

9th Kentucky Letters

(Letters/excerpts of letters as transcribed from originals by James A. Simmons, retired USAF Cpt. and descendant of Capt. James Simmons of 9th KY.)

[From N. W. Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Abingdon, IL, Feb. 15, 1857]

“Dear Joseph...It moderated early last week and no cold weather since. Last Friday was as clear and pleasant a day as I ever saw. I went out some 3 miles east to a mound, said to be the highest in this region...Joseph we all have to battle through life over difficulties, and in my case if you have an idea to suggest it will be thankfully considered. I have given my notion of the region. Col. Button and myself have said a little about going west in the spring to enter land, but it is doubtful. I am well convinced the goods business here is not very profitable. We came to spend the winter here and try the climate, and if not satisfied return to Ky, for if I leave here and go to a Slave State I will got to Ky...”

[From N. W. Jones to Austin Glazebrook, May 19, 1861]

“In this immediate neighborhood, we are for the union.”

“I occasionally hear of threats to take my life, and I can’t tell how soon they may be carried out, but I have become somewhat hardened to them.”

“The streets are in a Buz on politick [sic] and war.”

[From N. W. Jones to Austin Glazebrook, May 29, 1861]

“I fear sesession [sic] sentiments are gaining in Ky. Tho [sic] most union men seem to think otherwise...The army worms are eating the meadows in this region.”

[From N. W. Jones to Austin Glazebrook, Aug., 4, 1861]

“The parties are becoming quite hostile – I have heard of no outbreak in this region...I do not know that I am in more danger than some other union men – It would seem to persons in safety to be very distressing for a man to feel it necessary to be prepared at all times for an attack, and especially of nights – but I have become so used to it that I don’t lose much sleep and go where I think proper.”

[From Thomas Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Aug., 28, 1861]

“...and I never saw so many Fools, War War War’s the watchword. I have heard it until I believe we will have it. The Rebels are verry [sic] bold and boisterous. Praying for a conflict. Have understood Judge Bramlet will accommodate them etc etc. I saw Bro.

Wren a few days since all was well. The union men are so nervous and well armed up in that region that he thinks they are pretty safe. Still he is uneasy. I never was so Bamboosled [sic] about anything in my life.”

“The cessionists [sic] have gotten up an encampment in Town at Wooter and McKindress Tobacco factory, about 100 are drilling under some fellow from Louisville. It’s said they will break up soon. Their [sic] has been a great many changes to Secession since I last wrote you. You know so by Barlow’s Election. Thousands of men who voted for the union candidates will Fight for the Rebels [sic]. I heard a leading union man say today, if the vote was put to Ky – to take sides he would vote for her going South, etc etc etc”

[From N. W. Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Sept. 6, 1861]

“Jo Goode married Jacob Shirfey’s daughter last evening. They have both niggled it, of course Jo makes a parade [sic]. Our 3 oldest children were at the wedding. Austin came home last night but has gone again to go with the crowd in the infare. Mr. S. told me last Saturday that all had become Secessionists in that region except himself, Jesse White and one or 3 others...since the Aug. elections Secessionist are more bold and intolerant. I am between 2 Secessionists but we are on friendly terms – but this is a strong union settlement. A while back I thought it would be good policy to rent the old place, sell the unmovable for movable property and move negroes and property – the negroes to Ohio or Louisville but I fear it is too late to make that arrangement now, or will be before a concert of action can be had amongst the heirs,...I really doubt your being safe in the old neighborhood, tho [sic] there is no reason why you should not be, only the excited state of the public mind.”

[From Thomas Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Sept., 7, 1861]

“I believe we’ll have war in Ky. I Judge from the signs of the Times. I don’t know that we are more likely to have it here than others.”

“‘Camp Valingham’ [sic] in Glasgow a perfect ‘flash in the pan.’”

“Our secessionists are much troubled about the great number of Lincoln guns being shipped in The union boys are going into camp for drill near Bro Wren’s next Monday etc etc”

“I suppose the upper part of our country, Monroe, Metcalfe etc are pretty well equipped [sic] and some perhaps eager for ‘The Conflict’”

“Well Jo, I can’t think you would be in any danger of violence in this country. Low flung fellows might try to insult you, but I can’t see that they are more rabid than heretofore, perhaps not so much so.”

[From J. J. Kellow to Stanford Button, Dec. 1, 1861 from Adair Co., KY]

“ther [sic] is 5000, or 6000 men her [sic] and 2000 or 3000 that can get here in won [sic] and as many more that can com [sic] in two day [sic]”

“I have don [sic] nothing els [sic] but wat [sic] on the sick sinc [sic] I have bin [sic] here and the bois [sic] has been mending a little [sic].”

[From George W. Starr to Miss Martha Jones, Dec. 5, 1861 from Columbia, KY]

“...old Jeff Davis is ofering [sic] to pay two thirds of expense and to replace all of the stolen property.”

“I am getting tyard [sic] of living in town, I have been in town for better than two weeks. I have had the measles. But I am getting about again.”

[George W. Starr – 1st Sgt., Co. E, 9th KY Inf – killed at Resaca, GA, 29 May 1864]

[From N. W. Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Dec. 8, 1861 – written at Wade Grinstead’s house]

“...have not been molested, but looking for it daily. O. the tardiness of our troops!”

“...the Texas Rangers camped at the fair grounds was making havoc of your old place, had driven N. Harland off, broken open the houses and furniture, scattered and carried off papers etc etc, and threatened to burn the house etc and kill the cattle...”

“The negroes are all at my house.”

[From N. W. Jones to Austin Glazebrook, Jan. 7, 1862 – written at Wade Grinstead’s house, Post Office, Columbia, Ky]

“We have not been disturbed yet, but are looking for it hourly.”

Also: Wade Grinstead robbed, Alarming doings at the old place, Indecision about sending negroes to Louisville.

[From Isaac N. Chinwith to Miss Martha Jones, Feb. 2, 1862 from ‘camp Jerry Boyl’]

“Lieut [sic] Col. Roarke has detailed so many men out of each company of our Regiment Pas [Pa’s] is at the head of the company” (Pa is Capt. Arch Chinowth)

"I am well satisfied or would be if they would just move from this mud hole"

"We may come in that portion of country and we may not...I think it doubtful about us coming down there."

"...it is reported that the smallpox is at Columbia"

"I think I will go to camp again tomorrow."

[From N. W. Jones to Austin Glazebrook, Feb. 17, 1862]
(Complaining about loss of steers to the army.)

"I wish the union men may be merciful and pay for all they take and not imitate the rebels."

"Lincolnism [sic] is not verry [sic] popular now, and the wiry edge may ware [sic] off a little about Rocky hill and Glasgow before long."

[From Ellen Glazebrook to Martha Jones, March 26, 1862, Salem, IN.]

"I spoke in the first of my letter about not liking Salem much. Well I can tell you it has done me a heep [sic] of good. When we lived in Glasgow I never had any confidence in myself."

"...I have gotten a smell of free soil and I don't think I shall ever live in a slave state again."

[From Thomas Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, April 1, 1862. Tom Jones and family had apparently returned to Glasgow from a trip into IN visiting family.]

"Sure enough the Boot is changed But I am fearful a wicked Leven is working in the Rebel Heart that may result in mischief, though I cannot tell."

"We are strolling through the streets living on our good looks, hoping to get possession in a few days" (of Locust Hill)

"2 or 3 hundred of Woford's cavalry are in camp in the bottom above the toll gate on the pike, protecting the country."

"Our carpet sack etc was examined at Louisville, so I am fearful they will break open my boxes for examination, if so they will never get my tricks back again."

[From Thomas Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, April 13, 1862]

“...I know you are rejoicing over the late victory of our Patriotic Soldiers and I assure you that many Hearts hereabouts throb in unison with yours.”

“You ask several questions, which I can’t answer. I do not know who it was that the Rebels killed on Cumberland River, there has been several murdered since I wrote you – all up about Salina. I Saith report – I see a fellow 2 days since who lives up there who was down after Col. Wolford to return and attend to the Rebels in that region. The Col. Is not in this neighborhood looking for an order to Nashville every hour, but expects to attend to the Mountain [sic-Moustain?] Rebels soon.” [A man shot another one] “I suppose they have Lacy in Jail. I heard a few minutes since that the Soldiers intended to Rescue him tonight. If they do I am fearful of a row, as he is under the Civil authorities.”

“Jo, I believe things is like to break out about as you predict – violet men will have conflicts and if the Boot was changed back, we poor Patriots would see sights. The Rebels are as numerous and as mean as ever, but the Tides [sic - tide’s] against them. I have not met none too stiff to give me the hand of seeming friendship. I, somehow feel no uneasiness about being molest[ed], feeling confident the Rebel Soldiers will never return.”

[From N. W. Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, April 22, 1862.]

Summary: He had bought a yoke of oxen and the road is in dreadful condition.

[From Sara E. Denham to Henry H. Button (Sgt. Co. E, 9th KY), June 3, 1862 from Barren Co., KY]

“Court is going on at Glasgow and ever [sic] rebel has to make his appearance [sic] the rebels has come to the conclusion that this is not a healthy country they are the worst downed looking set that you ever saw they are just now receiving thear [sic] South Rits [sic]”

[From Henry H. Button to his father from AL, June 18, 1862]

“We are now camp[ed] [sic] near Florence on the river to cross, they say we are on our way to Knoxville, east Tennessee.” “I would like to hear what they are doen [sic] at Raleys [sic] old stand I heard there was rebels there.”

[From Henry H. Button to his father, July 7, 1862 from Huntsville, AL]

“I think there will bee [sic] a big fite [sic] or too [sic] in Virginy [sic] but I don’t think that we will hardly go there thoe [sic] I don’t look for peace soon thoe [sic] I may bee [sic] mistaken.”

"I have riten [sic] about fifty leters [sic] sence [sic] the Shilo [sic] battle and haven't received fore [sic] or five in all and I reckon [sic] there must bee [sic] something a mater [sic].

[From Henry H. Nutton to W. T. Button, July 9, 1862 from Huntsville, AL]

"I heard that Major Henson was geten [sic] up his company and station at the cross roads and I heard that Alen Hodge has joined him and Ed joined and you and Martin can volunteer if you want too but I advise you to not [illegible] I have tride [sic] enuf [sic] to no [sic] there is no satisfaction to bee [sic] in camp."

There are fiten [sic] at Richmond in Virginy [sic]"

"The other nite [sic] me and jo good [sic-Joe Goode] was a singen [sic] and several others and the coneral [sic-Colonel] ordered us to hush that singen [sic] made too much nois [sic] and jo [sic] ses [sic] well that is the first time I ever was ordered to hush singing and he hant [sic] sung nun [sic] sence [sic]"

[From Sallie E. Denham to Henry H. Button from Barren Co., KY, July 18, 1862]

"the Rebels has give us another visit about too [sic] thousand came threw [sic] last week they had a little scrimish [sic] at Tompkinsville they met to [sic] hundred of the Pincilvanis [sic] up there the union loss was fore [sic] killed and seven wounded the rebels [sic] loss was nine killed and know [sic] telling how many wounded they left there [sic] Mager [sic] with this [sic] leg shot off at the knee. They taken several prisoners but they taken everything they had and told them to go home but I will in Shore [sic - insure] they wont [sic] do it they went by Glasgow and taken eve r[sic] horse they could get on the road." [all about the horses taken among them Henry's brother's Martins horse, which he recovered however]

"When they passed Uncle Wills they was leading five or six hundred horses. Nobody run from them at all."

"What boys is left back here is getting [sic] to be the biggest [sic] fols [sic] over the women you ever saw in your life except the rebels as mute [illegible]"

[From Henry H. Button to his parents, July 30, 1862 from Camp Battle Creek, TN]

"I have such as bacon Pickle Pork fresh beef fresh shote hard bred [sic] and coffee and molases [sic] beens [sic] and mixed veagitables [sic] and vinegar which you no [sic] is ver [sic] good."

"I got a leter [sic] which was rote [sic] the 19 of July and it stated that the rebels come [sic] threw [sic] the r[sic] and taken lots of horses and sed [sic] that they taken one of Martin's horse [sic] and rode him down and he got him again."

"I get to see a plenty of ther [sic] gray backs ever [sic] day they are campt [sic] on one side of the river and we are on the other side. But all are very Peacable [sic] no shooten [sic] at eac [sic] other a tall [sic] we hollow [sic] at eac [sic] other they say they hant [sic] mad. We ast [sic] them why they don't quit and go home they say they are a waten [sic] for us to go home and we told them they would hav [sic] to go first and so they had just as well put out."

"Guessed you heard that we all was ordered to Richman [sic]. I reckon we will hardly go ther [sic]"

"Paper is very scarce [sic] but I can get plenty at Huntsville."

[Henry H. Button to his parents from Deckers Station, Franklin Co., AL, Aug. 29, 1862]
"I left Battle Creek 8 days ago"

"I expect when we leave here we will go to Nashville."

[Sarah E. Denham to Henry H. Button from Nobob, KY, March 29, 1863]

"...I cannot tell you much about the rebels. I expect we will here [sic] it thunder in here before long. Report[s] that the rebels is [sic] advancing this way it is the oppinion [sic] of a great many people that we will have war rite [sic] here amonst [sic] us then it will be thunder in the deading [sic]."

"I...just went out to see 30 of the Yankee cavalry[sic] pas [sic] and I tell you they are a jolly looking set they had 5 prisners [sic] that they got in hamelton [sic] neighborhood. Nobody need not tell me that there is no pretty soldiers for it is a mistake."

[W. Sanford Button to Henry H. Button from Metcalfe Co., KY, April 23, 1863]
'henry [sic] I recd [sic] your song ballad and it is a pretty good one."

"I saw joseph [sic] Caragen the other day he said that he was just from Selina battle he stated that the [sic] fought three days there and killed one hundred rebs and wounded 80 and the union men got one drownded [sic] was all they lost and three slightly wounded. Well they burned Salina and then returned to Glasgoww [sic] last Monday...I have just heard that the rebs burnt Tompkinsville last night. Well I think they do a nuff [sic] if they keep on they will come and burn up flathead the next thing any body knows and that will be a great destruction you know."

[Martha J. Smith to Henry H. Button, April 28, 1863]

"...our men had a fight last week with the rebels at Salina and the rebels run like they always do when they get the chanch [sic] the union men burnt every house thare [sic] but one the rebels came to Tompkinsville last Sunday night and burnt several houses thare [sic] so nothing more about the cotton eyed rebels it is getting tolerable sickly up here..."

"Well Henry thare [sic] hasen't [sic] ben [sic] any partys [sic] on glovers creek since you left here. Well Henry thare [sic] was some of the glovers creek girls fel [sic] in love with you at some of the partys [sic] over here and they ar [sic] taking on very bad about you being gone."

[Henry Button to Turner Button from Murfreesboro, TN, April 30, 1863]

"...from what you all rite [sic] times is very tickliss [sic] back there that was good news about the saline [sic] fite [sic] if they that way ever [sic] time they had beter [sic] quit and go home. We have nothing her [sic] to do only go on picket and that is very hard on us. The boys had been goen [sic] out ever [sic] other day and they rare and snort about it sometimes. We have to get up about midnite [sic] and go out about six miles. Jo Jackson ses [sic] if he ever livs [sic] to get back home again he will take one good nap of sleep."

[Same date and place letter added to his brother]

"if I had the education of some men I wouldn't ask eny [sic] man eny [sic] boot"

"I am seten [sic] in my little dog tent. Arthur me and sandford [sic] Curry stays in our little tent together as mute as a mouse can do."

[Henrietta Padget to Henry H. Button from barren Co., KY, May 6, 1863]

"Henry what wold [sic] we all do if peace was just made[?] I just recon we wold [sic] be the happiest [sic] set of people that ever was but I don't think we all ought to go to any more parties."

"Mary and Mandy are going to school down at flathead to Miss Caroline Danals. The troops at Glasgow are going to move to Tompkinsville and the mails have been stoped [sic] at our post office for too [sic] weeks on account of not letting any news pass until the army passes up that way"

[George W. Starr (1st Sgt. Co. E) to Miss Martha Jones from Murfreesboro, TN, June 5, 1863]

“it is reported that Grant has Vicksburg surrouned [sic] and has took a grate [sic] many prisoners...”

“they was fiting [sic] a little on our front yesterday but I don’t apprehend much danger of an attact [sic] here but if they come they will find Rosey not asleep. I was glad too that I am in hopes that they will keep the rebels out of our country.”

[Sarah E. Denham to Henry Button from Nobob, KY June 28, 1863]

“...Well Henry I could you a good deal if I since [sic] enough to describe it to you. There has ben [sic] five Regt. camped in a mile of here ever since last Tuesday until this morning. The infantry was ordered to Burksville and the cavalry was a long [sic] and I can tell you theare [sic] is some goodlooking [sic] boys in the 9th cavalry as well as the 9th infantry...I cooked for them three days strait [sic] out. Sometimes there would be one hundred here at a time. The house was not clear of them all the time that they said [sic-stayed?]. Pa let them have a deal of forage. A yard full of blew [sic] coats is the pretest [sic] sight that I ever saw. Some of them can out cook any of the women. I want you to understand that they did not make us cook but they would just ask gentlmanly [sic] if they could get something ett [sic] and we would just give it to them with our own good will. We heard good nuse [sic] from Wouldford the other day report say he captured several prisoners and nine hundred horses and mules.”

[From Henry H. Button to his parent, Sept. 16, 1863 from camp of 9th KY near Crawfish Springs. GA]

“Dear Parients [sic] I am very thankful this morning that I am blest [sic] with the oportunity [sic] of writing to you all a few lines which will inform you that I am in gorgia [sic]...the rebles [sic] left Chatanuga [sic] the eighth and we past [sic] threw [sic] the ninth we have not had near reglear [sic] ingagement [sic] with they yet thoe [sic] has...been skirmishing with them several dayes [sic] thoe [sic] I thought last Sunday that we would hav [sic] to walk in to it good fashion...thoe [sic] it was turned off with a heavy cananaden [sic] we drove the enemy back three miles and haven’t saw eny [sic] thing of them since thoe [sic] reports says they are going to Atlanta gorgia [sic]. Some think we will have to fight them at roam [sic] or Lafyat [sic]. We are in 13 miles of lafyet t[sic] now. We got here yesterday eavening [sic] we are all very tired we have been marching Just one month today strate [sic] out. I forgot to tell you how the last fight turned out ther [sic] was not near man hurt in the 9th Ky. There was 145 wounded in the 19 opie [sic?] and one killed and the chief capt. [sic] Of our artilyery [sic] got wounded.”

“Well Father I herd [sic] turable [sic] news from that country today. I herd [sic] that a squad [of] hamamtons [sic] men come [sic] in ther [sic] and tore ever [sic] thing up side down and played the hob [sic] with R.E. Grinstead stores and others and I Just loud [sic?] if you was making Brandy that they payed [sic] you a visit thoe [sic] I hav [sic] not herd [sic] corectly [sic] about it what they don [sic] on Nobob. Well you all hav [sic] no idy [sic] how we all do down her [sic] ever [sic] thing is cleaned out wher [sic] this army goes you never saw the like how we make the hogs and beef cattle get up down her [sic] we are obdidg [sic] to do so apon [sic] the count of no transporation [sic] her [sic] we when ever a chicking [sic] crows for Jef [sic] his hed [sic] comes off amediatly [sic]...the boyes [sic] are all jeneraly [sic] well in the Co. and redy [sic]. I want to hear from you all very bad I herd [sic] they was runing [sic] the conscript ther [sic]...We all are...[last line illegible]”

[From Sarah P. Williams to Henry H. Button from Glovers Creek, KY, Sept. 24, 1863]
“...I heard that there was 40 Rebels went to Ray steens [sic] Mill last Monday night and burned the mill up. Henry I heard that you all had been in a very hard battle [Chickamauga] though I do hope you came out unheart [sic]...I would be glad to know that you all are in your tents tonight at rest. I heard that the fight was on the 19th and 20th of this month and I want to hear all about it in your next letter. I am at Uncle Davids [sic] tonight and I heard him say a few minutes ago that he heard that they are going to call out the malitia [sic] in a few days...and I also heard that the Governer [sic] thinks that Peace will be made in three months, though I can only say that I hope it may be the case. I truly hope the time is not far distant when the poor weary soldiers may come flocking home in Peace. What a Joyful time that would be...”

[From Hester A. R. Williams to Henry Button from Metcalfe Co., KY, Sept. 27, 1863]
“...Henry, I wish you was hear [sic] this morning I am very lonesum [sic] thare [sic] are a great many gon [sic] to the association at Freedom. I wanted to go very [sic] bad but we was a frade [sic] to go for fear the Rebels would come and take our horses oh Henry what pleasure we all could see if thare [sic] was no Rebels it appears at times that I can not enjoy life at all. I become discontented and discouraged and think that we will never have peace any more...”

[From James C. Gentry to Henry H. Button from Monroe Co., KY, Oct. 13, 1863]
“...Henry I expect you have herd [sic] that the rebels has taken Glasgow and the most of Martens [sic] men But they did not tary [sic] long they went back to (Tenn.) that night and I suppose that about 40 of the boys got away from them that night and the rest of the boys has come back now...”

[From Henry H. Button to his parents and sister from Chattanooga, TN, Oct. 12, 1863 – Grammatical corrections by Todd Watts for easier reading in transcribing:]

“...was very sorry to hear of you all being in such a disturbing way...I wrote Elizabeth a letter the next day after I came out of the fight...there has not been any fighting taking place here since the 20th of Sept. more that cannonading the Rebels have burning us here some though have not injured us any yet. When they began to [illegible word] us their pieces are mighty soon silenced by the effects of our guns. We have pieces here that will shoot as far as the Rebs. Well they know that well enough. We are camped in hearing and in sight of the Rebels though we have made a bargain with them not to shoot at each other unless one side or the other advances. I was on picket yesterday. Our pickets and theirs exchange papers every day. There were two brothers [that] met halfway between the picket lines this morning though were not allowed to talk long. They were officers. They did not favor in their dressing. One was dressed black and the other gray. I don't think that the Rebels will attack us here although they may. If they do we will give them a complete whipping for sure. We have fortified a great deal since we have been here and I suppose have been reinforced. There was a train burnt up the other day by the Rebels amount[sic?] about two hundred wagons mostly loaded with ammunition. They were on the road from Stevenson to this place. We have been on half rations for several days though have had tolerably plenty all the time. Yesterday evening we drew full rations of bread and meat etc. We all live a heap better now than we used to for we know just how to fix up our rations etc. Well Elizabeth, I cut me out a vest out of mixed jeans and made it in one day all to working the button holes and some on the buttons. If you all have any vests to make send them on to me and D. H. Butram, address Chattanooga, Tenn.

...I have enjoyed very good health ever since last spring. The rest of the boys are all well that are here. The wounded were sent to Nashville. I saw Ham Ritter and Joe Evans, and they told me to tell you all howdy for them...I saw a heap of the 5th Ky. Cavalry the other day. J.J. Kellow comes to us every once and a while. He is well. He sends his respects to you all... I want to see you all very bad though I don't expect to before we serve our time out. Some think that we will be mustered out next May. I expect to come home then. We all enjoy ourselves fine. Well Mother, I don't want you to pester your mind about me for if I get killed in battle I hope it may be the better for me. I hope that we all will meet where there will be no war to be heard told of for it seems as if there will never be peace here anymore though we can only look to the future and look for the better time to come. I am very thankful that I have lived to see and enlist in this war so, and I hope and I trust to the Higher Power that I may see it put through. I know it would be a joyful time then to all that are blest with the pleasure of seeing that time come...”

“Well Father, I want you to take good care of my money. All that you don’t use of it and don’t let the Rebs get it. [I] Would send more if I had a chance.”

[From Henry Button to his parents from Knoxville, East Tn, Dec. 31, 1863]

“...I am well and at Knoxville. We arrived her [sic] 7th of his month thoe [sic] I hav [sic] not mutch [sic] idee [sic] how long we will stay her [sic]. We came up her [sic] to reinforce Burnside’s tho [sic] was too late for Burnside’s had dun [sic] whip old long street [sic-Longstreet] and we did not get to see the fun the rebles [sic] are all on the retreat now. Burnside’s has followed the rebles [sic] and the forth [sic] army corpse [sic] is at this place. Some thinks [sic] that we will go back to Chattanooga bee [sic] fore long thoe [sic] I don’t know how it will bee [sic].

“I saw Caliway Hodge yesterday in Knoxville he got wonded [sic] in the fight him and Dod Taler and Thomas Harrison got wounded they bealong [sic] to the 13th Ky and I did not get to see the ridg [sic] thoe [sic] they pased [sic] the boyes [sic] was all well. Caliway got wounded in the shoulder thoe [sic] he goes wher [sic] he pleases. All of our boys of the company is well except them that got wounded at Chattanooga. I have not herd [sic] from them since we lef [sic] ther [sic]. We have not had eny [sic] crackers since we left for this place thoe [sic] hav [sic] had corn bred [sic] and biscuit and you out [sic] to see us eat fresh meat and mlases [sic] and corn bred [sic]. We marcht [sic] 137 miles in 9 days...We have not had any mail since we left Chattanooga...”

[Henry Button wrote to his brother from Maryville, East Tn, Feb. 12, 1864. No transcription given by James Simmons for Todd Watts to copy here.]

[Henry H. Button to his parents from Camp of the 9th KY at Richland Valley, East Tn, April 1, 1864—Grammatical corrections made in transcribing for ease of reading by Todd Watts.]

“Times are about like common with us now. We get grub enough. Could make use of more though make out very well with what we get. Well...I don’t think there are any Rebels near us, only a bunch of bushwhackers. I hear of them very often in fact we were on a [illegible] a few days ago and I saw several of them. I heard yesterday they shot some of our boys that were out foraging on their own hook. They belong to our Brigade. Our orders are very strict on us not to straggle off from camps which I think is a good order as it is not a good idea to get out with the bushwhackers...We have one of the best old Generals you ever heard tell of, that is General Schofield. He is a Major General. He has no cavalry up here hardly since Woolford left. He makes his infantry act as cavalry which is some cheaper on the government. We don’t have horses to feed. We will march 18 miles in 6 hours and go to one place and stay there some 3 or 4 days and get up just any time in the night or not, it matters not and maybe go right back

again. Then in a few days we go back to the same place so we keep running about and our General keeps us from fighting any for it is no fun in fighting at all as I ever have saw or heard tell of. Yet the army where left moves quiet [quite?] different to what this does when the Army of the Cumberland moves they hold their [illegible word] or fight. I will have to quit. We are ordered on another cont [sic?], I will finish when we get back if ever. April 4th - We all have landed back safe and did not see or hear of any Rebels. We went in 20 miles of Cumberland Gap. We found it very muddy marching. I hear that the Rebels have left Balls Gap. If they are I guess that we will go up there shortly. That is about 25 miles of here. I heard yesterday that the 23rd Corps was up there and if that is so I'll insure [sic] the Rebels have left there. I was glad to hear of old Hamilton being captured..."

[Henry H. Button to his parents from Cumberland Field Hospital, 1st Div., Nashville, TN, June 5, 1864]

"Dear Parients [sic] I Seat myself this morning to inform you how I am Getting along I am doing fine at this time I was wonded [sic] in both armes [sic] the 27th day of May. Shot threw [sic] my left arm Just below elbow and at the Joint of my rite [sic] rist [sic] Just on top of it the ball struck the bone in both arms and sorter [sic] shiverd [sic] one in my lef [sic] arm thoe [sic] not to [sic] hurt bad Andy Star [Sgt Co. E] and Denis Burtam [1st Sgt Co. E] was wonded [sic] the Same time Andy Star is her [sic] with me Denis was left Beehind [sic] Well father I don't want you all to pester yourselves about me for I am well taken care of here I have too [sic] splendid nurses and ever [sic] thing else that is comfort to me of the while I am Going to try for a furlow [sic] to come home I will bee [sic] sent from her [sic] to louisville [sic] in the course of too [sic] weeks and then I will come home when I get to my old state if you hav [sic] the chance send me ten Dollars..."

P.S. this don't look like my hand riting [sic] thoe [sic] it the best I can do na [sic]"

[Henry H. Button to his parents, June 18, 1864]

"...My wonds [sic] are mending fine My left arm pains me conciderable [sic] at times thoe [sic] the Doctor ses [sic] it is doing fine. I still mend on as comon [sic]. I will bee [sic] able to come Home bee [sic] fore long. The order is to furlow [sic] all Home that well [sic] not bee [sic] able for duty in 30 dayes [sic] if nothing Happens [sic] I will try to come Home in the course of too [sic] weeks..."

Andy Star Died the 15th of this month. He took the chills and fever and the Hickups [sic]. Denis Butram and Isaac Fredrick are here some wher [sic] thoe [sic] I cant [sic] tell wher [sic]... You can tell Mrs [sic] lawrence[sic] that John was in the fite [sic] and came out safe he is with the redg [sic] now... I would bee [sic] glad to see eny [sic] of you

come to see me thoe [sic]. I Guess you all are very busy and would cost you rite [sic] smart...”

[From J.N. Butram and G.W. Star to Henry Button from the Camp of the 9th KY on the south side of the Chattahoochee River, July 15, 1864]

“Brother Soldier...I and all the boys present [sic] with little Exception Enjoy goode [sic] helth [sic] J M Birg and Wm B. Ritter Reports to the doctor tho [sic] neither of them dangerous”

[Letter from Jasper N. Butram to Henry Button, July 31, 1864 from Camp of the 9th KY near Atlanta, GA. Nothing transcribed from original by James Simmons for Todd Watts to add.]

[Letter from Joseph C. Hodges to Henry Button—Aug., 3, 1864 from Camp of the 13th KY near Atlanta, GA. Also uses the address: “Dear brother soldier”. Nothing else transcribed from original by James Simmons for Todd Watts to add.]

[From Thomas Jones to Joseph Glazebrook, Jan. 8, 1865]

“We have a golly [sic] time with our war proof horses stalling with empty wagons on level ground or on a decent [sic]. If a fellow walks in this county he has to take to the woods unless the ground is frozened [sic] - but I have got a good wood pile, a little meat and bread, a first rate appetite, a box of apples, 75 cts [sic] all in money, a first rate cook, am in a good fix generally. As to that war the newspapers keep talking about we would forget if we did not take the papers. I am still taking the Union Press its [sic] a good paper.”

[He jokes about horses that are too worn out for the army to take but they are also too worn out to pull an empty wagon on flat ground or even down-hill. The roads, he is joking about are terrible and muddy and not fit to walk on unless the ground freezes hard. The war fever appears to have departed his area and were it not for the paper the people there would forget the war was still going on.]