

Civil War Letters of Thomas Jefferson Newberry

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Background Information on Newberry

Little is known of the life of Thomas Jefferson Newberry. There can be little doubt that he was born in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, where he grew to young manhood on the farm of his father, Marshall C. Newberry, and enlisted in the 30th Mississippi Infantry Regiment early in the War Between the States.

His letters indicate that he received little educational advantage. Young Newberry was probably the eldest of a family of several children, for he makes frequent reference to younger brothers and sisters. There is no indication that he was ever married. There is evidence that Marshall C. Newberry was a farmer of moderate means, owning a farm of a least one family of slaves.²

Thomas Jefferson Newberry received no promotions in the Confederate Army. He appears to have performed the duties assigned him by his superior officers. There is abundant evidence that he suffered the hardships of war without complaint, that he had an abiding faith in the cause for which he gave his life, that he suffered the pangs of home-sickness, and that he died in the faithful performance of his duties.³

This collection closes with a letter from the Chaplain of his regiment.⁴ It relates the death of young Newberry and records his burial place. It bears silent testimony to the fortitude of Thomas Jefferson Newberry.

[FOOTNOTE]

1. The editor is indebted to Miss Marie Womack, Coffeerville, Mississippi for securing these letters from relatives of Thomas Jefferson Newberry. He is further indebted to the relatives for permission to publish the letters.

2. The information presented in this paragraph is the result of a careful study of the letters. The surviving relatives of Thomas Jefferson Newberry are unable to supply additional information.

3. *Ibid*

4. See last item in the collection.

I sent this by Mr. Davis

Grenda [sic] Mips⁵ [sic]

April 17, 1862⁶

Dear Pa

I must write you a few lines this evening⁷ I would like to hear from you all I have no news to tell you I am well at present and gitting [sic] plenty to eat. We sold our beef and bought bacon We will have a Regimental drill this eavening [sic] fifty men out of each Company we have Several sick in our Company William Langham and Nic Perkins when Bill⁸ goes down to Mr.

Johnsons let him take that satchel and swap with her and when you come you can bring it and take the saddle bags back when you come you must stay 2 or 3 days You must write to me how you are getting along farming Tell Aunt Mealy⁹ Patten is well they have detailed out of our Regiment 10 men one out of each Company to go to the hospittle [sic] and wait on the sick they get 7 ½ month extra Mr. Hanks was detailed out of our Company to go I want that satchel to lock my things up I am in such a hurry that cant [sic] write much more We drill five hours a day We have got a drum so that we can keep the step very well I have nothing more worth writing you You must write to me soon You can tell Johnney and Mary Susan and Addie¹⁰ they must write to me You must come soon
Your son
Thomas J. Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

5. Newberry's company appears to have been on detailed duty. The main body of Confederate troops was stationed at Corinth. Stanley F. Horn, *The Army of Tennessee* (Indianapolis, 1941), 144-145. Hereinafter cited as Horn.

6. It is possible that Newberry entered the Army following Shiloh. The editor has been unable to find any indication of prior service.

7. Newberry paid little attention to rules of punctuation. The editor has made no attempt to supply punctuation marks.

8. The editor believes that Bill must have been a brother of Newberry. Subsequent letters will mention other members of the Newberry family.

9. Aunt Mealy appears to have been a family slave and Patten her son. He seems to have attended young Newberry in the early months of the war.

10. There is reason to believe that Johnney, Mary Susan, and Adie were brother and sisters of Newberry. See subsequent letters.

June 3rd 1862 Near Baldwin¹¹

Tuscalusa [sic] County Mips [sic] 12

Dear Father

As I have the opotunity [sic] this morning I must write you a few lines to let you where I am and how I am getting along I am well at present and doing finely [sic] We has [sic] good eats in our Brigade we left Corinth Thursday night and traveled 18 miles by Friday night We have traveled very hard ever since we are 40 miles from Corinth we stopt [sic] here Sunday night we dont [sic] know what minet [sic] we may start We have had a hard time a traveling nearly brock [sic] down and nearly starved We lived on fresh beef broiled on the coals without salt or bread and nearly turned at that we are getting plenty now at present [sic] and doing very well the night before we started I stood guard on the breast works and in fear of loosing [sic] my money I left it with Wallraven¹³ at the Camps He was sick and before I got back he was sent home and I suppose he carried it with him he promised to take good care of it and I wish [you] would go and get it as soon as you can \$22.35 cents, \$2.35 in silver I now [sic] he will take good care of it. I can get money when I want it from any of the boys you will send it by some careful hand I recon [sic] you answered my letter of [date omitted in original] before I left Corinth but I could not get it they stopt [sic] the mail tell Aunt Meely that Paton [Patten] is well and stands the

march like a buck and says howdy and say tell the rest howdy also you need not answer this untill [sic] you know whear [sic] we are we dont [sic] know whear [sic] we are we dont [sic] know where we will go the Yankees advancing they are in 2 or 3 miles behind us the day before we started they fired the Rifle canons at us while we was [sic] behind the brest werks [sic] I was on guard that on top of the brest [sic] werks [sic] one ball came in 20 yds of me and struck a tree you ought to seen them fawling [sic] down behind the breast werks [sic] when they herd the ball coming I have seen General [P. G, T.] Beauregard he is like old Sush his head is white as cotton you heave [sic] no idie [sic] of the things that were destroyed at Corinth Clothes burnt and every thing you can think of Paton [Patten] got him a uniform coat nice jeans [sic] with brass button You have no idie [sic] the blankets that was thrown away on the retreat¹⁴ nap [sic] sacks [sic] full of clothes I and Paton [Patten] kept all of ours but one blanket he threwed [sic] that away I have nothing more to tell you
Your son
Thomas J. Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

11. Apparently refers to Baldwyn. The main body of Confederates under P. G. T. Beauregard established a line at Baldwyn. Horn, 152.

12. Lee County was established in 1866, Prentiss County in 1870. *Goodspeed, Memoirs of Mississippi*, Vol I (Chicago, 1891), 262-266. This volume fails to list a Tuscalusa [sic] County.

13. The editor has found it virtually impossible to identify the many comrades mentioned in these letters by Newberry.

14. Horn does not indicate that this retreat was disorderly. Horn, 151.

Sept. 27 1862¹⁵

Chattnooga [sic] Tenn [sic]

Dear Father

I must write you a few lines as long as I have got to Chattnooga we are getting along finely [sic] and enjoying good health We left Mobile¹⁶ Thursday eavening [sic] and got to Montgomery Friday morning and this morning we got to Chattnooga [sic] we reported ourselves for the Regiment They made up a large company of us and we are going off this eavening [sic] at 5 oclock on the Rail Road as far as Knoxville I expect we will have to march then to the Regiment We have no news to tell you. I dont [sic] expect you can read my bad writing I am in a big hurry to fix to get off I have enjoyed the trip finely [sic] a riding on cars and the steam boat We have had a pleasant trip of it I have seen several forts on the Bay the next time I write I will try to do a little better

You must write me a long letter by Jo Brannun and tell me all the knews [sic] I will write again about a week we have had good luck so far we are anxious to get to our Reg [iment] I am in hopes we will get their [sic] very soon I have nothing more to tell you.

Your Son T. J. Newberry

They say we will draw our money¹⁷ at Knoxville We have good water here tell John howdy and Mary Susan and Addie They dont think we will have to march to our Reg [iment] me and William are enjoying ourselves finely [sic]

[FOOTNOTE]

15. There are frequent extended intervals between letters. The editor would like to point out that these letters were found in the possession of several individuals. It is possible that many letters written by Newberry were lost.

16. Bragg had sent his infantry from Tupelo to Chattanooga by rail via Mobile. Horn, 160.

17. The Army of Tennessee appears to have been constantly in arrears in pay. See Mitchell, Enoch L., *Letters of a Confederated Surgeon in The Army of Tennessee to His Wife, The Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, December 1945, Vol. IV, 351.

Wednesday Oct. 29, 1862

Camp Near Knoxville Tenn¹⁸

Dear Father

I must send you a few lines by Lieut. Taylor I guess he will go home after clothes for the Company I am well I got hear [sic] to our Reg [iment] Sunday eavening [sic] I dont [sic] know whether you need to send me anything or not I think I have got plenty of clothes if I need them I can draw them I have not drawn my money yet The first of December we will draw I shall send the most of mine to you I have got plenty of money to do me untill [sic] I draw You must write me a long letter by Lieut [enant] Taylor and tell me all the news I have written 6 or 7 letters to you and have not heard from you since I left home Lieut [enant] Branson said he had letters for us in his coat pocket and some person stold [sic] his coat you must write me a long letter by Lieut [enant] Taylor and tell me how you are gettin [sic] along gathering corn and cotton and tell me all about it tell Johny howdy and tell him to write to me how he is getting a long with the chestnuts tell Mary Susan and Gatsey howdy and tell them to write to me we had a big snow here Sunday I have no news to tell you
Your Son Thos. J. Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

18. Evidently the 30th Mississippi Infantry was a portion of the troops from General W. J. Hardee's command that were assigned to General John C. Breckinridge at Knoxville, October 3, 1862. Horn, 166.

Camp Near Tulahoma [sic] Tenn [sic]

Sunday the 9 Nov 1862

Mr. M. C. Newberry

Dear Father

I set [sic] down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and doing finely [sic] and getting plenty to eat We left Knoxville¹⁹ last Sunday we came here by Rail Road how long we

will remain here I dont [sic] know We may stay here for two or 3 weeks I dont [sic] think we will take up winter quarters here I think we will get nearer home Some think we will go to Nashville or Holly Springs [Mississippi] We came on the cars from Chattanooga We came through a tunnel nearly a mile through a mountain of solid rock we are drilling here every day I think we will draw our money I send you \$50.00 dollars by Mr. Taylor which I boried [sic] from Capt [sic] Caldwell untill [sic] I draw I have drawn a roundabout²⁰ I shall have plenty of clothes when you send me them pants and over shirt I guess you will get this before Mr. Taylor leaves If you do tell Johny and Mary Susan and Gatsey to send me some goobers and Chestnuts in my pockets Tell Johny I dremp [sic] last night I told him to dig his goobers tell Johny to write me about our hogs. You must write to me how you are getting along picking cotton and gathering corn and peas and write to me how many potatoes you will make and pease [sic] and corn I guess you heard [of] the death of Mr. John Richardson, John Gipsons brother in law. He died in Kentucky I have nothing more to tell you
Your Son
Thomas Jefferson Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

20. Roundabout appears to have been an Army term for an

[Footnote 19 and the remaining part of 20 missing]

Monday Nov 17 1862

Camp Near Tullahoma Tenn [sic]

Dear Father

I set [sic] down to write you this eavening [sic] to let you now [sic] that I am well at present and doing well we are ordered to cook up rashings [sic] where we will go I cant [sic] tell We are in hops [sic] we will come to Mipsissippi [sic] once more Whether we will march or not we may go by Rail Road William Langham got here the other day and Ham Lovejoy and Doss Lovejoy²¹ I was glad to see William and was in hops [sic] he would bring me a letter though he said you all was [sic] well Col [onel] [E. C.] Walthall²² put Ham and Doss on 20 days duty for going home from the Hospittle [sic] without a furlough and several more belonging to the Regiment He let William off and made the ballance [sic] grub up stumps We all have drawn one suit of uniform 1 pair of pants and one roundabout a piece We are doing well at present and getting plenty to eat We buy applies [sic] for 25 cents a dozen and potatoes for about 2 dollars a bushel and fresh pork for about 30 cents a pound and corn at 2 dollars a bushel I guess it is hier [sic] at home than it is here I am in hops [sic] you will have a plenty I have not drawn my money yet still I dont [sic] need it I will draw 7 months wages and 25.00 dollars of computation when I draw I pay Capt \$50.00 I am in hops [sic] we will get close enough so you can come to see us this winter tell Johny to write to me about our pigs and when they get fat you and him must kill them and if you need them keep them and eat them and if not sell them and use the money as you please fer [sic] I will not need it I am feard [sic] you will bothered about salt. I am in hops [sic] not If you cannot get salt I guess you can eat bread and potatoes without it I have not heard from poor Billy Brown since we left Knoxville to go to our Reg [iment] the seckond [sic] day we started he got sick and went back and when I got to our Reg

[iment] and went back to Knoxville they had sent him to Greenville [e] North Carolina So John Keykendall told me he was at the hospittle [sic] at the same time I have not heard from him since You must write to me all about how you are getting along I am anctious [sic] to hear from you and how yor [sic] are getting along gathering your crop and you must write to me how much you will make fer I am interested if I am so far from home I am enjoying myself finely [sic] and doing well I feel myself at home here with the boys we do our own cooking and eating and laughing and talking You must write me all the news and how you are getting along weaving and C and soon

Your Son
Thomas Jefferson Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

21. Langham and the Lovejoys were probably neighbors to the Newberry family.

22. Later General E. C. Walthall. Horn, 402.

November the 26 186223
Camp Near Murfreeboro [sic] Tenn [sic]

My Dear Father

I received your first letter the other day and glad was I to hear that you all was [sic] well and was [sic] getting along finely [sic] you said you was done gathering corn and you had made 1400 bushells [sic] we left Tullahoma last Saturday we marched here in three days I stood the march finely [sic] some says we will put up winter quarters here I am in hops [sic] to hear from you soon I expect to get a long letter from you when Mr [sic] Taylor comes Billy Brown came to us yesterday he is well I have no news to write you I have written once every week to you ever since I left home and I have gust [sic] received your first letter Lieut [sic] Branon is our first Lieut [sic] John Cox is 2ond J. Taylor is 3rd you must write oftener if you dont [sic] know where to write you can direct it to the place where we was [sic] last and put the name of the Brigade on the back I was so glad to hear from you and that you all was [sic] well some thinks we will go to Corinth or Nashville I dont [sic] think we will stay here long tell Mary Susan I received her letter and tell her I have not time to answer it and nothing new to write her at present tell her she must write again and Johny and Gatsey tell them all howdy You must write to me how you are getting along for it is a great satisfaction to me to hear from you all and that you are well I am in hops [sic] that you will get a good price for what corn you can spair [sic] you must be shere [sic] to keep a plenty your self I was glad to hear that your potatoes turned out so well and peas also tell Merning²⁴ she must get Mary Susan to write to me what she is going to name her fine gal [sic]

We may be ordered off to a fight I hear the cannons roaring now as I write so often I have nothing to write you must write to me all about home I expect to hear all the news when Mr [sic] Taylor comes I heard that Mr [sic] Taylor was to meet the ballance [sic] of them to day in Jackson to start I must bring my letter to a close Good bye Your Son
Thomas Jefferson

To Mr [sic] Marshall, C. Newberry
this Nov 26th 1862

Tell Johny he must write to me how our pigs is coming on and Mary Susan you and Gatsy must write too Good Bye I will [write] again in about a week

Marshall, C. Newberry
Tell all the negroes howdy

[FOOTNOTE]

23. General John C. Breckenridge was ordered to Murfreesboro. Horn, 189.

24. Possibly a Newberry slave.

December 27 1862
Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

Marshall C. Newberry
My Dear Father

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well doing and finely [sic] I hope these few lines will find you well I have received 2 letters only from you since I left home one at Tullahoma and the other by Lieut. Taylor he got here a few days ago I got my pants and shirt I like them very well You wrote to me that the Merlisha [sic] had you so I guess you are at Grenada Ben told me that you had Stephen²⁵ with you I was glad to hear that you must keep him with you he can cook and wash and wait on you he will be [a] great help I dont [sic] know whether you will get this letter or not I will send it by hand as far as Grenada I don't think it is worth while to send it to Coffeeville we were transfered [sic] to General [E. C.] Walthalls Brigade yesterday from General [James R.] Chalmers we had some few cases of the smallpox in our Brigade and one in our regiment a negro in Co. I we have all bin [sic] vaxinated [sic] some time ago mine is taken finely [sic] we are ordered to cook up 3 days rashings [sic] they had a heavy cannonading all day yesterday in the direction of Laverne[e] and Nashville²⁶ I am in hops [sic] to here [sic] from you soon I think you have not treated me right I think you ought to write me oftener than you do I am in better health than I ever was and doing well I am in hops [sic] you will get this letter I dont [sic] no [sic] where to write to you tell Marshall and Mary Susan and Addie I got their chestnuts and goobers and saved some to eat Christmas. I had as many as I could eat you must write to me how you enjoyed Christmas we had chicken fights and rasels [sic] and foot races tell Johny howdy tell him I have not time to write to him tell Johny howdy and Mary Susan and Addie howdy and tell them I will write to them the next time I must bring my letter to a close you must write often
Your Son
Good Bye Thomas J. Newberry

I wrote this letter a few day before the fight and had not time to mail²⁷

[FOOTNOTE]

25. Newberry slave.

26. General Joseph Wheeler delaying the advance of Federal from Nashville. Horn, 196.

27. Mailed after the battle at Murfreesboro

January 25 1863²⁸

Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

My Dear Father

I must write you a few more lines to let you know this boy is once more all right I am in hops [sic] this few lines may find you well and the balance also I have no news to write you at present only they are going to consolidate our Regiment and the 24th Mips [ississippii] together and our Company and Company F to gether [sic] and that will give some of the officers chance to get off awhile so Lieut [sic] Taylor will get to go home²⁹ I dont [sic] like it much still I think we can get along I am anxious to hear from you I received a letter from you by Mr [sic] Eason dated Dec. 21, 1862 and I think its [sic] time I was hearing from you again I tries [sic] to write to you once every week Some times when we are marching I cannot do so you must write often if you can I have no news to tell you no more than you here [sic] I am in hops [sic] you are at home I shall direct my letters to Coffeeville I guess by this time the post office is their [sic] You wrote to me to send my letters to Grenada You may not be their [sic] and if I send them to Coffeeville Johny will get them and send them to you if you are not their [sic] You wrote to me that you had Mary Susan and Addie at Mr [sic] Watters I think you done [sic] very well to get them their [sic] close to Aunts Elizas You wrote to me that Johny was at home tell him not to let the buggers [sic] get him I would like to see him suttings [sic] the doors after knight [sic] for fear of the cats and owls would get him tell him the Feds is worse than the owls and cats tell him they wont make noise like cats but will run lik[e] the very mischief you ought to have seen us run them through the cedar grove You could see the dead Yanks every where Sam Herron was wound[ed] and after we come [sic] off the field I went to see him and I had just picked up three Yankee blankets and I loaned him one and poor fellow he had no money and I had 50.00 I let him have 10.00 fer I could very easily spair [sic] it I guess he is at Coffeeville now I think we will have another scratch with old Reaisanerance [Rosecrans] yet I think if we do he wont [sic] stop this side of Nashville tell Mary Susan and Addie howdy and tell them they must write to me often I cannot write to them now you all must do the best you can as fer my part I am doing as well as any soldier ought to do You must send me a letter the first chance you get Write often

Good Bye

Your Son

Thos. J. Newberry

Tell Johny howdy

[FOOTNOTE]

28. Newberry's command suffered terrible losses at Murfreesboro and it is possible that Newberry was wounded. This would explain the interval between his letters.

29. This consolidation was probably due more to the decimation of the troops involved. Horn, 208.

Camp Near Shelbyville³⁰

February 1st 1863

My Dear Brother

I must answer your letter I received the other day to let you know that I am well and enjoying my self finely [sic] You wrote to me that you was [sic] a going to sell our hogs You can use the money if you want it or Father either I dont [sic] need it You do the best you can at home by your self You must write to me often and tell me all about hom [sic] and how you are getting along You must take good care of the pigs and raise a plenty of hogs and corn fer you will get a good price fer it You must be a good brother and be a little man

Write soon and often Good Bye Johny

Your Brother

Jefferson

(Note inside this letter)

Capt [sic] Herron and Mr. Stubblefield got back this morning Mr [sic] Stubblefield said he had good many letters to bring lost his knap sack on the way and the letters was [sic] in it he said he did not now whether he had one for me or not when you get that bill change[d] if you can buy me some tobacco and send it tobacco is worth 2 dollars a plug here and none to buy at that I am not needing now but I will nearly everybody is out I am doing as well as any body might expect and very well Please you must answer this as soon as you get You must write to me how your wheat is How much you have made

Answer this Soon

Answer this soon

TJN TJN

[FOOTNOTE]

30. A portion of the Confederate Army had retreated to Shelbyville after the engagement at Murfreesboro. Horn, 210.

Mr. Marshall C. Newberry

Coffeerville

Mipsissippi [sic]

Yellobousha [sic] Co.

From T. J. Newberry A Private in Co. D

29 Mips[issippi] Reg[iment]
(Mailed from Shelbyville, Tenn, Feb. 22)

Friday Feb. 20 1863

Near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

My Dear Father

I must write you a few lines to let you know that this boy is all wright [sic] once more and in hops [sic] these few lines may find you well and enjoying good health I have wrote [sic] to you once since I received your letter by Capt[ain] I would have again before now but we have bin [sic] out on picket ever since last Monday but we are seeing a very good time out here our Brigade will be relieved Sunday then we will go to our old Camps We have got our tents with us our pickets lines are 8 miles from Shelyville [sic] towards Murfressboro [sic] You must excuse my bad writing but I will show a willing mind I have no news to tell you worth writing only I am doing well and getting plenty to eat you must write often as you can if you direct my letters right I will be very apt to get them you must put Co D 29 Mips[issippi] Reg[iment] Walthalles Brigade Withers Division I dont [sic] put stamps on my letter they say they will go better without them there is a good appearance of peace from what we can hear I am in hops [sic] it will be made it has bin [sic] 5 months to day since I left home I would not of thought I would of stood it so well I would like to see you all still I can do a good while yet fer [sic] I have seen such hard times and have got along so well and still doing well so I can hear from you now and then I am sattisfied [sic] I dont [sic] want to go home as bad as I thought I would so I can hear that you all are well and hear all about I am well sattisfied [sic] You must tell Johnny howdy you must write to me how he is a getting along at home Tell Mary Susan and Addie howdy and tel [sic] them they must write to me they ought not to expect me to write them every time I write to you Tell Mary Susan and Addie I have made two little cedar boxes with my knife I name then after Mary S and Addie I keep them in my pocket to put my pens and needles and thread in I have writen [sic] my letter on the wrong pages you will see them numbered I must bring my bad letter to a close I will try to write better next time Write soon Good Bye I am all wright [sic] Old Dad

Your Son

T. J. Newberry

February 24, 1863

Camp Near

Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

My Dear Father

I have not time to write you a long letter as Lieut. Brannon is a going to start home in the morning he got here last knight [sic] with his conscripts Soloh and Wallraven and Jim Bellamy was [sic] mustered in to our Company this merning [sic] Lieut. Brannon said he started with 3 letters fer [sic] me and he gave them to Piflin and he lost them I was sorry I did not get them I was in hops [sic] to hear from you You must write it all over a gain [sic] as soon as you get this

letter I am well and doing fine and in hops [sic] these few lines may find you well I have no news to write you You must tell all howdy and write to me all about home and how you are a getting along and rite [sic] soon as you can I must close my letter for it is getting dark the next time I will write you a long letter Good Bye My Old Dad

Your Son

T. J. Newberry

Thomas Jefferson

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

March 17th 1863

My Dear Little Sisters

I must write you both a few lines as i have just received your lovely little letters little Addie told me in her little letter that she had bin [sic] sick I am in hopes these few lines may find you both well you told me you was trying to spin you a little dress I am glad to hear you are so smart you both must be smart little sisters and learn to be little women I was very sorry to hear of Aunt Mealys Mamys death tell Aunt Mealy howdy I have no news to write you both You must write to me as often as you can Good Bye Little Addie and Sue and be good little Sisters

Your Brother

Thomas J. Newberry

My Dear Brother

I received your letter and was glad to hear that you was [sic] well you told me to try and get a cap the first chance I get i will buy it for you and send it by Pa when he comes tell him he must be shure [sic] and come and stay with us as long as he can you both wrote to me you had my money fer [sic] my hogs you and him must use it you need not to save it for me you must do the best you can and make all the corn and stup [sic] you can for you will fet [sic] a good price for it Write Soon Good Bye

Your Brother Jefferson

Mr. M. C. Newberry

Coffeerville

Mips[issippi]

From

Private T. J. Newberry

Private Company D

29 Mips[issippi] Reg. of Vol.

Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

March the 17th 1863

My Dear Father

I received your letter by Mr. Furguson and one last Friday whilst we were out on picket the one you mailed at Grenada I was truly glad to hear from you but was sorry to hear that you was [sic] poorly at that time I am in hops [sic] by the time these few lines reaches you you may be well and enjoying yourself better your letters gave me great satisfaction [sic] about home and your affairs I was out on picket when I got your first letter by mail and did not have chance to answer it before now our Brigade goes out on picket once every two weeks we carry our tents out with us and camp in the reer [sic] of our pickets lines one Company goes out on picket at a time from each Regiment our Brigade stays out a week at a time I wrote to you by Mr. Long which I guess you have got by this time you said you sent me some socks by Lieut [sic] Brannon I guess he lost them I have not heard anything You can only send a letter by him as for any thing else he is two [sic] careless Lieut [sic] is a clever good hearted fellow I told you in the letter I sent by Mr. Long that Lieut [sic] gave my letters to Mr [sic] Piflin and he gave them to Thomas Neely through mistake as our names was signed so near a like and Thomas opened them and found that they were mine and sent them to me you wrote to me in your letter that you was [sic] a going to try to get a discharge I am in hops [sic] you will get it you must try to get it or a substitute for you are not able to stand it for you can do more at home you must do the best you can and be in good spirits and take care of your self as well as possible I dont [sic] think this war will last long there is some talk of peace there is some talk of the Yankees a falling back from Murfreesboro to Nashville[e] I do hope it is so I would like for us to get back our battlefield I want to see it once more before the war ends you must encourage Johny to do the best he can at home I am in hopes you will get to stay at home with him you need not to be uneasy about me for I am doing fine and well satisfied [sic] you must do the best you can write often as you can

Your son Thomas J. Newberry

To Mr. M. C. Newberry

Coffeville Mips[issippi] [sic]

From T. J. Newberry A Private in Co D 29 Mips[issippi] [sic]

Regt of Vols

By the Politeness of Lieut. Branum

Camp Autre

New Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

March the 25. 1863

Marshall C. Newberry

My Dear Father

I have the pleasure of writing to you once more to let you know that I am well and enjoying myself finely [sic] and hope when these few lines reaches [sic] you you will be enjoying the same blessings When I heard from you last you wrote that you was [sic] pooly [sic] but was [sic] getting better I am in hopes you are well by this time. I did not write by Lieut. Taylor I did not have time before he started I sent you a letter by mail the day before he started I have no news to write you only everything is very high We are drilling every day We have Company drill every morning and Brigade drill in the evening We drew meal and beef and bacon and sometimes a little rice and molasses not often We see a tolerable good time at

present We have to go out on picket about every two or three weeks the Yanks dont [sic] seem to observe on us it is reported that they are falling back from Murfreesboro to Nashville. I am in hops it may be so I would like to go back to Murfreesboro Our army had better health their [sic] than any place yet I sent you a letter by Mr. Long you have got it by this time I guess I am in hops [sic] you will get a discharge so you can come to see us, I am in hops [sic] we will get closer to you I would like for you to send me some socks by Mr [sic] Long when he comes. I dont [sic] need them now but will this sumer [sic] as for anything else I can get I can draw clothes and shoes I am glad to say I have had such good health since I left you I have been able for duty every day since I left home except for one week I was a little sick it has bin [sic] six months since I left home I have seen some very hard times since I left you We layed [sic] out about 10 days and knights [sic] in time of the fight in the hard cold rain and waded the river several times and layed [sic] in a line of battle all the time without fire to dry our feet and did not have half enough of rashings [sic] and after all we started from there one rainy Sunday morning before day and marched all day Sunday 30 miles in the cold rain I cannot rite [sic] any more for it would take me a week to tell you our route I have stood it all so far remarkable [sic] well and I am very well satisfied [sic] You all must do the best you can you must try to get off from the Merlisha [sic] so you can stay at home tell Johny howdy and Mary Susan and Addie also you need not to be uneasy about me for I am doing well tell Mary Susan and Gutsen to raise a heap of chickens for I am coming to healp [sic] them eat all of them tell Johny to raise me some watermellens [sic] to eat tell all howdy I must close
Good Bye Old Dad. Your Son
Thomas Jefferson Newberry

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]
April 4 1863

Mr [sic] M. C. Newberry
My Dear Father

I have the pleasure of driping [sic] you a few lines to inform you that I am well and I hope when these few lines reaches you may be enjoying the same health the last letter I got from you was by Mr [sic] Furguson you said that you was [sic] pooly [sic] but I am in hops [sic] you are well I have bin [sic] looking for a letter for several days I think I will get one by Lieut[enant] or Mr [sic] Long if not before by mail this is the 3rd letter I have written to you since Mr Furguson came I have no news to write to you at present only times is [sic] a looking for you to come and see us you said you would come if you could get off from the merlisha [sic] you must be shere [sic] to come if you can I have no idie [sic] how long we will remain here we may stay here some time yet You must write often as you can and tell me all the news and tell Johny and Mary Susan and Gatsey, howdy and tell them they must write to me You must keep in good spirits and do the best you can for this war wont [sic] last allways [sic] I think it is coming to a close I have nothing new to write as I write so often I will try next time to write you a long and better letter You must write often as can and tell Me all about home I am doing well and fat and sassy
Good Bye Your Son
Jefferson

Mr. M. C. Newberry
Coffeenville
Mips[issippi] [sic]
From T. J. Newberry
Com D 29 Mips[issispi] [sic]

Shelbyville Tennessee
April 16th 1863

Mr [sic] M. C. Newberry
My Dear Father

I received your letter the other day dated March 30 I was glad to hear that you wair [sic] all well You told me in your letter than Johny wanted to take your place in the Merlisha[sic] I think you ought to let him go if he is so anxious You can do better at home than he can Mr. Woodall got here yesterday and he told me that you had gone to Greenwood I was sorry to hear that you had left Grenada I am doing very well at present We are drilling and we go out on picket every three weeks and stay a week. There is a great deal of complaints about the rashings [sic] We get enough to make out on very well We are fortifying here rappidly [sic] thoughing [sic] up brest [sic] works You said something in your letter about highering [sic] you a substitute If I was [sic] in your place I would have one if it took half I made for you are too old to stand the Army and besides that you will be home to take of your property You ought to be willing to pay between 50 and 100 dollars a month for you can save more than that at home. I shall send this to Coffeenville If you dont [sic] get it Johny will and sent [sic] it to you I am looking fer Mr. Long in a few days I am in hops [sic] he will bring me a letter and then I will try to write you a long letter You must write often and tell me all the news Tell all howdy Good Bye

Your Son
T. J. Newberry

Shelbyville Tennessee
Saturday April 18th 1863

Mr [sic] M. C. Newberry
My Dear Father

I shall write you a few lines this eavening [sic] to let you know that I am well and doing finely [sic] Lieut. Brannon got here yesterday eavening [sic] I expected to get a letter by him but he said he was ordered off so quick that no body hardly knew it so I will expect a letter from you in a few days by Mr [sic] Long I received a letter from you a few days ago by mail and you said that Mr [sic] Long was a going to start the 15 of April I answered that letter a day or two ago and sent it by mail you may get this one first I was sorry to hear through Mr [sic] Woodall that you all was [sic] to Geenwood [sic] I dont [sic] know where you are but I will send this home and if you are not there Johny will send it to you. I think you ought to try and higher [sic] you a substitute you are too weekly [sic] to stand the army you can make money at home enough to

higher [sic] one if it takes all you can make you will have the pleasure of staying at home and take [sic] care of your property as much as possible I have no news to write you no more than every thing is very high and a great deal of complaints about rashings [sic] You wrote to me about braking [sic] Nelly I am feared some one will steel [sic] her as she is so fine the Cavelry [sic] picks up all the good horses about here Mr Furgeson is a driving the Avelanch [Ambulance] fer [sic] General [E. C.] Wallthall you must higher [sic] you a substitute or let Johny take your place and then you must come to see me I would like to see you very much I am still in good spirits as ever I dont [sic] cry any about not getting to go home I get along finely [sic] in the army and enjoy my self very well I can lie down in the rain with my blanket and sleep sound all knight [sic] and it raining and cold I have stood it so well after having such a hard spell last summer I could not half tell you of all the hardships I have endured whilst at Murfreesboro and on the retreat I am in better health now than I have ever bin [sic] and fatter and got as big an appetite as I had when I left [sic] home after all such hardships I am not grumling [sic] I am willing to stay untill [sic] we whip the Feds still I had some rather be at home if we could have peace you must excuse my bad writing as I have nothing to write on but a knapsack or anything I can get and the boys a talking and making so much fuss I heard that some boddy [sic] wrote to Coffeeville that all the boys here was a playing poker I am in hops [sic] you dont [sic] believe that I have come to that as much as you have cautioned me about it³¹ Tell Johny I have got his cap yet but I will send him one tell Mary Susan and Addie and Johny howdy and tell them they must write to me tell Aunt Eliza and Susan howdy and tell them they must write we are throughing [sic] up fortifications here I will send this by Lieut. Brannon he will start in the morning You must write soon and often and tell me all the news I must close Good Bye howdy and Your Son
Thomas Jefferson Newberry

[FOOTNOTE]

31. This passage was quoted by Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Life of Johnny Reb*. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1943, p. 212.

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

April 29 1863

Marshall C. Newberry

My Dear Father

I received your letter by Mr. Long a few days ago and have thought that I would have answered it before now but we had to move our camps and I neglected it together. [sic] I was glad to hear from you and that you all was [sic] well you said in your letter that Letty and Angeline was [sic] very sick I am in hops [sic] they are well by this time as for my part I am well and doing finely [sic] we have mooved [sic] 4 miles from Shelbyville on the Louisburg [sic] pike we have a very good place here I am anctious [sic] to hear from you whether you can get off from the merlisha [sic] or not you must let Johny take your place if not you must higher [sic] you a substitute you ought to try to get off some way or another you are not able to stand it and if you get off you must come to see us I would like to see you tell Mary Susan and Addie and Johny I have nothing to write them enough to interest them tell them howdy and tell Mary Susan Addie I got them socks and they were very nice I am very well pleased with them you

must not think hard of this short letter fer [sic] I have no news to write as I write so often I shall try and write you a longer letter then next time you must write often and tell me all the news for everything you can write to me about home is interesting tell all howdy and write often Tell Johny and Mary Susan and Addie I will answer their letters the next time Good Bye old Pap
Your Son
Thos. J. Newberry

From J. C. Newberry
Private in Co D.
29 Mips[ississippi] Reg[iment]
of Vol[unteers]
Marshalle [sic] C. Newberry
Coffeerville
Mips. [sic]

Camp Bragg Near Louisburg [sic]
Tennessee
May 8 1863

Marshall C. Newberry
My Dear Father I must write you a few lines this evening to let you know that I am well and getting along finely [sic] we left Shelbyville last Friday knight [sic] our brigade is here to support General [Earl Van Dorn] Vandorn I suppose he was killed by a citizen the other day³² we are camped in a very beautiful place in a large bottom I dont [sic] know how long we will remain here the last letter I received from you was by Mr [sic] Long I have bin [sic] looking for Lieut. Brannon and Taylor I think I will get a letter when they come I am anxious [sic] to hear from you whether you get off from the merlisha [sic] or not I heard that they were going to take out of the merlisha [sic] all over 40 years old and let them go home to make a crop I am in hops [sic] it is so you can get off I guess you have heard that [N. B.] Forest [sic] has taken 1400 prisoners near Rome GA.³³ I have no news to write only war news and I guess you hear enough of that you can direct your letters as usual to Shelbyville we sends [sic] their [sic] after the mail it is 20 miles from here if the letters is [sic] backed right they will come Mr. Longs son died at Shelbyville the other day you must excuse my short letter as I write so often I have nothing to write I am in splendid health and are [sic] getting along very well tell all howdy you must write often and tell me all the news about home you must keep in good spirits and do the best you can you must write often and tell all howdy
Good Bye Your Son
Thomas Jefferson Newberry

Tell Johny and Mary Susen and Addie howdy

[FOOTNOTE]

32. For an account of the death of Van Dorn, see Horn, 176.

33. Figure is given as 1800 by Horn, 234.

Camp Bragg Near Louisburg [sic] Tenn [sic]

May the 15th 1863

Marshall C. Newberry

My Dear Father

As to day is my birthday I shall write you a few lines and happy to say to you once more that I am well and in better health than I ever have bin [sic] since I have bin [sic] in the Army I have bin [sic] looking fer [sic] Lieut[enant] Brannon and Taylor for some time I am in hops [sic] to hear from you when they come I am anxious [sic] to hear from you whether you are at home or not I have not got a letter from you since Mr [sic] Long came We are off from the rail road 20 miles from Shelbyville We sends [sic] their [sic] for our mail you can still send your letters to Shelbyville you said in your last letters that if you could get off from the merlisha [sic] you would come to see us if you was [sic] to come by Rail Road you would have to walk from Shelbyville here You could come as quick on horseback and perhaps a goodeal [sic] cheaper John Boyle got a letter from home the other day and he told me that Letty was dead I was sorry to hear of her death I guess Aunt Mealy takes it very hard tell her she must do the best she can and not grieve no more than she popisbly [sic] help it may be all for the better You must write to me often and tell me all the news about home and how you are getting along with your crop You ought to try and make a plenty of corn and meat for it is a great demand here Bacon is worth from fifty to seventy five cents a pound Tell Mary Susan and Addie they must raise a heap of chickens they are worth 2 and 3 dollars a piece here and eggs 2 dollars a dozen turkeys from five to six dollars and none hardly to be got [sic] at that tobacco is four dollars a pound I expect it is higher in Mipissippi [sic] than it is here We draw bacon and meal as much as we can eat still it is very scarce sometimes we draw rice and sugar and vinegar You must write to me by Sam Herren when he comes if he is at Coffeerville You must carry him home with you and let him drink my share of butter milk for it is very scarce here and go with him to fishing and hunting Our Company and Co W are detailed for Sharp Shooters of our Regt [sic] We drill skirmish drills every day I am very well pleased with it Tell Johny he must raise a heap of watermellons [sic] for me and goobbers [sic] you must write to me often and tell me how you are getting along as for my part I am doing finely [sic] I have no news to write you tell Johny howdy and Mary Susan Addie and tell them they must write so I must bring my letter to a close for want of news so Good Bye Write often Your Son

Thos. J. Newberry this Friday May the 15. 1863

tell all howdy

Camp Near Shelbyville

Monday June the 8 1863

Marshall C. Newberry

My Dear Father

I received your letter yesterday by Lieut[enant] Taylor and glad was I to hear from you and that you all was [sic] well and doing so finely [sic] it gave me great sattisfaction [sic] about home every thing that you can write to me about home is interesting to me as fer [sic] my part I am

in splendid health and doing as well as any Soldier and as well satisfied [sic] as I can be we left this place about one month ago and went to Louisburg [sic] about 20 miles from here we come [sic] back last thursday and while we were down their [sic] Tilly Rayburn was taken sick the Captain got him a very nice house in the country and he had his boy to wait on him the Captain would let 2 of us go to see him at a time and set up with him I went several times we had to leave him their [sic] sick and since we have bin [sic] here his boy come [sic] and told us he was dead he died last Thursday I feel sorry fer his mother he was a noble soldier and a clever boy the Capt [sic] will send his body home Sam Herron come [sic] with Lieut[enant] Taylor yesterday I was glad to see him Mary Susan said in her letter that your wheat was fine I hope you have plenty to do you I wish it was so you could get off from the merlisha [sic] so you could go home and make a good crop you ought to try and get off if popsible [sic] I think you are able to higher [sic] you a substitute if you was [sic] at home you could soon have enough made to higher [sic] one and then you would have the pleasure of staying at home and take [sic] care of the children Mr Furguson has bin [sic] driving the Avelanch [sic] for General Wallthall but he has come back to the Company now he is in very good health at present we get enough to eat and pleanty [sic] drilling our Company are the sharpshooters of our Regiment and our regiment are the skirmishers of our Brigade we drill skirmish drills every day while we were at Louisburg [sic] we had a fine time we had gander pullings and dances and dinners I liked to stay their [sic] very well we could buy most any thing we wanted if we had money enough when we was [sic] ordered back here we through [sic] we was [sic] a going to Mips[ississippi] to Vicksburg I like to go their [sic] very well the boys says the Yanks calls Vickburg [sic] Jeff Davises [sic] Slaughterpen

I like to stay here very well we can get good water here and much cooler than if we were in Mips[ississippi] we have got use to the hardships we dont [sic] mind jumping up any knight [sic] and march from ten to fifteen and twenty miles and wade through the mud and water and when we stop we will lay down and go to sleep in the mud and rain and do finely [sic] we have bin [sic] looking for Rosecranse [sic] to advance we are here a waiting for him we have got exelent [sic] brestworks [sic] and I think if he comes he wont [sic] be willing to stop at Nashville if he gets there we call our selves the web footed Cavalry you must excuse my bad writing my pen is very sery [sic] and ink you must write often and soon an tell me all the news and how you are getting along tell all howdy Good Bye Your Son
Thos. Jefferson

Camp Near Shelbyville

June 8 1863

Mary Susan and Addie Newberry
My Dear Little Sisters

I must answer your long and interest [sic] letters I received by Lieut[enant] Taylor it gave me great sattisfaction [sic] you told me about your turkeys and about having a big dinner on my birthday I wish I could of bin [sic] their [sic] to help you eat the turtle You and Addie must raise me some chickens so when I come home I can eat them for you You did not tell me how you was [sic] a getting along making your little drespes [sic] you must write to me all about it and how often you go a fishing you and Addie must get Johny to catch them old rats for you so

you can raise your turkeys You did not write to me about your little gardens I know you bothe
[sic] for got it I am not grumling [sic] about your letters fer [sic] they were long ones and you
told me a gooeal [sic] of news I must bring my letter to a close kiss Addie for me write soon
and often Good bye little Sisters Your Brother
Jefferson N

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn[essee]

Sunday Eavening [sic]

June 27th 1863

Marshall C. Newberry

My Dear Father

I shall write you a few lines this eavening [sic] to let you know that I am well and doing finely
[sic] the last letter I received from you was by Lieut[enant] Taylor I answered it last Sunday
and sent it by Mr. McGinnis which I am in hops [sic] you have got by this time I wrote one a
few days before that and sent it by mail and wrote Johny and Mary Susan and Addie one also
as for my part I am in splendid health and doing finely [sic] and as well sattisfied [sic] as can be
This day was twelve month ago we were at the hospittle [sic] together at Enterprise yesterday
was nine month ago I left home and little did I think I would stand it so well I have improved
everyday [sic] since I left home I had about a week sickneps [sic] after we got to here from
Murfresboro [sic] It was caused from the trip and cold weather Sometimes my stomacks [sic]
hurts me a little that is no more than we all have it is caused from changing of diet and water
and marching we have had very good luck to stay here at this place as long as we have the
first knight [sic] we got here we did not think it was hardly worth while to streach [sic] our tents
it will soon be six months since we got here we went to Louisburg [sic] that is our Brigade and
stayed their [sic] one month we went out yesterday and worked on our brestworks [sic] we cut
down timber in front we have exelent [sic] ditches to fight in their [sic] is no [sic] prospects of a
fight here at present I dont [sic] think if they attack [sic] us here I think we will whip them badly
we have bin [sic] having shooting matches our Company shot day before yesterday we had
four shoots [sic] a piece we shot at a board with a man printed on it the first shoot [sic] we had
we shot two hundred yards the next was three hundred and the next lot was four and the last
was six hundred Sometimes we struck the board I hit it twice the first time and last Some of
them hit it every time and some of them missed it every time we have a goodeal [sic] of
sickneps in our Brigade I think it is caused from working on the brest [sic] works and getting
hot and drinking too much water the water we get out their [sic] is not so good Do wish you
could of bin [sic] down at Louisburg [sic] to see us drill for the prise [sic] three Companys [sic]
in our Regiment was [sic] drilled to see which was the best to drill against the Brigade and our
Com[pany] beat the other two and then our Com[pany] had to drill for it We drill in skirmish
drills and in every other drill a C[ompany] in 27 Mips[issippi] got the prize the prize was
something like a hundred dollars and ninety days rest Our Co[mpany] can go through the
manuel [sic] of arms as nice as you ever saw and we can ourder [sic] arms so near together
you can hardly tell but one gun hit the ground you must tell Mary Susan and Addie and Johny
howdy and tell them I received their letters and answered them and tell them to write You
must keep in good spirits and do the best you can As for my part I am all wrigh [sic] if you can

get off from the Merlisha [sic] you must come to see us Write often and come sooner if you
can so Good Bye Pa
Your Son
Thomas J. Newberry

Camp on Look Out Mountain
November 19 1863

My Dear Father

I must write you a few lines this morning to let you know that I am well and doing finely [sic] We went up on Look Out Mountain last Thursday and was [sic] ordered around here on this side last Sunday. We are here now on picket the Yankees pickets and ours are in thirty yards of each other³⁴ They are on one side of Lookout Creek and we are on the other bank They are very anxious [sic] fer a conversation and want to trade coffee for tobacco. We have orders not to speake [sic] to them some of the boys talks [sic] to them and trades [sic] them tobercco [sic] for coffee They seem to be very friendly sometimes the boys gets them to come over to trade and they they take them priseners [sic] They are not allowed to hold any conversation with them It is against General Bragg's orders. Well Father I have not received but three letters from you since you left. the last one I got from you was dated Oct. 15th over a month ago what is the cause of it. I dont [sic] know. I am in hopes you have not forgotten me. I try to write to you once every week if it is possible. Sometimes I dont [sic] have [a] chance when we are a mooving [sic]. We have not bin [sic] in no regular camp since the battle Our brigade have [sic] bin [sic] mooved [sic] about every few days. We dont stay in one place no more than a week and sometimes but a day or two. We have a detail to cook our rations back at the wagens [sic] We shall [sic] one another here every day they dont do us much harm Sometimes they happen to strike a little bunch of men or waggens [sic] Their [sic] is a great many large rocks here on the side of the merintain [sic] and we can get behind them for protection. The rocks are as large as houses on the ground. You must excuse my bad writing as I have to write on my knee I believe this is the worse writing I ever done perhaps you can make out to read it by taking time enough

You must excuse my short letter as I have no news werthe [sic] writing at present only I am well and in good health. Tell Johny and Mary Susan and Addie howdy and tell them they must write to me often I have not herd [sic] from you in a month. You must write to me often as you can and tell me all the news and how you are getting along at home.
Good Bye Your Son Thomas J. Newberry

Johny, Mary Susan, Addie

Camp Near Dalton Georgia
Thursday January 21st/64

Mary S. and Addie

My dear Little Sisters

I must drop you both [sic] a few lines in answer to your little letters that I received by Mr. Mitchell. You know that I was glad to receive them. I did not have time to write to you both [sic] by John you don't know how I have bin [sic] eating Chestnuts and walnut goodies I have some put away in my knap sack we had today for dinner a rice puddun [sic] we did not have no milk to eat with it but we had butter a plenty and sugar I would write you both [sic] a longer letter but I will have to write to Pa and Johnny. You must be smart little Sisters Write often and soon Goodbye little Sisters Good bye and howdy
Your brother Jefferson

Camp Near Dalton Georgia

Thursday January 21st 1864

My Dear Father

I must write you a few lines by Mr Mitchell He will start this evening [sic] I have no news to write you at present only I am enjoying my self finely [sic] and in good health. We are doing finely General Johnston came round yesterday on a visit they are trying to reorganize our army our time wont [sic] be out in twelve month yet they are trying to bind us to go in for the war Their reassen [sic] for it is that a good many of their times are out this spring and they want us to go in for the war so it may encourage those to go in whose time will soon be out and it will have some effect on the enemy The most of the men thinks their [sic] is some some trick in it and are not willing to [do] it. They dont [sic] like the officers and others wants to join other commands. Some wants to join Caverlry [sic] and others wants a furlow [sic] they all say they are willing to fight and join the army again as for my part I expect to stay in the army as long as the war lasts. if we bind ourselves for the war some things then when our time is out they wont [sic] allow us to reorganize. No doubt it is only an encouragement [sic] for these whose time is nearly out. As soon as our furlowed [sic] men gets back our company will draw for a furlow [sic] that will be the last of the week and then I will write you another letter. I will send you one or two newspapers By Mr. Mitchell you will have to pay him the freight on my box he wont [sic] let me pay him he says you will pay him I think it is about five or six dollars You must write often and keep in good spirits. Tell all howdy and good bye.
You Son, Thomas Jefferson

In Line of Battle Marietta

June the 29th

My Dear Father

Your letter of the 17th come [sic] to hand day before yesterday the reason I delayed answering it sooner was I had to go on picket. Your letter give [sic] me a great Deal of Sattisfaction [sic] about home. I was glad to here [sic] that you was [sic] getting along so well I had not got a letter from you before in a month. You know I was glad to here [sic] from you I will send this by a negro boy that is going home I am sorry that I have no pen nor ink. I am feared [sic] it will rub out. I will not make a practice of it. Well Father I am well and doing

finely [sic] We are in our same position that we have had fer [sic] several weeks I must tell you something of the fight that Gen[eral] Cheatham had with the Yankees they charged him day before yesterday in our brest werks [sic] and he repeled [sic] them with dreadful slaughter. He kill dead [sic] over a thousand that is the report and several thousand missing some of them they say was [sic] drunk and some of them come up on top of our brest werks [sic] and fell over in them they were so drunk that some of them did not fire a gun. They are now entrenched in thirty yards of each other They say a great many of their wounded got burnt [sic] up. The shells sot [sic] in the woods a fire They sent a flag of truce this morning to bury their dead³⁵ They have bin [sic] buisy [sic] a burying their dead all day Our brigade has not bin [sic] egaged [sic] since the 22 [of June]. In my last letter I told you that we drove in their pickets and got in sight of their batteries. We then were ordered to lay down. They played on us untill dark, about two hours, and when it got dark we retired back to our old pezition [sic] which we now hold. Since I have bin [sic] writing they have brought in Clay Thornton from the picket line. He is badly wounded one corner of his nose is cut off the ball then passed through hiz [sic] shoulder nearly under the arm I don't think his bones are broke [sic]. He will get well Well Father I have told you all the news I have bin [sic] writing every few days to you I am going to write oftener [sic]. You don't know how glad I was to here [sic] from you I was sorry to here [sic] of Mr. Dunn he surely was drinkin [sic] I hope to here [sic] from him soon. I am in hops [sic] he will come home. Tell Johny howdy and Mary Susan and Addie and tell them to write I am feared [sic] you cannot read this it is the best I can do for the present. we have no ink nor pens write soon and often as you can.

Bood Bye and howdy Your son
Thos J Newberry

this leaves me well
Mr. M. C. Newberry
Coffeerville
Mips[issippi]
From T. J. Newberry Co "D"
29th Mips[issippi] Regt[sic] Brantleys Brigade
Andersons Division Lees Corps

(Written on the inside of envelope)

August 1st 1864

Colonel Branlty has bin [sic] promoted to Brigadier General I will write again in a few days and write you a longer letter.

[FOOTNOTE]

35. Horn gives an excellent description of this action. There appears to be no evidence that the Union soldiers were drunk. Horn, 335-336.

In Line of Battle Atlanta

August 1st 1864

My Dear Father

I must drop you a few lines this evening [sic] to let you know that I have come through the late battle safe. It was fought on the 28 of July a few days ago³⁶ I have bin in four battles since I left home³⁷. I have bin [sic] in eight battles besides several skirmishes. Our last battle we lost our Capt Reynolds. He was Comding [sic] our Company he was mertally [sic] wounded. I expect he is dead by this time he was from Oxford Miss. William Brown was killed, poor fellow, he was a good Soldier and a brave one He was shot through the head above the right eye with a minnie ball. He fell dead I dont think he hardly knowed [sic] he was struck. You can tell Mr. Brown that he was killed and that he lost a brave Son and a noble Soldier I thought I would write him a letter. Well Father We are constantly mooving [sic] Sometimes we move from one end of the line to the other several times a day. Pen and ink wont begin to tell you of our movements, so I cant tell you of nothing only of the fights and not able to tell you anything about them only when they ocured [sic] Tell Mr. Mitchell John says he come [sic] through safe. He would rite [sic] but says he has no paper. I have no herd [sic] from you in a month or more I am looking for a letter from you every day. I write to you every few days. I had to throw away my knapsack in our last fight. If you ever get Layton send him here I want him to toat [sic] my cloathes [sic] Tell Mr Boyle John Says he is well and come [sic] through the fight safe. John Mitchell will send a note in this to his farther [sic]. Tell Johny howdy and Mary Susan and Addie and tell them to write. Good bye and howdy. Write soon and often.
Your Son T. J. Newberry

M. C. Newberry

Coffeerville

Mip [sic]

By the Politeness of Mr. Williams

[FOOTNOTE]

36. Probably refers to the battle at Ezra's Church. Horn, 361

37. Newberry evidently means since his last visit home.

Camp Cobb - Near Atlanta

Aug. 16 - 1864

Sisters

I must write you both a few lines to let you know you are not forgotten by your Brother. I am glad to hear you both keep well and hearty. I have no news to write worth your attention only we have a very good band in our Regiment We have dress parade every week end. The band goes out and plays and a heap of little girls come to see us about your size every evening on dress parade. You both must be good little sisters and be smart and grow fast. You both must write often and tell me the news. Tell all howdy

Goodbye little sisters
Your Brother

Atlanta Ga.

Aug. 20th 1864

Mr. Newberry

Dear Sir

It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of your son - a member of the 29th Miss. Regt. I presume, however, that it will be a satisfaction to you and your family to know by letter what you will necessarily learn in some way. Your son fell in the discharge of his duty to his country He was on picket duty when the fatal shot (a rifle ball) struck him. As far as I know he was killed instantly. His body was brought back to the field hospital and interred [sic] as respectably as the circumstances would allow. He lies near the West Point Rail Road about four miles from Atlanta. This grave is marked by a board bearing his name. I wish that I was able to offer you such consolation as a friend and acquaintance might be able to suggest. I trust that the Lord may sustain you by his Grace.

Yours sincerely

W. T. Hall

Chaplain 30th Miss[issippi] Regt.