

John Ervin McFee and Jephtha C. McFee Letters

60th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Confederate Army

Letter from J.E. (John Ervin) McFee

I am near Murfreesboro Tenn., near Rutherford County

Fri Oct 10, 1862

N. C. Troops, 60th Regiment, Co. E

Dear father, mother, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends. It is with pleasure that I sit myself to inform you that I am well at present, hoping that this finds you all well. I have nothing of importance to write to you but that the boys are alive. Some fell sick. G. W. Brooks, he has got the mumps but is on the mend. Jephtha, he well has got them. We have not had any fight yet. There has been fighting some at Nashville. They have been fetching in prisoners almost every day. I don't know how soon we will have to fight them. We hear that there are a great many at Nashville and that they are in force in the woods in Donelson. We hear now that there is about 50 or 60 thousand here, and there is talk of our moving back a piece toward old N. C. in a few days. I have not heard from you since I came here. I would like to hear from you all but it seems as though we never will get any more letters here. I am getting tired of the war and want to come home, for I am getting too fat. I weigh 150 lbs. I have not got any letters from the boys since I have been in camp nor I don't know what to write to, nothing more at present, but I remain your affectionate son and friend until death. If I never see you on earth any more, let us meet in heaven in where sorrow never comes and parting is so sweet. So farewell for a while.

J. E. McFee

[image of letter transcribed above with caption: Letter from J.E.) John Ervin) McFee written October 10, 1862 to his family from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. John Ervin McFee was in the 60th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Confederate Army.]

Letter from J. C. (Jephtha) McFee

State of Tenn., Bradley City

January 22, 1863

Dear father - I sit down to let you know that I am tollerable [sic] well at this time. I have been sick ever since the fight. I have been in the hospital ever since. I have got stout enough to go to the regiment but they have detailed me here to cut wood and I don't know when I will get off to go to the regiment. I have got a tollerable [sic] easy task. I have not heard from home since I left home. I would like to hear from home, very well. Our company is scattered a great deal. There are several of them wounded. I don't know how many there are. I don't know whether there was every one killed or not. I

have not heard from them since I left them. I can't tell much about the fight. Marion Penland is here with me. He is not able to get about much. I have some sad news to write. J. E. McFee is dead. He died about the 29th of last month. I went to see him every Monday. I never saw him any more after that. He told me he was going to start home the next morning but he did not start. I expect the yanks got every thing he had but his bounty money. I drew [sic] it and I am going to send it home or to Ashville by Mr. Richard McBrayer. He is going home on a furlough in a day or two. I will send it to old Mr. Mariman. I want you to go and get it and give it to Sarah or tell her to get it. I will send 40 or 45 dollars. Tell Sarah to write to me and tell me whether she gets her money or not. I would write to her but I have not got time now. Tell her I will write to her. I would like to see you all but cannot at this time. I hope I will see you all again. Write to me and let me know how you are getting along and let me know how my things are doing.

I have loaned 50 dollars to Lieutenant Hyatt. He said he would write to his father to pay it to you. I will try to send the money to you if i can and if I cannot, if he pays it, it will be all right. I will keep 5 dollars of Sarah's money. I have not got much money of my own and if she needs the money let her have 5 dollars of mine. I have got a 5 dollar bill of Sarah's money that will not pass there nor here. I will keep it and try to get it off if I can. If I cannot I will send it to her the first chance I have not got much to write to you at this time. Martha, I want you to write to me. Tell S. E. Cothran to write. I would write to her if I had time. Mr. McBrayer has agreed to take my note for me. He will leave it with old Mr. Mariman. Please attend to this for me and let me know whether you get the note and money or not. The note is for 50 dollars.

George, tell me how my things are doing. Tell me what my colt is doing and sheep and hogs. I must close for this time. Write soon. Direct your letter to the Cleveland postoffice, [sic] Tenn. So nothing more to present.
Farewell for a while,

J. C. McFee to Charles McFee

[image of original letter transcribed above with caption: Letter from Jephtha (J. C.) McFee to his father dated January 22, 1863 in which he tells of the death of his brother John Ervin (J. E.) McFee. Both brothers were in the 60th Regiment, North Carolina troops, Confederate Army. Jephtha McFee was wounded at Murfreesboro, recovered at an army unit near Cleveland, Tennessee, later joined his Regiment, and was to return back home after the war.]