertain whether he gets to come where we are or not. So don't send nothing by him. It is a bad time to cook today for it is raining perty hard. Don't sell no wheat for less than \$3 or 4 per bushel. Take good care of everything and sell what you can spare of everything and make as big a payment on my debts as you can this fall and move down to the Coffey house if you choose. Tell Horton Barlow to do the best he can. Tell Sidney [Barlow] & Ben [Barlow] to be smart and do the best they can. I want to see you all mighty bad and be with you but I don't know whether I shall ever see you all again or not in this life but I hope to God that if I don't see you all on earth no more that I shall meet you all in Heaven where parting will be no more. I think that my cows will be worth \$30.00 apiece or more. You will have to sell the mules this fall if I don't come home and I don't expect to see Caldwell County again. I dreamt a dream last night that makes me think that I shall be buried before I ever see home again. We have not got the priviledge of a Negro and if you hear that I am dead, don't grieve for me for life is not more that a span no how, and if I die and goes to Heaven, I shall be happy through all the endless ages of Eternity.

Dear Mother, you don't know how sorry I am to leave you in your old age and you so weak after you have done so much for me. I want you to keep your God in view and pray that we may meet in Heaven. Elizabeth, God bless your soul I pray. I never expect to see your lovely face again on earth, but I pray that you will take good care of yourself and live a Christian life and pray for me as long as you can hear that I am alive. I want to live in Heaven with you and with all God's people through all Eternity. Take good care of my old mother who has done so much for me. Take good care of Jane [Barlow] who has no father or mother. Take care of my blessed little babe [Sidney Barlow] who I love too. I must come to a close. God bless us all I pray, to save us all in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake, so farewell if I never see you on earth no more.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth & Mother Barlow

A few lines to James German & family.

Dear Father [James German] Mother [Nancy German]

I want you to take good care of Elisabeth & my little babe for I don't expect to ever see them again till I meet them in Heaven. I want you & Wilbern [Wilburn German] to help her pay for the land I bought if you can. I want to see you all to be with you but I ain't a free man no more. I am bound tighter than any Negro. I want you all to do the best you can and pray for me that we may all be in Heaven where sorrow never can come. I want you to take this letter to Elizabeth as soon as you get it and don't fail. God love you all & may he give you his Holy Spirit through life, is my prayer for Christ's sake. So fare thee well if I never see you on earth no more. This August 24, 1862

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow



Elizabeth and Sidney Stokes Barlow, the second wife and son of William Rufus Barlow. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart

August 24, 1862
To Mr. James German
Wilkes County, N.C.
By Linsa Ferguson

**Editor's Note: William Rufus Barlow was at Camp Hill, a North Carolina Conscription Camp on the west side of Statesville, Iredell County. The Camp opened in 1862 and operated throughout the war. On August 20, 1862, eighteen men from Caldwell and Wilkes counties (including William Rufus Barlow) were conscripted and placed in Company B, 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops. Nearly 160 men from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and Wilkes counties were conscripted and placed in companies A, B, C and D of the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops during the months of August and September that year.*

Letter # 2

** Editor's Note: Undated fragment, probably late summer 1862*

Benjamin [Barlow],
I want you and Jane [Barlow] to be smart children and take good care of everything and try to make a plenty to eat and wear and try to take good care of it when you make it. You must remember that you have no father nor mother to go to for help and I love you both almost like I do my own children. I have partly raised you both and I want you to be smart and always heed the truth and keep good company or none. Don't keep company with bad boys and girls. Try to learn to read good books and remember that you must die and as death leaves you, so judgement will find you. I want you to take this good advice. It may be that last time I'll ever be permitted to advise you. I pray for you every day and want you to pray for yourselves that God will teach you the right way. God loves smart little children that always heeds the truth and never gets angry. If I never see you any more I hope you will take this good advise and God will love you and everybody will love you. I will send Benjamin 50 cts and Jane cts and Sidney cts and Elizabeth 50 cts. I want you to write to me whether you get it or not. Elizabeth, I think the way the law is now you won't have to pay so much tax as you have been. Get your father to see to it for you, if he can. So I must close. God save us all in Heaven.

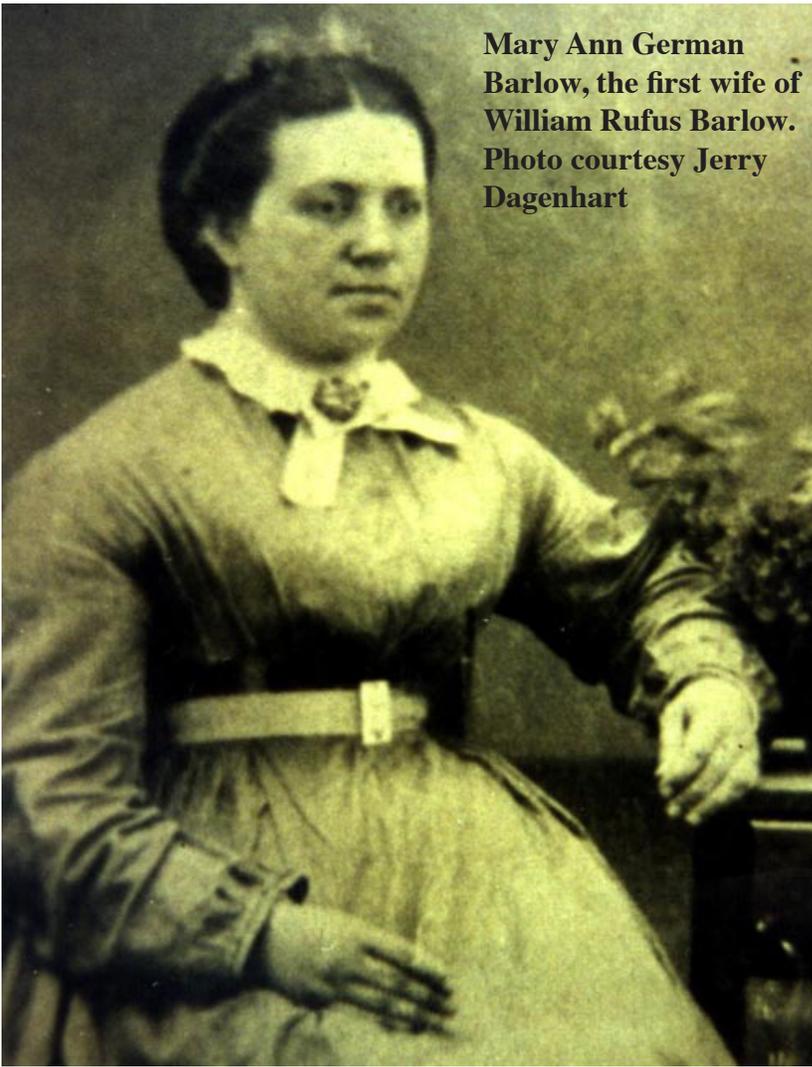
Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow and Benjamin and Jane

Letter # 3

August 28, 1862
Camp Lee near Richmond Virginia

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am yet alive, but is not well. I have not been well since I left States Ville. I have not eat anything of a count. We left there the 25th and got to Richmond the 27th. I have a little bread you baked for me yet. If I had not a kept some of it I don't know what I woulda done. Everything is too high and I have not got much money. They say the smallpox is here and I have inquired for Mack, but I don't hear anything of him. I am afraid he is dead. I have seed a heap since I left home. We don't get to go to the regiment we wanted to go to. We have to go to the 18th regiment, Branches Brigade. A good many of the Caldwell boys is not well. Cousin Smith German and Davis boys [Harrison, John and Lee Davis] and is with us yet. Cousin Hamp German was left at States Ville. I told him if Solomon Kellar come there before he left and had my pants, to try to send them home. This is a solemn place to me. To think that my half brother [John O.



Mary Ann German Barlow, the first wife of William Rufus Barlow.
Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart

C. Barlow] lies here and maybe my wife. If they're gone, I hope they're gone to Heaven where I expect to meet them soon. The artillery is mustering today and it is a sight to see them. Try to pay for the land I bought if you can, and if you can't, get your father to help you. If you can, tell Horton Barlow to sow as much wheat and rye as he can save you. Sow what you think you can have saved. If you want to move to Coffey house, you can, but I think you had better stay where you are for a while, but do as you please. If you don't move, let Horton have as much land as you can spare. Elizabeth, God bless your soul. I want you and Mother to pray both night and day, and pray in faith that I may come home one more time to see your lively face. I was glad when Thomas [M. Barlow] got off. Tell him to pray for me and try to serve God. I oftimes think of what John O. C. used to write to us to pray both night and day. Elizabeth, you don't know how nigh my heart is broke. I do want to see you all so bad. Tell Sidney and Ben to be good boys and do the best that they can. Tell your father and mother [James and Nancy German] and Aner [German] and John [German] to do the best they can. We have to go to the army in a short time. God is able to protect me and cause me to come back home to my

sweet wife. Do pray to God with all your heart that God will cause me to come home, and if it is not his will that I should come home, that I may be prepared to go to Heaven and prepare to meet me there. Write as soon as you get your letter. Direct to 18th Regiment N.C.S.T. Branchs Brigade near Gordonsville Va. I must come to a close. Don't forget that I want to see you. God love us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 4

**Editor's Note: Undated fragment, probably late summer or autumn 1862*

I do want to come home to stay with you. I think we could get along so well together and I do love you so well. I do think you are a Christian and I want to live with you on earth as long as I have to live. I have shed many tears on the count of parting with such a good and pleasant wife. There is no one on earth that I would change for you. God bless your soul and body I pray. My truly can't tell how well I love you and how bad I want to see you. I want to see you all and I want you to tell your father and mother [James and Nancy German] to not forget me. I have not forgot them. Tell them to pray for me that I may get back to live with you on earth again, and if I don't, I want you to not throw yourself away, but live a Christian and serve God the best you can and

pray for me and lets meet each other on the other side of Jordan where no sorrow can ever come. To where God will wipe all tears from our eyes and where we will live together thru all Eternity. God bless you all I pray.

I sometimes feel to hope that I shall meet you in smiles and kisses on earth again. God grant I may, for Christ's sake. If I never see you on earth no more, I want you to raise my sweet little boy [Sidney Stokes Barlow] as good as you can and tell him what a smart pappy he had. I can say to you that I have not shaved since I left home and have got the pertiest whiskers you ever saw. A great many people is saying what a beard I have got, just such a beard as General [Thomas J. "Stonewall"] Jackson has. I have a heap of friends in camp. I do a heap of writing for the boys. Things is mighty high here. Little apples 50 cts to 75 cts a dozen. I want you to write the price of everything and how you are getting along and how all the neighbors is doing and how Louisa [Bentley] Barlow is doing. Tell Mack howdy for me. Tell him I wrote to the 26th Regiment N. C. Troops] to try to find out where he was. Direct your letter to 18th regiment Co B N.C.T. 4 Brigade. God love us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake I pray, so no more.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 5

September 2, 1862
State of Virginia
Near Manasses

Dear Wife,

It is thru the mercy of God that I have the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am yet alive, but not well. I have not been well since I left Statesville. I have had a mighty cold and cough and has it yet. We left Richmond a Saturday morning and went to Rapperdam [Rapidan] River that night and stayed till Monday morning and then we had to wade the river and take it a foot. We have traveled two days and are most tired down. They are taking us to Old Stonewall Jackson where we will maybe be in a fight in a short time. They have been fighting mightily and our men has whooped them mightily. I have seed a heap of wounded men going home today. I can't tell you what I have seed, without I could see you. It is enough to break my heart to be where I am, and see what I have to see. I am about 6 or 7 hundred miles from you and a long ways that has to be walked. The Yankee has burnt the railroad bridges. Corn crops is tolerable sorry where I have traveled. I want you to take care of all the corn and fodder you can and sell all the stock you can spare. I think stock of all kind will be high. All the Caldwell boys is about, but not well but Joseph Hagler. He give out this morning and we left him behind. Cousin John Davis is not well. Cousin Smith German and the rest is tolerable. Everything is high here. I want you to tell Wilburn German to do the best he can for me. Tell him to sell all you can spare. I don't expect I shall get off when I become 35 if I should live that long. I expect they will call to 45.* I would not begrudge all the money I have seed in a few days. If I was at home one more time, I would never start again. Elizabeth, I want you and Mother to pray for me, and tell Thomas [W. Barlow] and all my good friends to pray for me. Elizabeth, God bless your soul. I want you to take good care of yourself and live a Christian and teach my little babe to love God, and if I never see you and it on earth no more, I want to meet you all in Heaven. Take good care of my old mother for God's sake. She has done so much for me. Learn Jane to be smart. Tell Sidney and Ben to be good boys. Elizabeth, these may be the last words I will ever get to give you. I could write a heap to you if I had time, but if I never see you all on earth no more, I want to meet you all in Heaven. Pray that we may meet in Heaven. God love us all and save us in Heaven I pray for Christ's sake. So fare well, fare well my dear wife, if I never see you no more.

September 2, 1862
Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

**Editor's Note: The Confederate Conscription Act in October of 1862, raised the conscription age from 35 to 45 years old.*

Letter # 6

September 8, 1862
State of Maryland, Frederick

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am alive but not well. I can't hear much out of my right ear. I caught cold in my head and had the earache and does yet. We have been on the march for 8 days and we are all most tired out. I am tolerable hardy, but does not get much to eat. I never knew what hard times was till now. We are now where we must fight. [Stonewall] Jackson has run the Yankees from Richmond to where we are and we expects to go to Baltimore tomorrey and be in a fight, as apt as not. I wrote you the 22 of this instant. I hope you have got it. I have not heard from you since I left home. You don't know how bad I want to hear from you all and see you all, and be so I could stay with you, but I am about 7 or 8 hundred miles from home and amount many dangers, but God is able to deliver me out of them all if it is his will so we must trust in him and pray in faith. I sorry think that God will bless me and cause me to get back home to you one more time. I want you to pray to him in faith. I want you to take good care of everything and sell all you can spare, and sell it at the selling price. I think stock and grain of all kink will be most any price. Corn is sorry where I have been. I want you to tell Wilburn German to see to the selling of my things and paying off my debt. Give them all my best respect. Tell them I shall never forget them while I live. Tell your father and mother and all the family that I shall never forget them while I live. Tell Uncle Hubbard [German] to not forget me to my little family. We cross the Potomoc River yesterday and waded it was perty near a half mile wide. We got to the regiment today. Cousin Pickens Barlow is in a quarter of a mile of me. I seed a man from that company and says he is well. I have not had the chance to go to see him. We had orders to write as soon as we got here so we could send it back. You don't know how I think of you and the good things I left to eat while I am almost starving. If I get a apple to eat, or a peach, it has to be paid for at the highest price. I dream't of Mother the other night and I did not like the dream. Elizabeth, this may be the last few lines you will ever get from me. I want you to take good care of Mother and Jane and for God's sake take good care of yourself and my little babe. Try to live Christian and raise my little son to fear God and love him. You must write as soon as you get this. Direct it to the 18 Regiment, North Carolina State Troops, Branches Brigade, Gordansville, Va. God bless you all I pray and save us in Heaven I pray. Elizabeth, God love you and Mother I pray. You don't know how I love you. Pray for me to live a Christian and meet me in Heaven.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 7

September 25, 1862
State of Virginia, Stanton [Staunton] General Hospital, Ward B

My dear wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am yet alive, but it is thru the good mercy of God. I hope and trust that these few lines may reach you and find you and Mother and all the rest well, and doing well. I can say to you that I have not seed a well day since I left Statesville. I have had a fever, cold and cough all the time and has been sick some of the time, but has filled my post all the time. I have been marching all the time and it has hurt me worse than two years work at home. We marched thru a part of Maryland and then in to Virginia

to Harpers Ferry, where we took 15 thousand prisoners and did not have to fight much. We took them on 16th of September, and I wrote you a few lines 16th and the 17. we went in to Maryland to Sharpsburg, where there was the hardest fight that has been in the whole war. It was late in the evening when we got there and we was marched into the field where the bullets was flying just as thick, and the bomb shells. Just after we got into the line of battle, there was a bomb shell struck my wrist near the joint and nearly broke it. I left the field immediately and went to where there was some hospital and stayed till Thursday night, before day and the nurse come for all to cross the river before day, into Virginia and I went, and all the army crossed. And the Yankees came on, and they began to fight. Before I left and me and some more that was wounded started, and hundreds was sent on to Stanton about one hundred 22 miles and we had it to walk. We was a little over 5 days coming. We was in hope to get a furlough to come home, but some could get them, only them that was badly wounded. There was the most people shot that ever I saw. Some with their arms off, some their legs off, and some shot about the head, and some lying dead. Oh, my God, if war ain't the terriblest thing that I ever come across yet. If I only could get home one more time. Our men done bad business when they went in Maryland. The Yankees fight hard. I have that [Stonewall] Jackson has whoop them since we left. I have not heard from my Caldwell and Wilkes fellows since I got hurt. Once, the next day I saw John Davis and Hugh Porches boy [Lawson Porch] going to their regiment. They had been sick and could not keep up. I saw Elbert Anders and some others the other day going to their regiment [Company D, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops.] They told me that Solomon Keller was sent back to this place that day and they thought would get discharged to go home. I was in hopes that I would get to see him before he left, but I have not seed him yet. He may be gone home. I would have liked to have had my pants. They told me that he's startin' back with them. I want you to get them or pay for them. Once there was a lady give me a Testament and a handkerchief after I was wounded and I bought me a little Hymn book for 15 cents. I don't know whether we will stay here long enough to get a letter from you or not. Some of us may go some other place for what I know. I saw Cousin Pickens [Barlow] a good many times since I got to the regiment. He give me a Yankee canteen at Harpers Ferry.

Letter # 8

**Editor's Note – Undated fragment - It is uncertain if Letter # 8 is a continuation of Letter # 7, as that letter had no closing, or is part of a separate letter.*

I have not heard a word from home since I left. We have traveled so much it is a hard matter to get a letter. We was so far from the railroad. There may be a letter at the regiment now if you have wrote. I am at the railroad now. If I knew I would stay at this place long enough, I could get a letter in two weeks and you don't know how bad I want to see you and stay with you. But if I can't be with you, I want to hear from you. I want you to manage the best you can and sell everything you can spare. Don't try to keep too much stored for I don't know if I will ever get to come home any more or not. If I don't die or is not killed, I shall come as soon as I can. It may be 3 or 4 years before I can come. I want you to try to pay for the land I bought. They say we will get one hundred dollars Bounty, besides eleven dollars per month. So I have a hundred and eleven due me now, and if I never get to come home, you must get it. You must seek for it to 18 regiment company, No Branches Brigade. There is no Captain [John W. McGill] in my company, but the regiment is commanded by Colonel Purdy [Thomas J. Purdie], N.C. State troops. I forgot to say to you that General Branch got killed the same evening that I got hurt. I think that if you can get the money that is due me here, and what you can make, you can pay all my debts if I never get to come back. Elizabeth, take care of my mother and for God's sake take good care of yourself. If I never see you no more I want you to pray for me and try to meet me in Heaven. Take good care of my sweet little babe. God love us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake. So fare well, if I never see you no more.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 9

State of Virginia, Stanton
September 26, 1862

Dearly beloved wife and mother,

I take my pen in hand to give you a few lines today to let you know that I have to go back to my regiment in a day or two, but is not able for duty. I can say to you that I wrote you a long letter yesterday and I wrote that I had not found Solomon Keller yet, but I found him yesterday and got my things. I told Thomas [M. Barlow] that if I took his blanket I should not want my overcoat, but I shall need it if I could tote it. But I can't tote so much if they don't quit marching so much. He told me that the bread you sent was about to spoil, and him and Cousin Hamp German eat it. If I just had some of your bread, and our honey and milk, I could eat. But sometimes I can't eat none without I had something that suited me. I kept some of the bread I started with till I was 600 miles from home. I am afraid I will never get to eat any more with you in this life, but I hope we will eat together in Heaven where parting will be no more and where sorrows will never come. Elisabeth, for God's sake don't forget to pray for me. I think so much of you and want to see you and Mother and my sweet little child and Jane and all my friends. Do pray to God in faith that I may come home and see you all. I want you to write to 18 regiment N.C. State Troops, Braches Brigade, Virginia. God save us all I pray for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 10

State of Virginia
October 28, 1862
Berrysville

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am tolerable well at this time, hoping these few lines may reach you and find you all well and doing the same way. I can say to you that I have not had but one letter from you since I left home. I have been looking for some 'til I don't know what to think. You don't know how bad I want to hear from you all and see you all. I wrote you a few lines in a letter that I sent to Allen Laxton a few days ago. I hope you will get them. We are marching about thru this valley. We may get in a fight soon for what I know, but I hope to God that I will not get in any more. I want you to pray that I may not, and that I may keep well to get back home to see your lovely face one time more. We have not took up winter quarters yet and I don't know where we will, but I will write to you and if I don't get to come home, I want you to send me some apples, both green and dried, and onions and brandy and red pepper and a ginger cake and cabbage. Send it by Uncle Justis Davis if he comes, and if he don't, send it by somebody else that is coming, and some way to make coffee. I want you to take good care of everything that will do to save life for us, for it will be hard times. I want you to save Irish potatoes enough to plant a plenty; for they will come in a good time, and plant in every good place. Everything is mighty high here and like to be not had at any price. We have to live pretty hard, but not as hard as we will have to live if the war holds on. I don't want you to sell any grain, if you have any to sell, 'til you can get the highest price, and if you have any meat to sell, and has salt enough to save it, keep it, if you think you will not get it stoled. I want you to do as you think best and as your father [James German] and Wilbern [Wilburn German] thinks. Best fatten all you can and take good care of them, and see to feeding everything and

feed as you can. Hold out, and have nothing wasted. Make all the money you can, for now is the time to get out of debt. I will get all I can, and do the best I can. Tell your father to write to me as soon as he can. I have wrote him 2 or 3 letters and has not got but one from him. I have wrote you a heap and has not got but one. Other people gets letters, some of them, and they say that time is hard. Pork is worth 20cts. per pound and beef, 10cts. Pork here in camp is 50cts. per pound. Butter, \$1.00 per pound, honey \$1.00 per pound. Everything is high. Cousin Smith German has gone to the hospital, and John Davis, and John Fugerson, and Ross Blankenship. Cousin Lee [Davis] and Harrison [Davis] is with us yet, but not well. Tell Uncle Hubbard German is with us yet, but not well. Tell Uncle Hubbard German to write to me. Tell all my friends to write. You wanted me to send you a lock of my hair. I will send it, and don't forget me, if I never see you on earth no more. God bless you and my sweet little boy.

October 28, 1862

Dear Mother,

I oft'times think of you in your old age, and how bad I want to be with you to take care of you, after doing so much for me. I want you to pray for me, and for yourself and let us try to meet in heaven if we don't on earth. Elizabeth, God love you all, and pray for me while I am so far from you. Don't forget it if I never see you no more of earth, I want to meet you in Heaven. Tell Mother that I saw Cousin Thomas Winkler tuther day and he was well, but he did not know anything of his brother [James Winkler.] Write soon. Direct your letters to: Richmond Virginia. Co. B 18. Regiment N.C.T. 4th Brigade.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 11

November 3, 1862

State of Virginia

Bereys Ville [Berryville]

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am yet alive and has not forgot you yet. I am sorty sick this morning but I think it is by eating to much last night. I hope I will feel better in a few days. I have had no letter but one yet from you. I will write you a few lines in Enoch Beaches [Beach] letter. I wrote you a few lines the other day. I am still in the valley of Virginia, yet we was called to attention yesterday to fight and went a mile or two and came back. We expect a fight now every day. I want you to pray that God will keep me safe thru all my life and that I may get back home and see you. You don't know how bad I want to see you and my two little boys and Mother and Jane and Ben and all my connection. God grant that this was may stop soon and that I will get to come home. I dream about home sometimes and it makes me want to be there. I saw Cousin Pickens [Barlow] the other day and he said he had got a letter from home on 7th of October and Uncle Joseph [Barlow] wrote that he pulled fodder at my house and that you was all well, but the mules was about to eat up my corn. I want you to be as saving as you can in all things. Tell your father and mother to not forget to pray for me. Cousin Lee Davis and Harrison [Davis] is with us yet but Harrison is not well. I have not heard from Smith German and John [Davis] since they left. We will draw money in a day or two and I want to send it home if I can, James Isbell is coming home he told me in a few days. I don't know whether I will send it by him or not. May God bless us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake. Write soon and direct to: Richmond Va. Co. B. 18th Regiment N.C.T. 4th Brigade

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

November 3, 1862

Letter # 12

**Editor's Note: This letter is tentatively dated to late November-early December 1862, by the death of David Icenhour, who died on November 22, 1862. It is uncertain what Barlow means when he tells Elizabeth to "direct your letter" to Wilcox's Division. Cadmus Wilcox did not receive command of the division until after Gettysburg.*

My Beloved Wife, Elizabeth,

I want you to write to me when you last heard from Brother Thomas [W. Barlow] and where he is. Tell Froney [Sophronia Barlow] to write to him for him to write to me. I would have wrote to him long ago if I had aknew where he was. I can say to you that I heard from Uncle Hubbard [German] last week and he was tolerable well. Harrison Davis is not well but I don't think he is dangerous. I hope not. I want you to send Thomas [W. Barlow] a form how to direct his letter to me. Direct to 18th Regiment, N.C.T. Co. B, Army of Northern Va., Lanes Brigade, Wilcocks [Wilcox's] Division.* I want to see my smart little children you don't know how bad. God bless you all I pray. I want you to pray for me, my loving friend. So fare well my dear.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Tell Uncle Justis Davis to come and see his boys. I think we will be near the railroad now all winter. We are at it now. Tell him I want him to fetch me some things to eat. I don't want any clothing. I want him to take some money back for me. Elizabeth, I want you to send me some sewing thread in next letter. I want you to write me what John Bradley done about the wheat. I want you to keep a plenty of everything to do you and if you have anything to spare, sell it and let's get out of debt as soon as we can. I want a heap of things here to eat that I would have if we was out of debt, but now is the time to get out while everything is so high. I want you to write how much wheat and rye you have sold. Tell Horton Barlow if he moves to the Coffey house he must put a floor in the kitchen and cook in it. I don't want him to cook in nary one of the big houses. Everything is very high here. I was sorry to hear that Wilburn German family was sick. They is a good many dies here very sudden. David Isonhower [Icenhour] dropped dead the first day we started on this march, which was the 22 of November. He was in my mess and eat his breakfast and died in a short time. God bless you my dear wife, I pray. Direct your letter to Co. B., 18 regiment, N.C.T. 4 Brigade, Richmond Va.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 13

State of Virginia
Camp near Fredericksburg
December 9th, 1862

Dearly Beloved Wife,

It is thru the good mercy and kindness of God that I am blessed one more time to take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and stout, and can eat as much as is common, if I could get it. We have hot had half enough for the last week. I went last night about 6 or 7 miles to a mill to get a half bushel of meal, and paid for it, and got back about midnight, and I tell you, I have eat something today. Corn bread. Eat so good I sold enough of to get \$3.00 and keep enough to do me 2 or 3 days. I hope to God that these few lines may reach you and find you all well and doing the best you can. I hope they will find you all in the service of God and in prayer to him for me who had to leave his wife and two little babies, who I love so well. May God help you to pray for me.

My loving wife, I can say to you that I received a lovely letter from you dated November 20 and 21 which give me so much pleasure to read it to know that you was all well and doing well. I want you to write a long letter. I was sorry to hear of so much sickness, and of the death of Larkin Coffey. I wrote to you [illegible words] of this instant, and I hope you will get the letter. If I knew you would not, I could write a heap more in this one. You wrote that Hubbard [German] and A.L. [A. Larkin] German had wrote to me. I have not received 'ary a one from them yet. I have had 2 or three from your father and 3 or 4 from you. You don't know how much pleasure it is for me to get a letter from your sweet hand. I hope you have got rid of the mules. I am afraid you will have to buy corn, and it is so high that a mule will soon eat off it's head. I am sorry that you did not sow your wheat sooner and that Horton Barlow could not do no more at it than he has. If John Keller sowed up the branch, they must be a good fence made or the wheat will be lost. You wrote that you wanted me to come home and eat and drink with you. My sweet wife, you don't know how glad I would be to come home and stay with you, but I fear I will not get to come home 'till the war is over if I should live. So I want you to send me some apples and onions and butter and honey and brandy, if you have it, and some red pepper and soap. I have drawd clothing enough to do me 'til next summer. You need not send much of either of what I have just named, for you may have the chance of sending more than one time and we may not stay in one place long at a time; but I think we will stay near the railroad all winter so you can send me a little of all and then send again.

Dear Mother, God bless your soul. I oft'times think of you, and how glad I would be to see you and get to stay with you in your old age. May God bless you I pray, and restore you to good health again I pray, and if I never see you no more on earth, I want to meet you in Heaven where parting will be no more. May God help you to pray for me, so far from home.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow
Wm. R. Barlow to his Mother, so farewell

Letter # 14

December 10, 1862

Dear Wife,

I can say to you that I am well as common today only. I feel sorty drowsy. I was on guard yesterday and last night and did not get to sleep any. I want you to take good care of your stock and try to do the best you can. I want to get out of debt as soon as I can. I wish you could see me now. You would see the pertiest boy and smartest one you ever saw. You don't know how perty I am.

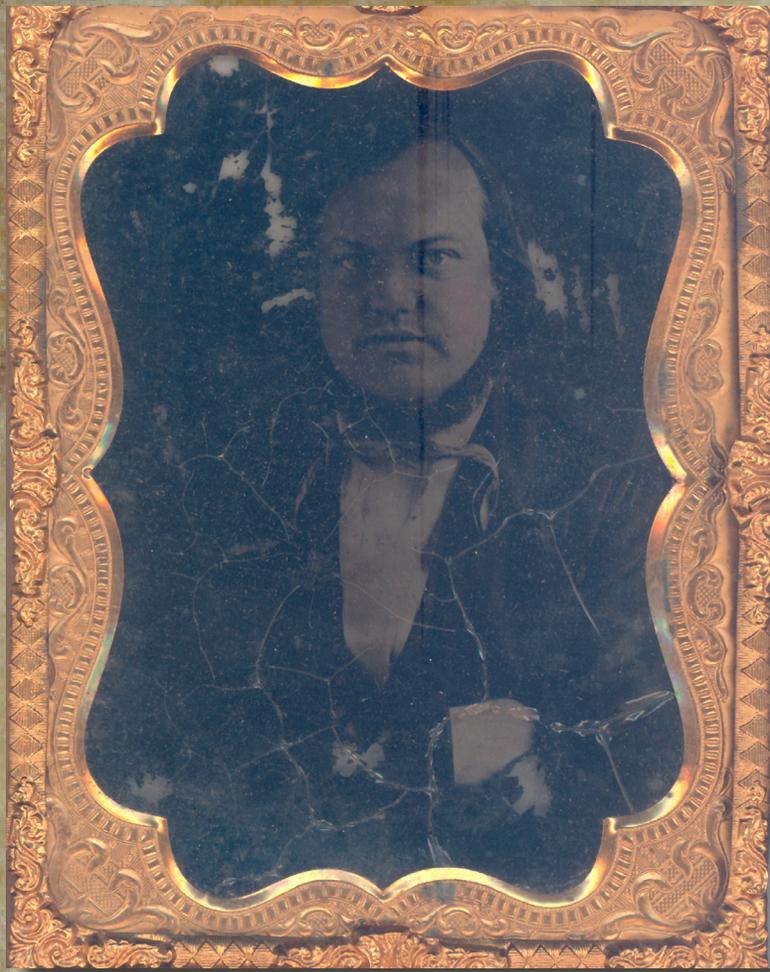
December 11, 1862

I am well today, but not satisfied. I am afraid we will be in a fight today. They have commenced canon already this morning at Fredericksburg and I am afraid we will have to fight today. Pray for me my sweet wife. If I never see you no more on earth, I want to meet you all in Heaven. I do want to see you all one more time on earth. Try to take good care of yourself and live a Christian and meet me in that good world where we will no more take the parting hand and where tears of sorrow will no more flow from our eyes. God love us all to save us in Heaven is your loving husband's prayer for Christ's sake. So fare well, fare well, my loving friends. Fare well if I never see you on earth no more. I want you to write as soon as you get this, and direct your letter to: Co. b, 18th Regiment, N.C.T.H. Brigade, Richmond, Va.

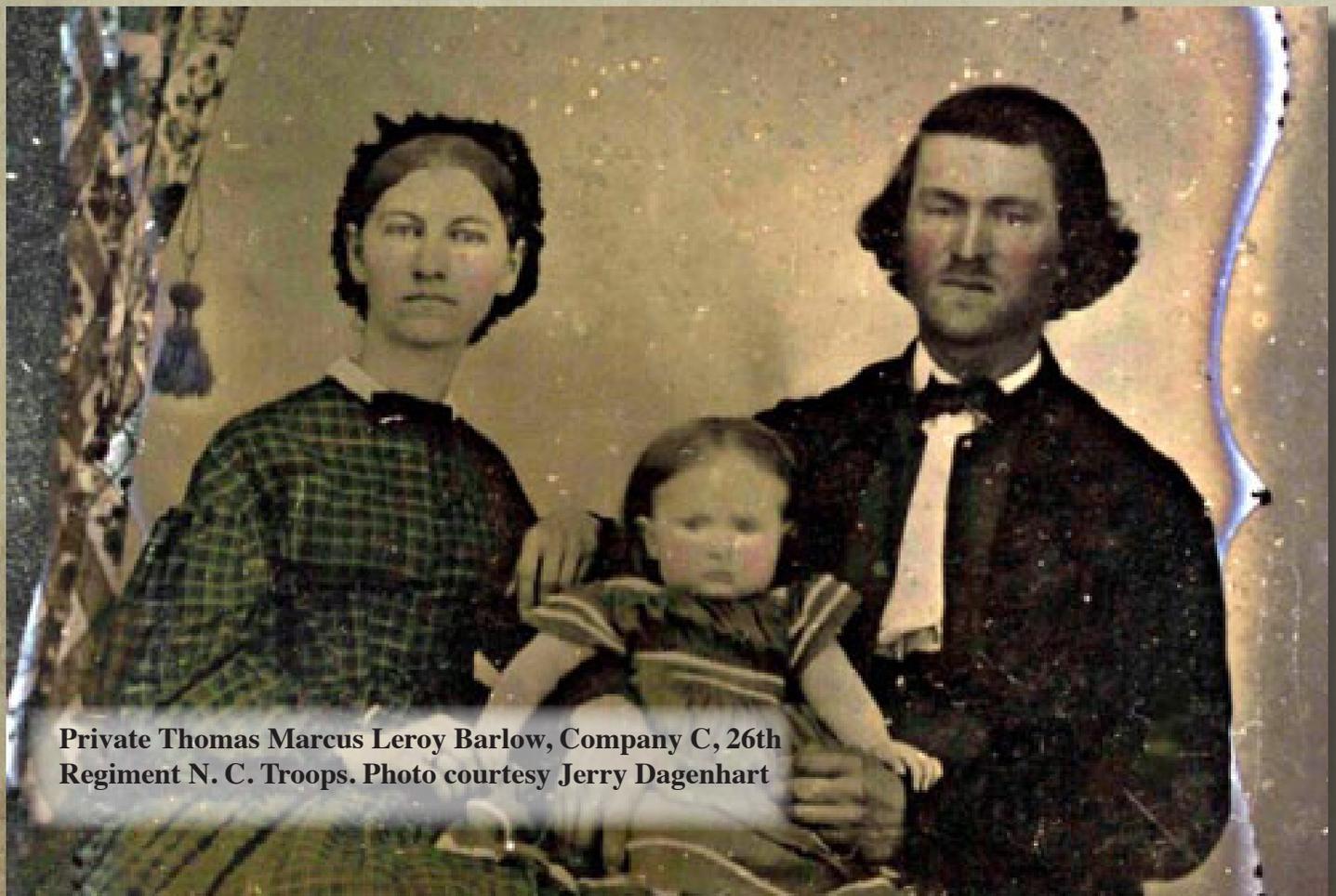
December 11, 1862

Dear Father and Mother:

I have not forgot you yet. I received a letter from you by the hand of John Barlow and I wrote to you and



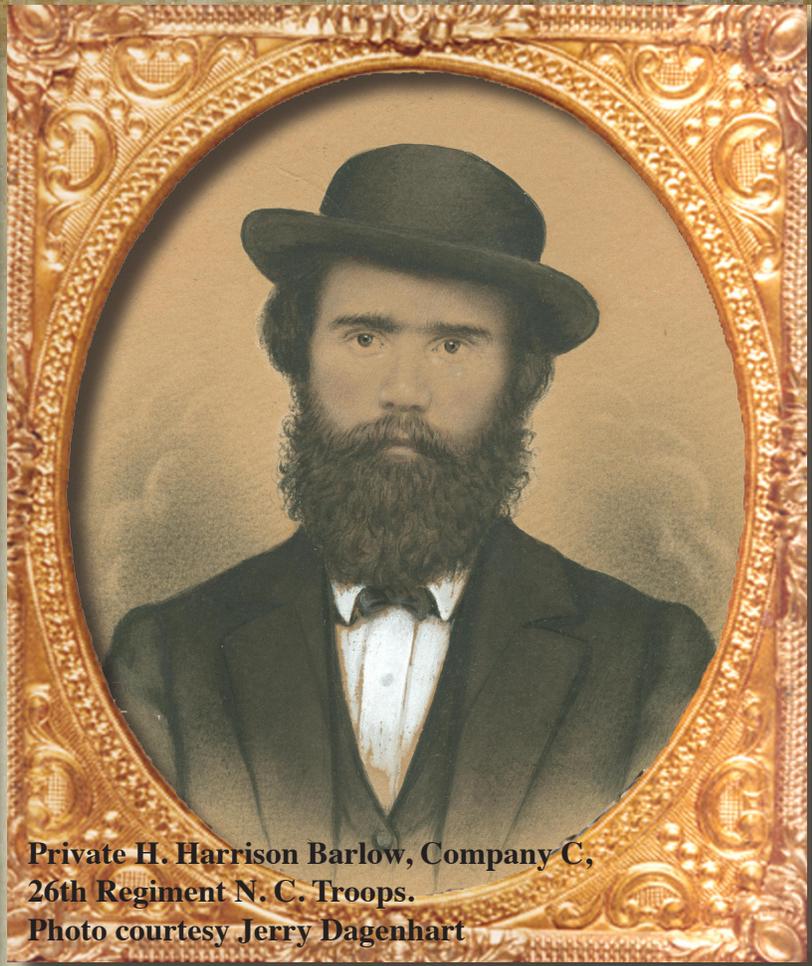
Braxton Barlow (LEFT), half-brother of William Rufus Barlow, and Charlotte Carlton Barlow (RIGHT), parents of eleven children. Four of their sons (below and next page) served in the Confederate Army. Photos courtesy Jerry Dagenhart



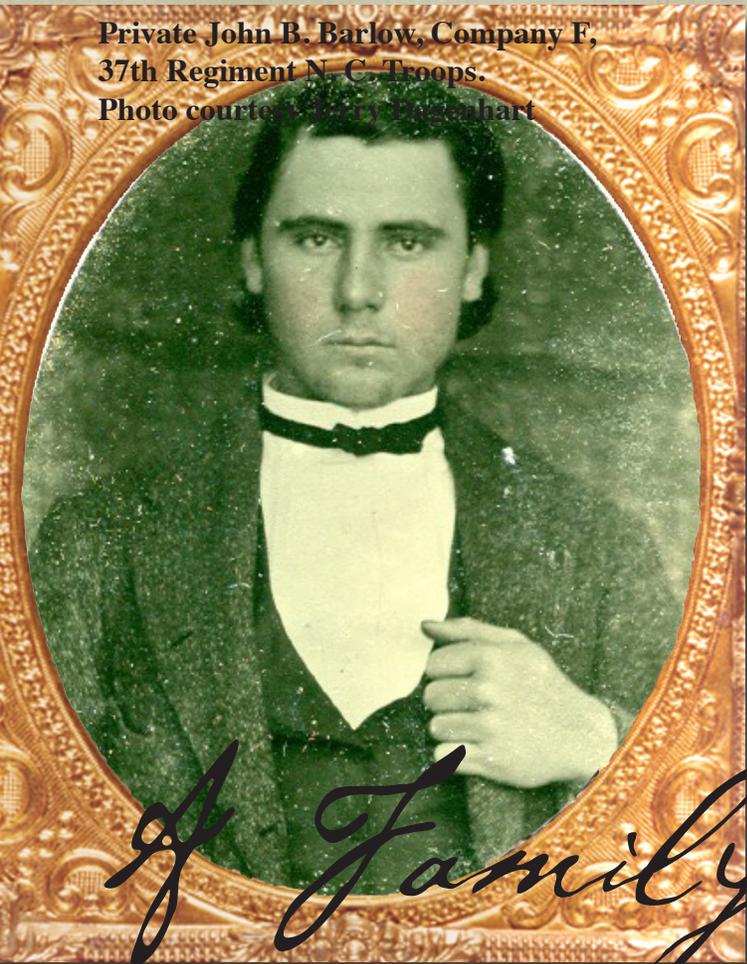
Private Thomas Marcus Leroy Barlow, Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart



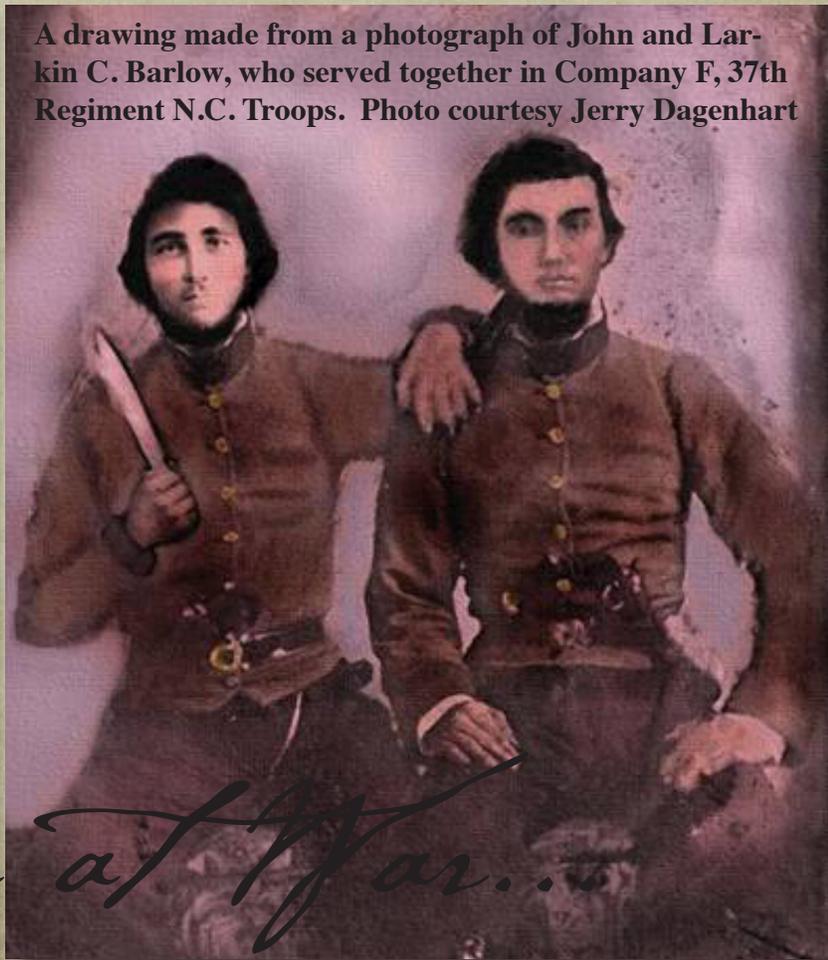
**Private Larkin C. Barlow, Company F,
37th Regiment N. C. Troops.
Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart**



**Private H. Harrison Barlow, Company C,
26th Regiment N. C. Troops.
Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart**



**Private John B. Barlow, Company F,
37th Regiment N. C. Troops.
Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart**



**A drawing made from a photograph of John and Lar-
kin C. Barlow, who served together in Company F, 37th
Regiment N.C. Troops. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart**

A Family at War...

Elizabeth and I hope you will get it or I could write a heap more if I had time, but they have commenced cannonading this morning and I am afraid we will get in a fight today. I can say to you that Cousin Lee Davis has got up within, and they put him in the guard house for staying behind. He is tolerable well. We have not heard from Harrison [Davis] since we started on the march. I have not heard from John [Davis] and Cousin Smith [German] since they left the hospital. Tell Uncle Justis Davis that Lee [Davis] is out of money and he had better come and fetch him some things to eat, and I want him to fetch me some little things. I have lent Harrison [Davis] and Lee [Davis] ten dollars. Dear Father, I want you to do the best you can for my good wife and two little children, and my good old mother and little Jane, if I never get to come home again, but I want you all to pray for me that I may be spared to come home again and if I can't, that I may be prepared to get to Heaven where friends will part no more. I want you to do the best you can in all things. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this. So fare well my loving father and mother. Pray for me I beg. May God save us all I pray in Heaven for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Barlow to James German

So fare well if I never see you no more.

Letter # 15

**Editor's Note: There are several instances of illegible words and phrases in this letter. I have indicated them with the phrase "illegible words" within brackets.*

Va. Betwixt Fredericksburgh and Port Royal

December 17, 1862

Dearly beloved wife and mother,

It is thru the good mercy of God that I am permitted to write you a few lines to let you know that I am tolerable well only I am tired and I am so sore all over. I am hardy as common and gets a little more to eat than I did some time ago. I have great reason to thank God and praise his Holy name that I am alive today. I was in a big fight on the 13th of this instance [Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia] and did not get killed, while many fell to rise no more. Oh how I want you to thank God for his mercy and how I want you to pray for me that God would continue his mercy and protection over me while I am so far from you. Don't neglect to pray for me day and night. How I love God for his goodness and how I love him for his loving mercy. Dear Mother, to pray for me and don't neglect my friends to pray for me and pray in faith. [Name illegible*] was killed close by me. There was a good many from Caldwell killed and wounded. Cousin Pickens [Barlow] was, but not bad. Tell Wm [William] Sanders that Enoch Beach was not hurt, nor cousin John Barlow. But he is sick today. John Winkler's two boys [James and Thomas Winkler] is not hurt. [illegible words] hard fight, but we made them [illegible words]. We will get in it again in a few days. I [illegible words] this morning he was not in the fight. I have not heard from cousin Smith German [he had died in November 1862] and John Davis [he had died November 3, 1862 of pneumonia] for a long time. I could name a great many more that is wounded if I had time I want you to write me [illegible words] do. You don't know how bad I want [illegible words]. I dream of you so much. We was marching in the battlefield on 12th and 13th was the big fight, and then we was relieved on 14th. I never was as nigh weared down in my life hardly. It is hard work to be in a battle and part of the time we had to lie in a ditch of ice and water till we could hardly go. It is the good mercy of God that has saved my life and oh, how I love his name and how I love to thank him for his goodness, and Elizabeth, for Christ's sake, don't neglect to pray to God. He is so good. I want you and Mother to pray for me day and night. I do want to see you and my two little babies, and Mother, and little Jane and Ben, I will write to you father as soon as I can. Tell him and Mother I want to see them and Aner [German] and Sidney [German] and little John [German]. I

want to see all my friends and connections afore I die if it was God's holy will. I do pray to God that I may live to get home and find all things right. Elizabeth, God bless your sweet soul. I do love you so well. I want to see your sweet smiling face one more time on earth. You don't know what awful time it is in a battle, the cannon balls and bullets flying just as thick it looks like everyman would be killed, but God can save a man's life in the midst of danger. I want your prayers in my behalf. Direct you letter to Co. B, 18 Regiment, N.C.T. Brigade, Richmond Va. God save us all in Heaven when we leave this world is my prayer for Christ's sake, so fare well my dear.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

** Editor's Note: The reference here is probably to Private Weighstle Roberts of Company B, who was the only member of the Camp Hill cohort killed in action at Fredericksburg.*

Letter # 16

February 10, 1863

State of Virginia

Lynchburg College Hospital [Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia]

Dear Wife and Mother,

I thank God that I am yet alive and able to write you a few lines to let you know how I am. I think I am getting well perty fast. I hope these few lines will reach you all and find you all well and doing well. I will come home as soon as I can come in credit, but I don't expect to run away. I am at a good hospital and gets plenty to eat and expects to stay here a good while if I don't get a furlough to come home. I wrote to you the other day. I hope you will get it. I wrote what I received from Uncle Justis Davis. I want you to write to me if it was alright. I sold the gloves you sent me by John Barlow for two dollars. I want you to do the best you can and if it is God's will I will come home just as quick as I can and we may see some satisfaction together yet. I dream's a dream about you last night but I hope it will not come to pass. You don't know how bad I want to see you all. I do want to see that perty little baby and kiss him. I want to see you all so bad I don't know what to do. Dear Old Mother, I hope to God that you may live til I can get to see you one more time on earth. God bless you. If I never see you on earth I want to meet you in Heaven where parting will be no more. Tell Ben and Jane to be smart little children and if William [L. Barlow] wants to stay and make a crop and you can agree it will be alright and be a good thing. I think we will get out of debt, if we live. I sent 36 dollars by Uncle Justis Davis. I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know who all is gone to the war and whether Cousin Lee Davis [he died January 27, 1863] got home or not. When I left him I did not think he would live many weeks. He was mighty low. A few lines to Father and Mother and Aner [German] and Sidney [German] and John [German]. I return my thanks to Aner for [illegible words] she sent me. You don't know how glad I would be to see you all. Dear Father, I want you to do the best you can for Elizabeth and sha'n't lose anything by it. I want you to pay Uncle Justis Davis in Confederate bonds for he can't get any other sort the way the note is wrote and any man that would impose on a college that is compelled from home and connection too. I want him paid in Confederate bonds. All men is bound to take it if it is presented in the right way. So do the best you can for me. I want you to write me if you did not send more that 26 apples tho I was mighty thankful for that money. I want you to pray for me that I may come home and see you all on earth and then save us in sweet Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake. Elizabeth, I want you to be a good girl till I come home and don't be as I dreamt last night you was. I want you and Mother to live in peace and pray for me both day and night. I am a long way from you all and exposed to many dangers. When I get sick I have no tender mother or loving wife to wait on me. Pray for me for God's sake. May God bless us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake is my prayer. So fare well if I never see you on earth any more. Direct your letter to:
Lynch Burg, Va.

College Hospital
In care of Dr. [Thomas] Fisher

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow and his old mother, and to James German and his family.

Letter # 17

March 8, 1863
State of Virginia
Lynchburg [Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia]

My dear Wife,

I thank God that I can take my pen in hand to inform you that I am yet on the land of the living. I have been mighty hardy for the last two weeks till now. For a day or so I have a very bad cold and I don't feel very well, but I am getting tolerable stout. I received a letter from you yesterday and was so glad too. That you was well. But you don't know how sorry I was to hear that Sidney [German] was dead. He was such a nice boy, and I thought so much of him, but we all have to die. I was sorry to hear that mother was so bad off. I am afraid that I shall never get to see her of earth any more, but I pray to God that she may live till I can get to see her one more time. I do want to come home so bad that it almost distracts me, but I don't know when I can get to come. I hope that I will live to come home and be a great satisfaction to you. Elizabeth, God bless your soul I pray. I know that you are in a heap of trouble and has a hard time. I am so sorry for you it almost breaks my heart, but I can't help it. I am here and if I run away to get home I may be killed and disgrace my little children. But as soon as I can get a furlough I will come. We are all born to see trouble and you must pass it off the best you can and look to God for help. He is able to help you to bear all the troubles you have to meet with. Elizabeth, you don't know how well I do love you. I want you to pray for me. I do think you are a Christian and I hope that I hope that if I never see you on earth again that I shall meet you in that bright world of glory where parting will be no more. I hope we will meet brother Sidney there where we will live with him thru all Eternity. May God give us his Holy Spirit to help us to pray for one another. May God save us I pray for Christ's sake. May this be all our prayer thru life.

A few lines to William L. Barlow

I want you to stay with Elizabeth if you and her can agree till I come home if I should be blessed so great at to ever get to come and you may have whatever is right in money and I want you to make all the corn you can. If you work good, you will get the more pay. I want you to take good care of Till and Sall [probably the family farm horses/mules] and be a good boy and if I live you shall be well paid for all you do. Elizabeth, I want you to write to me where Benjamin is and how he does. I want him to be a smart boy and a good boy. When I think about leaving home it makes the tears come in my eyes to think how little Jane hated to see me leave. God bless her little motherless heart. Elizabeth, I want you to talk good to her and try to raise her smart. I do want to see you all so bad. I want to see my son, little Sidney Stokes [Barlow], God bless his heart. I know he is a perty little boy. I want you to have your crop put in as soon as you can and try to make as much of everything as you can. If this war holds another year, them that don't make enough will have to do without. I will give you the price of produce in this town. Flour, \$14 a barrel, corn meal, \$5 a barrel, bacon, \$1.25 per pound, beef 40cts. Pork, 75cts. Butter, \$2 a pound, eggs, \$1 per dozen, apples, from one to 2 dollars a dozen, sweet potatoes, \$14 a barrel, Irish potatoes, \$8 a barrel. I don't know how long I shall stay here but not long unless I get sick. My throat is very sore today, but I hope not dangerous. Elizabeth, try to bear with your troubles as good as you can and look to God for help. So no more at present. So fare well my sweet wife.

A few words to James German
Dear Father and Mother and family,

You don't know how it filled my heart with sorrow when I heard that Sidney [German] was dead, but we all have to come to that. He was taken away in the bloom of youth. God might a seed some well that he would a got in if he had lived and God say fit in his wisdom to take him away. So you all must be resigned to his will as much as you can, tho it is hard to give up. May God bless you all.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow and James German

Letter # 18

March 20, 1863

A few lines to William L. [Barlow] and Benjamin H. [Barlow]

My dear little Nephews,

I want you to be smart boys and do the best you can. I want you to make all the corn you can. I will pay you well for it. I want you to be careful with the horses and unhitch them every time you leave them. I want you both to be good boys and smart boys, and I will send you some money in a few weeks. If you will be smart I will do a good part by you both. So fare well.

Wm. R. Barlow to William L. and Benjamin Barlow

Letter # 19

March 29, 1863

State of Virginia

Lynch Burg College Hospital [Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia]

Dear Wife,

It is thru the good mercy of God that I am blessed one more time to take my pen in hand to let you know that I am tolerable well at this time. Hope these few lines will reach you and find you all well and doing well. I can say to you that I received your kind letter yesterday and was glad to hear that you was all well and doing as well as you are. I was glad to hear that you was doing so well with your work. I feel like you will do well in all things and be my sweet wife when I return home if it is God's will for me to come. I want you to tell your father that I wrote Allen Laxton a letter today and I think when he gets it he will receive the money and give up my note. Tell him to go and see him again to offer him the money and I think he will take it. I wish you had a wrote more about the death of my good old mother. I could hardly understand a part of the letter next to the last one and let me know who all has died lately. Let me know whether Mack has gone to his regiment or not and how Louisa [Bentley Barlow] is making out these hard times and whether James [W. Barlow] is living with her yet or not. I want you to take good care of Jane. I want to see her mighty bad, for her to hug my neck. I want to see you all and my little Sidney boy. God bless you all I pray. You don't know how bad I want to be with you all. Tell your father I don't want him to sell that land on the mountain unless he can get current money for it. If Thomas [W. Barlow] wants Confederate money and will take my part of the money and credit my note I am willing to sell the land and sign a deed any time they will send it. But unless him or someone else will take it, I shall not sign and deed for the land is too cheap anyhow. You can tell Mrs. Tetors [Elizabeth Teetors] that I have not heard from Jacob [Teetors] since he left the regiment last Fall. If she ha'nt heard from him since, I

think he is dead for I think if he was alive and the Yankees not got him he would write to her. I can say to you that I want the doctors paid out of my mother's money. I think she wanted Jane to have what she left. I don't want Brother Thomas to be simple about what she had. I want him to have a good share of what there is if there is anything after the Doctor is paid. God send that I could get to come home. I close. May God love us all and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 20

April 7, 1863

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well today and to let you know that I have to go to my regiment tomorrow. I want you to pray for me. Don't forget it. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this letter and direct you letter to Richmond, Va. Co. B, 18 Regiment, N.C.T.4th Brigade. Tell William [L. Barlow] and Benjamin to be smart and I will send them something in my next letter. May God bless us all and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake. So no more at present. So fare well my dear wife.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 21

April 12, 1863
State of Virginia
Camp Gregg

Dear Wife

I take my pen in hand this blessed Sabbath day to let you know that I am yet alive and tolerable well, hoping to God that these few lines may reach you and find you and your little family all well and doing well. I can say to you that I got to camp yesterday and was very tired and found it perty hard times about something to eat. I am afraid we will suffer this summer. If cousin William Weles [Wells] has not started to camp yet, I want you to send me something to eat. Send me some meat and some butter and some bread. I want somebody to come so I can send some money home. I got my bounty yesterday, fifty dollars, and I got 22 dollars at the hospital, and I got my watch fixed and it cost me nine dollars, and I was offered 25 dollars for it and I made about ten dollars here a trading in tobacco. I have got now \$76.50 in money and I want to send it home if I had any chance. I will send William L. [Barlow] and Benjamin a dollar apiece and you fifty cents, and if nobody comes so I can send it by them, I will send it by letter, five dollars at a time. I will send you some [illegible words.] When you receive these few lines, answer right away and let me know if you go it or not. William and Benjamin must be smart boys and I will pay them well for all they do. Tell them to do all they can and be smart. Talk good to them, for you know that harsh words bring on anger. Always speak kind and tender to everybody and you will find it always the best. I can tell you that I heard from Cousin Harrison Davis when I come to the regiment. I suppose he wrote to his captain that he was getting wed and would soon be at the regiment. I suppose the Yankees got him and kept him for a while. Elizabeth, I am afraid we will have to fight a heap, and I don't want you to forget to pray for me both day and night. I do want to get back home so bad to live with you. You are so perty and so smart and I do love you so well. I want you to send me a plait of your hair to put 'round my wrist. Tell all friends to write to me. I want to write a letter to the Church [Kings Creek Baptist] some of these

days. We have prayer meeting in camp of nights and I hope it will prove a blessing to a great many. I want you to write soon, and direct your letter to:

18 regiment, Co. B
N.C.T. Richmond, Va.
Lanes Brigade

May God bless you all and help us all to serve him with our whole heart. May God save us all in Heaven I pray.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

**Editor's Note: Between the dates of Letter's #21 (April 12, 1863) and #22 (June 8, 1863) the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops took part in the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2-3, 1863. It was on the evening of May 2nd that the men of the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops accidentally fired upon General Stonewall Jackson and his staff as they were scouting between the lines in the dark.*

Letter # 22

June 8, 1863
State of Virginia
Near Fredericksburg

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am tolerable well at this time, hoping to God that these few lines will reach you and find you all well. I can say to you that I received your kind letter last Friday and was glad to hear from you. I would a wrote sooner, but I was waiting to get a letter from you. We left the camp last Friday night at bed time and march all night, and we are here, expecting a fight every hour. I can say to you that I saw Harrison Barlow and James Gilbert and a great many of my old friends. There is a great many people collecting here and I am afraid we will have a powerful fight here. Tell Thomas M[artin Leroy] Barlow that James Gilbert said that they had took his name off of the list and they did not expect him to come back. You need not send me much of anything to eat for I don't know where I will be. I want you to buy me a wool hat and send it to me if you can. I want you to pray for me. I send William German a letter the other day. Can say to you that I have got 47 dollars in money by me now, and some owing to me yet. I hope and trust to God that I will see you on earth again, but if I don't, I want to meet you in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake. I will write to you as soon as this battle is over if I live. So fare well my loving wife. If I never see you no more, may God save us all in Heaven.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 23

State of Virginia, near Berrysville
June 23, 1863

My dear Wife,

I am blessed one more time to take my pen in hand, to inform you that I am yet alive, but not stout. I hope and trust to God that these few lines will reach you and find you all well and doing the same way. I have not had any letter from you in a good while. I sent you two or three when I was at Fredericksburg and I sent 50cts. worth of stamps in one of them. I want you to write to me whether you got them or not. We left Fredericksburg 15th and has marched very hard all the time. My feet and ankles has give out, and all swelled up, and I can't hardly walk, but I am hearty and looks well. We may get in a fight in a few days, for what I know. It is said

that our men is going into Maryland, and if they do, they will have to fight. I don't want to have to go in there if I could help it. There has been a good many men give out on this march, and a good many died. I hope I will get a letter from you soon. I do want to hear from you so bad, but I want to see you a heap worse. I thought I would a tried to come home and never a come in this valley again, but I concluded that I had but one time to die, and thought it best to not candlelise [tantalyze?] my two little boys, but if I was at home and knew what I do now, I would never come here anymore, unless it was in time of peace. I have traveled over the world a good deal and I think Virginia is about the best country that I have ever saw. Wheat is very good here. Corn is small, but looks tolerable well. Garden stuff looks particular well. I want you to not forget to pray for me. Tell William and Ben to be smart boys. Tell Cousin Horton Barlow to do the best he can to sow a heap of wheat and rye this fall, and I want William and Ben to sow a good crop this fall, or as much as can be saved. Butter is \$1.00 a pound, chickens from \$1.00 to \$1.50. A good horse is worth \$600 or \$700. Direct your letters as you have all the time. I hope and trust to God that I will get to see you one more time on earth, but if I don't, I hope to meet you in that happy land where parting will be no more. May God bless us all, and hear and answer our prayers and save us all in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Give my best respects to your father and mother. Tell them to pray for me.

Tell little Sarah Jane howdy for me. So no more at present. So fare well my dear, if I never see you on earth any more.

Letter # 24

June 27, 1863
State of Virginia
Gordan [Gordon] Springs Hospital

Dear Wife,

I am blessed one more time to take my pen in hand to let you know I am yet on the land of the living, but is not stout. I am hardy enough, but have the rheumatic pains in my legs and ankles so I can hardly walk. I wrote you a letter the 23 and left the regiment on the same evening. This is a new hospital, not fur from Winchester in the valley of Virginia where we was last year. This is a very perty place and I think a very healthy place. There is a great many people here. I reckon about 800. I do not know how long I will stay here. They are transferring some to other hospitals and I may be transferred somewhere else and I may be sent to my regiment before long. Most all of or army is in Maryland and Pennsylvania. I have not had a letter from you since I left Fredericksburg. You don't know how glad I would be to hear from you, but would be much gladder to see your sweet smiling face. Sometimes I feel to hope that I will get to come home. Sometimes I don't know whether I will get to come home on the count of having the rheumatism or not. I had rather have them and be at some good place than to be marching and fighting. I hope that God will remember me in his loving mercy and spare my life to get home one more time to see you and my two little children [Columbus and Sidney Barlow] and little Jane [Barlow] and Ben [Barlow] and all my connection. Elizabeth, God bless you sweet heart. I hope you are a Christian and hope your prayers had been heard and answered in my behalf and I want you to continue to pray for me and try to live a Christian and if we meet on earth no more, I want to meet you in Heaven where parting will be no more. Times is some better here that they was last Spring. Butter can be got for a dollar a pound, honey the same price. A good horse is worth 6 or 7 or 8 hundred dollars. I suppose a good milk cow is worth 2 to 3 hundred dollars. I can say to you that I have 45 dollars by me now. Tell William [L. Barlow] and Ben to be smart boys and do the best they can and I will send them some money the first chance I have. Tell Horton Barlow to the best he can for me and take care of all my things. Give my best respects to your father and mother. Tell them to pray for me. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this. Direct your letter to Gordan [Gor-

don] Springs General Hospital, Va. So I will come to a close. May God love us all and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake. Elizabeth, don't forget to pray. So fare well my dear wife.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 25

December 9, 1863
State of Virginia
Camp near Liberty Mills

My dearly beloved Wife,

It is thru the good and loving mercy of God that I am permitted one more time to take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well as common as to health, but one of my legs hurts me a good deal since I took that march, but I look as well as you most ever saw me. I hope and trust to God that these few lines may reach you and find you all well. I can say to you that I have wrote you 3 or 4 letters, T. Livingston one, and one to your father and Wilburn [German], one to Edmon Tilley, and has got no answer yet. You don't know how bad I want to see you all. I do want to see my sweet little children so bad. I want you to write to me if Sidney is as smart as he was when I was at home. I saw Cousin Thomas Winkler the other day and saw a letter from his mother that stated that the sale was over, all but the land. It stated that the property bounty, nearly five hundred dollars. The land will bring a good deal. I want Father or Wilburn to see Edwin Brown and get what money is coming to me for what is sold. I want you to send me something good to eat if you have any chance. I have wrote a heap to you and I hope you have reserved them. If I knew you had not I could write you a heap more in this letter. I can say to you that I have a heap of friends in the regiment. I write a good deal for the boys and they let me read their love letters and they love to hear me sing perty songs. I enjoy myself a great deal better than I did before. Sometimes I feel to hope thru the good mercy of God that I will get to come home sometime and give you all my hand in love, one more time on earth and I want you to take good care of everything and be a good girl and if God will permit me to get back home, you don't know how good I will love you. Tell William [L. Barlow] and Benjamin and Jane to be good children and try to prepare to meet their God in peace while they have time and opportunity. Tell Cousin Horton Barlow and his family to do the best they can in all things. Tell your father and mother to not forget to pray for me, a poor, desolate soldier away here in Virginia without father or mother, brothers or sisters. I do hope and trust to God that you all will pray for me while you live. I hope I shall be a good boy while I stay on earth, and when I leave this wicked world I hope to go home to that happy land of rest where I shall meet all my Christian friends to part no more. May God love us all and save us in Heaven, is my prayer for Christ's sake. So fare the well my sweet and loving wife. May God bless your sweet soul and body.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 26

December 26th, 1863
State of Virginia
Camps near Liberty Mills

My dearly beloved Wife,

I am blest thru the mercy of God to take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hearty and I feil to thank God in the highest for such a glorious blessing. I am strong and feels better than I ever expected to feel when I left home. I hope and trust to God that these few lines will reach you, and find you all well and doing well. I can say to you that I have not had but one letter from you since I left home. You don't know how glad I would be to hear from you, but much gladder to see you all. I can say to you that I have seen one more Christmas Day pass by, but it was no more to me than any other day. I had nothing good to eat nor drink, but hope you seede a good Christmas. I was on picket the day before Christmas, and on guard today. We see hard times here now, standing guard in the cold. It is very cold weather here now. We have had one little snow and one sleet and it looks like it will snow soon again. I have no news particular to give you at present more that hard times, and I fear worse a coming. I would be glad to get something good to eat from home if I could, but if there is no chance, I must do the best I can. I don't get as much to eat as I want unless I buy it; and everything here is so high. I try to spend as little money as I can to not suffer and has nothing to eat sometimes but bread at that. I make some money sometimes. I made 50cts. today in about one hour sowing for a man in my company. I have 46 dollars by me now, and will draw more before long. I will send some home the first chance I have. My good wife, I want you to be smart, and do the best you can, and keep yourself in good credit so if God will bless me to spare my life to get home again, I want to give you my hand in love and friendship, to live with you in peace. It will break my heart to hear that you was a bad girl. I do think so much of you. You don't know how well I do love you sweet soul and body and for God's sake don't do anything to hurt my feelings with you. I have learnt a heap since I saw you. I don't want you to let Jane tote as heavy loads as she did when I was at home, for if she does, she will ruin her constitution, so she will never get over it. You don't know how bad I want to see my smart little boy. God knows my heart. I do want to see you all and live with you what time I have to stay in this wicked world. I oft'times try to pray for you. I love you better now than I did when we was married, if such a thing could be. I have wrote your father 2, and Wilburn 2, and E. [Edmond] Tilley one, and Uncle Larkin Barlow one, and has never got but one. I hope you have got all I sent to you. You don't know how well I look at this time. I am fat and red as a rose, and has got the pertiest set of whiskers of any man in the 18th Reg. that's give up by all. I have a heap of friends. I keep myself neat and clean and is smart and the boys love to hear me sing perty songs and I write a heap for them and am such a nice man, it is MR. Barlow with everybody, and I thank God in the highest that I am a man of respectability. I hope and trust to God that I shall meet you on earth again, but God only knows, the months and years are passing by and soon must all be gone for day by day minutes fly, Eternity come on. I want you to write and give me all the news. So fare well my dear wife.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 27

State of Virginia,
Camp near Liberty Mills
January 2, 1864

My dear Wife

I am permitted thru the good mercy of God to take my pen in hand one more time to let you know that I am well and hardy and I hope and trust to God that these few lines may reach you and find you all well and in your proper place for which each heart should rejoice to God for such a blessing. I can inform you that I received your loving letter last night and was glad to hear that you was all well and doing well. I was glad to hear that you had sold the mule. I want you to write when you sold it. I want you and Horton [Barlow] to keep my two mares if you can. I want you to take good care of everything you have for I am afraid there is a great many that will suffer bad before there is anything more. We don't get but very little to eat here unless we buy it. Everything is so high and hard to get that we will be bound to suffer. I want you to send me some butter if you can get it. 2 or 3 pounds and a sholder of meat if you can send it by anyone that you think won't fetch it to me. If you send anything by Mack or Solomon Keller tell them to come to my regiment first for it is this side of them.



Larkin Barlow and Nancy Humphries Barlow, an uncle and aunt of William Rufus Barlow. Larkin Barlow served in Company F, 5th Regiment N.C. Senior Reserves. Photo courtesy Jerry Dagenhart

It is close the road that leads from Gordons Ville. I went to Gordons Ville yesterday to get my likeness taken to send home, but I could not get it taken, but I will as soon as I can, if I live. I want you to find me some dried fruit. It is a hard matter to get a box along now. If Father takes a notion to come out here, he can fetch enough in a sack and be with it all the time. He need not come if he don't want to for it would be a very tiresome trip for him to take and you can send me what you can by such people as you think will bring it to me. If Father was to come and bring me Brandy, I could get 75 and 80 dollars a gallon for it and I could get 3 or 4 dollars a dozen for such apples as you have. I have to live many a day on bread, and buy it as that if I have it. They have reduced out rations to half a pound of pore beef a day and one pound of flour, and some days we get nothing. We see hard times but there is a day coming when I hope I shall live happy and fit on the hidden money of God's love to be free thru all Eternity. I will send you some money the first chance I have. I have \$40 by me now and some owing to me and I expect to draw more shortly. I don't want you to sell anything for confederate money if you can help it for I will try to send you as much of that sort of money as you will need to pay you tax and buy such things as you need. If you have anything to spare sell it for such money as Father will take, for I want to pay him as soon as I can. My dear Wife, I feel happy to think that I have such a smart companion at home and such a smart little son. I do want to see you all so bad sometimes I feel to hope that I will be blessed to come home again and live with you many days. I am as well and feels as stout as I ever was. I thank God that I have live to see one more year pass by and a new one coming. Lets all try to serve God with all our hearts thru this year. I oft times think of you all and tried to pray for you every day and night and I hope you will be a good girl and meet me in Heaven if we meet on earth no more, so fare well my Love. God be with us all I pray.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 28

State of Va.
Camps near Liberty Mills
January 17, 1864

Dearly Beloved Wife,

I thank God that I am permitted this blessed Sabbath day to take me pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hearty, truly hoping these few lines will reach you and find you all well, and doing the same way. I feel to thank God that his loving mercy and kind protection has followed me all the days of my life down to this present time. I feel as well as I most ever did, and looks well. I did not think when I left home that I should ever feel as well as I do. I have great reason to thank God for his great love and protection towards me. I want you to help me to thank God for all his benefits. I can say to you that I received your good letter last night, and was truly glad to to hear that you was all well. I also received some provisions by Thomas M. Barlow and Uncle Hubb German. They come yesterday, and I was gone out in the country to buy some provision and did not see them. I and R. B. Anders [Andrews] went to the 26 regiment [26th Regiment N. C. Troops] last week, and stayed all night, and I saw a great many of my old neighbors and friends, and I told Hubbard [German] when Thomas [M. Barlow] come, for him and Thomas to come up and see me, but I was gone. They brung me a ham of pork, and some sausage and dried fruit and some honey and cornbread and some sweet bread, but it was all broke up but two cakes, and they give them to Harrison Davis and some biscakes. You wrote that you sent me two dozen green apples and Irish potatoes, but I did not get them. I will see Mack in a few days and know what he done with them. If he eat them, it is alright. I was glad to get what I did and I want you to send me more dried fruit if you have the chance, for I can bake pies out of them and make money at it. Me and R.B. Anders [Andrews] bought \$40.00 worth of tobacco and has sold it most all out and made money on it, and I go out in the country and buys up provision and sells it. I am making money perty fast. I want you to take good care of your corn and meat and to put it where nobody can steel it. I am afraid they will steel what you have. When William [L. Barlow] leaves, you try to do the best you can. I was so sorry when I heard that Thomas [M. Barlow] was married. I thought he had more sense. You don't know how it hurts me to think of it. Elizabeth, you are thought a heap of by your neighbors, and I am proud to think that I have a wife of respectability, and for your sake and for my sake and for my sweet little sons sake, don't throw yourself away and don't keep any company about you in bad credit, for I would not have my feelings hurt with you for all this world. Try to live a Christian, and think of me away here in this world of trouble and pray for me. I oft'times think of you and think how happy we could live together, if it was not for this war. I must close for I am on guard today. May the good Lord be with us while we stay on earth and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 29

January 29th, 1864

My Dearly Beloved Wife,

I thank God that I am well today. I can inform you that we are under marching orders, and is cooking up rations now, but I hope we will not have to leave. It is very perty weather now. It is like spring of the year. People is plowing here and it is very warm. I can say to you that I send you \$75, by John Hagler, and I send you one \$20 bill, and five ten dollar bills, and three five dollar bills, all new money; and ten dollars is Uncle Larkin Barlows. Seventy five dollars is your money and ten dollars is Larkin Barlows. All makes eighty-five dollars. \$75 is yours and ten dollars Larkin Barlow. I want you to send and get it as soon as you get this. And if you ha'nt sent nothing by Solomon Keller, send me a peck of dried fruit by [John] Hagler. These few lines may be the last that I shall ever be permitted to give you, so pray for me with all your heart, and try to meet me in the happy world above. May God bless us all, and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake. So remember well and bear in mind, a trusty friend is hard to find. So fare well my Love.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

(on outside of envelope)
For'd this in haste

Mrs. Elizabeth Barlow
By the hand of
John Hagler
Kings Creek

Letter # 30

January 30th, 1864

My Loving Wife,

It is thru the good and tender mercy of God that I am permitted to take my pen in hand one more time to inform you that I am well and stout and fat, and perty as a pink and I truly hope those few lines will reach you and find you all well and all of the connection and friends. I can say to you that I just wrote you a letter yesterday and sent it by John Hagler. He started today and I sent you \$75.00 and Uncle Larkin Barlow, \$10.00. I have not drawn by \$58.00 since I left home. I have traded and made a heap of money since I left home. I have spent a good deal. I have over \$30.00 in money and tobacco now and I have all the honey you sent me and nearly all the meat. I am too smart to be idle. We had orders yesterday to cook up rations, but we havn't gone yet and I hope we will not have to go till Spring. As soon as you hear that John Hagler is at home, I want you to send up William [L. Barlow] or Horton [Barlow] to get the money, and take me some dried fruit and he will bring it to me. He took \$75.00 for R. B. Anders [Andrews], and when you send for yours, get his to keep it till James Anders [Andrews] comes or sends for it. I paid Mack about \$3.00 for bringing that sack for me. I want you to buy Benjamin some cheap tobacco, and give it to him as he needs it. Tell him to be a good boy, and make all the corn he can and I will pay him next fall if I live. I want you all to do well. I want you to try to learn Jane to love her Book and serve God. If I never see you on earth any more, I want you to meet me on the other side of Jordan where God will wipe all tears from our eyes and where we will see no more trouble. So fare well my love. May God smile on us all I pray.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow, my good friend

Letter # 31

February 10th, 1864
Camps of the 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My dearly beloved Wife,

It is thru the good and tender mercy of God that I am permitted to take my pen in hand one more time to inform you that I am well, and feels as stout as I most ever did. I have never been to the Doctor since I left home. I truly hope to God that these few lines well reach your living hand and find you all well. I received your kind letter the 6th of this instant, dated January 29th and was truly glad to hear from you tho I was sorry to hear that you was not well. But I hope to God that you are well at this time. I can say to you that there was a little fight with our men and the Yanks down the river below us on 7th of this instant. We left camp at 2 o'clock and started

to meet them. But they was gone, and we got back to camp sometime after night, very tired. I hope to God that they will let us alone this winter. I can say to you that I sent Wilburn German a letter and sent Marshal [Columbus M. Barlow] and Mother and the girls 50 cents apiece in it. I sent you \$75 by John Hagler and Larkin Barlow \$10. I will send you some more of the pertiest money you ever saw, the first chance. I want Benjamin to be a plowing, every good spell of weather till he gets what ground you are going to tend broke. I want him to be a smart boy, and make all the corn he can and I will pay him for it. I want you to buy his tobacco, and give it to him as he needs I want you to try to not let Jane and Sidney learn to use it. If they keep on furloughing till Spring, I hope I will get to come home. You don't know how glad I would be to see you all. I oft times think of you all, away in North Carolina, and longs to see the day when I can meet you and give you my hand one more time this side of the grave, my Love. I oft times pray for you and my little children. I hope you will not let no one deceive you to cause you to do anything wrong. I want you to live a Christian and try to meet me in Heaven where we will meet our friends that's gone before us. So fare will.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 32

February 15th, 1864

Camp of 18th N.C.T. near Liberty Mills, Va.

My darling beloved wife,

It is thru the good & tender mercy of God that I take my pen in hand one more time to let you know that I am well and hearty and feels so much better & stouter than I did when I was at home. I hope and trust to God that these few lines will reach your loving hand and find you all well. I can say to you that I received your kind letter 13th of this instant beginning date February 5th and was truly glad to hear from you. All I have exciting new at present to write you I was glad to hear that Brother Thomas [W. Barlow] was at home. I would be glad to come home and stay with you and my little children. It would be so much satisfaction to me to live with such a smart and perty wife and sweet little child, but it will soon be spring of the year and in all probability will have to go to fighting and God only knows whether I shall ever get to see your loving face anymore this side of the grave. I was at church a Saturday night and heard a good sermon preached. I oft times look around to see your loving face, but you was not there. I oft times thought of old Kings Creek [Baptist Church], how I used to go there and try to serve God. I oft times try to pray for you and all my neighbors and connection. My sweet wife, I want you to do the best you can and try to not get fretted at everything. I know it is hard to get along without getting fretted, but we must pray to God to help us to bear all things with patience. You must not indulge Mack's wife in her laziness. I do hate it so bad that Mack was persuaded in such a snare. I think her and Louisa [Barlow] took Mack with a snap judgement to get something from the government and to get what money Mack gets. You don't know how I hate it. I would be glad if all my connections would do well. I am thought a sight of in the regiment. The boys gets me to write their love letters. They say I am such a good hand. I did not get the letter you wrote to me some time age. I don't want you to hire out my mare to everybody. I want you to be saving with everything you have. There is a great many people that would sponge on you till the last thing you had was gone and then not thank you for it. You must not forget number one. You are all the dependents I have to take care of. What I have worked for I may never live to need anything that I have left behind, but I love you and my little children and the little orphaned children that I have partly raised and I want you all to do well and have a plenty to eat while you live in this wicked world, and try to love God and not forget your friend away here in this world of dangers and on this land of trouble. Elizabeth, I do think so much of you and hope and pray to God that you will never be found in the path of disgrace. I will say to you that C. H. Davis is getting better. I have not heard from Mack and Uncle Hubbard [German] in two weeks. I was sorry to hear that Elihu Beaches wife [Sarah Beach] was dead. It is a distressing circumstance, but we must all die and we do not know when, so for God's sake lets all try to be prepared. If I never see you on earth any more, I want to meet you and my little babies beyond this vale of tears.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 33

February [date illegible], 1864

A few lines to W. L. Barlow

My favorite and beloved nephew,

I would be glad to see you and talk with you, but God only knows whether I shall ever see you on earth any more or not. But I hope and trust to God that I shall. I am sorry to think that you will have to come in this troublesome war. I don't know what will be the best for you to do, whether to buy you a horse or not. I am afraid we can't get bread to eat next summer, let alone feed horses. It would be the best for you if you could get feed for a horse. You must do the best you can and the way you think best. I want you to stay with my family as long as you can, and try to learn to read and write as soon as you can. There is a good many in my company that is trying to write and is learning very fast. You can learn if you try, and I want you and Benjamin and Jane to learn all you can and be smart children and try to serve God while you are young.

Wm. R. Barlow to W. L. Barlow

Letter # 34

February 22nd, 1864

Camp of 18th N.C.T.

Near Liberty Mills, Va.

To Wm. L. Barlow, my dear relative,

I take my pen in hand to let you know I am well and hardy and hope these few lines will reach you to find you well. Elizabeth wrote to me that you had sold your mare and wanted to come to this regiment. I can say to you that is as good a one as you could get. Too, I have not drilled as much as 4 hours since I got back. If you come to this regiment, I can get a 30 day furlough, but can't get it till you come to join the company. And if you come, I want you to come as soon as you can get ready. It may be that order will be killed after a while and it would be better for you to get used to the camp before we had to leave. I can say to you that there has been a big meeting going on in sight of our camps all days and is still going on. There is a good many joining the Church. I have been 8 nights and one day and to baptizing one day. We are going to build a church house in our ridg [regiment.] I recon this is the best regiment in service, but all bad enough. I want you to get papers from some officer if you can so you can get transportation and if you can't come to Salesbury [Salisbury, N. C.] and tell them you are coming as a recruit to the 18 Regiment and you can't come unless they give you transportation. Tell them you can't pay your way and I think you can get it. I want you to come if you have to pay your way. I think you can come free.

Wm. R. Barlow to Wm. L. Barlow

Letter # 35

February 22nd, 1864
Camps of the 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My well beloved Wife,

I thank God for one more opportunity of dripping you a few lines to let you know that I am well. Truly hoping these few lines will reach you and find you all well for which each heart should be thankful to God for his great love and protection. I have no particular news to give you more that I have wrote to Wilburn. We have had some of as cold weather as I most ever saw. If there is any person at home that is coming out here in a week or two, tell William [L. Barlow] to come with them. I think he can get a free transportation if he will manage right. Tell him to not bring but one suit of clothes. He need not bring any blanket with him unless he wants to. I want him to come to the Hickory Station [present day Hickory, N. C.] to take the cars and not to go to the head of the road. I want him to come right here. When he starts, I want you to write to me what day he is going to start and I will go to Gordansville to meet him and if I am not there he must take the left hand road that lead to Liberty Mills and he will find our camps, close to the road, 7 miles from Gordansville. Tell James German not to leave till I come. If he ain't obliged to, tell William if he starts with any money to be careful and not let any person steal it. I do want to come home very bad to see you all this Spring. I hope God will smile on me and cause me to come. I don't expect to get a furlough unless William does come here as a recruit. I want you to have Benjamin a plowing whenever it is good weather. I want him to be a smart boy till I come home and I will do something for him. I got your letter and dried fruit you sent by John Hagler and was glad to hear from you. So write soon and direct your letters to 18 N.C.T. Co. B Army of Northern Va. So fare well my dear. I hope God will spare our lives to meet again on earth, if not to meet in Heaven.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 36

March 6th, 1864
Camps of 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My Well Beloved Wife,

I thank God this blessed Sabbath day that I have one more opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am tolerable well. I have had a very severe pain in my side for the last week, but it is better. We started on a march the first day of this month and got back the 2 day, and it rained and sleeted and snowed and we suffered a sight with colds. But we had no fight and thank God for it. I hope these few lines will reach you and find you all well. The Yankees tore up the railroad this side of Richmond and we got no mail for several days. I was in hopes of getting a letter from you last week but I failed. I am looking for William [L. Barlow] now perty soon. I do want to go home so bad. I want him to come as soon as he can, so I can get to come and see you all one more time. If he comes as a recruit, I can get 30 days furlough. If you have any money in bills over 5 dollars, you must change it off or invest it into bonds by the 1 of April or you will have to loose 33 ¼ cents in the dollar. I have just got back from preaching and heard a good sermon and took the Sacrament. It begins to look like Spring of the year. The little frogs is so many and the birds sings so sweet. If I was a free man at home it would fill my soul with joy. I want Benjamin and Horton [Barlow] to do the best they can and try to get ready to plant corn as soon as they can. I want them to make all the corn they can. Tell Benjamin to be smart and if I come home I will bring him something. I have made a good deal on money this winter. I have 50 or 60 dollars by me now. I do want to see this cruel and unjust war to close. Uncle Hubbard [German] and Mack and C. H. Davis is well as far as I know. I oft times try to pray for you all away in old North Carolina and I want you all to pray for me. I want to meet you all in that happy world above, where we will see no more sorrow. I hope God will save us all in Heaven without the loss of one so remember well and bear in mind a trusty

friend is hard to find. So farewell, my Love. Take care of my little Babe.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 37

**Editor's Note: mid-March 1864*

My Loving Wife,

If you send me anything by Thomas M. [Barlow] and Jack Hall or anybody else, give them a few lines so they will know where I am. Tell them to take the road from Gordansville to Liberty Mills. And our regiment is near the road in 7 miles of Gordansville and in one mile of the mills. Try to get me 3 or 4 pounds of butter and a shoulder of meat, and some dried fruit and apples. Tell all my friends to pray for me for I want to get to that happy world where I shall see no more trouble. I hope you are a Christian and I want you when you lie down on your warm bed to think of me, and pray that I may get home again to sleep with you again. We have some of as cold weather as I ever saw now. So I must close. May God bless us all, and save us all in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 38

March 24th 1864

Camp of 18th N.C.T.

Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My Well Beloved Wife,

I this day by the help of God take my pen in my weak and trembling hand to inform you that I am alive, but very low. I have been very sick ever since last Saturday was a week. I went down to 26 Regiment [26th Regiment N. C. Troops] and have not been well for some time before. I was taken with a pain in my left side. It is the pneumonia or the side pleurisy, I know not which. I have eat, but very little for 13 days. I have got very weak. I feel a little better today but I feel so weak I feel like I could hardly sit up long enough to finish these few lines. It snowed here 22 of this month 10 or 12 inches deep. My loving Wife, don't be uneasy when you get this letter. You know we must all die, and in the world forgotten lie. If it was God's will I would love to live with you and my two little babies and try to raise them to love God and think upon his name. But when it is God's will to take me from this wicked world, I want to be ready to go with him and if he leaves my body away here in Virginia, I hope he will take my soul to Heaven. I can never come to you, but you con come to me. Elizabeth. Tho my name may be forgotten, by you, let these words never be forgotten and that is to try to live a Christian and teach my little children and every body else to love God and meet me in that happy land where all our sorrows will be dim. My eyes has been filled with tears and my cheeks wet, but I hope when I leave this wicked world that Christ will wipe all tears from my eyes. Elizabeth, if I never see your sweet face again this side of the grave, I have that confidence in you that I shall give you my hand on the other side of Jordan and bid you welcome in that land of everlasting rest. So fare well to you all.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 39

April 1th 1864
Camps of 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My Well Beloved Wife,

I am permitted to take my pen in hand one more time to let you know that I am yet alive but very low. I think I am a little better than I was last week when I wrote to you. I have not eat but very little in over two weeks and I am getting very weak. I can't eat anything but a little milk and bread. I heard this morning that James Gilbert brought me something from home. I sent a few lines down to 26th [26th Regiment N. C. Troops] for some of my friends to bring it to me. I have not eat anything William [L. Barlow] brought yet. I can't tell whether Mack has gone home yet or not. I wanted him to take some things home for me but I expect he has gone home. I hear times is getting very hard in some parts of N.C. in some counties. They are weighing out their meat and measuring out their corn and only leaving them half rations. These may be the last few lines I shall ever be permitted to write to you, and if it should be the case, I want you to try to make enough to eat and I want you to hide it and try to keep a plenty. The people is getting so mean I can't tell what will become of this world. Elizabeth, I have thought of you and my two little babies and all my friends so often since I have been sick that my cheeks has been wet with tears time after time. I prayed to God one Sunday night to show me what condition I was in and I went to the pertiest place I ever saw in all my life. Elizabeth, I want you and my little children and all my friends to go with me to that perty place. You know not how well I love you. I hope you will never throw your endurable happiness away for a few days or hours pleasure on earth. We must all die and go to Judgement, and if I never see you on earth any more, I want to meet you where sorrow will never come. So fare well.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 40

April 7th 1864
Camp of 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va

My well Beloved and Handsome Wife,

I am permitted thru the loving mercy of God to take my pen in hand one more time to inform you that I am yet alive but not well. I think I am getting some better tho I feel very bad to say I have had a very bad spell of Pneumonia fever but I hope I will get well sometime. If I don't, I hope I shall be better off than I am here in this wicked world. I hope and trust to God that these few lines will reach your loving hand to find you all well. I can say to you that James Gilbert come up to see me a Sunday and brung me some butter which I was very glad to get tho I hav eat but little since I've been sick. I have a heap of good friends that done what they can for me. There is a old citizen lives close our camp that thinks a heap of me. He lets me have a heap of things to eat. I saw a letter that Miss Andrus wrote to R. B. Andrus [Andrews] that some person come and stole all the bacon she had. Elizabeth, I want you to put your bacon and corn where you think it will be safe. I would hate to hear that some person had stoled everything you had. The people is getting very mean. I hope and trust to God that you will have good luck and do well. I don't want you to put all your mind on the things of this earth that will soon perish and be no more. I want you to put your trust in God who is able to bless you in this life and in the life to come. The most trouble I see is that I have not served God as I ought to have done. Oh, may God help me to serve him with all my heart while in this wicked world I stay. Elizabeth, you don't know how bad I want to get to that happy land of rest where there will no more sorrow cross my breast, but where I will be with Christ thru all the long time of Eternity. Elizabeth, don't be uneasy about me, for if God calls me away I want to

be ready to go with him to that perty place that I saw one night. I want you to try to live a Christian and meet me in Heaven to live with God forever. I hope you are a Christian and I want you to pray for me as long as I stay in this world of sorrow. I often think of you and Jane and my perty little black-eyed boy. God bless his little soul I pray forever. I oft times think of you all with my cheeks wet with tears. Elizabeth, tell your father and mother how well I love them. Tell them not to forget to pray for an unworthy child away here in Northern Va. Exposed to all the dangers of this wicked world. So I must close. May God love us all and save us in Heaven.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 41

April 14th 1864
Camp of 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My Well Beloved Wife,

I feel to thank God today for one more opportunity of dripping you a few lines to inform you that I am yet a moving object upon the earth. I hope and trust to God that I'll be well in a short time. I am getting so I can go about right smart. I saw two men shot to death yesterday for going home. It is a awful site to see indeed. I hope and trust to God that these few lines will reach you and find you all well. I can say to you that Uncle Hubbard [German] come up to see me a Sunday and stayed all night with me. He was well. He said that William L. Barlow was very sick that day. I have not heard from him since. Harrison Davis is tolerable well. My loving Wife I oft times think of your sweet face and oft times tries to pray for my little family and all the world. You know how well I want to see you and my perty little black-eyed boy. It may be that I shall never see you all any more this side of the grave, but I hope and trust that you'l all be prepared to meet me on that happy shore where parting will be no more. Elizabeth, I do think so much of you. I hope you will try to meet me in Heaven that happy home where we will live together thru all the long time of Eternity. I have had no letter from you since George Keller come back. Write to me as often as you can and give me all the news. God bless us all and save us in Heaven for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 42

May 4th A D 1864
Camp of 18th N.C.T.
Near Liberty Mills, Va.

My Well Beloved Wife,

I am permitted thru the loving mercies of God to drop you a few lines which will inform you that I am about, but not very well today. I hope these few lines will reach you and find you all well. I can say to you that I received two letters from you the other day. One from Lewis Holder and one by William Hamby. Lewis Holder come up the other day and brung me two letters and a piece of meat that William Hamby brung. I was truly glad to hear from you that you was all well, but sorry to hear that you lost your bacon and truly sorry to hear that Benjamin was such a bad boy. I think you had better take all the corn out of the crib and put it upstairs. I did not expect to hear anything better than you would lose something. The people has got so mean. I was sorry

that I did not get the chickens and things that you sent by Mack, but I can do without them.

May 6

Elizabeth, I can say to you that we left camp before I got done writing this letter. I can say to you that I am well, and has been in a big fight and is in a line of battle this evening, and I am afraid we will have it again tomorrow. We have fighting for two days and we would a been compelled to a give back this morning if Longstreet [Gen. James Longstreet] had not a come in when he did. I helped take 100 and 42 Yankees yesterday. There has been a good many of our company wounded, but none killed as I know of. I got on my knees and shot, and prayed to God for protection. R. B. Andrus [Andrews] got wounded [he would die May 17, 1864 of a gunshot wound.] It has been a powerful fight and God only knows how much worse it will be. I want you to pray for me and help be to thank god for his great love and mercy. I will write to you as soon as I can, if I live. It is getting dark and I must close, so fare well my dear. God bless you I pray and my sweet little child.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

**Editor's Note: The 18th Regiment N. C. Troops took part in the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864.*

Letter # 43

May 8th, 1864

We are in a line of battle this morning. I am near about wore out. We expects to have a big fight today. If I never see you again, I want you to do well. Pray for me while you live. I hope I shall get to Heaven when I die and I want to meet you there. So fare well my dear.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

**Editor's Note: William Rufus Barlow was captured at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864 and sent to Point Lookout Prison, after which he was transferred to Elmira Prison, Elmira, New York on August 3, 1864.*

Letter # 44

June 6th A D 1864

State of Maryland

Point Lookout [Confederate Prisoner of War Camp]

Elizabeth, my Well Beloved Wife,

I can inform you that I am well and hardy and is faring very well and I thank God for his loving mercies towards me. I can say to you that Enoch Beach is here and H. Davis and William Haglar and George Walker and A. Ferguson. I want you to do the best you can in all things. I hope I shall see you again on earth. I want you to serve God and pray for me while you live. You know not how bad I want to see you and my two little children. God bless you all and protect you from all harm. Direct your letters to Maryland Prisoner Camp, Point Lookout. Don't forget to write. Give my best respects to all my friends. May the good Lord bless us all and save us in Heaven is my prayer for Christ's sake.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow

Letter # 45

January 1, 1865
Prisoner Camp
Elmira, N.Y. [Elmira Prisoner of War Camp]

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am yet alive and faring as well as I could expect and I feel to thank God that I am doing as well as I am. I hope these few lines will reach you and find you all well. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this, as I have not heard from you since last April. I have wrote to you 4 or 5 times, but has got no answer. I can say to you that Alan Ferguson and James Baird, and William Haglar, and John Haglar is all dead. I feel to thank God that I have lived to see one more Christmas and New Year. I hope I shall live to meet you all on earth again, if not, to meet you in Heaven. Pray for me, and let's all live in the service of God. So no more. Direct your letters to Prisoner Camp, Elmira, N.Y., c/o Major Beall.

Wm. R. Barlow to Elizabeth Barlow, Kings Creek Post Office, Caldwell Co.

**Editor's Note: William Rufus Barlow died at Elmira on January 31, 1865. This apparently was his last letter to his wife.*

Biographical Index

The index provides brief sketches of the various individuals and places mentioned within the Barlow letters.

All military service record information is taken from Louis H. Manarin, Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., Matthew W. Brown, and Michael W. Coffey, comps., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, 18 vols. to date (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1966 -) vols. II, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XIV, and XVIII.

Also provided at the end of each entry is a letter number showing what specific letters people or places are mentioned. This index does not include the following individuals as they are mentioned in just about all of the letters:

Barlow Family:

Elizabeth G. Barlow (William R. Barlow's second wife)

Columbus M. Barlow (son of William R. and his first wife, Mary Ann G. Barlow)

Sidney S. Barlow (William R. and Elizabeth Barlow's infant son)

Benjamin H. Barlow (son of John O. C. and Susan Barlow)

Sarah Jane Barlow (daughter of John O. C. and Susan Barlow)

John O. C. Barlow (half-brother of William R. Barlow & father of Ben and Sarah Barlow)

Susan Hollar Barlow (wife of John O. C. Barlow & mother of Ben and Sarah Barlow)

Lydia Winkler Barlow (mother of William R. Barlow)

German Family:

James German (father of Elizabeth G. Barlow/second father-in-law of William R. Barlow)

Nancy German (mother of Elizabeth G. Barlow/second mother-in-law of William R. Barlow)

Wilburn German (first father-in-law of William R. Barlow).

18th Regiment N. C. Troops. This command was organized on August 20, 1861, at Camp Wyatt, near Wilmington, N. C. In early 1862 it was placed in the Branch-Lane Brigade (7th Regiment N.C. State Troops; 18th, 28th, 33rd, and 37th Regiments N.C. Troops) of the Hill-Pender-Wilcox Division and remained in that brigade throughout the war.

22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. On April 30, 1861, the "Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys" organized at Lenoir. They were designated as Company A of this regiment upon organization in July 1861. The regiment served with the Pender-Scales Brigade (13th, 16th, 22nd, 34th, and 38th Regiments N.C. Troops) of the Hill-Pender-Wilcox Division throughout the war. William Rufus Barlow had many relatives and friends that served in this regiment.

23rd Regiment N. C. Troops. This regiment was organized July 12, 1861, at Garysburg, Northampton County. By 1862 it was part of the Garland-Iverson-Johnston-Toon Brigade (5th Regiment N.C. State Troops; 12th, 20th, and 23rd Regiments N.C. Troops), and served with that command for the remainder of the war. Letter 7.

26th Regiment N. C. Troops. This regiment was organized on August 27, 1861 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Three of the ten companies were raised in Caldwell and Wilkes counties. The "Hibriten Guards" and the

“Caldwell Guards” were formed in Caldwell County in July 1861. They became Company’s F and I of the 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. Wilkes County provided the “Wilkes Volunteers,” which would become Company C of the 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. William Rufus Barlow had numerous relatives and friends in this regiment. Letters 4, 28, 38, and 39.

Andrews (Anders), Elbert W. (1831 – May 3, 1863). A native of Caldwell County, he resided in Stanly County when he enlisted in Company D, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops, on September 6, 1862. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863. Letter 7.

Andrews (Anders), James. Caldwell County resident and neighbor of William R. Barlow. Letter 30.

Andrews (Anders), Robert B. Was conscripted and reported to Camp Hill, Iredell County, on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and was present or accounted for until captured at Hagerstown, Maryland, June 28, 1863, and confined at Fort Delaware, Delaware, until paroled and transferred to City Point, Virginia, where he was received for exchange. He returned to duty between September 1863, and February 1864. Andrews was present or accounted for until he died in hospital at Staunton, Virginia, May 17, 1864, of a gunshot wound, probably sustained at either Wilderness or Spotsylvania Court House. Letters 28, 30, 40, and 42.

Baird, James H. A thirty-one year old resident of Caldwell County who was conscripted and reported to Camp Hill, Iredell County, on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company C, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops, and was present or accounted for until captured at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, on May 12, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until transferred to Elmira, New York, where he died on August 28, 1864. He is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, New York, Grave # 50. Letter 45.

Barlow, Benjamin H. (born ca. 1848). He was the son of John O. C. and Susan Hollar Barlow. His mother either died at the birth of his sister, Sarah Jane or shortly thereafter (ca. 1855). Benjamin lived with his half-uncle, William Rufus Barlow, following his father’s death in 1862.

Barlow, Columbus Marshall (born ca. 1860). He was the son of William Rufus and his first wife, Mary Ann German Barlow. Following the war and his father’s death, Columbus lived with his maternal grandfather, Wilburn German.

Barlow, Elizabeth German (August 14, 1840 – August 27, 1914). Lizzie, as she was called by family members, was the daughter of James and Nancy German and the second wife of William Rufus Barlow. Elizabeth was the mother of Sidney Stokes Barlow and a first cousin of William’s first wife, Mary Ann German Barlow.

Barlow, H. Harrison (March 25, 1840 – July 10, 1864). The son of Braxton and Charlotte Barlow and a resident of Wilkes County, Harrison enlisted, in Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops, at Camp Holmes on September 21, 1862. He was present or accounted for until wounded in the right ankle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1863. He returned to duty on an unspecified date and was wounded at or near Cold Harbor, Virginia, on June 2, 1864. He died of his wounds in Wilkesboro on July 10, 1864. He was a brother of Thomas Martin LeRoy Barlow (Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops), Larkin C. Barlow (Company F, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops), and John B. Barlow (Company F, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops.) Letter 22.

Barlow, Horton (January 25, 1824 – January 10, 1887). A resident of Caldwell County and son of Parrish and Mary Land Barlow, Horton apparently did not serve in the war. He was a brother of Hamilton and cousin of William Rufus Barlow. He married Nancy Maltba and had at least five children. Letters 1, 3, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 27, 30 and 36.

Barlow, James W. (born ca. 1851 – June 25, 1920). John O. C. Barlow’s s fourth child from his first marriage

to Susan Hollar Barlow, who died in 1854 or 1855. James was a brother of Benjamin H. and Sarah Jane Barlow, who lived with their uncle William Rufus Barlow, following John O. C. Barlow's death in the war. Letter 19.

Barlow, John B. (born December 5, 1841). Son of Braxton and Charlotte Barlow, John was a native of Caldwell County but, a resident of Wilkes County. He enlisted in Company F, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops in September 1861. He was captured at Hanover Court House, Virginia, on May 27, 1862, and exchanged in July. He died in Richmond, Virginia, on December 23, 1862 of disease. He was a brother of Thomas Martin LeRoy Barlow (Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops), Larkin C. Barlow (Company F, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops), and H. Harrison Barlow (Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops.) Letters 14, 15 and 16.

Barlow, John Oliver Cromwell (ca. 1819 – July 5, 1862). “Crummel” was the only child of William Barlow and his first wife, Jane Burch Barlow. He was a half-brother of William Rufus Barlow. His first wife was Susan Hollar and they were the parents of Thomas M. Barlow, William L. Barlow, Benjamin H. Barlow, James W. Barlow and Sarah Jane Barlow. Susan Hollar Barlow died in 1854 or 1855, possibly at childbirth or soon afterwards. Two of J. O. C. and Susan's sons (Thomas M. Barlow and William L. Barlow) enlisted in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. In the 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County, these boys were living with their half-uncle Thomas W. Barlow. Following Susan's death, John. O. C. Barlow married Louisa Bentley on December 13, 1855 and they had three children; Nancy Louisa Barlow, Mary Barlow, and Ruth Barlow. John O. C. Barlow enlisted on March 15, 1862 in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was wounded at King's School House, Virginia, on June 25, 1862, and died of his wounds in a hospital at Richmond on July 5, 1862.

Barlow, Joseph (1806 – ca. 1885). Son of John and Elizabeth Kindell Merritt, Jr. and an uncle of William R. Barlow. He was the father of Calvin and Pickens Barlow, who served in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops and Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops, respectively. Letter 11.

Barlow, Larkin (July 10, 1816 – June 20, 1902). A half-brother of William Rufus Barlow's father and a father-in-law of the William Wells mentioned in Letter 20 (April 12, 1863). Larkin served in Company F, 5th Regiment N. C. (Senior) Reserves. Letters 26, 29, 30, and 31.

Barlow, Louisa Bentley. She was the second wife of John O. C. Barlow, with whom she had three daughters; Nancy Louisa Barlow, Mary Barlow and Ruth Barlow. Letters 4, 19, and 32.

Barlow, Lydia Winkler. The daughter of Matthias and Catherine Arney Winkler and the second wife of William Barlow. She was the mother of William Rufus Barlow, with whom she lived with at the time of the 1860 Federal Census of Caldwell County. A reference to her death is in Letter 19.

Barlow, Pickens (April 4, 1838 – June 5, 1924). The son of Joseph and Louisa Laxton Barlow and a cousin of William Rufus Barlow. The Caldwell County native enlisted in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861, which became Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. He was wounded at Seven Pines, Virginia, on May 31, 1862, and was promoted to the rank of sergeant on June 10, 1862. He was wounded again (in the neck) at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13, 1862. He was wounded (but captured this time) a third time at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was exchanged and returned to duty prior to September 1, 1864, and surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. After his return home, he took part in the capture of Fort Hamby in Wilkes County. Letters 6, 7, 11, and 15.

Barlow, Sarah Jane (June 5, 1854 – November 23, 1911). She was the daughter of John O. C and Susan Hollar Barlow. Either during childbirth or soon afterwards, her mother died. After her father's death in 1862, she and her brother Benjamin Barlow lived with their half-uncle William Rufus Barlow.

Barlow, Sidney Stokes (June 10, 1862 – October 2, 1924). In the letters he is the infant son of William Rufus and Elizabeth German Barlow.

Barlow, Sophronia (Fronney). She was the wife of Thomas W. Barlow and sister-in-law to William Rufus Barlow. Letter 13.

Barlow, Susan Hollar (died ca. 1854 or 1855). She was the first wife of John O. C. Barlow, with whom she had five children, two of whom lived with John O. C.'s half-brother, William Rufus Barlow following John's death in 1862.

Barlow, Thomas Marcus (December 23, 1844 – January 30, 1915). He was the son of John O. C. and Susan Hollar Barlow. A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted on March 15, 1862, in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was wounded in the right hip at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863. He was captured in a hospital at Richmond, Virginia on April 3, 1865. Letters 3, 9, 28, and 37.

Barlow, Thomas Martin Leroy (born July 20, 1836). He was the son of Braxton and Charlotte Carlton Barlow. A resident of Wilkes County, he enlisted in Company C, 26th Regiment N.C. Troops on September 21, 1862. He deserted on December 19, 1862 and took the oath of allegiance in Knoxville, Tennessee on November 12, 1864. He was a brother to H. Harrison Barlow (Company C, 26th Regiment N.C. Troops), and Larkin C. Barlow (Company F, 37th Regiment N.C. Troops), and John B. Barlow (Company F, 37th Regiment N.C. Troops). Letter 22.

Barlow, Thomas W. (born ca. 1830 – died prior to 1867). A resident of Caldwell County and the son of William Barlow and his second wife Lydia Winkler Barlow, he was a brother of William Rufus Barlow. Two of his half-brother John O. C. Barlow's sons (Thomas M. Barlow and William L. Barlow) were living with Thomas W. Barlow at the time of the 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County. Thomas died between 1863 and 1867. Letters 5, 13, 19, and 32.

Barlow, William L. (January 17, 1846 – December 29, 1926). He was the son of John O. C. and Susan Hollar Barlow. He and his brother, Thomas M. Barlow, served in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. William L. Barlow enlisted on March 1, 1864, and served until he was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, on April 1, 1865. He was imprisoned but was released on June 17, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. Letters 1, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, and 41.

Barlow, William Rufus (October 13, 1827 – January 31, 1865). Rufus, as he was called by family members, was the son of William Barlow and his second wife, Lydia Winkler Barlow. His first wife was Mary Jane German, daughter of Wilburn German and to this union Columbus Marshall Barlow was born. Following Mary Jane German Barlow's death, William Rufus Barlow married Elizabeth German, daughter of James German, who was a cousin of his first wife. To this marriage Sidney Stokes Barlow, was born June 10, 1862. According to the 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County, William Rufus and his family lived in the King's Creek Township of Caldwell County. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862, where he was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until captured on May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until transferred to Elmira, New York, on August 3, 1864, where he died on January 31, 1865. He is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York, Grave # 1787.

Beach, Elihu. He was a Caldwell County resident and along with his wife Sarah were neighbors of William R. Barlow. He was a brother to Enoch Beach, who was conscripted into Company C, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. Letter 32.

Beach, Enoch. A neighbor of William Rufus Barlow and the father of five young children. He was conscripted

and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862, where he was assigned to Company C, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until he was captured on May 12, 1864, at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until exchanged on September 18, 1864. He died of disease five days later. Letters 11, 14, and 44.

Beall, Samuel W. Major Samuel W. Beall was commandant of the prisoner of war camp at Elmira, New York. Letter 45.

Blakenship, Russ (Ross) (born ca. 1838). A resident of Wilkes County, he and his younger brother, John T. Blankenship, were farm laborers for John F. Ferguson. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 22, 1862, where he was assigned to Company D, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was discharged on December 21, 1862, because of tuberculosis. Letter 10.

Bradley, John. He was a Caldwell County resident and a neighbor of William Rufus Barlow. He is possibly the John Bradley who served in Company D, 9th Regiment N. C. State Troops (1st Regiment N. C. Cavalry). Company D was from neighboring Watauga County. Letter 13.

Branch, Gen. Branch. Lawrence O'Bryan. He was born in Enfield, North Carolina, and a former North Carolina Congressman. At the beginning of the Civil War, Branch was elected colonel of the 33rd Regiment N. C. Troops, until he was promoted brigadier general on November 16, 1861. He commanded of the Confederate forces at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862. Following that campaign, he assumed command of a brigade that consisted of the 7th Regiment N.C. State Troops and the 18th, 28th, 33rd, and the 37th Regiments N. C. Troops. His brigade was attached to Major General A. P. Hill's famous "Light Division" that was in Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson's Second Corps. Branch's Brigade assisted in capturing Harpers Ferry prior to the Battle of Sharpsburg and participated in the "Light Division's" storied seventeen-mile march to save Lee's Army at Sharpsburg. Branch was killed in action at Sharpsburg and is buried in Raleigh, North Carolina. Letter 8.

Branch-Lane Brigade. The 18th Regiment N.C. Troops belonged to a brigade commanded by former U.S. Congressman Lawrence O'Bryan Branch until his death at the Battle of Sharpsburg. Branch was succeeded by Colonel James Henry Lane of the 28th Regiment N.C. Troops, a Virginia Military Institute graduate and professor at the North Carolina Military Institute in Charlotte. Lane commanded the brigade, comprising the 7th Regiment N.C. State Troops and the 18th, 28th, 33rd, and 37th Regiments N.C. Troops for the remainder of the war.

Brown, Edwin (born November 17, 1814). A Caldwell County resident and neighbor of William Rufus Barlow, Brown's name appears on a company roll of Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops in August 1861. It further states that his "name was not properly on this roll and was cancelled." He later enlisted and elected a 1st Lt. in Company D, 5th Regiment N. C. Senior Reserves on July 19, 1864. He resigned on November 15, 1864 because he had reached fifty years of age. Letter 25.

Camp Hill – A Confederate Conscription Camp on the west side of Statesville in Iredell County. The Camp opened in 1862 and operated throughout the war. On August 20, 1862, eighteen men from Caldwell and Wilkes counties (including William Rufus Barlow) were conscripted and placed in Company B, 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops. Nearly 160 men from the Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and Wilkes counties were conscripted and placed in companies A, B, C and D of the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops during August and September of that year.

Coffey, Larkin. Son of Thomas and Nancy Barlow Coffey, an aunt to William Rufus Barlow. Larkin Coffey, a resident of Caldwell County, enlisted on July 5, 1862, in Company E, 58th Regiment N. C. Troops. He died at Cumberland Gap in the fall of 1862 but the cause of death was not reported. Letter 12.

"Coffey House". It is thought that the home referred to belonged to Nancy Barlow, daughter of John Barlow,

Jr., who married Thomas Coffey, the son of James and Delilah Ferguson Coffey. John Barlow, Jr. was the grandfather of William Rufus Barlow, the author of these letters. Letters 1, 3, and 13.

Davis, Justis (born ca. 1810). A resident of Wilkes County who was married to Mary German, sister of Wilburn and James German (William R. Barlow's father-in-laws.) They were the parents of three sons who served in the war: John, W. Leander, and Harrison Davis. Letters 10, 13, 14, and 16.

Davis, C. Harrison. Son of Justis and Mary G. Davis and a resident of Wilkes County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County, on August 22, 1862. He was assigned to Company D, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and served until captured at the Wilderness, on or about May 5, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, and Elmira, New York, until he was released in June 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. Letters 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 21, 28, 32, 36, 41, and 44.

Davis, John. Son of Justis and Mary G. Davis and a resident of Wilkes County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 22, 1862. He was assigned to Company D, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and served until he died at Staunton, Virginia, on November 3, 1862 of pneumonia. Letters 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15.

Davis, Leander (Lee). Son of Justis and Mary G. Davis and a resident of Wilkes County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 22, 1862. He was assigned to Company D, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and was present or accounted for until he died on January 27, 1863. The cause and place of his death was not reported. Letters 3, 10, 11, 14, and 16.

Elmira, New York. From July 6, 1864, to July 10, 1865, this was the site of a Confederate Prisoner of War Camp. More than 12,000 Confederate soldiers were imprisoned there, of whom 2,950 died. The mortality rate of more than 24% was the highest among all northern prisons. Letter 45.

Ferguson, Alan [Allen]. A Caldwell County resident and neighbor of William Rufus Barlow. He enlisted at Camp Vance on August 25, 1864, and was assigned to Company C, 13th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until he was captured at the Wilderness, Virginia on May 6, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until transferred to Elmira, New York on August 10, 1864. He died at Elmira on August 22, 1864 of chronic diarrhea. There appears to be a error in the Elmira burial records for Allen Ferguson as he is listed as being in Company E, 3rd Regiment N. C. State Troops. He is buried at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York, Grave # 33, listed as Allen Furgerson. Letters 44 and 45.

Ferguson, John. Living with the John McLoud family at the time of the 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County, he enlisted at Camp Holmes in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops, on January 10, 1863. He was present or accounted for until he died at Richmond, Virginia, on August 12th or October 8th, 1864, of disease. Letter 10.

Ferguson, Lindsey (Linsea). He was appointed second lieutenant of Company E, 93rd Regiment N. C. Militia on March 29, 1862, and by 1864, he was a captain in the 68th Battalion N.C. Home Guard, both of which were Caldwell County commands. Letter 1.

Fisher, Dr. Thomas H. A surgeon at General Hospital # 3 in Lynchburg, Virginia. Letter 16.

German, A. Larkin. He was the son of Wilborn German, the father of William Rufus Barlow's first wife. He enlisted in Company E, 58th Regiment N. C. Troops on July 5, 1862. Larkin was present or accounted for until he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863. He died of his wounds on October 1, 1863. Two of his other brothers, William German and James German who also perished in the war. Letter 12.

German, Aner Louisa. Younger sister of Elizabeth G. Barlow, William Rufus Barlow's second wife. Letters 3, 15, and 16.

German, Hamilton (Hamp) (born ca. 1835). A resident of Wilkes County and a son of John and Martha German. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Holmes in Company H, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops, on August 1, 1862. He was present or accounted for through December 1864, however he was listed as "sick" most the time. He was a brother of Smith German and a cousin of Elizabeth G. Barlow. Letters 3, and 9

German, Hubbard (Hubb) (born ca. 1820). He son of Charles and Katherine German and an uncle to Elizabeth G. Barlow. He was a resident of Wilkes County and enlisted in Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops, on September 14, 1863, and was hospitalized at Richmond, Virginia, on May 28, 1864, with a gunshot wound to the left hand. He returned to duty until captured near Petersburg, Virginia, on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until June 27, 1865 until he took the oath of allegiance. Letters 6, 10, 12, 13, 28, 32, 36, and 41.

German, James. He was a son of Charles and Katherine Keller German and a resident of Wilkes County. He was the father of Elizabeth German Barlow, the second wife of William Rufus Barlow. He was a brother of Wilborn German, William Rufus Barlow's first father-in-law. He and his wife were also the parents of Aner Louisa, James Sidney, and John Finley German. He and his brother Louis (Lewis) German, both served in Company A, 5th Regiment N. C. Senior Reserves, with James achieving the rank of Sergeant.

German, James. He was the third son of Wilburn German to die during the war. James was conscripted in Wake County at the age of 19 on September 29, 1864. He was assigned to Company H, 9th Regiment N. C. State Troops (1st Regiment N. C. Cavalry) and transferred to Company D of the same regiment on December 22, 1864. He was present or accounted for until he was wounded and captured at Chamberlain's Run, Virginia on March 31, 1865. He died in a Washington, D. C. hospital on April 7, 1865, of his wounds.

German, James Sidney (born 1848 – Feb./March 1863). He was the son of James and Nancy German and a brother of Elizabeth G. Barlow, Aner Louis and John Finley German. According to Letter 17, young Sidney dies, placing the date between February – March 1863. Letters 15, 16, and 17.

German, John Finley. Younger brother of Elizabeth G. Barlow, William Rufus Barlow's second wife. Letters 3, 15, and 16.

German, Nancy McGinnis. Wife of James German and mother of Elizabeth G. Barlow, Aner Louisa, James Sidney and John Finley German.

German, Smith (born ca. 1833 – November 1862). He was a son of John and Martha German and a brother of Hamilton "Hamp" German. He was a cousin of Elizabeth G. Barlow and a resident of Wilkes County. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County. He was assigned to Company D, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops, and died at Winchester, Virginia in November 1862 of unknown causes. Letters 3, 5, 10, 11, 14, and 15.

German, Wilborn. Son of Charles and Katherine Keller German and a resident of Caldwell County, he and his wife Jane were the parents of Mary Ann German Barlow, William Rufus Barlow's first wife. They were also the parents of six sons, three of whom died in the war; James German, A. Larkin German and William German. He was a brother of James German, William Rufus German's second father-in-law.

German, William. He was the son of Wilburn German, who was William Rufus Barlow's first father-in-law. A resident of Caldwell County prior to his enlistment in Company E, 58th Regiment N. C. Troops (a Caldwell County company) on July 5, 1862. He was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, on September 19-20, 1863, and hospitalized at Kingston, Georgia, where he died on or about October 23, 1863, of wounds. His

brother Larkin German, also a private in Company E, 58th Regiment N. C. Troops was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga and succumbed to his wounds on October 1, 1863. Letter 22.

Gilbert, James L. A resident of Caldwell County where he enlisted as a Private in Company F, 26th Regiment N.C. Troops on March 20, 1862. He was present or accounted for until wounded at Wilderness, Virginia, May 5, 1864. Gilbert returned to duty prior to July 1, 1864, and was present or accounted for until captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, April 2, 1865. He was confined at Hart's Island, New York Harbor, until released on June 17, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Letters 22, 39, and 40.

Gordon Springs Hospital. A Confederate hospital that was located in Gordonsville, Virginia, a small community in Orange and Louisa counties. The hospital operated between June 1, 1863 and May 5, 1864. Letter 24.

Hagler, John. The son of Skelton William and Elizabeth Carlton Hagler, John was a neighbor of William Rufus Barlow and a resident of Caldwell County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and was present or accounted for until wounded and captured at Gravel Hill, Virginia, on July 28, 1864. He died at Elmira, New York, on November 28, 1864, of pneumonia. He is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York, Grave # 900. Letters 29, 30, 31, 35, and 45.

Hagler, Joseph. The son of Skelton William and Elizabeth Carlton Hagler, Joseph was a neighbor of William Rufus Barlow and a resident of Caldwell County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troop and served until he was killed at Shepherdstown, [West] Virginia, on September 20, 1862. Letter 5.

Hagler, William. The son of Skelton William and Elizabeth Carlton Hagler, William was a neighbor of William Rufus Barlow and a resident of Caldwell County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and was present or accounted for until he was captured at Chancellorsville, Virginia, on May 2-3, 1863, but apparently escaped as he was again captured at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, on May 12, 1864. He was originally confined at Point Lookout, Maryland but was later transferred to Elmira, New York, where he died of disease on September 3, 1864. He is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York, Grave # 66. Letters 44, and 45.

Hall, Andrew Jackson. A neighbor of William Rufus Barlow and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted on July 26, 1861, in the "Caldwell Guards" which would become Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until he was wounded in the left hand on July 1, 1863, during the first day's fight at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He returned to duty and was present or accounted for until he was captured at Amelia Court House, Virginia, on April 3, 1865. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until he was released after taking the oath of allegiance on June 27, 1865. Letter 37.

Hamby, William A. A Caldwell County resident who married Mary Maltba, a cousin to William Rufus Barlow. Letter 42.

Holder, Lewis (1833 – November 26, 1911). A resident of Caldwell County, Holder married Mary Barlow, the daughter of Joseph and Louise Laxton Barlow. He enlisted in Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops on March 19, 1862, and was present and accounted for until hospitalized at Richmond, Virginia on October 2, 1862, from a shell wound to his back or abdomen. The place of his wounding was not reported. He returned to duty on February 19, 1863, and was present and accounted for until his paroling at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Letter 42.

Icenhour (Isenhower) David. A resident of Caldwell County, he was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company B, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and served

until he died on November 22, 1862, of disease. Letter 13.

Isbell, James M. A neighbor of William Rufus Barlow in Caldwell County, he enlisted in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861. This company became Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. He was elected second lieutenant but, resigned in July 1861. He rejoined the company on August 9, 1861, as a private, was elected as first lieutenant on May 1, 1862, and promoted to captain on May 31, 1862. He was “bruised by a shell” at the Battle of Second Manassas on August 28-30, 1862, and resigned from service on October 13, 1862. Letter 11.

Jackson, General Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall”. William Rufus Barlow’s regiment, the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops and the rest of the Branch-Lane Brigade, served under Jackson until his accidental mortal wounding on May 2, 1863, at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia. It was found that the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops accidentally shot Jackson and several of his staff on the evening of May 2nd as they were returning from a scouting mission between the lines. He would “cross over under the shade of the trees” on May 10, 1863. Letters 4, 6, and 7.

Keller, David A. While not mentioned in any of the letters, David A. Keller, was a resident of Caldwell County and a son of Soloman and Sarah Winkler Keller, who were relatives through William Rufus Barlow’s mother Lydia Winkler Barlow. He, along with his brothers George N. Keller and John J. Keller enlisted in Company B, 11th Regiment N. C. Troops. David enlisted on February 1, 1862, and was present or accounted for until he died June 11, 1862 of typhoid fever.

Keller, George N. A neighbor and relative of William Rufus Barlow, he was the son of Soloman and Sarah Winkler Keller, who were relatives through William Rufus Barlow’s mother Lydia Winkler Barlow. He and his brothers, David and John, all served in Company B, 11th Regiment N. C. Troops. George enlisted at the age of 35 on February 1, 1862, and was present or accounted for until he was mortally wounded on October 27, 1864, at the Battle of Burgess Mill, Virginia. He died on October 28, 1864, from his wounds. Letter 41.

Keller, John J. A neighbor and relative resident of William Rufus Barlow, he was the son of Solomon and Sarah Winkler Keller, who were relatives through William Rufus Barlow’s mother Lydia Winkler Barlow. He and his brothers, David and George, all served in the Company B, 11th Regiment N. C. Troops. John enlisted at the age of 18 on February 11, 1863, and was present or accounted for until he was wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania between July 1-5, 1863. He was confined at Fort Delaware until transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland between October 15-18, 1863. He died at Point Lookout on December 21, 1863, and is buried there. Letter 12.

Keller, Solomon – Letters 1, 3, 9, and 29. There are two choices as to who these references could be. Throughout the Keller genealogical papers, the name Solomon was given to several men. The references in these four letters could be either of these gentlemen.

Keller, Solomon (1800 – 1893). Son of Martin and Elizabeth Keller, Solomon married Sarah Winkler, a sister of William Rufus Barlow’s mother Lydia Winkler Barlow. . Three of their boys, George N. Keller, David A. Keller, and John J. Keller died during the war. Solomon’s mother is related to William R. Barlow’s mother. Letters 1, 3, 9, and 29.

Keller, Solomon. Son of Daniel David and Hannah Keller with his father descending from martin Keller, the patriarch of the Keller family in Caldwell and Wilkes County. He enlisted in Company I, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops at Camp Holmes on May 25, 1864. He served until paroled at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865. North Carolina Pension Records indicate that he was wounded at Appomattox Court House. He had two brothers that served in the war; Henry Keller, Company I, 26th Regiment N. C.

Troops and Anderson Keller, Company C, 3rd Regiment N. C. Junior Reserves. Letters 1, 3, 9, and 29.

Keller, Solomon L. Son of James Anthony and Jane Keller. James Anthony Keller was a brother to Solomon Keller (1800-1893.) A native of Caldwell County, he was residing in Rutherford County prior to the war. He was a nephew to the Solomon Keller listed above. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on September 6, 1862. He was assigned to Company D, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops and was present and accounted for until he was listed as absent without leave in October through December 1864. North Carolina Pension Records indicate that he died of wounds in 1866. In Letter 7, William Rufus Barlow writes that he “saw Elbert Anders (Andrews) and some others the other day going to their regiment (Co. D, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops.) They told me that Solomon Keller was sent back to this place.” In Letter 27 (January 2, 1864), William Rufus Barlow writes “if you could send anything by Mack or Solomon Keller tell them to come to my regiment first for it is this side of them.” This appears to be referencing the fact that Mack (26th Regiment N. C. Troops) and Solomon L. Keller (23rd Regiment N. C. Troops) were in the army already and were moving near the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. Finally Solomon L. Keller was part of the group of conscripts, which included Elbert Andrews, which enlisted on September 6, 1862, at Camp Hill. Letters 7, and 27.

Kings Creek Baptist Church. Named for the community it is located in, this church was founded in 1779, making it one of the oldest churches not only in Caldwell County, but the western part of North Carolina. Letters 21, and 32.

Laxton, Allen. A resident of Caldwell County and father-in-law of Pickens Barlow. Letters 10, and 19.

Liberty Mills, Virginia. Located in Orange County, Virginia, west of Orange Court House, Liberty Mills was the site of the 1863-1864 winter quarters of the 18th Regiment N.C. Troops.

Livingston, Thomas. The son of Martin and Elizabeth Barlow Livingston and a cousin to William R. Barlow. He was married to Sarah Keller, the niece of Solomon Keller, and the lived in the Kings Creek community of Caldwell County and at the time of the 1860 Federal Census, he was listed as a thirty-six year old head of household. He also served the war as Captain of the 95th Regiment N. C. Militia, dating from December 14, 1861. Letter 25.

Longstreet, General James. The reference to his arrival on the battlefield of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864, is credited with saving the Army of Northern Virginia from being defeated that day. Letter 42.

Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia. The town of Lynchburg was home to three general hospitals and three other locations that served as hospitals during the war. Over 20,000 patients were served during the war, with almost 3,000 deaths occurring. Over 2,200 soldiers are buried in the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg. William R. Barlow was in General Hospital No. 3. Letters 16, 17, and 19.

“Mack”. The surname of “Mack” is not mentioned in any of the letters but, it is evident that he was a soldier in the 26th Regiment N. C. Troops (see letter 4). A possible candidate is Wilkes County resident, A. McLenond Davis who was born in 1845. Davis was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County on September 21, 1862, and was assigned to Company C, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present or accounted for until he deserted on November 14, 1862, but returned to duty on April 14, 1863. He was present or accounted for until he was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. He deserted prior to August 1, 1863. There are no further military records for him. Letters 3, 4, 19, 27, 28, 30, 32, 36, 39, and 42.

McGill, John W. The captain of Company B, 18th Regiment N.C. Troops, during much of 1862. Letter 8.

Point Lookout, Maryland. A Confederate Prisoner of War Camp that was opened on August 1, 1863. By the end of the war, Point Lookout had become the largest of all northern prisons. Letter 44.

Porch Hugh. A resident of Caldwell County, with three sons in the Confederate Army: George Porch and John Porch of Company F, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops, and Lawson Porch, of Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. Letter 7.

Porch, George. While not mentioned in the Barlow letters, George enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, which became Company F, 26th North Carolina Troops. He served until wounded at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1863. He deserted to the enemy on March 29, 1865, and was released on April 4, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.

Porch, John. While not mentioned in the Barlow letters, John enlisted on December 11, 1862, in Company F, 26th Regiment N. C. Troops. He was present and accounted for until wounded in the back at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1863. He returned to duty prior to January 1, 1864, and was present or accounted for until he was captured at Hatcher’s Run, Virginia, on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Hart’s Island, New York Harbor until he was released on June 19-20, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.

Porch, Lawson. A resident of Caldwell County and the son of Hugh Porch, a neighbor of William Rufus Barlow. He enlisted in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861, which became Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. Lawson was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia on May 31, 1862. He was wounded a second time at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia on May 8, 1864, and returned to duty prior to September 1, 1864. He was paroled at Burkeville, Virginia, between the dates of April 14-17, 1865. He had two brothers in Company F, 26th North Carolina; George and John Porch. Letter 7.

Purdie (Purdy). Thomas James. A resident of Bladen County and captain of Company K, 18th Regiment N. C. Troops, until promoted to lieutenant colonel on March 24, 1862. He commanded the 18th at Sharpsburg. Purdie was promoted to colonel in November 1862 and was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13, 1862. He was killed in action at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863. Letter 8.

Roberts, Weightstile. Only one of the Camp Hill conscripts was killed at the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. That man was Private Weightstile Roberts of Company B, 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops, who was conscripted and enlisted in Iredell County on August 20, 1862. Letter 15.

Sanders, William. This is probably W. R. Saunders, who lived in Caldwell County and was a neighbor of Enoch Beach and the Barlow families. Letter 15.

Staunton General Hospital. A Confederate hospital, located in Augusta County, Virginia. Letters 7, and 9.

Teetors. Elizabeth. The mother of Jacob Teetors, she was a neighbor of William Rufus and Elizabeth G. Barlow. Letter 19.

Teetors, Jacob. The son of Elizabeth Teetors, Jacob was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted at 42 years old, in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861. This company became Company A, 22nd Regiment N. C. Troops. He was discharged on May 15, 1862. Letter 19.

Tilley, Edmond. He was a neighbor of the Barlow family in the Kings Creek community of Caldwell County. According to the 1860 Federal Census of Caldwell County he was 52 years old. Letters 25, and 26.

Walker, George. He was a Caldwell County resident and neighbor of William Rufus Barlow. He was conscripted and enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County, on September 6, 1862. He was assigned to Company D, 23rd Regiment N. C. Troops, and was present or accounted for until he was captured at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, on May 11-12, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until transferred to Elmira, New York, on August 10, 1864. He was release from Elmira on June 12, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.

Letter 44.

Wells, William. A resident of Caldwell County, Wells was conscripted into service when he enlisted at Camp Hill, Iredell County, on August 20, 1862. He was assigned to Company C, 18th Regiment N.C. Troops, and was present or accounted for until he died in hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia, October 12, 1863, of pneumonia. He was married to William Rufus Barlow's first cousin Lavina Barlow, daughter of Larkin and Edith Knight Barlow. Letter 21.

Wilcox's Brigade (Division). Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox, a native of Wayne County, North Carolina, grew up in Tennessee. He was an 1846 graduate of West Point and at the start of the Civil War became colonel of the 9th Regiment Alabama Infantry. He received his commissions to brigadier general on October 21, 1861, and to major general after Gettysburg, when he assumed command of Major General Dorsey Pender's old division. Letter 13.

Winkler, James. He was a cousin to William R. Barlow and a resident of Alexander or Caldwell County and enlisted in Lenoir County on April 30, 1862, in Company G, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops. James Winkler was captured at or near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 5-6, 1863, and confined at Fort Delaware, Delaware on or about July 7, 1863. He was hospitalized at Chester, Pennsylvania on August 10, 1863, with an unspecified complaint but later paroled at Chester and transferred to City Point, Virginia, where he was received for exchange on September 23, 1863, for exchange. He returned to duty in March-April of 1864 and was captured near Petersburg, Virginia on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until released on June 21, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. Letters 10, and 15.

Winkler, John. He was a brother to Lydia Winkler Barlow, mother of William Rufus Barlow, and resident of Caldwell County, his two sons James and Thomas served in Company G, 37th Regiment N. C. Troops. The 37th Regiment N. C. Troops was in the same brigade as the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops. Letter 15.

Winkler, Thomas. He was a cousin to William R. Barlow and a resident of Alexander or Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company G, 37th Regiment North Carolina Troops on April 30, 1862. He was captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 5-6, 1863, and confined at Fort Delaware on July 7, 1863. Thomas Winkler was hospitalized at Chester, Pennsylvania on August 10, 1863. He was paroled and exchanged on September 23, 1863. He returned to duty in March-April of 1864. He was captured at Petersburg, Virginia, on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until released on June 25, 1865 when he took the oath of allegiance. Letters 10, 15, and 25.

Appendix A: Camp Hill Conscription Camp, Iredell County

In August-September 1862, one hundred seventy men conscripted at Camp Hill from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Wilkes counties were assigned to the 18th Regiment N. C. Troops:

Company A: Received sixty-nine men from Catawba County on August 14 and
September 8, 1862

Company B: Received ten men from Caldwell County and eight men from Wilkes
County on August 20, 1862. Only five of the eighteen survived the war.
One of the thirteen dead was William Rufus Barlow, the author of these
letters.

Company C: Received fifteen men from Burke County and twenty-eight men from
Caldwell County on August 20, 1862.

Company D: Received forty men from Alexander, Caldwell, Catawba, and Wilkes
counties on August 22 and September 5, 1862

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Battle Flag Issued in December 1862 to the 18th N.C. Troops as well as the rest of the Branch/Lane Brigade. Photo courtesy North Carolina Museum of History



Third Bunting Issue Battle Flag issued in June 1863 to Gen. A.P. Hill's Light Division. This flag was carried at Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, Mine Run and the Wilderness. It was captured May 12, 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House. Photo courtesy North Carolina Museum of History

Fourth Bunting Issue Battle Flag issued in Spring 1864. It was captured July 28, 1864 at Malvern Hill, VA. Photo courtesy North Carolina Museum of History



This Fourth Bunting Issue Battle Flag was the last flag issued to the 18th N.C. Troops. It was issued in 1864 and was captured April 2, 1865 near Petersburg, VA. Photo courtesy North Carolina Museum of History



