

To John House  
Mooreville, Indiana

Bristoe Station  
Prince W Co., Va.  
January 11th, 1868

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My Dear Brother

After a long silence I seat myself to answer your last letter. I feel somewhat ashamed on account of my negligent delay, but must beg you to excuse me. It is not because I do not like to write you and allso glad to hear from you but simply because I have to work hard and do not feel like writing with my stiff fingers. But let this seffice and I will try and do better in the future. We are all tolerably well. I am very much afflicted and sometimes very severly. We are getting along as well as could be expected under the circumstances as the niggers are our superiors. They have the elective franchise and was compelled to vote the radical tickets for delegates to a convention to frame a constitution for our state to suit the radical congress. The negroes were formed in what they call a union league and under that league they are sworn to support that party and many of them would have voted the conservative ticket but were afraid to do so. In fact many did and were immediately lynched and many were scared on the penalty of death. Now just think here are these poor ignorant people just from bondage who have but very little knowledge of our political matters who as the President says (truly too) does not know how to cast a vote and in fact many had forgot what names they registered under and on that account could not vote. And here these votes are forced on us to form a convention to make our state convention when I think the very best of our men should only have voted. I am opposed to universal suffrage to the white people. I would not be opposed to the negro voting if he were capable and in time when they become more enlightened then it will be time enough. But most assuredly they were better off in slavery than now. Of course there are some exceptions. But as a whole they were better off. We see nothing here what it is further south but it is enough seen here to confirm what I have said. They are lounging around many half clad and not enough to eat. They could get plenty of work to do if they would but won't until necessity compels them and as a matter of course that makes them dishonest and many have flattered themselves that they would get farms by confiscation but if ever that comes to pass there will be a war of races. Now as for myself I care nothing about slavery, but I feel for them who had scarcely any other property and Lincoln had no more authority (than I had) under the constitution of the United States to set them at liberty. He said it was a military necessity, but now that is stopped. But enough of the niggers at present.



Page 2  
(1-11-1868)

I was glad to hear of your good health and that you are doing well. I suppose you are like myself have to work hard in your old age though we ought not to complain as an honest employment is the best satisfaction a man can have and he feels better both in health and spirits. We are living very well now, have plenty to eat and ware and by the blessing of God we hope so to do if this rotten government will let us alone. I sold last year about \$300.00 worth of grain and have about 150 bushels of oats now for sale and it is supposed they will be worth \$1.00 per bushel in the spring. They are worth now 75 cts. per bushel, corn is worth \$1.20 per bushel, wheat is from \$2.60 to \$3.00 per bushel, hay per hundred pounds 75 cts., horses and cattle are high. I have 4 horses, 10 head of cattle, 38 head of sheep, 20 head of hogs and Nathaniel has a little threshing machine that brings us in a little. Nathaniel has 6 children and another close at hand, 4 boys and 2 girls. I will now close as it is bed time. Excuse this as it is written in a hurry. The family joins me in much love to you all. Write as soon as convenient and let me know how all are and are getting along. Is Sheets living yet? Nat says tell Henry House to write him and also tell Daniel Sheets he will write him soon.

May the giver of all good gifts guide, protect and finally save you is my Prayer.

Good night Dear Brother

Michael House

Michael House      Prince

Bristoe Station      Wales

Let us hear from you soon.

I forgot to inform you by your request of my copper mine. I have not examined yet but I believe there is copper and judging from the piece I found it will be valuable. The man that I leased to rather took the advantage of me and before I acknowledged the lease I requested him to make some alterations in it and he did not seem willing and he gave it up and afterwards threatened to law me for non-compliance. I will give you more particulars in my next as I have not room now.

NOTE: The child close at hand was Hattie (House) Francis-born February 3, 1868.



To Henry House  
Mooresville, Indiana

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Greenwich Prince Wm. Co. Va.  
September 15th 1875

Dear Cousin

I expect you think I do not intend to comply with my proposition. I acknowledge I have delayed writing longer than I should have done but wishing to send you one of my pictures I waited until I had one taken. I went to Warrenton 2 months ago but failed as the artist had gone away, so then I went to Alexandria and succeeded which I will send you. It would have been better had it been a shade darker though everybody says it is a good picture. I am sorry to say I fear you will not be able to get Paps and Mothers as they cannot have them taken no nearer than Warrenton and the ride is too great for them but if it is possible I will send them to you. I hope you will send me yours for it is a great pleasure. I feel grateful for Uncle and Aunts. We have had a good corn season but wheat and oats a failure. I did not more than double my seed of the two latter, the hay crop was allso short. We had rain nearly the entire of August. I never saw such a rainy August and the last of it Broad Run was within a foot of being as high as it was in 1829, so says Pap and a good many others. It done a great deal of damage.

Tell Uncle John Pap says if it was not for his affliction he would be a man yet. That he can mow grass yet very well for a half day at a time and says it agrees with him better than any other kind of work. He ploughed corn 2 days this summer but I can see that he is getting quite feeble. Mother is allso quite feeble and this summer has had bad health. Her eyesight has returned. She can see to thread the finest needle without spectacles, in fact has no use for them.

Uncle Henry and Samuel Haislip are quite well. Uncle Sam is living with his oldest son Robert, who is a carpenter and Uncle Sam tends the farm. Uncle Henry lives across Broad Run opposite Langhyer upper mill is farming. The youngest daughter of Uncle Sams married one of William Halls sons and he is farming for Uncle Henry.

Now one word about the Ladies. I am very much oblige to you for your offer but I cannot get my consent to marry yet but if I should I think Old Virginia can beat Indiana for beauty and managers. I tell you there is three who is my near neighbors that are hard to beat so you can see I would not go far. I must now close and beg you to excuse this for I wrote it in a hurry. We are all well and hope this may find you all well. Write as soon as you can and be sure to send your picture. All of us join in love to you all.

Your sincere cousin

NATHANIEL HOUSE



Greenwich Oct. 26th 1878

My Dear Cousin

I feel ashamed to write to you after having treated you so mean by not writing sooner but better now than never. I was sorry to hear of Uncles Death though He had lived to a good old age and there is one comforting thought that He is gone from a troublesome world to a wor..... bliss and our great desi..... be to meet him there..... Lord give us grace to..... the same. Pap took the..... news much better than expected he said he was expecting to hear of it and he feels shure it will not be long before he will follow. Last April We thought he would die and so did the doctors but the Lord ordered otherwise. He gave me directions how he wished to be buried O the sad though. But thank God he is now able to walk about the farm and has been to see me twice this summer and says he feels better than he has for 5 or 6 years. His urine stoped on him and there was such a stricture that it was with the greatest.....ty the Dr. could insert an.....ment at one time he thought...would have to give it up.....him which of course.....give relief for a while and.....ld not have lived more than a week afterwards I urged the Dr. to persevere with the instrument and he did time and again and succeeded at last and there was fully one gallon taken from him this had to be done by the Dr. for 5 or 6 days and after that I could insert the instrument and now Pap has to have one and can use it himself which he

has to do about twice in 24 hours he uses it so far with..... causes no pain the Drs. say if he had attended to this difficulty 6 or 8 years ago it would have been..... better for him. They also say..... Bladder is paralyzed..... can never urinate a..... to use an instrument..... lives. Mother..... still able to attend t..... affairs. She spent the..... this week. I have been..... confined this week with a.....in my left knee rheumatism and cold. I cannot.....which but.....thank ful it is getting better. My children are all well. I expect my oldest Son Henry will get married in December he is now living with Pap and will if he gets married one of my daughters allso live with Mother the rest are with me except Daniel the next oldest Boy he is trying specula tion in the way of cattle and sheep .....I must tell you .....taken another comp anion since I wrote to you have .....married 2 years the 24 of this .....and have an interesting little .....old. We have named .....than. I married a miss .....5 ye...old when we .....me is Catharine .....makes me a good Wife .....work and manage .....letter I will give you the.....of my marriage more fully.....hope you al...ha...got wel...nd are doin.....write soon and tell me of a.....relations especially John Bless.....us join in love to you all. Write soon and I will answer immediately.

Your devoted Cousin

NATHANIEL HOUSE

NOTE: Henry Michael House was married Dec. 19, 1878.  
 John Nathan House was born July 31, 1877.  
 Nathaniel's second wife was Catharine B. Reid.  
 Paps (Michael) died July 2, 1884.



OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH  
 Pastor M. E. Church, North Indiana Conference

Sigonier Noble      October 30, 1874

Dear Father & Mother House

I have promised myself and you, for a long time to write you, but have never found time till now, and would not have it now if I did not drop everything else and take it. I am reminded this morning by the first drops of snow that almost another, is added to the years of your lives-not long till another "birthday". We are in our usual health, though Cansada, and Mary are just over an attack of diptheria. Sarah feels a great deal of pain-but weighs 160. I do not think she ever will feel quite well. The children are-five of them-in school, and the three younger at home. The summer was excessively dry, and the corn crop almost failed, gardens failed, fruit, potatoes, etc, are scarce for the same reasons: though there is a sufficiency to supply home demand, the price is high, and money close, which will make it hard on the poor.

But not withstanding these things, trade is brisk, and men of means are getting rich. If I had possessed \$500 last spring I could have made \$1000 out of it this summer and not spent three days in doing so.

I have just turned into my forty third year, but I can hardly realize it, except for the care, and anxiety on my mind. I feel as young as at twenty five, am heavier than ever before at this time in the year.

How Much I wish you could visit us. I suppose you have moved before this time; well be it so. I could have wished you in town on account of church privileges, etc. but if you are best satisfied where you are, I shall not complain.

If I had known before it was too late, I would have made an excuse to run down during the Exposition at Indianapolis, a round trip for \$6.50. We cannot all come, and I cannot now-even alone.

Give our love to all our friends, when you meet with them. If you are spared, and we are, we hope to meet again this side of the "river"; if not, "over there". Ah, this hope is everything to us who are soon to pass away. I am working harder than ever before in my life, and this is saying a great deal, for I have always worked hard.

Y. B. Meredith



Home

Feb. 11th, 1876

Well, Father and Mother House how do you do, quite feeble, I expect. We have been thinking and talking about you lately almost every day. This morning we got out your pictures and looked at you it seemed as if I could almost talk with you so nacheral did you loock. My mind run back 30 to 36 years how often we met in church and around the family allter, what changes has taken place. Some that met with us then have pased away and are now where sicknefs sorrow and death are no more. Some of us still remane here on earth to mingle with the joys and sorrows of earth. I hope we may all meet in Heaven. We are all well, hope these few lines may find you the same. We have quite a warm winter, plenty of mud and bad roads. I suppose you have heard that Lottie our last daughter is married. She was married in Oct. to R. J. Knox. She is teaching school he is going to crop with his Father this year, gets one third of all they raise cattle and hogs and what is on hand they have a large lot of good hogs 25 or 30 head of cattle 15 or 20 hundred bush of corn, gets one third of that.

Our family is quite small this winter, only Charlie, Mother and myself. Charlie goes to school. Saylor and John are out seling sewing machines. Wm. and Kate are runing the Galory. Times has been a little dul in ther line this winter. Well I suppose you would like to know how I am geting along. We are out of dept only what I owe you. Have some money left, ehough to run us through this summer without going in dept, if we have no bad luck. I have 25 head of good hogs, Saylor has 16, I have six milk cows 8 head of steers and heifers, 3 head of horses all the stock I have. John House and family are all well and doing well.

Well I must close as diner will soon be readdy. I wish you could eat dinner with us once moore. We have the smoke house hanging full of pork and beef. No one to help us eat it. Mother sends her love to you all. No more. Write David Shanafelt and family to Father and Mother House, well Henry and family, how do you all do, I expect you are makeing sugar. We have good sugar weather here if we had the trees.

Love

D.S. (David Shanafelt)



## OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH

Pastor M.E. Church, North Indiana Conference

May 2, 1876

Ligonier, Noble County

Dear Father and Mother

We received a letter yesterday from Clarence and Ida to Bascom and Adelle in which they say you are both quite feeble. We are very sorry to learn this, though glad to know that the Dr. thinks you will get better now. We did not forget you, nor fail to feel anxious about you, and always told the friends when they wrote to let us know how you were. Sometimes they did give us some particulars, and sometimes only mentioned the matter in a general way. The reason I have not personally written more frequently, is that the children have been writing and we have been hearing from you in that way.

This leaves us in usual health: in fact the general health is most excellent. We have made a little garden but nothing is through the ground yet; some are just now getting their gardens ready for planting. Sabbath night, ice froze  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch thick. The peach trees were just coming out in bloom but I do not think they are hurt, and no other fruit is in bloom yet. The woods here just begin to show a little green; wheat looks very fine and everything bids fair for a good crop year. Bascom has hired to an egg and butter shipper for six months at \$25.00 per month, he boards at home. This is better, we think than being away among strangers. Adelle is just out of school, and will stay at home this summer. Cansada, Mary and Malcom will go to school for two months. Ida promised to write again very soon, and we hope to learn then that you have recovered. If you should get worse we shall want to know it at once. We know you must feel more interested in that which lies on the other side of the river, than in anything earthly, and we feel sure you are sweetly sustained by grace while you, like Moses looks over into the promised land. Our Blessed Father has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake them." May you rest in Him to the end! Our love to all.

Y. B. MEREDITH &amp; FAMILY



August 17, 1876

Dear Brother, Sister and Father,

I received your letter and must say it gives me great grief to hear of Mother's death. It being so sudden that it is hard for me to think that I will never see her any more on earth. But I feel that if we do our duty we will meet in heaven. I would say to Father that we all deeply mourn his loss, but hope he will bear up bravely.

I think often of home and would have liked to have been with you all. I would like for you to write often and let us know how you are all getting along. We are all well at present.

From your affectionate brother,

John B. House



OFFICE OF Y. B. MEREDITH,  
Pastor M.E. Church North Indiana Conference

La Grange, Indiana  
May 6, 1877

Dear Father

It seems like a long time since we wrote you and so it is, but you know how such things are suffered to pass along. While Bascom was there we heard from you through him but since he came home we hear nothing from Mooresville. I ought to have written you earlier but for the fact that this was moving year for us; we have just got moved and the inside of the house fixed up, a comfortable house; there are in the upper part, parlor, & parlor bedroom, sitting room and three bedrooms ..... to it. Below, is a kitchen, dining room, pantry, wash-room, with cistern in it, and cellar, all on the same level and all quite roomy. The lower part is a basement, not in, but behind the bank. We have fine shade in the yard; the Parsonage stands in the same yard with the church. There are 170 full members, and 58 probationers in the charge, some four or five families live in the country, the others in town. I think it will prove to be a good charge. As you know it is the Co. seat of this Co. We are within 7 miles of the Michigan line, so you see we cannot get much farther "North". I am very thankful that Bp Wiley did not make me P.E. I need to be with these boys, beside it is no lift to a man to be made P.E. these days. Bascom has not been up since we came, this is not in the route he drives, but they are going to send him here occasionally, so we hope to see him once in a while. We expect him to stay with us and go to school this coming winter. We have a fine school building here, cost \$32,000. Will be finished (main building) this ..... I wish, we all do, that you could come ..... .... summer with us, but I suppose you feel too feeble for such a trip. The prospect for a wheat crop is said to be the best ever known in this country; there is a fine prospect for fruit except apples--of these we cannot tell for they are just beginning to leaf out. Some say there will be a light apple crop this year because there was such a large crop last year. One man near here has his crop of corn planted, and many others will plant this coming week. I would rather wait until the ground gets warm. Now I hardly think of any other general fact which would interest you. Probably you will feel an interest in knowing where we are financially. We have lived through the dreadful crisis so far. Some times it has been very close work, and looked like making a good deal of sacrifice for the privilege of preaching the gospel, but it is all right. I have served the church as faithfully as I knew how, for sixteen and a half years, have not been able to lay up a dollar, but the "Lord will provide".



Page 2  
(May 6, 1877)

We talk of you often and I was thinking tonight how lonely you must feel after so many years together with our dear Mother, now that she is gone: but it is only a little while, the boundary line between the two worlds is narrow. How strange it seems that kindred can be so soon weaned from each other! Our friends there very seldom wrote us. And did not the Lord raise up friends for us where we are, we should be indeed alone in the world. May the blefsted Lord sustain you in your decline, and if we meet no-more here, will hope to meet in the "morning". I got some pictures a few days ago and enclose one for you. Give our love to all who will appreciate it. Sarah is gone to bed, but told me to tell you, she will get her picture and send it as soon as may be. If we could, we would be so glad to hear from you often. I must close now for it is ten o'clock and I must preach twice, attend clafs, and teach a Bible-clafs tomorrow.

Your affectionate children

Y.B. & S.E. Meredith

Addition written on top of letter:

We are 18 miles from where we were last, in a North East direction. If you feel like you can endure the trip, and I can raise means I will come after you. Let me know.



Office of WM. BEATTY, Photographer

Sigourney, Iowa  
January 1880

Mr. Henry House

Dear Uncle,

I have often thought of writing you but have neglected it 'til now. The fact is I am kept very busy with family cares and helping my husband in his office. I have often thought of visiting you at some future time but so many of those I loved have crossed "over the hither side" that it seems now it would hardly be a satisfaction to me. Dear old Grandfather and Mother, Aunt Kate, Henrietta, John Clarence and Ida Beeson and your own Charlotte, namesake of my own dear sainted mother and sister Amanda. What a goodly company have gathered over the river to welcome us in the sweet bye and bye.

There was in Grandmother's possession a picture of my Mother taken just before I went to Ind. to school. It is in a case, father on one side, and Mother on the other. If you have it or can get track of it, please send it to me. We want a copy. I will return the original or a photograph of it. Have the case carefully sealed, now please attend to this, you will confer a very great favor on us all by so doing. Where are Uncle Meredith's now? If there is a picture of sister Amanda deceased, taken in a case when she was a little girl, send that too. I will amply reward you for your trouble.

Very truly, etc.

Kate Beatty.

Saylor Shanafelt's letter attached.

KATE SHANAFELT  
I have taken this quotation from your last letter and from the language it seems that you were glad to acknowledge the kind receipt, but I am anxious to hear from you. Remember me as your affectionate friend.  
Sept. 12th.



Opian Wells Co. Ind.  
Feb' 16, 1880

Henry House

Dear Bro'.

Yours of the 11th was received today. You will find the receipt enclosed as per request. If I had been my own man, with as much time at my disposal as I could have desired, I should have written many letters this year, but I have been on the wing about all the time and have had to depend on the girls to keep up the family correspondence; they were neglectful and so matters have gone. Bascom wrote us once that Charlotte had consumption, and the first we knew of her death was through the Advocate. We have spent a very pleasant year here in most respects. There has however, been such mud as I never saw before. True I have seen spots where it was as deep, but here it has been one perpetual mud hole wherever you could go. All travel stopped, except on foot, or by railroad. We have had no snow to amount to anything until last Friday night--it snowed about six inches deep but it is nearly gone now, and we are in the mud again. My work has been a very hard one this year, but I have stood up under it remarkably well. We have had a little friction lately at this place--had to try a notorious case which has annoyed the church for ten years--some have taken sides and it may cut my feed short--cannot tell yet. Our congregations have been very large and interest excellent. My P.E. says he will not suffer me to remain another year--the whole Conf' was indignant at my appointment here, etc. I should not be surprised to be sent back to the south side of the Conf' this spring, but cannot tell yet. We have kept our health remarkably well for so open a winter. More and more I realize the utter vanity of human hopes, as I see how our friends are fading away, and more and more value the undying hopes of religion. Bascom is in Colorado but we do not know whether he has gone into business yet, are looking for a letter every day. As often as you feel like writing I will answer.

Love to all

Y. B. MEREDITH



Addressed to John House, Hamilton County

September 12th

Mr. John House

Dear Cousin - I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter received so long since that I am almost ashamed to attempt to answer it. When your letter came to hand I was attending school at Sigourney. I am now teaching in Baden I have a very full school and there are more entering every day. I expect I will have to employ an assistant this winter. Last summer when I attended school I commenced my collegiate course; my teacher Professor \_ was very sorry to have me leave school; as he said I progressed very rapidly. In six weeks I was able to read and write german; latin is not so difficult as german yet I did not progress so rapidly. I got as far as equations in Algebra. But my purse was not heavy enough to attend high school very long; I went till money was all expended and then I commenced teaching. Cousin J you would come to Iowa and teach school this winter. There is a teacher wanted in the district adjoining mine and I am sure it would be pleasant to have you so near me.

It is raining today and very cold for the time of year. We have not had much frost this fall but a very fair prospect if it continues so cold. John I have a great mind to stop writing for this letter is as long-if not longer-than the last one you sent me. Perhaps you think I would better stop-Well I won't do it for spite if you will not write long letters I will! You inquired what I had done with my Baptist preacher-I have'nt done anything with him yet-and I do not think I ever will-so you must not be boasting of your minister cousin. I have'nt got any beau at present-indeed not a very fair prospect for any soon.

As I did not finish my letter Tuesday I will try to finish it today. It has cleared up and became warm without frost. I have not seen our folks for some time, perhaps I will go home tomorrow John I tried to write tomorrow in the line above this I don't know whether you can read it or not. I imagine I hear you say-what a letter to be written by a school teacher and one who is studying the classics. What from writing composition, and punctuation. Well don't be to rigid in your criticisms for this was written in haste and hence, the sentences are broken and illy arranged; typographical errors are a natural consequence. Hence, excuse. Write soon if you deem this worthy a reply.

Adieu

KATE

PS: Please give love and good wishes to all and accept my finer regards for yourself. Do not wait so long before you answer this, for I am anxious to hear from you. Remember me as your affectionate Cousin.

KATE SHANAFELT

Address as usual Sigourney, Iowa

I have taken this quotation from your last letter and from the language it seems that you were glad to acknowledge the kind receipt, but ashamed to answer, the same expression may be applied in my behalf as it was the 19th day of Oct. that I received your letter, it was dated Sept. 12th.



Camp of the 101st Regt.  
Near Atlanta  
August 14th/64

Dear Brother,

As I have just partaken of a hearty breakfast of government rations and feel pretty well in my sphere this fine Sabbath morning, I thought that I might interest you by taking up my pen and writing a few lines for you to read. I received your kind letter dated August 5th and was truly pleased in reading its contents. As a matter of facts I should be much more gratified to be with you and to hear you talk, and to talk with you, than to read your letters under the present circumstances. Although the latter is very agreeable, the former would be to me more so. We have had no fighting in our front for the last two days, there being an agreement made between our men and the rebels not to fire at each other, unless one or the other advances with arms. Our line of works are within two hundred yards of the rebs. We get up on our breastworks and talk across to each other, and occasionally some one gets an agreement made with the Johnnies (as we call them they call us Billy) to meet half way to track such notions as may be agreed upon. The rebel regiment that lays in our immediate front is the 1st Kentucky. They are as saucy as Kentucky people generally gets I recon. But they dont make much off of the back woods Hosiers such as compose the 101st.

We had two men killed in our Co. since the 4th of this month a fighting for the position we now occupy. Dixon Sheets, J. Joland, Seaborn Wheeler, Charles Caco, James Harris, John Hollingsworth, John Miller are with the Co. and are enjoying good health. I dont know whether you knew the last three names or not, if you dont George does. There is a great deal of talk and rumor among the Indiana troops about getting to go home to vote this fall. They seem to think that if they are not allowed to go home to vote that they will not be entitled to a vote at all. I dont know how the soldiers are further north but you ask a soldier here at the front who he thinks will be the next president, he will tell you that if Richmond and Atlanta are taken before the election that Lincoln will be elected. You ask a soldier here in the field who he will support if allowed the privilege, his immediate reply is I will vote for Lincoln and Johnson. Hurrah! Lincoln, Johnson.

I believe that I shall close for this time hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

From

John R. House

To

Newton H. House

Tad House has the original letter.



Savannah, Geo.  
Dec. the 26th/64

55

Dear Sister,-

I received your letter dated Nov. 16th ult. and was truly glad to hear from you. It is also a great pleasure to know have the privilege of answering it. I might have written sooner, but I thought that I would wait until after Christmast. I came off of picket at eight o'clock Christmast morning. I had pretty good times during the day and eat a large mess of sweet potatoes for supper. About nine o'clock I lied down and slept soundly untill next morning. Our grubb is a little scarce at the present, but it is better than might be expected after establishing our new line of communications in supplies.

They are now clearing the Savannah River of obstructions, which had been placed in it by the Rebels to hinder our boats from running up. The job will be completed in a day or two, and then they say that we will have plenty of rations. For my part I dont see what would be to hinder them. I will ensure none of us to starve while the south yields as spontaneously as she does. I had no idea that Georgia was so productive until we left Atlanta enroute for Savannah. Hogs, chickens, geese, turkies, turnips, sweet potatoes, honey & sorgum molasses, meal and flour were to be found in large quantities on nearly every plantation. We that is the army lived off of the country for twenty one days and never drew a ration from Uncle Sam's stores. Whenever we found any thing we took what we wanted, and by the time the rear of the army came along if it was not all taken, it was put in the supply train or burnt. Take it along or burn it was the motto of the march.

I must close the bugle has sounded inspection which will be in fifteen minutes. I am well and hearty and the rest of the boys are all well. I was glad that you gave me the the information that you did concerning the boys that are at home. I was anxious to hear from them and so was others hear in the Co. Write soon again as I am always anxious to hear from home.

From your affectionate  
Brother

John R. House

Tad House has the original letter.



Camp of the 101st Regt. Ind. Vol.  
In the Field N.C. April 29th, 1865

Dear Sister-

Hostilities having ceased between the Confederates & Federal armies we about faced yesterday morning, and took up our line of march enroute for Richmond, Va. We leave Raleigh with fifteen days subsistence loaded into the supply trains. We are ordered to put ourselves into light marching order, and to travel at the rates of fifteen miles per day. On our arrival at Richmond preparations will there be made for our further journey. Which will doubtless be speedy towards insuring us that we are enroute for a destination in our own native state. How long it will take to accomplish our journey I have no idea. But we were insured by an official order that we were done fighting and that we would return to our homes as soon as convenient, there to enjoy as true citizens should the liberty & freedom of our glorious country that we have so nobly maintained through all its perils. I received your letter dated April 15th and was glad to hear from you, and to learn that you were all doing well. I can say that my health has improved considerably in the last few days. The rest of the boys are all well.

I have had to write in a hasty manner and in double quick time. We have been marching today and have just went into camp and got orders that the mail would go out at half past three o'clock which leaves me but a few moments to write in. I hope this will suffice for the present but I have no idea when I may have an opportunity to write again. Please write soon as I am ever anxious to hear from you. Remember me.

Your Brother

John R. House

NOTE: John R. House was the oldest son of George House, Hamilton County, Indiana. We have 15 letters written by John while he was in the Civil War.

Tad House has the original letter.



## HENRY HOUSE SUPPLEMENT

Henry House was born in Prince William County, Virginia, on March 23, 1823, the third of eight children of John and Catherine Barbara (Bless) House. His parents came to America from Diersheim, Germany in 1817 and I have heard many times that they were just married and were on their honeymoon.

We know of two other Henry Houses and let us explain who they are. Henry Michael House (1853-1944) was the son of Michael House and always lived in Virginia. He is buried at the Greenwich Cemetery in Virginia. Henry P. House (1897- ) is my older brother and now lives at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Douglas House is my father and the Henry House of whom we are writing was his father, and my grandfather.

Henry House moved from Virginia to Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, arriving there on Christmas day, 1836, at the age of thirteen. He lived in Madison Township from 1837 until he was married. Following are extractions from a story which appeared in the Mooresville paper some time in the 1870's or 1880's:

## PERSONAL REMINISCENCE - by John D. Carter

"...in came 1843 and I concluded to hire a good hand. I had a fine young mare that I could spare and I had my eye on a man by the name of Henry House and I proposed to Henry House that I would let him have the mare if he would work for me 6 months, or I believe, it was 5 months, \$60.00. He proved to be a good hand and I kept him all summer and fall.

...in the Spring of 1844 I hired Henry House again at the same price.

...House and I went on with the other work...

...Henry House would take Vincent down to the old stable, set him in the shade and hay him to jump, when Henry would catch him.

...I kept House until late in the fall."

Henry House had two brothers and five sisters. The oldest was Charlotte who was born in Pennsylvania. She married David Shanafelt on March 28, 1839 and moved to Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa in 1854. They farmed in German Township now known as Plank Township. The name was changed during World War I. Their first child, Elizabeth A. Shanafelt, age three months, is buried in the Old Mooresville Cemetery. David and Charlotte are buried at Sigourney, Iowa. Their daughter and son-in-law, William and Kate M. Beatty operated a photographic studio in the 1880's on the northwest corner of the square in Sigourney. We visited Sigourney in November, 1969, and found that the last of the Shanafelts had moved to Ames, Iowa, some years before. The Shanafelt name has now run out there but undoubtedly there are many others elsewhere.