

This letter and the one Dec 27 1861 were sent to Emily Maria Lee the mother of Robert De Forest Lee reporting his illness at the Union camp in Louisville KY

A letter from D.O. Benjamin to his wife in Indianapolis about Robert De Forest Lee

Louisville Ky Dec 26/61
8 O'clock

I arrived here at half past 3 o'clock yesterday and found Robert in rather a bad fix

I commenced washing & rubbing him and cleaned him up which he needed and by 7 o'clock in the evening when the doctor came he pronounced him much better than last evening the boys say he is much better but I think he is bad enough yet he had the measles & the stricken & now has the typhoid fever. The doctor thinks he will do the move on Saturday I shall stay for him I have not time to tell you how they are fixed

here it is enough to say that the building that Robert is in is full & the room he is in, is about 30 feet square & there is 28 sick men in this room Robert is flighty and did not know me for some time he says but little he asked for Theodore if I knew where he was that was this morning I asked him what I should tell you he said he did not know

I will write again soon

Elizabeth B Yours
 D.O. Benjamin

<Subsequent Letter>

Louisville Ky Dec 27 th 1861

Dear wife and children

I sit down yes and on the floor to write to you Robert is some better this morning but he has not his senses but a few moments at a time I am with him nearly all the time I do not leave him more than 15 minutes at a time I got a chicken last night and got some soup made & got it ready about 10 o'clock and I give him whiskey every hour and soup once in 2 hours I washed him and combed his hair about sunrise this morning he was laying in a dozing sleep after I got through he opened his eyes and smiled and said how do you do uncle extending his hand at the same time and I think it is the first time he has realized that I was here with him although he called me doctor several times and then would half correct himself and say uncle I told him last night that I wanted him to drink his whiskey and eat his soup so he could go home with me he asked me several times if we had got nearly there and then his mind would wander again but he has rested very well since 12 o'clock and is now sleeping and is very quiet its now nine o'clock and is time the doctor made his rounds it

rained last Evening but it is verry pleasant today and we have a verry pleasant view of the river & Jeffersonville from our window, there is about 200 sick in this Building and they are well taken Care of when Considering how many there is Crowed together it's dreadful at first the nois and smell but I have Been to work and I have got some to help Me and we have done some good the Doctor is just coming in & is going his rounds Every one is numbered and he Calls No 5 and says how are you are you any better has your Medicens operated and how often and what time and pass on to the next and so on Round he is now looking at Robert and says he is improving and they all say what a fine thing it is to have a good nurse it is now getting Near mail time and I must Close I do not know when I Can leave here I cannot leave Robert yet I am in hopes that he will be able to Be Moved next week But it is uncertain you Must write soon and tell Me how you get along
D.O Benjamin
Elizabeth Benjamin

<The following was appended by Elizabeth before sending the letter on to Robert's mother>

Dear Sister I wrote you that Robert was sick and I know that you feel anxious to hear from him I will send you my husbands letters They can tell you better than I can if Clarence should come enquire for 166 South Alabama St that is our house
Your affectionate Sister