

A2004-061.0004.0004: Letter 28, June 25, 1864

12th Connecticut Infantry, Co. K

**From the Luman Henry Lord Collection of South Texas Archives
A2004-061. [Transcriptions by Harold Rosenbaum, Daniel Thacker
and members of the Jernigan Reference Team, July 2016]**

*Letters from Luman Henry Lord to his brother William while he was
in Louisiana from 1862-1865*

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Envelope

3" x 5 1/2"

3 cent US postage Stamp in the upper left corner with a postage stamp
cancelling it from New Orleans dated June 28 1864

Envelope is addressed to:

Mr. James Russell Lord
Warehouse Point
Hartford County
Conn

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Camp near Carrollton, LA

Saturday June 25th 1864

My dear brother Russell,

Having a few leisure moments I thought that I would improve the opportunity by writing by writing you a few lines. I am happy to inform you that I am well at present and am in hopes that these lines will find you and the family in the enjoyment of the same blessing as good health is the best gift that we can enjoy in this life. My thumb is getting better now fast but is not sound as yet. It has improved greatly within the last three days but it will be some time yet before I shall be able to go through the manual of arms with it. It is so tender I do not expect (the following is written on this page upside down and backwards from the rest of the text. It starts on the upper right corner and runs across the page and down the left side of the first page)

Business you know is business & when you are right on the job that is what I call business

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to be able to do my military duty for a month to come. I am very sorry to hear that your sprained knee gets better so slowly. You must not get the blues. I hope that it is now quite well. I expected our unit to be at Mackenize but there are not enough steamers here to take us. We marched up to Carrollton and waited there twenty four hours for a steamer to take us and then returned to our old camp again. We are now waiting for transportation. We may leave today and we may not. Most of the troops have left here. We are having some very warm weather here these days. I left my discharge paper at home in the second bureau drawer. I want you to keep it safe a it may be of use in time to come.

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I have received my state bounty up to June 12th 1864 (in full). I have received my monthly pay from Government up to and including April 30th 1864. I have received the second installment of the United States Veteran Bounty. The first installment I received in Hartford Ct. when I was mustered into the United States service for the second term of three years. The first installment was sixty dollars. The second installment of fifty dollars I received here last pay day. After I have been six months in the Veteran service I shall have due me the third installment of the veteran bounty which will be fifty dollars besides my monthly pay. Third installment will be due me on the 16th day of August next. I have two hundred and ninety dollars (\$290.00)

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Veterans bounty yet to get besides my state bounty and monthly pay. If anything should happen me or I should die or get killed my friends can get the remainder of my veterans bounty in full. You had better keep my discharge paper and this letter in a safe place and then you will know how I stand with the government and the state of Connecticut. I do not write this having any presentment of death but I thought that it would do no harm as life is always uncertain no matter where or how we are situated. We have all got to go to that home where no traveler ever returns sooner or later. Life is uncertain. Death is certain. He sometimes comes like a thief in the night and when we are poorly prepared to meet him. I hope and pray that we shall all live to meet again in this life if it pleaseth

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God but if we should not then praying that we shall meet in a better world where there will be no wickedness, sin and misery and where the trials and tribulations of this life will be over and all will be happy. I know that I have not always lived as I should have lived but by the help of God I will try to mend my ways during the remainders of my stay on earth. The old saying is that it is never too late mend where one has the disposition. I think that I have done very well since I left home. I have drank nothing stronger than Loger beer since I left Wallingford Co. & but little of that. I have had whiskey offered to me nearly every day but will not drink a drop of it. I have had no desire for it. It almost makes me sick to look

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at it. It will make a fool of any man who drinks it to excess. Taking a drink now and then is apt to lead to excess and the only safe way to do is to leave it entirely alone and then we know that we are all right.

Drinking intoxicating liquors leads to other bad habits such as visiting homes of ill fame where one contracts habits, get [*Iered illegible*] diseases and is hurried into an untimely grave. These habits persisted in making a man a disgrace to himself & his friends (if he has any and it is likely that he will not have any if he continues such a course of life long) and makes him unfit for decent society. I hope that you will take the advice of an elder brother that has seen more of this wicked

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world than you have and shun all such base associations. I think that you will keep clean of such bad company. As for myself, I intend on a square for time to come. This turning into a gunboat and storming forts is played out. If I know myself I shall keep clear of them. How is it with Brother Will? Has he tuned into a gunboat or taken any forts lately. How many bayous has he crossed on pontoons? How many marked Batteries has he charged? Has he always been successful in his assaults or has he often been repulsed? Has he laid his siege to any strong hole since I left home? Did he force it to capitulate? One thing I have noticed in the history of warfare and that is if a place is closely

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invested & laid siege to for a good length of time it is most sure to fall. In the meantime it is necessary to look out for the enemy in the rear. Please put Will in mind of that. But you know that business is business and I expect you know that he is right on the job and that is what you may call business. Ask him if he has seen Mrs. Nellie Moore lately. If he has that is what he calls business. Is she right on the job? I will now bring this to a close. Cousin Andy B. Whipple and J. Passeo are well and send their best regards to all enquiring friends. Give my love to everybody. Write often and I will do the same. Goodbye for the present and believe me to be every your affectionate brother. James Russell Lord l. Henry Lord P.S. It is now rumored about camp that our Army Corp (the 19th) is ordered to join Sherman's Grand Army in Georgia. Please direct your letters the same the same as you have done until further orders

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