

# Old Letters

## Letters of Allen McLain Alvord, 1840-1864

Transcribed by Alice Buck Ashley AAFA # 1092

*The letters used in this series were provided by Diane Holmes AAFA #1081. She was asked to obtain permission from her source for AAFA to publish them. When she did the source joined. Allan John Ashley and Alice Buck Ashley are members #1092 [See New Members & Their Alford Lineage. ] Allan is a descendant of Allen s sister, Maria Anna Alvord Hughes. The letters being published were transcribed by Alice Buck Ashley and Allan has given permission to publish them. They spell his middle name as McLainec but the Alvord book published in 1908 lists him as McLean. Editors*



Allen McLain Alvord

**Allen McLain Alvord** was the son of **Alpheus Alvord** whose family was as follows in this verbatim account (bold face added) from the Alvord book<sup>1</sup>:

**Alpheus Alvord** was born Greenfield, Mass., Jan. 17, 1787; died Austinburg, O., Jan. 2, 1874; married Chatauqua, N. Y., Sept. 13, 1821, **Clara Sackett**, daughter of **Philo and Deborah (Waterman) Sackett**. She was born Ferrisburg, Vt., Aug. 28, 1799; died Watson, Allegan Co., Mich., June 15, 1883. Res. Madison, O. (1815-21), Bristol, O., and Geneva, O.

Children (Alvord):

**Fanny Eliza** b. Bristol, O., Apr. 11, 1823; d. Oct. 19, 1825.  
**Mary Deborah**, b. Bristol, O., Sept. 6, 1826.  
**Eliza Fanny**, b. Bristol, O., Aug. 14, 1828.

**Elijah Sacket**, b. Bristol, O., June 26, 1830.  
**Allen McLean**, b. Bristol, O., Apr. 23, 1832; d. Dec. 19, 1832.  
**Maria Anna**, b. Bristol, O., Aug. 19, 1834.  
**Harriet Newel**, b. Bristol, O., Jan. 14, 1838.  
**Allen McLean**, b. Bristol, O., May 10, 1840; d. Chattanooga, Tenn., June 8, 1864.

He enlisted in the Union Army Aug 10, 1861, as a private in Co. D 36th Regiment of Ill. Vol. He served his country faithfully, never missing duty for a day for nearly two years and then only for a short time. He was in the first battle of Pea Ridge, where the ground was literally covered with the dead. He was in a battle at Perryville, and also at Murfreesboro where a number of bullets passed through his clothes and hat, and he was only slightly wounded. He endured long marches and at times on short allowance. He marched with Sherman to Atlanta; was in a number of skirmishes at Calhoun and at last received a wound in his hip which caused his death. He was buried in the National Cem. During his term of service he sent home \$400.

**Amelia Matilda**, b. Bristol, O., Apr. 29, 1843.

Allen s ancestry, compiled primary from the Alvord publication is as follows

1. **Allen McLean Alvord** born May 10 1840, Bristol, Morgan Co, OH, died Jun 8 1864, Chattanooga, Hamilton Co., TN, buried: Chattanooga Chickamauga National Cemetery.

Comments from descendants of Allen's siblings:

Allen McLean (McLaine) Alvord of Bristol, OH, was named for Rev. Allen McLean (McLaine). He finished school at

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Morgan Alvord. *A Genealogy Of The Descendants of Alexander Alvord, An Early Settler of Windsor, Conn. And Northampton, Mass.* (Webster, N.Y.: A.D. Andrews, Printer. 1908)

Hiram Academy, Hiram, Portage Co. OH, in 1859 and went west to Illinois to find a school to teach. He arrived at Morris, Grundy Co. IL on September 20, 1859. None were available so worked for farmers in Morris and Lisbon in Grundy Co., IL.

[His lineage is the same as new member 1092 earlier in this issue. Please refer to it.

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## Allen McLaine Alvord

The letters AAFA received were copied from the originals by Alice Ashley, AAFA #1092, 1969-1970. Her introductory comments:

Allen McLain Alvord was born May 10, 1840 in Bristol, OH, the eighth child of Alpheus Alvord and Clara Sackett. He was named for Rev. Allen McLean (McLaine). He finished school at Hiram Academy in 1859 and went west via Cleveland, Toledo and Chicago to Illinois to find a school in which to teach. He arrived at Morris, Grundy Co., IL on September 20, 1859. No schools were available so he lived with and worked for farmers in Morris in Grundy Co., and Lisbon in Kendall Co. IL. Yorkville is the county seat so we are sure he enlisted there, September 23 1861 in the 36th Illinois Volunteer Regiment from Lisbon, according to letters to his sister Maria.

He went from Camp Hammond, IL to Camp Rolla, Camp Denton, Camp Waynesville, Springfield, all in MO; and on to Bentonville, AR. He marched from Batesville, AR to Rienza, MS (Battle of Corinth). He was sent by railroad to Columbus, KY, and by boat to Cairo, IL. He was then sent to Cincinnati, OH and crossed to Covington, KY in 1862; then to Louisville under command of General Nelson. To Lancaster, KY and into Battle of Murfreesboro, TN. January 1863 he moved from Murfreesboro through Tulahomia to Cowan Station, TN in July 1863 and on to Bridgeport, AL thence to Stevenson, AL for September and October 1863. He was back in Chattanooga in December 1863. He went from Loudon, TN in the spring of 1864 to Cleveland, TN and in May marched to Red Clay, GA, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Mt. He was wounded May 17, 1864 25 miles south of Dalton, GA and was in ward J of the field hospital in Chattanooga awaiting a hospital train to transfer him to the Nashville, TN hospital. He died in Chattanooga June 8, 1864

These letters were written to his mother and family during his service in the Union Armies.

*[His death must have been particularly difficult for his family. He was their baby boy and further in 1832 they had a son named Allen McLean Alvord who was born in April and died in December. (The published Alvord genealogy spells his middle name McLean while Allen and Alice use*

*McLaine* )- Editor

Lisbon [IL] June 2, 61

Dear Mother

I recieved your letter in due time.

You say if there is any duty about it it is my duty to stay and raise something for the army to live on you carry the idea that there is no duty about it I disagree with you there every American has a duty to perform in this case and I believe it my duty and the duty of all young able bodied men who are at liberty to hold them selves in readiness to go at the call of his country there are enough who can not go to supply for the rest if there had been one spark of manhood or patriotism in my employer I should have been in the field weeks ago but he had some corn to raise and the country must suffer before he would sacrifice a cent to save it. I have just four weeks longer to stay and then I intend to go to Michigan and work for John threw harvest then if I am wanted I shall enlist.

You want to know if I am going to buy that timber lot I shall buy no land at present.

The excitement here has subsided into a cool determination to sustain the Government at all hazards Illinois has passed a bill to organize the whole of the malitia of the state and has appropriated about three million dollars for millitary purposes The weather has been verry wet and cold all the spring and every thing but weads are very backward corn shelled is worth but 15 cts per bu and ther is but 6 banks in the state that is at par and specia is worth 45 first premium so you see ther is hard times here

Hoping that you will not be disapointed if I join the army in the fall I close.

Your son  
A.M.A.

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WinterWinter 2000

Old Let

Lisbon [IL] June 2, 61

Dear Brother

I recieved yours of May 19 a few days since  
If there is nothing more than I know of now  
to prevent I shall be at your house the 2 or 3 of  
July.

We have just finished planting some have  
not comenced plowing owing to the could and  
wet crops that are up look as they had had a six  
weeks turn of colera morbus.

The war excitement here has subsided into  
a cool determination to sustain the Government  
at all hazards the legislature has pased a bill to  
organize all the state malitia and has  
appropriated \$3,000.000 for military purposes

There have a good many gone that I am  
acquainted with and I shall go in the fall if  
wanted

If Illinois money goes at 85 cent if has a  
beter circulation than it has here it is worth  
onely from 10 to 80 cts here and a great many  
buisness men begin to say spetia I am among  
the number

Your Brother  
A. M. A.

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Sept. 28

Camp Hammond [Aurora IL, Kane Co.]

Dear Mother

I have been waiting sometime to here from  
home I sent a letter some two weaks or more  
ago with a note of \$78 in it addressed to Mr.  
Hodges which I have not heard from yet.

We shall leave here tomorrow at five in the  
morning for St. Lewis We got our uniform  
yesterday and I shall send my trunk to you  
today

We shall march threw town at three today  
to show ourselvles I don think of anything else  
of interest

Address me at the 36 Reg. Ill. Volentires  
care of Capt Wm. P. Peirce  
From your son

A. M. Alvord

P.S.

I shall inclose the reciept of my trunk and  
the key I would pay the freight if I had the  
money.

I will send it as soon as possible  
A. M. Alvord

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Camp Rolla [Missouri]

Oct 5 [1861]

Dear Mother

Since I wrote to you last we have changed  
our position considerable We left Camp  
Hammon week ago last Tuesday at three PM  
marched three miles with our napsacks on our  
backs the first that we have done at that kind  
of work we took the cars for Quincy at six  
reached there at five Wednesday PM we stayed  
in the cars and went into the boat at six in the  
morning and started about ten our quarters wer  
on the hurricane deck on the bow of the boat it  
afforded us a good view of the country as we  
went down the river but it was an airy place to  
sleep as we found out the next two nights we  
reached St. Louis in the night and at nine oclock  
went on shore and then marched to the arsenal  
for our arms and marched back to the boat  
which took till dark as we were marched on  
shore in the morning as the Capt of the boat  
wanted to start it we waited till four PM when a  
train was stoped in front of us this was the  
first intimation of which way we were going the  
Colonel then ordered 15 men from each company  
to load the baggage I was among the number it  
took about two hours we were then marched  
two miles to the station and then loaded into  
freight cars 50 in a car and started like  
Abraham of old we knew not whither but Sunday  
about noon we came to a halt at the dnd of the  
R.R. in front of Camp Rolla we marched into  
Camp and after a time we had the baggage to  
unload and our tents to pitch and fit for use  
which took till dark now you can see how we

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Winter

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keep Sunday down this way we were all tired enough by this time to enjoy a good nights sleep it it was on the soft side of a pine board.

I think that those that entered the army just for the fun of the thing will get all the fun that they want before they get threw with it.

Camp Rolla is situated on a nowl in an oak opening there is a foart being built on the south side and the camp is to be entrenched our Col. has command here.

The boys are all in fine spirrits and getting ready for a fite as fast as possible.

Your affection son

A. M. A.

My address is Co. D 36th Ill's Reg't. Camp Rolla, Rolla Mo. Care of Capt. Wm. P. Peirce

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Camp Rolla  
Oct 27 [1861]

Dear Mother

I received your letter in diew time You want I should write whenever we have an engagement here if I wait for that I shan't have any thing to write very quick the accounts we get here threw the newspapers are as contradictory as they are with you according to all accounts. I should judge that there would be a battle between Fremont and Price in a short time according to the papers Fremont has Price nearly serounded and within one days march of him he can retreat onely directly south.

It is uncertain how long we shall stay here some think all winter and some think onely a few weeks nothing would please any of us better than to have orders to pull up stakes and start south

The 36 is the finest regiment and the best equipped that I have seen that is owing to our Col. and lieu't Col. who are experienced officers

we have the name of the sundy Regiment on account of our clothes we received in the first place one pr. Of shoes two prs. of socks two prs. of drawers one pr of sky blew pants two shirts a blous (or loos fatigue coat) of dark blew and a cap since we reached here we have recieved another pr of pants a short jacket of dark blew a hat with a plume and brass to make a wash dish and an overcoat of the same material as the pants and cut about the fasion of tathers old box coat it reaches six inches below the nees with a cape that reaches below the elbows and a collar clear above the ears we have a blanket 14 ft by 5 ½ and a ruber cloth 7 by 5 I also brought with me a pr of cip boots and a shall and two under shirts I understand that we are to have a pr of under shirts a pr of gloves and a pr of suspenders but we cant place any dependance on Camp reports

I should like our situation here well if it was not that we cannot get any news till it is a weak old.

I must close

From your son  
A.M.A.

**A**

To be continued in a later issue.