Captain James Alexander Bell

- Born in Eugene in 1826 and died 1873 in Newport, Indiana
- Served as Captain during the American Civil War
- Elected as Clerk and Treasurer of Vermillion County

Captain Bell wrote this letter to his children living back home in Vermillion County while he was at camp in Au Bayou Teche, Louisiana on October 25, 1863. Au Bayou Teche is located west of New Orleans.

This letter was donated by S. Craig Stahl of Renton, Washington.

Camp of the 18th Ind. Vols.
On Bayou Lache, La.
October 25, 1863.

To my dear children.
Ellen, James.
Lucy & Clara.

It is now near three months since I saw you at home and had some old fashioned romps & plays with you - I pray kind Providence may again favour me with the same privilege.

Scarcely a moment passes but that I am reminded of my dear & loving children at my far off home in Indiana. ~~Hundreds of little circumstances and things~~ put me in mind of you, but the thing that reminds me more than any thing else of you is when I happen to see a child or children on our march often sitting on the Styles or little rogue like swinging on the gait and watching us pass, or it may be their mother holding them up so that they can see us over the fence - When I see these things my heart almost aches with a deep desire to be at home with you - And then of

an evening about bed time when I reflect that about that time in the evening my little ones are preparing for bed and before lying down they offer up their little prayer to their Maker for their safe deliverance – all these things make me think of you (my loved ones) and my heart clings to you –

Still continue to be good children obeying your Mother and learning to be <u>honored</u> and <u>useful</u> in your after life –

I want you to write me a good long letter, the more you write the more you will improve in writing –

As ever your

Father –