

[Letter to his parents from V. W. Sargent in an army hospital in Keokuk, Iowa]

No 6 [right corner]
Keokuk Iowa Dec 3rd/64

Dear Parents

I received your letter of the 27th which found me a cicking [kicking] the rumor now that I'm to start for Vicksy [Vicksburg] day after tomorrow You see there was a lot of us examined about a week ago and have ben [been] wating [waiting] to get our pay which was got yesterday I drew \$27 and have made about that in [unclear] besides wages I will put \$10 in this letter and let it slide and the next letter I write I will put another in the same make I have to buy me a pair of boots which cost about \$8 if I get a good pair

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I am glad to hear that you have got your corn all picked we had a little spell of cold weather here awhile ago the river was full of ice and it snowed a little but it all cleared up in a few days and its as pleasant now as one could wish I had a letter from washy awhile ago it was before he had seen welly I am glad they have got together hope I will be with them before long You wrote about sending me some stockings if you could get them safe to us we should be glad to get them but for my part I think that I can get along with

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what I have got and the rest in US socks we had a thanksgiving dinner here y by all throwing in a quarter the dinner was got up in good stile [style] and and after it was over we had a few speaches [speeches] break [broke] up by three chears [cheers] Old Abe As for hard words if them pious folks dont [don't] like them they need not listen to them some one that knows me knows that I mean no harm when I put a word in cross ways When you answer this letter you better direct to the Regt [Regiment] and if it gets ther [there] before I do the boys will get it

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I will bring this to close now as it is getting late and news scarce

From your son
Van B. W. Sargent

A.V. Sargent
M H Sargent
H E. Sargent

You understand that I am going to Vicksy [Vicksburg] if something dont [don't] turn up betwixt this and Monday [Written vertically along left side]

Direct as you do to the twins and have it go to the Regt [Regiment]. [written vertically along right side]