

# CONTENTS



Preface ix

1. A Lifeline of Letters	I
2. Illinois Citizens Become Soldiers	20
3. Camp Life and Bonding with the Boys	38
4. Soldiering	56
5. Managing Affairs from Afar	81
6. Seeing the Elephant	106
7. Southern Culture through Northern Eyes	131
8. Officers, Generals, and “Old Abe”	150
9. Debility and Diseases	170
10. Writing the Indescribable as Prisoners of War	188
11. Soldiers No More	205
Appendix A: Soldiers’ Brief Biographies	227
Appendix B: Chronology of the Civil War	261
Appendix C: Quoted Soldiers, by County of Origin	264
Notes	267
Bibliography	279
Index	285

*Gallery of illustrations beginning on page 125*

*Map 1. Featured Illinois soldiers, by county of origin* xiv

*Map 2. Cities and battle sites mentioned in soldiers’ letters* 263