

## John W. Reese Civil War Letters

### Background Information

John W. Reese (b. ca. 1829) was a miller from Buncombe County, NC and served as a private in Co. F, 60th NC Inf. He died of disease, Forsyth, Ga., August 1864.

Camp Morton, Greenville, Tennessee September 18, 1862

Greenville [sic] Camp morting [sic]

Sep tember [sic] the 18 1862

dear wife its [sic] with pleasur [sic] that I tak [sic] the oppportunity of Riting [sic] to you By James Black he has Bin [sic] to the Cumbren [sic] gap and is going to stay with us to nit [sic] I am well onely [sic] I hav [sic] the hed [sic] ack [sic] this Eaving [sic] vary [sic] Bad living on wheat Bread dont [sic] A gree [sic] with mee [sic] tena [sic] I am in hops [sic] when thase [sic] lins [sic] Cums [sic] to you tha [sic] ma [sic] find you and the Children well God Bless thair [sic] little Sols [sic] I no [sic] tha [sic] want to See mee [sic] and God nos [sic] that I want to see you and them I dont [sic] sleep mutch [sic] hear [sic] I am up lat [sic] at nite [sic] and up soon and as soon as my Eys [sic] is open my mind is A pon [sic] you and the Children I hav [sic] to quit for A while and go on dress pur rade [sic] its [sic] now over I hav [sic] not got my money yet the quarter master has not got Back yet as soon as he Cums [sic] I will Send you Sum [sic] money tena [sic] I am A frad [sic] you hav [sic] dun [sic] bad A Bau [sic] sum [sic] thin [sic] to Eat I want you to Rit [sic] to mee [sic] and let mee [sic] no [sic] how you hav [sic] mad [sic] out A Baut [sic] Bread I baut [sic] mee [sic] Sum [sic] Close [sic] I got A pair of Blue m[illegible] Jans [sic] pants for three dollars and A new Shirt for one dollar and twtey [sic] fiv [sic] Cent if I dont [sic] git [sic] A fur low [sic] I want you to Send mee [sic] two pair of socks you can send mee [sic] any thing you pleas [sic] By takening [sic] it in A pok [sic] sused [sic] up and send it down to Elxanders [sic] and tha [sic] will send it to lee [sic] By sum [sic] Bod [sic] dey [sic] tena [sic] I want you to git [sic] the Rays to Biy [sic] that Corne [sic] from Coock and I will pay for it my capton [sic] Sed [sic] he intends mee [sic] to go home if thair [sic] is any chans [sic] But thair [sic] is no Boddey [sic] out to Send mee [sic] after I am hear [sic] with out any Blankit [sic] I want you to send mee [sic] suthing [sic] to sleep on if you can tell the Boys that if tha [sic] doo [sic] hav [sic] to volenteer [sic] I want then to Cum [sic] hear [sic] tha [sic] hav [sic] tuck [sic] men out of all the copaneys [sic] and mad [sic] A new one and goodson [Editor's note: Capt. Goodsson [sic] M. Roberts, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] Rob Berds [sic] is Capton [sic] and he is one that will doo [sic] tho [sic] I yet Belong to stevens [sic] [Editor's note: Capt. James M. Stevens, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] I under stand [sic] that the quarter master has got back the paymaster will be in to day [sic] or to morrow [sic] then I will Rite [sic] to you A gane [sic] tena [sic] I got A letter from John E Barreett [sic] he is well James Black Sed [sic]

that thair [sic] was Sevril [sic] of the Boys was Bair [sic] footed and not mutch [sic] close  
[sic] on thair [sic] pourr [sic] Backs I Send you Sum [sic] poerty [sic] in this letter

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

Greenville, Tennessee Camp Morton September 14, 1862

Grenn vill [sic] tennessee [sic]

Camp morten [sic] September the 14 – 1862

Dear Wife its [sic] with pleasure that I take the opportunity of Riting [sic] to you to let you  
no [sic] that I am well and I am in hops [sic] When thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] Cums [sic]  
to hand tha [sic] may find you and the Children well I Recking [sic] you had hearn [sic]  
A Baut [sic] us Being orderd [sic] to this plase [sic] Before I got to them with Sorrow did  
I hav [sic] to cross the [illegible] mounting and hear [sic] waiting my Awful doom I dont  
[sic] no [sic] whair [sic] we will go to But I think we will go to noxvill [sic] I hav [sic] trid  
[sic] to git [sic] a fur low [sic] But I cant [sic] git [sic] it yet my Capton [sic] Sed [sic] that  
he wood [sic] not let mee [sic] of [sic] un less [sic] thair [sic] was Sum [sic] Bodey [sic]  
out tho [sic] hee [sic] mit [sic] Send mee [sic] after them I think thair [sic] will Be A  
chance fur [sic] mee [sic] to git [sic] home Be fore [sic] long I dont [sic] want to Cum  
[sic] tell [sic] I git [sic] my money the quarter master is gon [sic] after money now and I  
think as soon as hee [sic] gits [sic] Back I will git [sic] to Cum [sic] home tena [sic] I  
want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as Soon a [sic] you git [sic] this leter [sic] I want to no  
[sic] how you air [sic] dooing [sic] and if the Rays got them hogs or not I want you to  
hav [sic] that Corn Cut dow [sic] and put up tena [sic] if you can hav [sic] mee [sic] A  
pair of pants made I wood [sic] Be glad this Companey [sic] has not got thair [sic] Close  
[sic] yet and I think I will git [sic] A diss Carg [sic] after a while kiss Brug for mee [sic]  
god [sic] Bless his sweet hart [sic] tell the gall [sic] howdey [sic] and tena [sic] I wood  
[sic] not hate to see you this morning direct your letters to greenville [sic] in Cear [sic] of  
Captn [sic] Steevens [sic]

John W Reese to Crist V Reese

Greenville, Tennessee Camp Morton September 29, 1862

Grenn [sic] vill [sic] teensee [sic]

Camp morten [sic] September the 29 1862

Dear Wife it is with pleasure that I thak [sic] the opop portunity [sic] of Riting [sic] to you  
this good Sabbath Eaving [sic] one more time to in form [sic] you that I am weel [sic]  
with the ex sepcion [sic] of my neck like it ust [sic] to hurt mee [sic] I Recieved [sic] your  
kind let ter [sic] that was Rote the 21 Sept I Recieved it the 23 O how glad was I and  
how I felt when I hearn [sic] houdey [sic] from my littel [sic] Children God Bless them  
thair [sic] is Rite [sic] Smart of Sick ness [sic] hear [sic] thair [sic] has Binn [sic] 2 died  
hear [sic] sence [sic] wee [sic] hav [sic] Binn [sic] hear [sic] our hed [sic] quarters is at

noxvill [sic] the Janeril [sic] horspittle [sic] is thair [sic] and tha [sic] air [sic] di ing [sic]  
ten pur [sic] day I dont [sic] no [sic] how long wee [soc] will Stay hear [sic] I hav [sic]  
got my money at last I Send you thirty 3.00 dollars By thoms [sic] Weaver [Editor's  
note: Lt. James Thomas Weaver, Co. A, 60th NC Inf.] I want you to pay William manley  
[sic] ten dollars that I Borred [sic] from him Be I left home and pay William Edmonds 50  
Cent he Sent to mee [sic] thee [sic] morning I left home I will keep the Balance of my  
money tell [sic] I see if I gitt [sic] to Cum [sic] home or not and if I dont [sic] I will send  
you more you had Bet ter [sic] git [sic] your thread as soon as you can tena [sic] I want  
you to Rit [sic] to mee [sic] as Soon as you git [sic] this let ter [sic] let mee [sic] no [sic]  
how you ar [sic] git ing [sic] A long [sic] tena [sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] Away from you  
three weeks to morrow [sic] the longest three that Ever Rold [sic] over my bed I wood  
[sic] give ten dollars to Bee [sic] at home tonite [sic] if I had to Star [sic] Back tomorrow  
I want you to pay them folks But dont [sic] pay them two [sic] mutch [sic] you git [sic]  
this twenty dollr [sic] Bill Changed off as you Can thair [sic] no Chance to git Chang  
[sic] hear [sic] I will Cum [sic] home as soon as I can if I dont [sic] Beefor [sic] I told my  
Captian [sic] to day [sic] that if hee [sic] did not giv [sic] mee [sic] A fur low [sic] to go  
home and git [sic] my thing that I wood [sic] giv [sic] my Self one and it is Sow [sic] tena  
[sic] I Sent you A let ter [sic] By hand to Elxander [sic] and I was wating [sic] to git [sic] A  
answer from yu [sic] But I stand a Cance [sic] to send to you one By T weaver [sic] and  
your money I hav [sic] to Clos [sic] for this time will [sic] I Rite [sic] mor [sic] the next  
time may God Bless you my Sweet wife and if wee [sic] never meet any mor [sic] an  
[sic] urth [sic] tena [sic] let us So liv [sic] that we may meet A Buv [sic] tell lyzabeth [sic]  
Edmonds houdy [sic] if you Can send mee [sic] an [sic] thing doo [sic] it I need A pair  
of gallisses [sic] and Socks I wood [sic] Bee [sic] vary [sic] glad to see any Boddey [sic]  
from home I must Clos [sic] for weaver [sic] is going to star [sic] this eaving [sic] tena  
[sic] Kiss the Children fur [sic] mee [sic] I wish I Cood [sic] Kiss you god [sic] Bless you

John W Reese to Cristena Reese

Undated Letter Missing the First Page, probably written in October 1862

Tena [sic] I did not put as mutch [sic] in this lettr [sic] as I wanted to Rite [sic] when you  
Rite [sic] to mee [sic] I want you to let mee [sic] now [sic] hoo [sic] tuck [sic] your hogs to  
fatten and what you hav [sic] dun [sic] with the Calvs [sic] I wanted you to git [sic] Sum  
[sic] Boddey [sic] to winter them I will pay for it and if you got them t[illegible]ps from  
Cock and hoo [sic] you air [sic] giting [sic] your Bred [sic] from and what tha [sic] air  
[sic] charging you pur [sic] Buchel [sic] I Rote [sic] A letter to hunsucker [sic] the other  
day I wanted him to go and see you and See if he Cood [sic] git [sic] A letter to mee  
[sic] to let mee [sic] no [sic] how you was All doing tena [sic] I hav [sic] suferd [sic] A  
grat [sic] deel [sic] of un easness [sic] ABout [sic] you all I havent [sic] hearn [sic] A  
word from you Sence [sic] I lef [sic] greenvill [sic] I must Cum [sic] to A Clos [sic] may  
God Bless you all tell margrett [sic] and Cis to Be good to thair [sic] little Brothers tell  
Bru[illegible] I will Brin [sic] him A nife [sic] when I Cum [sic] home that his pap has not

for got [sic] his looks [sic] the morning he left home he Run when I told him good By  
and tell tena [sic] that I hant [sic] furgot [sic] how Sweet youst [sic] to Kiss mee [sic] no I  
hant [sic] I wish I Cood [sic] get a peepe [sic] at hur [sic] face to day [sic] I intend to try  
to Cum [sic] home when we draw ouer [sic] money I think maby [sic] I will Be detailed to  
Cum [sic] hom [sic] to tak [sic] thair [sic] money home and to git [sic] Blankits [sic] for  
Componey [sic] we hav [sic] But one Blankit [sic] A peace [sic] we got our over Coats  
Suth [sic] things as thair [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] tow [sic] Chane [sic] and fild [sic] with dog  
hair or goats [sic] hair mine is A little difernt [sic] from the Rest it is tow [sic] Chane [sic]  
and fild [sic] with hemp tena [sic] this is the truth if John did tell it Vances [sic] Regmant  
[sic] is 22 mils [sic] blow [sic] noxvill [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] on thair [sic] way hear [sic]  
thair [sic] waiting for trans po tracion [sic] on the Cars tena [sic] I saw Sum [sic] of my  
kin folks two of Jackson Reese Boys I did not no [sic] that I had any Conneccian [sic]  
tell [sic] now I this Contrey [sic] Middle tennssee [sic] A Bout [sic] 40 mils [sic] from hear  
[sic] tha [sic] Belong to 28 tennessee [sic] Regment [sic] tena [sic] I want you to Rite  
[sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you find out that the letters is Cuming [sic] to us you dont  
[sic] no [sic] how Bad I want to hear from you I will Send you one By ever [sic] one that  
gits [sic] to go home from hear [sic] if you air [sic] lik [sic] mee [sic] it dus [sic] you A  
good deel [sic] of [illegible]ood to hear from mee [sic] tena [sic] Remember mee [sic]  
and pray for mee [sic] that I may doo [sic] Better than I Ever hav [sic] and that my last  
days may Be the Best days tena [sic] fair [sic] well for A while [sic]

John W Reese to Cristena V Rees [sic]

October 29, 1862

Middle tennessee, Rutherford County, Murfreesboro

October the 29 1862

Mid dle tennisee [sic] Rether ford [sic] County MurfreesBurro [sic]

Dear wife with grat [sic] pleasure I am pur [sic] mitted [sic] to rite [sic] to you one more  
time in forming [sic] you that I am un well [sic] and has Bin [sic] vary [sic] sick an yester  
day [sic] I was vary [sic] Bad But thank god [sic] I am Bet ter [sic] this morning I am  
afflic ted [sic] with Rumatis [sic] and cald [sic] I am still on the sick list not Able for duty  
the doctor giv [sic] mee [sic] A [illegible]uke yester day [sic] and I am Rite [sic] smart  
Better this morning I am in hope when thas [sic] lins [sic] cums [sic] to hand tha [sic]  
may find you and the children well and dooing [sic] well tho [sic] I no [sic] tena [sic] you  
hav [sic] A bad chance to doo [sic] well I sent you A let tr [sic] By male [sic] the day  
after we got hear [sic] and I hant [sic] got any Answer yet I sup pose [sic] the let ters  
[sic] All stops at Bridg [sic] poart [sic] ninty [sic] two mils [sic] Abuv [sic] hear [sic] whair  
[sic] we Crost [sic] the tennessee [sic] River I dont [sic] no [sic] what tha [sic] stop them  
fo [sic] un less [sic] tha [sic] dont [sic] want any news to pass tell [sic] this fit [sic] cums  
[sic] off at nashvill [sic] tena [sic] thair [sic] is All sorts of folks But the Rite [sic] sort hear  
[sic] and the warst [sic] locking [sic] folks you ever saw in your life sum [sic] of them has

Bin [sic] out A long time in the un holy [sic] thing thair [sic] is lots of Cane tuckens [sic] hear [sic] But I cant [sic] hear anything from Will Reese thair [sic] is one thing Shore [sic] Ganerril [sic] Brag [sic] Cam manding [sic] the suthern [sic] Boys got A tree mends [sic] whipping [sic] over thair [sic] the other day tena [sic] this is So no dout [sic] you will see if this Rigment [sic] dont [sic] Cum [sic] hom [sic] or not I dont [sic] like to talk ABOUT [sic] my officers But I hav [sic] hearn [sic] lots of our men say that the Colonel Cood not Re Elected [sic] fur [sic] dog [sic] [illegible]ter as to my Captan [sic] he may be A fine man to them that like him he has past [sic] my tent door lots of times Cinse [sic] I have Bin [sic] sck [sic] But he dont [sic] Cum [sic] in he is Jest [sic] Jim Ray [Editor's note: Capt. James M. Ray, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] and no smarter that he thinks he is this woar [sic] wont [sic] last All ways I Jeust [sic] Request [sic] him to let mee [sic] go home and see you whe [sic] you was Cick [sic] and git [sic] my Clos [sic] But no I was not the man to go he detailed Jack marten [sic] [Editor's note: Pvt A.J. Martin, Co, F, 60th NC Inf.] to take sum [sic] money fur [sic] the Boys home and to see his sick Child and he hant [sic] Cum [sic] in yet I want you to Remember him you and your friends he kep [sic] mee [sic] hear [sic] long on the ground tell [sic] Rite [sic] lately Jess Black was in the fite [sic] at fishing Creek whair [sic] our Boys had to Run he asked mee [sic] the other nite [sic] if nod [sic] what the damed [sic] yankeys [sic] plade [sic] whil tha [sic] was [illegible]uning he sed [sic] tha [sic] plad [sic] Run niger [sic] Run dam [sic] them tena [sic] I must Close I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] onst [sic] ar [sic] twist [sic] A week doo [sic] me [sic] dear you had Better not pay the letter you send to me tha [sic] will Cum [sic] Better Kiss my boys for mee [sic] may God Bless you all th[illegible] I am A long way off from you my dear Rite [sic] Rite [sic] Rite [sic] tena [sic] to mee [sic]

John W Reese to Cristena Reese

Middle Tennessee Rutherford County Murfreesboro

November 10, 1862

Midle [sic] tennessee [sic] Retherford [sic] County murfrees BoRo [sic]

novemBer [sic] the 10 day 1862

Dear wife with grat [sic] sats faction [sic] I am purmit ted [sic] to Rite [sic] to you onst [sic] more in forming [sic] you that I am well and hoping when those lins [sic] Cus [sic] to hand tha [sic] may find you and the Children Well an [sic] dooing [sic] well tho [sic] I no [sic] tena [sic] you hav [sic] had A Bad Chance to doo [sic] well tena [sic] this is the fifth letter I hav [sic] sent to you cence [sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] hear [sic] and I Cant [sic] hear from you any more it gos [sic] mitey [sic] hard with mee [sic] not to hear from you and my dear lit tle [sic] Children God Bless thair [sic] harts [sic] I wood [sic] giv [sic] my intrust [sic] in this suthern [sic] Confedercey [sic] to See you and them this Eaving [sic] and Kiss you All tena [sic] how Bad I want to see you tena [sic] I hav [sic] Rot [sic] to you lots and Cood [sic] Rite [sic] A week if I Cood [sic] git [sic] A letter from you I hav [sic] not Bin [sic] in A fite [sic] yet and I dont [sic] want to be if I Can keep out on fair

turns [sic] tho [sic] I was in hearing of sum [sic] shooing [sic] with the Canons [sic] the other day our Boys went down to nash vill [sic] and opend [sic] A fiar [sic] on them and the yankey [sic] opend [sic] A fiar [sic] on them and mad [sic] them git [sic] with A loss of two kild [sic] and ten woun ded [sic] I hearn [sic] the fite [sic] tho [sic] I was thirty mils [sic] off we hav [sic] A heep [sic] of gard [sic] duty [sic] to doo [sic] and I was on gard [sic] the other day over in town and our Caverley [sic] Brout [sic] in 8 yankeys [sic] and two negros tha [sic] had caut [sic] them near nash vill [sic] tha [sic] Brout [sic] them Close to mee [sic] and handed them I tuck [sic] A good loock [sic] at them tha [sic] had on deep Blue Broud [sic] Cloth Coats and pulleue [sic] Cloth pants tha [sic] was nise [sic] looking men loocked [sic] like tha [sic] had Coffey [sic] to drink whair [sic] tha [sic] Cum [sic] from I will tell you how I felt when I Cum [sic] home I Rote [sic] to you in my last let ter [sic] that we was orderd [sic] to Cooch [sic] Rashings [sic] we did not mov [sic] But we air [sic] orderd [sic] to Cooch [sic] three mor [sic] this Eaving [sic] I think we will go this time But I dont [sic] no [sic] whair [sic] to But I think [sic] we will git [sic] one hundrd [sic] and twentry [sic] six mils [sic] near hom [sic] up to Chat Anuga [sic] how glad I will Be tena [sic] thair [sic] is A heep [sic] of Sickness hear [sic] with the Brane [sic] feaver [sic] we hav [sic] lost thirteen men out of this Rigmint [sic] Sence [sic] we hav [sic] bin [sic] hear [sic] mils [sic] snider [sic] [Editor's Note: Pvt. Miles Snider, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] is ded [sic] he died yesterday Send word to his wife if you Can he died with A Brest [sic] Complant [sic] and ten run A way last nite [sic] out of this Rigmint [sic] and tena [sic] thair [sic] is sum [sic] of worst home Cick [sic] folks hear [sic] you ever Saw the vary [sic] ons [sic] that has Bin [sic] in for this thing old Bueal [sic] in pur suit [sic] of us and no dout [sic] But we will hav [sic] to git [sic] from hear [sic] it is now nine aClock [sic] in the nite [sic] and I am on gard [sic] to nite [sic] I will hav [sic] to Report Back at the gard [sic] house in A fue [sic] minits [sic] tena [sic] I will send you A letter Ever [sic] Chance By hand if I can if I cant [sic] hear from you Shal [sic] hea[illegible] mee [sic] as long as I liv [sic] I send you ten dollars in this letter I no [sic] you need it kiss my boys

John W Reese to Crist V Reese

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

December 27, 1862

Murfrees Boro [sic] ten see [sic]

December the 27 1862

Dear wife with pleasure that I am pur mitted [sic] to drope [sic] you A fu [sic] lins [sic] to let you no [sic] that I am Still on the mend I Rote [sic] to you in my last let ter [sic] how long I had Bin [sic] Cick [sic] my dear I thout [sic] I had saw you for the last time I wanted to see you and my dear Children O how bad you dont [sic] no [sic] you hav [sic] no idey [sic] you dont [sic] no [sic] it has Bin [sic] fore [sic] weeks to day [sic] sence [sic] I hav [sic] dun [sic] Any dewtey [sic] I am still mending and will Re[illegible] for

dewtey [sic] in A fue [sic] more days the times is s[illegible]ley hear [sic] at this time tha  
[sic] air [sic] fiting [sic] and has Bin [sic] fur [sic] two or three days and the news was  
yester day [sic] that the yankeys [sic] has druv [sic] our troops Back seven mils [sic] our  
loss up tell [sic] last nite [sic] was one thousand our regmant [sic] is order to Cooch [sic]  
2 days Rashings [sic] and Be Reddey [sic] to march at A minnets [sic] warning I am not  
Able to go withe [sic] them tena [sic] I sent you A let ter [sic] by male [sic] the other day  
But I expect this will Beet [sic] it home I Rote [sic] Sary Edmants one and I think I stated  
in hur [sic] let ter [sic] that I wood [sic] send you fiftey [sic] dollars But I will onley [sic]  
send you thirty dollars By frankling [sic] Parris he is on detail and I will send you more  
By male [sic] or the nex [sic] one that gos [sic] home from hear [sic] I want you to send  
me two pair of socks and one pair of sus penders [sic] and A pair of glovs [sic] I hav  
[sic] shirts Anuf [sic] unless I had a yarn one I hav [sic] got pants A nuf [sic] if I had A  
pair of yarn slips I wood [sic] be glad But I dont [sic] expect hee [sic] Can Bring mutch  
[sic] for you hee [sic] will hav [sic] a good deel [sic] to Brin [sic] for his C[illegible] up the  
River and if you hant [sic] [illegible] any thing Reddey [sic] he Can tell you when he will  
start Back and you Can fix them and send them doun [sic] to Elxanders [sic] hav [sic]  
my name put on Each pair an [sic] paper and sawed [sic] fast to Each pair tena [sic]  
thair [sic] was fore [sic] men shot and hung one man by the name of gray [sic] he had  
Bin [sic] A pilet [sic] for the yankeys [sic] he was hung or hung him self he jumpt [sic]  
off of the gales [sic] Be fore [sic] tha [sic] Cood [sic]nock [sic] him off and William litterl  
[sic] [Editor's note: Pvt. William Littrell, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] was shot for Runing [sic] A  
way [sic] from us at greenvill [sic] he was A brother to tom [sic] litterl [sic] [Editor's Note:  
Pvt. Thomas Littrell of Co. F] he was in my mess I saw him neel [sic] down By his  
coffen [sic] and tha [sic] was putin [sic] A handkerchief on his hed [sic] and I left thinking  
I did not lern [sic] the other mans [sic] name the babey [sic] Rupert [illegible] and Kiss  
the Boys and tell the girls houdy [sic]

John W Reese to Ct V Reese

Send mee [sic] A letter and A cak [sic] of shaving soap

January 10, 1863

January the 10 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I am pur mited [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you no  
[sic] that I am still A liv [sic] and on top of the ground I sed [sic] that I wood [sic] Rite  
[sic] to you as soon as the fite [sic] was over at murfrees boro [sic] thair [sic] has Bin  
[sic] A turbil [sic] time dow [sic] hear [sic] the fite [sic] Comenst [sic] the day Be fore [sic]  
new years A wends day [sic] and Ended on Friday it was a grate [sic] slouter [sic] ouer  
[sic] los [sic] in the Suthern [sic] army is nine thousan [sic] wounded and kild [sic] this is  
ouer [sic] on statement ouer [sic] Regmant [sic] did not sufer [sic] like others thair [sic]  
was A bout [sic] seventy wounded and kild [sic] not many kild [sic] Marien [sic] Piram  
[sic] [Editor's note: Pvt. Francis Marion Parham, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] and Bill Pritchett

[sic] [Editor's note: Pvt. William Pritchett, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.] is missing tha [sic] was in the same Companey [sic] that I am in I was not in the fite [sic] at all on Sunday nite [sic] Before the fite [sic] commenst [sic] Goodson [sic] Robber [sic] [Editor's note: Capt. Goodsson M. Roberts of Co. F] was helping the doctor take the names of thos [sic] whoo [sic] was not Able to go in to the fite [sic] and he Came to mee [sic] and sed [sic] John you hav [sic] Bin [sic] Cick [sic] A long time I dont [sic] think you ort [sic] to go I will take your name and sen [sic] you off on the morning at fiv [sic] o Clock [sic] up to Chat A nuga [sic] and I went and got to Chat A nuga [sic] A Bout [sic] sun down and stad [sic] tell [sic] next day A Bout [sic] sun down and the doctor sent mee [sic] to daulton [sic] in georgia [sic] and I stade [sic] thair [sic] tell [sic] yesterday morning and I am now with my Regmant [sic] and it is at tel A homey [sic] thirtey [sic] mils [sic] this Cide [sic] of mur frees Boro [sic] tha [sic] whiped [sic] the yankeys [sic] But had to Retreat as usuel [sic] on weds day [sic] the yankeys [sic] wanted to Bary [sic] thair [sic] ded [sic] But thair [sic] Request was not granted But the Boys tell mee [sic] that A heep [sic] of the ded [sic] yankeys [sic] was striped [sic] off and flat Rocks laid on thair [sic] belleys [sic] and on Friday [sic] the yanks helt [sic] the Battle ground and ouer [sic] ded [sic] fel [sic] in thair [sic] hands and I Expect tha [sic] will Rot on top of the ground I dont [sic] no [sic] whair [sic] the next fite [sic] will Be I sent you thirty dollars in [illegible] money By Frankling Parris and A letter and for you to send mee [sic] two pair of socks and A pair of sus penders [sic] tena [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this letter and let mee [sic] no [sic] how you All air [sic] and how you air [sic] dooing [sic] and if you hav [sic] got your hogs kild [sic] and at home and if you hav [sic] sault [sic] to sav [sic] them and so on tell harret [sic] Barrett that I hav [sic] not saw John yet But I think he is well and all Rite [sic] I think we will make ouer [sic] next stand at Brig port [sic] 73 mils [sic] A Buv [sic] Murfrees Boro [sic] I saw a power of negras [sic] going thair [sic] yesterday to bild [sic] Brest [sic] works I think the yankeys [sic] will make us git [sic] A long [sic] out of tennessee [sic] yes you hear mee [sic] tena [sic] I send you A hair Bresh [sic] for the galls [sic] to keep slick hair and tha [sic] must let Brug hav [sic] it to Bresh [sic] his Curls and you and the children ten short peaces [sic] of Candey [sic] sewed up in Ruperts [sic] Aparn [sic] by halen [sic] frisbey [sic] to Elxanders [sic] tena [sic] I want you to Eat sum [sic] of [illegible] Candey [sic] and think of me while you Eat it and Pray for mee [sic] that I may returne [sic] home to you all tell All my friends houdey [sic] for mee [sic] tell mother Eller houdey [sic] for mee [sic] I want to see hur [sic] vary [sic] bad

JW Reese to Ct V Reese

Kiss my Boys and Reserv [sic] one for mee [sic]

Tullahoma January 29, 1863

Tullahoma [sic] January the 29 1863



Dear wife with pleasure that I drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you no [sic] that I am onley [sic] tolerbil [sic] well hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children well and dooing [sic] well I Recieved [sic] your Kind letter the other day whitch [sic] gav [sic] mee [sic] grate [sic] Sats faction [sic] to hear from you and hear that you had Bout [sic] Cor [sic] A nuff [sic] to doo [sic] you and the Children I dont [sic] Recken [sic] you laid in any for mee [sic] But I intend to Eat Bread in old Bun Comb [sic] [Editor's note: Buncombe County, NC] Be fore [sic] feb uary [sic] is gon [sic] if I liv [sic] lock [sic] out for mee [sic] I A am going to Ask for fur low [sic] first the Colonel and Serril [sic] Captians [sic] and lutenants [sic] Can git [sic] off hom [sic] and I think I am Just as good as any Body tena [sic] I want you to Send mee [sic] them things by Capten [sic] Ray if Parris hant [sic] Started you did not Say any thing ABOUT [sic] the money I Sent By Parris I Sent thirty dollars By him and A hair Brush and ten Short peaces [sic] of Candy and Rapt [sic] up in Stuf [sic] to mak [sic] Rupurt [sic] Aporn [sic] and A letter By Geary Elxander and fifteen dollars in it to be left at Alford's Alanders I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] if you Ever got it At All tena [sic] I will hav [sic] to Close I hav [sic] had a Bad spell with my Eys [sic] Cold and Smok [sic] tena [sic] I Sent you in All one hundred dollars tena [sic] I must Close you hav [sic] never Rote [sic] mee [sic] what sort of a Babey [sic] we had what Sort of Eys [sic] he has or hair I want to See power ful [sic] Bad and all the Rest of you well you dont [sic] no [sic] how Bad yes I in tend [sic] to See you All be for [sic] long if we All liv [sic] this is so tell All of my friends houdy [sic] tell your mother to save mee [sic] somthing [sic] good to Eat tena [sic] I hav [sic] had to spend A good deel [sic] of my money I hav [sic] Bin [sic] Cick [sic] and Ever [sic] thing is so hy [sic] A py [sic] the Cize [sic] of A smawel [sic] plate is worth A dollar and to Bac Co [sic] A dollar A Cake washing hy [sic] I saw A Chicken Ruster [sic] Sold this morning for three dollars Send mee [sic] A [illegible]ee[illegible] you can Rite [sic] to mee [sic]

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

Incomplete Undated Letter from Tullahoma in early 1863

Cris tena [sic] I must soon bring my letter to A Close I will Send this By hand to Elxanders and I want you to send word to Mr [sic] Burnett to All ways [sic] send your letters up to you paps [sic] By the first one that pases [sic] All of ouer [sic] officers is A baut [sic] to rezine [sic] and go home Capton [sic] Runnels and Capton duckit [sic] and gus [sic] Pat ton [sic] ouer [sic] quarter master And Capton [sic] fle cher [sic] he was nocked [sic] out of his office By taking his men out of the fite [sic] at murfrees Boro [sic] with out orders and soon tha [sic] will All start home in the morning and I will send this By them tena [sic] I have sub Cribed [sic] for the henderson [sic] times and the paper is cuming [sic] hear [sic] to mee [sic] and I Am still well pleased with it yet yes am I I will send you money vary [sic] soon the news has Cum [sic] in to camps this Eaving [sic] that we will hav [sic] to leave hear [sic] in A day or two sum [sic] say to Cane tuckey [sic] or go south if we go south we will land at Charlston [sic] or Sur vaner [sic] I hav [sic] no idey [sic] that we will go to Cane tuckey [sic] the feds is Advancing on us in three

superrate [sic] de part ments [sic] this is so I Expect thair [sic] is Cumthing [sic] on hand  
But I am not able to say wat [sic] or when or how But I think we will fite [sic] hear [sic] or  
fall Bac [sic] to brig poart [sic] and fite [sic] thair [sic] But thase [sic] things out of my cite  
[sic] I am proud of my Close [sic] you sent mee [sic] I had to sleep with them under my  
head the Balance [sic] of the nite [sic] But it was not mutch [sic] sleeping I am for them  
Close [sic] Braut [sic] you A fresh in my mind So Cood [sic] not slep [sic] for thinking A  
Baut [sic] you you dont [sic] no [sic] how Bad I want to see you

Tullahoma, Tennessee February 27, 1863

Tul lahoma [sic], tn [sic], february [sic] the 27 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I Am pur mitted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you  
no [sic] that I Am tolebill [sic] well at presant [sic] with som [sic] Exsepcian [sic] my Eys  
[sic] and knees pesters mee [sic] vary [sic] Bad my eys [sic] is A little Better But tha  
[sic] pester mee [sic] A good deel [sic] A Bout [sic] Riting [sic] tha [sic] giv [sic] out So  
Bad it taks [sic] mee [sic] two or three trials to Rite [sic] A letter I Am in hops [sic] thase  
[sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children All well and dooing [sic] well tho  
[sic] I no [sic] it is a Bad Chance for you to doo [sic] well I hav [sic] not Recieved [sic] A  
let ter [sic] from any of you in A long time not sence [sic] you Sent one that James W  
Patton Rote [sic] for you I Recieved [sic] one the Same time from Sarh [sic] C Edmonds  
I answerd [sic] Both of them and Set [sic] one to James W Patton and wood [sic] Be  
glad to Reciev [sic] the same from you All as it is so long Betwen [sic] [illegible] if you  
node [sic] how mutch [sic] good it dus [sic] mee [sic] to git [sic] A letter from old  
Buncomb [sic] you wood [sic] keep one on the Rode [sic] to mee [sic] yes wood [sic]  
you John G Chambers has got Back But he sed [sic] that Mr [sic] Burnett sed [sic] he  
wood [sic] git [sic] Capton [sic] Ray or Capton [sic] Robbrets [sic] to Bring them to mee  
[sic] the times is hard hear [sic] you cood [sic] sel [sic] A pie the cise [sic] of your hand  
for fiftey [sic] cents or Beens [sic] at fiftey [sic] Cents pur [sic] quart or any thing of the  
Cas [sic] kind for Just as mutch [sic] as you wood [sic] ask Chickens from three to five  
dollars the helthe [sic] of this Regmant [sic] is Bad we air [sic] losing A heep [sic] of  
men hear [sic] we air [sic] in A vary [sic] un helthey [sic] place the land is low marshy  
and I think the poorest part of middle tennessee [sic] the land is thin But level tena [sic]  
as for Real good helth [sic] I hav [sic] lost it All I Cant [sic] Eat any thing hardely [sic]  
the Corne [sic] Bread I Cant [sic] Eat it to doo [sic] any good un less [sic] it is Raised  
well I hav [sic] got mee [sic] A pone [sic] on to Rais [sic] then I think I can Eat my  
supper tena [sic] you dont [sic] no [sic] how Bad I want to see you and the Children  
you may think you doo [sic] But poor thing you dont [sic] you hav [sic] no idey [sic] But if  
I liv [sic] I think I will See you All if any of the Boys that hant [sic] volenteer [sic] and had  
any idey [sic] of dooing [sic] so and wanted to Cum [sic] to this Regmant [sic] and wood  
[sic] Rite [sic] to mee [sic] tha [sic] wood [sic] let mee [sic] off to git [sic] Re Cruits [sic] I  
wish sum [sic] of my old nabers [sic] was hear [sic] it wood [sic] Bee [sic] A heep [sic] of  
Sats faction [sic] to mee [sic] I want you to try to git [sic] sum [sic] of the Boys to A gree

[sic] to Cum [sic] if I was at home now I think I Cood [sic] fix A Baut [sic] and hav [sic] sum [sic] Corne [sic] mad [sic] tell Ab if he dus [sic] hav [sic] to go I want him to Cum [sic] hear [sic] and to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as he Can and I will put him in A way to make A good deel [sic] of money it is a grate [sic] time for Spec ulatan [sic] and as man [sic] more as will Cum [sic] to let Ab send mee [sic] thair [sic] names not that I want to git [sic] them in to this un holey [sic] woar [sic] I will [illegible] on a Red pe[illegible] [end of letter]

Tullahoma March 1, 1863

tullahoma [sic] march [sic] the 1 1863

Dear wife it is with pleas ure [sic] that I Am pur mitted [sic] this good Sab Bath [sic] morning to let you no [sic] that I am yet A mon [sic] the living and in Joying [sic] tolerBill [sic] helthe [sic] Better than I hav [sic] Bin [sic] for A long time hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Chil dren [sic] All well I deziar [sic] that thing A Bov [sic] All things I hear in your letters I hop [sic] and trust that helth [sic] may Be granted to us All tell [sic] I Reach home O what A happye [sic] meeting it will Bee [sic] for mee [sic] to meet you and the Children onst [sic] more on urth [sic] and set down and talk with you I ust [sic] to love to talk with you when I had Bin [sic] gon [sic] off any whair [sic] in the Settlement I loved to tell you what I had saw and hearn [sic] while I was gon [sic] I will hav [sic] somthing [sic] to tell you this time whin [sic] I Returne [sic] if I Am pur mitted [sic] to doo [sic] so and I hope and trust and pray that this privelig [sic] may Be granted to mee [sic] I Recieved [sic] your kind letter last nite [sic] o how glad it mad [sic] mee [sic] to hear from you and the Children it was Rote [sic] the 23 of february [sic] it giv [sic] mee [sic] A good deel [sic] of sats faction [sic] to hear from All you sed [sic] you had Recieved [sic] you did not say how mutch [sic] money was in any of them I hav [sic] sent you in All one hundred dollars in All and I want you to Rite [sic] if you hav [sic] Recieved [sic] as much [sic] as A hundred or not [missing text] in his pocket tell John he shal [sic] hav [sic] A nife [sic] if I liv [sic] to put I want to no [sic] if you Ever got that letter I sent to Elxanders [sic] and that hair Brush and Candy and Ruperts [sic] A porn [sic] you Rite [sic] All A Bout [sic] those thing in you next letter with out fail you ort [sic] to All ways Rite [sic] A Bout [sic] sutch [sic] thing in time so I cood [sic] at trend [sic] to it if thair [sic] was any Rong [sic] to take place and whoo [sic] you Bout [sic] your Corne [sic] of [sic] and whoo [sic] is dooing [sic] you milling for you and Cuting [sic] your wood and how you air [sic] making out for Cow feed dont [sic] Be A frad [sic] of Riting [sic] two [sic] mutch [sic] to mee [sic] for I Cood [sic] Reed [sic] your letters if tha [sic] was as long A gain [sic] as what tha [sic] air [sic] if tha [sic] was A lit tle [sic] Better spelt the times is A Bout [sic] as tha [sic] was when I Rote [sic] to you the other day this is the third letter I hav [sic] started sence [sic] James W Ray left Camps the yankeys [sic] has taken hunts vill [sic] in Alabam [sic] and Re ports [sic] say that thirty thousan [sic] has Crost [sic] at the Cumberlen [sic] gap in to East tennessee [sic] the waters is All up for it Rains hear [sic] Everi [sic] day nearley [sic] the feds has fixt [sic] up the Rail Rode [sic] that run from luivill [sic] Cantuckey [sic] to nashvill [sic] and from nashvill [sic] to murfrees Boro [sic] and Can Reinforce [sic] hear [sic] as mutch [sic] as tha [sic] pleas

[sic] tha [sic] air [sic] seling [sic] flouer [sic] at three dollars pur [sic] hundred and shugar  
[sic] at ten Cents pur [sic] pound and Coffey [sic] at fifty Cent pur [sic] pound We will  
soo [sic] hav [sic] the yanks starv [sic] out it favers [sic] it dont [sic] it this thing will have  
to Close yes doo [sic] your Best to git [sic] sum [sic] Boddy [sic] to Agree to Cum [sic] to  
this Regmant [sic] So I Can Cum [sic] After them Rite [sic] soon

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

tullahoma [sic] ten [sic] march [sic] 26 1863

dear wife with pleasure I am pur mit ted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] more lins [sic] to let  
you no [sic] that I Am tollerbill [sic] well at presant [sic] hoping thas [sic] lins [sic] my [sic]  
find you and the children All well and All of my old friends I hav [sic] Rote [sic] to you so  
mutch [sic] latley [sic] that I hav [sic] not got mutch [sic] strang [sic] or new to Rite [sic]  
to you A Bout [sic] times is hard hear [sic] and will gro [sic] wors [sic] no dout [sic] thair  
[sic] is no fiting [sic] As yet I yet Beleav [sic] if we fite [sic] it will Be at or near Brig poart  
[sic] I think the feds will try to Cut us off at that point By the way of hut vill [sic] Alabam  
[sic] we air [sic] well forte fide [sic] hear [sic] tha [sic] never Can take this place with  
Aout [sic] A turbill [sic] los [sic] to them and I think tha [sic] air [sic] two [sic] smart for  
that un les [sic] thair [sic] was more at stak [sic] that wat [sic] is hear [sic] the country is  
two [sic] level and well none [sic] By the feds I think to ever at tack [sic] this place tho  
[sic] thase [sic] thing is un none [sic] to mee [sic] thair [sic] is a fue [sic] things I doo [sic]  
no [sic] and one is I want to see you and the Children power ful [sic] bad yes John  
never thout [sic] he wood [sic] Be away from his Bossom [sic] friend and sweet ons [sic]  
to stay six or seven months out of the in joyments [sic] of his famley [sic] it is hard un  
[sic] Just for I dont [sic] Beleav [sic] thair [sic] ever was A man on urth [sic] that lovd [sic]  
his wife and Children any Bet ter [sic] than I doo [sic] you air [sic] my urthley [sic] in  
Joyment [sic] yet I am deprivd [sic] of All this and watt [sic] for did I deziar [sic] this to  
take place my words and acks [sic] at home dont [sic] prov [sic] this and when A  
Change taks [sic] place I will Rite [sic] to you and then I want you to Rite [sic] to mee  
[sic] to stay A way [sic] till I re pent [sic] that you Beleav [sic] that I hav [sic] forgot my  
firs [sic] lov [sic] and I had as soon Be ded [sic] A onst [sic] as to git [sic] A let ter [sic] of  
this kind the tree is non [sic] By its fruit But as mr [sic] Burntts [sic] letter deziard [sic]  
mee [sic] to Be Shelterd [sic] from the Balls of the enmey [sic] and from dezears [sic]  
and soon return to my fam ley [sic] god hasen [sic] that happy [sic] time I Can think of  
you All and pray for you All and hop [sic] and trust the time will soon Cum [sic] when I  
can cum [sic] home and see you All and stay with you All the Rest of my stay  
Starvacian [sic] is A pon [sic] us All at hom [sic] and A Broad [sic] we onely [sic] draw  
half pound of Bacan [sic] pur [sic] day and one pound of meal pur [sic] day or A pound  
of pickeld [sic] Beef pur [sic] day and A fue [sic] molasses and A little Rice not A nuf [sic]  
to doo [sic] any good and ouer [sic] meal is so coarse that we make grits out of A part of  
ouer [sic] Rashings [sic] what is one pound of Beef to A hartey [sic] man pur [sic] day

and it part Bone at that and A little Bred [sic] or A haf [sic] pound of Bacan [sic] pur [sic] day it part Bon [sic] I never hav [sic] grumbled nor I hav [sic] never had any Rite [sic] to till hear [sic] lattley [sic] and I think it will gro [sic] wors [sic] in Stid [sic] of Better thair [sic] in dications [sic] for worse tena [sic] I Am still waiting for Ray to git [sic] Back and then I Am Acumming [sic] home if tha [sic] giv [sic] mee [sic] A fur low [sic] must I say I will cum [sic] any how or not if you say for mee [sic] to cum [sic] I Shal [sic] Cum [sic] But I hav [sic] studied it All over long A go [sic] I hav [sic] got my pegs set tha [sic] tha [sic] hav [sic] sin [sic] shooring [sic] severil [sic] hear [sic] latley [sic] for Runing [sic] A way [sic] But I think when the woods [illegible] thair [sic] will Be A many A man go home thair [sic] is A time All things hear [sic] is this mutch [sic] I want to doo [sic] the Best I can for my famley [sic] and my self [sic] to stay hear [sic] at A leven [sic] dollars A month you cant [sic] liv [sic] on that while stuf [sic] is so hy [sic] well to Run A way [sic] and go home and hav [sic] to lay out I Cant [sic] help you to any thing to liv [sic] on that seem to mee [sic] lik [sic] that will not doo [sic] I wood [sic] Bee [sic] A draw Back in stid [sic] of A help to you and the children well if caut [sic] up in this kind of A fix while under old Bragg he wood [sic] hav [sic] mee [sic] put to deth [sic] well to stay hear [sic] and liv [sic] as I hav [sic] to liv [sic] and Resk [sic] the conciquinces [sic] of life and deth [sic] that is A hard [illegible] for mee [sic] But tena [sic] I wood [sic] giv [sic] my lif [sic] for you in Any way if it becums [sic] nessary [sic] I hav [sic] thout [sic] I wood [sic] cum [sic] home any how and I think I will Cum [sic] home any how if you think we can meck [sic] out By my doging [sic] A Baut [sic] to ceep [sic] out of the way and ses [sic] so home I cum [sic] yes I ant [sic] A frade [sic] But what I can git [sic] home and then keep out of the way tell [sic] this thing is setteld [sic] for it cant [sic] last mutch [sic] longer this everri [sic] Bodey [sic] ort [sic] to no [sic] that has got A spoon ful [sic] of sence [sic] that is the Reasson [sic] that I in Cisted [sic] so hard for Cum [sic] of the Boys to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] that tha [sic] wanted to Cum [sic] to this Reg mant [sic] so I Cood [sic] git [sic] to Cum [sic] home after them as Re Cruits [sic] I Cood [sic] git [sic] off un der [sic] thas [sic] surcumstances [sic] and A Barut [sic] Back stuf [sic] A nuf [sic] to make A good deel [sic] of money and tha [sic] Cood [sic] hav [sic] dun [sic] the sam [sic] I was in hops [sic] this wood [sic] hav [sic] All turn out Rite [sic] But I hav [sic] lost All hops [sic] on this I send this By one mr [sic] mikel [sic] Stroup to Elanders doctor Steevens has Rezind [sic] and Starts home in the morning I sent you A letter A fue [sic] days A go [sic] By Ed Claton with ten dollars in it I mus [sic] Cum [sic] to A Close I Am vary [sic] Proud of my shirt it tuck [sic] the pre[illegible] and my slips in fact All you sent mee [sic] tha [sic] fit mee [sic] the Best kind Jest [sic] like tena [sic] fits mee [sic] for A Wife may gods [sic] Blessings Rest A pon [sic] hur [sic] and my dear little Children and keep them from All harme [sic] tena [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this letter with out [sic] fail no more at presant [sic] and Reckon you think it is A nuf [sic] without Better

John W Reese to C T V Reese

[the following was written in the top margins of pages one and four]

Tena [sic] I sed [sic] I wood [sic] send you this By one mr [sic] stroups [sic] But I will send it By doctor Stevens it seems like that we will los [sic] all of ouer [sic] old officers well I dont [sic] Blame them I wood [sic] git [sic] out if I cood [sic] But I am A poor man and no Bodey [sic] to help mee [sic] out this is A Rich mans [sic] woar [sic] But the poor men has to doo [sic] the fiting [sic] tell the Boys of tha [sic] want to Cum [sic] hear [sic] and giv [sic] mee [sic] A Chance to cum [sic] home and tha [sic] dont [sic] like after tha [sic] git [sic] hear [sic] tha [sic] shal [sic] hav [sic] Company Back after A little stuf [sic] is sold I want you to not let long mouth folks no [sic] ever [sic] thing and keep my letters at home

[the following was written in the top margins of pages two and three]

But you sed [sic] thair [sic] was no Bodey [sic] thair [sic] to Cum [sic] But Ab and he thout [sic] he wood [sic] git [sic] off if he dont [sic] git [sic] off tollerbill [sic] Easy I think he wood [sic] doo [sic] well to git [sic] two or three in the nocian [sic] to Cum hear [sic] and Rite [sic] to mee [sic] and dont [sic] let any Bodey [sic] elce [sic] hav [sic] thair [sic] names if we was All to gether [sic] we Cood [sic] mak [sic] the thing work Jest [sic] Rite [sic] tha [sic] can git [sic] thair Bounty and what stuf [sic] we Cood [sic] Bring with us to sell wood [sic] make us A nice pile of money then we Can doo [sic] as we pleas [sic] if we had druther [sic] Bee [sic] moutain [sic] Raingers [sic] as A hy [sic] Privet [sic] we can doo [sic] Jest [sic] as we like I must Close tell my friends if tha [sic] Rite [sic] to mee [sic] to direct letters in Cear [sic] of L.M. Ray in stid [sic] of Roberts

Tullahoma, Tennessee April 2, 1863

Tulla homa [sic] ten [sic] April 2 1863

Dear wife withe [sic] pleasure I Am pur mit ted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to in forme [sic] you that I Am in tolerbill [sic] helth [sic] I was vary [sic] un well [sic] yesterday and nite [sic] Be fore [sic] last withe [sic] the dire [sic] But I think it is waring [sic] off I am in hopes thas [sic] fue [sic] lines may find you and the Children all well that is what All ways [sic] givs [sic] mee [sic] grate [sic] sats faction [sic] to hear that you air [sic] All well I was made vary [sic] proud yester day [sic] Eaving [sic] when the male [sic] Cum [sic] in I was liing [sic] on my chesnut [sic] poles and I hearn [sic] J W Reese name called at hed [sic] quarters tenas [sic] name was on my mind next and when I Cum [sic] to find out what I was Called for tena [sic] Rees [sic] had Rote [sic] A letter to John W Reese A way doun [sic] hear [sic] at tullahoma [sic] A little over three hundred miles it was Rote [sic] march [sic] the 16 and By William Edmond's [sic] I think it giv [sic] mee [sic] grate [sic] satis faction [sic] to hear from you when I git [sic] A letter ever [sic] week from you the time Rols [sic] off A heep [sic] faster to mee [sic] you stated that you had moovd [sic] to whair [sic] William Edmonds lived you did not say how you was sates fide [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] and let mee [sic] no [sic] how you air [sic] sates fide [sic] with your moov [sic] and whoo [sic] is A going to doo [sic] your plowing for you and how mutch [sic] you hav [sic] to giv [sic] margrett [sic] Edmonds pur

[sic] month and so on tena [sic] I want you to plant a heep [sic] of potatoes [sic] and Beens [sic] and cabbeg [sic] and if you can git [sic] A Buchel [sic] of sweet potatoes [sic] doo [sic] it and plant tghem in as good ground as you hav [sic] got I no [sic] the worthe [sic] of thase [sic] things and how good tha [sic] air [sic] I never new [sic] what thas [sic] things was worthe [sic] tell [sic] now you All think you see hard times and no dout [sic] But what you doo [sic] to what you ust [sic] to see tena [sic] Butter is worth two dollars A cake A goos [sic] is Redy [sic] call at fiv [sic] dollars Chickens the same Eggs one dollar pur [sic] dozen Captan [sic] Ward that belongs to this Regmant [sic] that lives in polk [sic] County NC he has Bin [sic] home on fur low [sic] and got Back the other day and Braut with him A Barrell [sic] of Crout [sic] to sell it went off like hot cakes at fifty [sic] Cents pur [sic] pound and he Cood [sic] hav [sic] got A dollar as Easey [sic] as to hav [sic] asket [sic] hit [sic] men is starved out an Bred [sic] and meet [sic] so Bad that tha [sic] will give aney [sic] price for aney [sic] kind of Case you stateded [sic] in your letter that you had Recieved [sic] the nap sack I sent you and my old coat and pants and old shirt and that was All I sent the Coat and pants and old Shirt and the shoos [sic] I wear [sic] from home and the two Bras [sic] Belt stars one had union on it and the other A Eagle

[written in the top margin of page two]

Tena [sic] I send Cis and margrett [sic] A peace [sic] of porety [sic] you must reed [sic] it to them it is Butiful [sic] I think and I wood [sic] Be glad to no [sic] if you air [sic] Bound for that land tena [sic] I hav [sic] Rote [sic] three letters one to you and one to Rebecky Ellar and margrtt [sic] Edmonds and one to William Edmonds turne [sic] over

[written in the top margin of page one]

Tell Cis and margrett [sic] to Rais [sic] A heep [sic] of Chickens for mee [sic] tell Brug hee [sic] must hav [sic] the pigs mar[illegible]t and I will send him A cap and knife tena [sic] the news is we will start to Canetuckey [sic] in a fue [sic] days I think thair [sic] is A moov [sic] on hand tena [sic] I will hav [sic] to frank my letters I cant [sic] git [sic] stamps if you can send mee [sic] a fue [sic] stamps in A letter doo [sic] it

[continued in left margin of page one]

My shirt you sent to mee [sic] takes the prais [sic] hear [sic] wash [sic] hardey [sic] had to loock [sic] at it yesterday I had draud [sic] A pair of pants nerley [sic] like it I am well uniformd [sic] honey

Tullahoma, Tennessee April 23, 1863

Tul homa [sic] ten [sic] A pril [sic] the 23 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I am put mit ted [sic] to drop you a fue [sic] more lins [sic] to day to let you no [sic] that I am as well as Com an [sic] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children all well and dooing [sic] well thair [sic] is A grait [sic] deel

[sic] of Excite ment [sic] hear [sic] to day we air [sic] under marching orders in five minnets [sic] notice we air [sic] orderd [sic] to keep on hand three days coockt [sic] Rashings [sic] the feds is advancing on us tha [sic] Capturd [sic] A trane [sic] of Cars from us nite [sic] Be fore [sic] last and has taken mcmin vill [sic] Just 30 mils [sic] from hear [sic] dew [sic] northe [sic] of tullohoma [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] you see advancing on us By a flank moovment [sic] A grate [sic] meney [sic] of ouer [sic] troops has left hear [sic] sum [sic] has as I think gon [sic] down to war trace [sic] and sum [sic] in the directtion [sic] of Mc min vill [sic] ouer [sic] Bre gade [sic] was orderd [sic] over to town this morn ing [sic] to work on A fort and then we was or derd [sic] Back to Camps what next I dont [sic] no [sic] But I think it will Be to armes [sic] men fall in hear [sic] take up A line of march whair [sic] to meet the yankeys [sic] Just after that to meet ouer [sic] god if in peace O what A hapey Exchange no more to Be Roused By the sound of the drum no more hav [sic] to at tend [sic] to Role [sic] Call no mor [sic] gard [sic] dew tey [sic] to doo [sic] all will Be well thank god that thair [sic] is A Better place for the weary A Rest ting [sic] at home tena [sic] I think I hav [sic] told you A Baut [sic] the feelings that I in Joyed [sic] onst [sic] near your paps while I was in gaged [sic] in prair [sic] to my Saver [sic] under A peeche [sic] tree as you go up in to the Bottum [sic] Just A Round the ture [sic] of the Rode [sic] from the shop Rite [sic] thair [sic] tena [sic] god [sic] parden [sic] my Cins [sic] I felt hap pey [sic] and thank god [sic] for Just sutch [sic] feelings not withe [sic] standing I hav [sic] dun [sic] Bad and wcked [sic] sence [sic] But thank god [sic] I hav [sic] not lost Cite [sic] yet and tena [sic] I will tell you when I made sum [sic] urnest [sic] promesess [sic] was the morning that little William og Burne [sic] died I helt [sic] him By his Rite [sic] hand while he was Exchanging worlds he seemd [sic] to fix his Eys [sic] on mee [sic] and went off that way I promest [sic] that sweet child that I wood [sic] meet him in heaven tena [sic] I in tend [sic] to make my thouts [sic] true I want to meet all of my Children in A land of Rest and you my Bosom friend if I never see you in this world any more O my dear try to meet your Children in A Bet ter [sic] land than this tell all of my dear little Children howdey [sic] and kiss them for mee [sic] with A full Sole I Close this letter I will Rite [sic] in A fue [sic] days A gin [sic] I for got [sic] to say in that letter yester day [sic] to unkel [sic] feels [sic] that thair [sic] was A Regmant [sic] in ouer [sic] Bregade [sic] that was mad [sic] up A Round [sic] nashvill [sic] and in nash vill [sic] if he Cums [sic] he Can see lots of his old ac quaintces [sic] I will finish whair [sic] I commenced

[written in the top and left margins of page two]

Tena [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this letter I will Rite [sic] as offen [sic] as I Can tell [sic] this Rip is over tena [sic] I saw you last nite [sic] vary [sic] plane [sic] a that it had Bin [sic] So this moring [sic] tena [sic] I think if I live to git [sic] Back we will liv [sic] and in Joye [sic] ouer [sic] selves Better than Ever I will Bee [sic] of more use to you than Before

[written in the top and left margins of page one]



I am A splended [sic] Cooock [sic] and nice A Baut [sic] it as any gall [sic] and I can wash first rate tena [sic] I will send my flanen [sic] shirt and drawers Back home the fist good Chance I have the weth [sic] has got two [sic] hot for them I wont [sic] send them By a [illegible] tena [sic] I cut the Buttens [sic] off of that old Cot [sic] I sent home I want you to let mee [sic] no [sic] if you Ever got them shoos [sic] and things or not Be shur [sic] and Rite [sic] soon as you can tell all my frends [sic] houdey [sic] tell your mother houdey [sic] for mee [sic] ad that I want to see hur [sic]

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese his loving wife

Fairfield, Tennessee Bedford County May 17, 1863

Fair feeld [sic] Bedford Cunty [sic] ten [sic] may [sic] 17th/63

Dear Cister I seat my self [sic] to answer your vary [sic] Kind letter that you Rote the 27 of April which [sic] gav [sic] mee [sic] mutch [sic] pleasure to hear from you all and to hear that you was all well But sorey [sic] to hear that any Bodey [sic] had Bin [sic] vax inated [sic] with the vax ina cian [sic] thats [sic] in surklacian [sic] now for it is not the Rite [sic] kind no dout [sic] thair [sic] has Bin [sic] A time of sore armes [sic] hear [sic] A grate [sic] maney [sic] had to go to the horse pittle [sic] and one of ouer [sic] men died from it no dout [sic] in my mind I had it put in my arme [sic] But it did not take and gos [sic] in my arme [sic] nun [sic] no more thas [sic] fue [sic] lines leaves mee [sic] in as good helth [sic] as comon [sic] with the Ex sepcian [sic] of A pane [sic] in my left Cide [sic] that has Bin [sic] hurting mee [sic] Ever Cince [sic] I was Cick [sic] at murfrees Boro [sic] I am in hopes thas [sic] lines may find you all well and dooing [sic] well I hav [sic] not mutch [sic] to Rite [sic] onely [sic] A Baut [sic] hard times and I Expect thair [sic] is janerril [sic] crop of this all voer the suthern [sic] Con federcey [sic] we air [sic] at fair feeld [sic] in 4 miles of war trace [sic] in 18 or 20 of mur frees Boro [sic] on one prong of duck [sic] River this is A good Country hear [sic] grate [sic] land and the powrfulst [sic] plac [sic] I Ever saw for pasture the Blue grass is A Bout [sic] halfe [sic] leg hy [sic] in the woods and feelds [sic] thats [sic] not tended the Countrey [sic] Remind mee [sic] of old Bun Comb [sic] [illegible]Bey I lov [sic] the mountans [sic] I hate to hear of meanness Agoing on in my natif [sic] Countrey [sic] for if thair [sic] Ever was A time that peple [sic] wood [sic] lay off meanness and Ceace [sic] to doo [sic] wicked in hot this the time O that I Cood [sic] Rite [sic] my thouts [sic] and feelings to you But time and the im possibility [sic] of my feelings Causes mee [sic] to Ceace [sic] Riting [sic] with a ful [sic] hart [sic] and A glad Sole [sic] I Ceace [sic] Riting [sic] on the sujet [sic] we air [sic] Expecting A Row hear [sic] ouer [sic] hevey [sic] Baged [sic] is orderd [sic] to the Rear I Recon [sic] you hav [sic] hear that Janerel [sic] Stone wall [sic] Jackson died from feaver [sic] and Janeril [sic] vandorn [sic] giting [sic] shot throu [sic] the head for sleeping with A doctors [sic] wife I wood [sic] hav [sic] dun [sic] Just as the doctor dun [sic] go it doctor if All Reports is true that doctor ort [sic] to hav [sic] A grate [sic] practice in Buncomb [sic] I must Cum [sic] to A clos [sic] Rebeckey I want you to Reed [sic] this letter to tena [sic] and my dear little children tell them that I think I will git [sic]

to Cum [sic] home Be fore [sic] vary [sic] long to see them All tell Brug that I hav [sic] got him A nife [sic] and will send it to him By Captan [sic] RobBerds [sic] and tell the galls [sic] I will send them sum [sic] thing By RobBerds [sic] tell tena [sic] I will Be A Blijh [sic] to sleep with hur [sic] when I Cum [sic] home Bless hur [sic] hart [sic] how I doo [sic] lov [sic] hur [sic] and got A poor way to help my self [sic]

[written on top margin of page 2]

Tell S[illegible] I want hur [sic] to sav [sic] mee [sic] A dram and Rase [sic] lots of Chickens for I will Be to see hur [sic] when I Cum [sic] home tell Pattons [sic] folks all houdey [sic] tell Cris I wood like to git [sic] A letter from him and any of my freds [sic] my Chance is Bad to Rite [sic] Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you can

[written in top margin of page 1]

Tell Ab to Be Shore [sic] to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] and he will ReCiev [sic] the same tell your mother and pap houdey [sic] and that I want to See them Bad Anuf [sic] tel [sic] unkel [sic] feels [sic] houdey [sic] and that I am loocking [sic] for him to cum [sic] hear [sic] to See mee [sic] no more But Remains youre tell [sic] deth [sic]

J W Reese to R E Eller

Jackson, Mississippi June 7, 1863

Jackson mississippi [sic] June 7 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I am pur mit ted [sic] this good SabBath [sic] to drop you a fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you no [sic] that I am well as Coman [sic] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lines may find you and the Children all well and dooing [sic] well tena [sic] I am A long ways from home yes I am and in A hot place it is as hot hear [sic] now as I ever Saw it in Bun comb [sic] in August thair [sic] is green Beenes [sic] pees [sic] is A Baut [sic] dun [sic] Bairing [sic] and Cuw Cumbers [sic] and Corne [sic] is silking and tasling [sic] the water is power ful [sic] Bad tha [sic] [illegible] air [sic] Blest [sic] at this time withe [sic] with toler Bill [sic] watter [sic] I dont [sic] no [sic] how long we will git [sic] to stay hear [sic] ouer [sic] Regmant [sic] is out on picket to day tha [sic] hav [sic] bin [sic] fiting [sic] Be low [sic] hear [sic] for tw [sic] or thr [sic] days at A place Called Big Black Brig [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] fiting [sic] to day [sic] dow [sic] thair [sic] sum [sic] whair [sic] the canons [sic] is sounding vary [sic] hevey [sic] tha [sic] hav [sic] Bin [sic] fiting [sic] [illegible]et turBill [sic] at Vickas Burg [sic] the news in Jackson last nite [sic] was that the feds had taken it and if it is so wee [sic] will hav [sic] to git [sic] upup [sic] from hear [sic] tena [sic] vancs [sic][Editor's note: Vance's] old Regmant [sic] is Below hear [sic] I Expect in the fite [sic] at Black Brig [sic] it is A Baut [sic] 45 mils [sic] from hear [sic] to vicks Burg [sic] I hav [sic] saw wheat Cut and in the Shock oats is turning tena [sic] we left woair [sic] trace tennessee [sic] on Sunday the 24 of may [sic] and got hear [sic] the first day of June we Cum [sic] By atlanter [sic] and then to montgomery [sic] then to the tensaw [sic] River 22 mils [sic] A Bov [sic] moBeal [sic] [illegible] down thair [sic] we got

thair [sic] A Baut [sic] A leven [sic] oClock [sic] in the nite [sic] and staid [sic] thair [sic] tell [sic] 7 oClock [sic] nex [sic] mornig [sic] and went that day to moreder [sic] 135 mils [sic] on the Mobeal [sic] and ohio [sic] Rail Rode [sic] then to this place tena [sic] I hav [sic] Sae a heepe [sic] and sufered [sic] A Good deel [sic] for water and sumthing [sic] I cood [sic] Eat I think this fite [sic] will End the Strife in the west if we los [sic] vicks Burg [sic] we los [sic] All of the west Countrey [sic] thats [sic] worthe [sic] mutch [sic] to us tena [sic] I will Rite [sic] in A fue [sic] days A gane [sic] when this fiting [sic] is over and I will Rite [sic] mor [sic] interresting [sic] news if I liv [sic] to git [sic] throu [sic] Safe and if not my frends [sic] will let you no [sic] A Baut [sic] it I am still horsler [sic] for Captan [sic] Ray I dont [sic] think tena [sic] that I will hav [sic] to go in to A fite [sic] with A gun I may hav [sic] to attend to them in time of A fite [sic] he has A fine animel [sic] and as fine as fiddle I hav [sic] Bin [sic] telling him that sh [sic] is to [sic] fine to wair [sic] out in this wair [sic] that he had Better Send mee [sic] home with hur [sic] to his wife and I think if we was in Reach of home I think I wood [sic] git [sic] to take it home tena [sic] I dont [sic] think that we will stay hear [sic] vary [sic] long I think wee [sic] will go back in to East ten nes see [sic] I am in hopes so tena [sic] good RobBerds [sic] hant [sic] got his papers fixt [sic] yet I wish he Cood [sic] for I want to send you sum [sic] money I no [sic] you stand in need of it tena [sic] you had Better Borey [sic] twenty fiv [sic] dollars to doo [sic] you tell [sic] I can Send it to you tell your nabers [sic] not to Be A frad [sic] to lone [sic] it to you for if I die or liv [sic] tha [sic] will Be shore [sic] to git [sic] it I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as git [sic] this letter direc [sic] your letters to Jacson [sic] mississippi [sic] Bracke nRidg [sic] divsion [sic] Stove all Bregade [sic] 60 north [sic] CaRolina [sic] troops I must Close tell all of frends [sic] houdey [sic] and that I want you to kiss my Boys for mee [sic] tell Brug that I hav [sic] got him nife [sic] to send to him when RobBerds [sic] Cums [sic] home and the girs [sic] I will send them Ring A peace [sic] O how Bad I want to see the Babey [sic] yes and tena [sic] and Cis and margrett [sic] O Role one Sweet moments and let the poor pilgrum [sic] go hom [sic] I hav [sic] not Rote [sic] you out that porety [sic] But I will Rite [sic] soon I pray gods [sic] Blessings to Rest A pon [sic] you all with A Clar [sic] hart [sic] I Close my lov [sic] to you

John W Reese to CT V Reese

Undated Fragment of a Letter, maybe from Jackson in June 1863

We left fairfeeld [sic] tn [sic] the 24 of may [sic] and got to Chat A nugia [sic] the 25 A baut [sic] 10 OClock [sic] left thair [sic] A Baut [sic] 2 and got to atlanter [sic] A Baut [sic] 10 OClock [sic] the 26 of may [sic] and left thair [sic] A Baut [sic] 2 and got to mont gumery [sic] the 27 of may [sic] A Baut [sic] day lite [sic] and left thair [sic] the 28 in the morning and got supper Rated By A Car Runnin [sic] off I got to ten Saw [sic] River late in the Eavning [sic] and left thair [sic] at nine O Clock at nite [sic] and got to mobiel [sic] at Alven [sic] o Clock and left thair [sic] 29 at sevven [sic] a Clock on Sunday Run north 135 mils [sic] on the Mobeale [sic] and ohio [sic] R Rode [sic] to mareders vill [sic] left

thair [sic] the 30 of may [sic] at 7 oClock [sic] and got to Jackson on the same day  
ABaut [sic] 5 oClock [sic] and stade [sic] thair [sic]

Jackson, Mississippi June 28, 1863

Jackson mis sis sippi [sic] June 28 1863

Dear wife it is withe [sic] pleasure this good Sabbath morning that I am Blst [sic] withe  
[sic] the op por tunity [sic] of Riting [sic] to you onst [sic] more to let you no [sic] that I  
am well as comon [sic] and I Bleav [sic] I feel Better than I hav [sic] in A long time and O  
may thas [sic] fue [sic] lins find you and my dear Children well tena [sic] I am frade [sic]  
you wont [sic] git [sic] this letter this is the third letter I hav [sic] Rote [sic] to you sence  
[sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] hear [sic] O pane [sic] to mee [sic] I hav [sic] not got the firs [sic]  
mark of A pen from your hand in nearley [sic] two monthes [sic] the last one I got was  
Rote [sic] the 10 of may [sic] tena [sic] the time seemes [sic] O how long I dont [sic]  
want to scold you A Baut [sic] it But I wood [sic] Be powerful glad to git [sic] one from  
you O yes you dont [sic] no [sic] how glad I wood [sic] feel tena [sic] it is A hard pant I  
am hear [sic] and not any Con nection [sic] in this Rig ment [sic] you hav [sic] sum [sic]  
hear [sic] Ad shepperd [sic] Be longs [sic] to this Reg mant [sic] But he has not bin [sic]  
with us mutch [sic] he has Bin [sic] on detail the most of his time to work on Brigges  
[sic] and Sutch [sic] like I hearn [sic] from you the other day By John Jinkens I thout  
[sic] you mite [sic] hav [sic] sent mee [sic] A letter By him he sed [sic] you was All well  
So fair [sic] as hee [sic] node [sic] that gav [sic] mee [sic] Ease tena [sic] [illegible] I hav  
[sic] nuthing [sic] strang [sic] to Rite [sic] this time thair [sic] is not mutch [sic] fiting [sic]  
A going on now tho [sic] I hav [sic] hearn [sic] SevRil [sic] Canons [sic] this morning I  
supose [sic] thair [sic] shelling Each other A little we air [sic] liabele [sic] to git [sic] in to  
A fite [sic] at A most any time the most I hear is from East ten nessee [sic] A Baut [sic]  
noxvill [sic] the feds seems to Render that part of the Con fedaircey [sic] un Easey [sic]  
I Am in hopes we will Be orderd [sic] Back to East tennessee [sic] I Just as soon stay  
hear [sic] as to go Back to middle tennessee [sic] I Bleav [sic] I wood [sic] hav [sic] my  
helth [sic] Better hear [sic] than thair [sic] tena [sic] that sweet name to mee [sic]  
hardey [sic] is now ouer [sic] Commanding Colonel and Cap ton [sic] J M Ray is ouer  
[sic] liutenant [sic] Colonel Ray I think he will pleas [sic] the Regmant [sic] fine I think A  
heep [sic] more of him that I did while at home mee [sic] and him gits [sic] A long fine I  
am still his horse ler [sic] Elick wagner [sic] was in withe [sic] mee [sic] to at tend [sic] to  
hardys [sic] stock But he is Cick [sic] and at the hors pittle [sic] But is getting [sic] Better  
ale [sic] Alen Fox is helping mee [sic] now goodson [sic] RobBerds [sic] has A hard  
[sic] gitin [sic] in he has sent up his Re [sic] no [sic] severil [sic] times But  
it Cums [sic] Back dis ap proved [sic] all the while Colonel hardey [sic] has hearn [sic]  
that his child was ded [sic] and he is triing [sic] to git [sic] leav [sic] of Abcence [sic] for A  
fue [sic] days to go home and if he duse [sic] I will send you sum [sic] money And in A  
letter to Elxanders [sic] and if he can git [sic] off I am A going to Beg him vary [sic] hard  
to go home with him tena [sic] I will send Cum [sic] money to you Just as soo [sic] as I

hav [sic] the Chance I am A frade [sic] you and the Children is sufering [sic] for it tell Rebeckey and margrett [sic] Edmonds houdey [sic] and your dear old mother houdey [sic] for mee [sic] tell hur [sic] that we air [sic] A long ways A part [sic] by Rale [sic] Rode [sic] the way we cum [sic] its [sic] A Baut [sic] Eight hundred mils [sic] tell pats [sic] and Cabe and lizey [sic] and leakey [sic] all houdey [sic] well in fact tell all of of [sic] my frends [sic] houdey [sic] I am in hopes I hav [sic] no Enemys [sic] in old Bun Comb [sic] I feeld [sic] like tha [sic] was all my frends [sic] tell my dear little Children that I Eat A fue [sic] Ripe peeches [sic] the other day o how it hurt my [illegible]ings to think I was so fur [sic] A way [sic] from home that I cood [sic] not hand you or the Children one of them James Ramsey is hardeys [sic] and Rays [sic] Cooock [sic] and he Coocts [sic] sum [sic] for mee [sic] tell ab and Cris houdey [sic] and tena [sic] tell or send word to Jo that I wood [sic] like to hear from him and that I wish him suck sess [sic] in all his undertakens [sic] tena [sic] Be Shore [sic] to tell ant [sic] Jane penland [sic] houdey [sic] and that I hav [sic] not forgot hur [sic] yet and the [illegible]sh gav [sic] mee [sic] the last time I Ever saw hur [sic] tell hur [sic] that I in Joy [sic] my Self first Rate Concoidering [sic] my sit uation [sic] O I hav [sic] to Close O the Babey [sic] how Bad I want to see him yes and Brug and Cis and margrett [sic] whoo [sic] elce [sic] wy [sic] tena [sic] Role [sic] one weet [sic] momments [sic] and let me go home tena [sic] thair [sic] one more thing I want you to no [sic] that I pray for you Evriday [sic] that I cood [sic] hear that good news

John W Reese to Cristena v Reese

Jackson, Mississippi July 16, 1863

July the 16 1863 Jackson mississippi [sic]

Dear wife onst [sic] more with pleasure I im Brace [sic] the op por tunity [sic] of answuring [sic] your vary [sic] kind letter you Rote [sic] to mee [sic] the 28 of June I was mitey [sic] glad to hear frum [sic] you all onst [sic] more tena [sic] I am vary [sic] un well [sic] at presant [sic] I Cum [sic] vary [sic] nie [sic] having a Chill last nite [sic] But I am Bet ter [sic] this morning I hav [sic] had my helth [sic] vary [sic] well sence [sic] we hav [sic] Bin [sic] hear [sic] tell [sic] now I think I will soon Be well Agane [sic] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children all well I hav [sic] A heep [sic] to Rite [sic] But not mutch [sic] time to Rite [sic] it to you at presant [sic] we Started down to Big Black we marcht [sic] two days and parts of nits [sic] and we under stood [sic] that vicks Burg [sic] had went up and we got orders to Return Back to Jackson and we hav [sic] Bin [sic] fiting [sic] 8 days the feds tride [sic] to Charg [sic] ouer [sic] Battirys [sic] But But [sic] poar [sic] men Cabes [sic] Battery plad [sic] on them two [sic] fast tha [sic] had to Re treat [sic] with A Rit [sic] Smart los [sic] tena [sic] the feds was throwing shels [sic] in to Jackson last Eaving [sic] and had sum [sic] of the town on fiar [sic] tena [sic] I think we will hav [sic] to giv [sic] it up I think we will Soon Be Clocer [sic] to home I dont [sic] think this thing will last mutch [sic] longer hare [sic] Can it I dont [sic] See how terna [sic] I send this letter By Alen fox [sic] and A ten dollar Bill in it and A fine

Comb and Brug A nife [sic] tena [sic] Colonel hardey [sic] he is in the [sic] Con velsling  
[sic] Camaps [sic] an [sic] I hav [sic] thair [sic] horses to attend to and I am with the  
wagon trane [sic] A Baut [sic] 5 mils [sic] from whair [sic] thair [sic] fiting [sic] and I Cant  
[sic] git [sic] to the Regmamant [sic] un less [sic] I had A pass or I wood [sic] hav [sic]  
sent you more money But I will send you more By the next one that Cums [sic] hom [sic]  
thar [sic] will Be lots that will Cum [sic] home after this fite [sic] Cums [sic] off I hate it  
vary [sic] Bad that I had no more money with mee [sic] than I did But I had not under  
stood [sic] that Alen was A going to leav [sic] tell [sic] this fite [sic] was over and I hav  
[sic] Bin [sic] so un well [sic] Sence [sic] I was not A Ble [sic] to Ride to the Reg mant  
[sic] you may loock [sic] for more in A fue [sic] days I hav [sic] got it But I did not hav  
[sic] it withe [sic] mee [sic] my thing is powerful Scatterd [sic] I hav [sic] A Box at  
montgomery [sic] in Alabam [sic] and them Clos [sic] you sent to mee [sic] in it and  
sevril [sic] things I wanted to send home Blankets an [sic] so on I will Rite [sic] in A fue  
[sic] days A gan [sic] and more of it thair [sic] no cince [sic] in trying to Rite [sic] now  
may god [sic] Bless you and the Children Rite [sic] to mee [sic] my lov [sic] wife good  
By

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

October 27, 1863

Oct the 27 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I tak [sic] my pen in hand to let you no [sic] that I am well hoping  
thase [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children all well and dooing [sic] well  
I Recieved [sic] your Kind letter the 22 of this month I was powerful glad to hear from  
you But was sory [sic] to hear that things was as tha [sic] air [sic] in old BunComb [sic]  
But I was not mutch [sic] [illegible] I am in hopes that the Boyes [sic] prop purty [sic] will  
not Be Confist Cated [sic] for this will onley [sic] ad [sic] fuel to the fiar [sic] lying and  
stelling [sic] and all the mean ness [sic] that Can Be thout [sic] of is going on out hear  
[sic] I am in the Convlesting [sic] Campes [sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] hear [sic] ever sence  
[sic] the 5 of Oct tober [sic] But I shal [sic] start to my Regiment [sic] next Monday [sic] I  
was sorey [sic] to hear that unkel [sic] Jo was ded [sic] But he has paid that grate [sic]  
det [sic] if he was pre paid [sic] for that grate [sic] Chang [sic] he is Better off than we  
hoo [sic] is left in the midst of this un holy [sic] war tena [sic] I Rot [sic] to you that I was  
Cum ing [sic] home in this month But I hav [sic] not Cum plide [sic] with my word I hope  
you will not think hard of mee [sic] tena [sic] I want to git [sic] what tha [sic] air [sic]  
owing mee [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] owing mee [sic] A Bout [sic] sixtey [sic] dollars and I  
want you and my Children to hav [sic] it yes and you shal [sic] hav [sic] it yes and I  
expect to Bring it to you in the bar gin [sic] Be Cause [sic] I hav [sic] not Com plid [sic]  
with my word you [illegible] need not think I will all ways [sic] doo [sic] so I hav [sic]  
Rote [sic] to you this makes fiv [sic] letters sence [sic] I left home has got onley [sic]  
one in all tena [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this letter  
and let mee [sic] no [sic] the times thair [sic] and if the malisha [sic] is still at the Camp

ground yet or not and if thair [sic] is any talk of the yankeys [sic] A going to Cum [sic] up thair [sic] or not david [sic] waggner [sic] tells mee [sic] that walter [sic] cook [sic] is gon [sic] to the feds I want you to Rite [sic] if you got that hay or not I un der stand [sic] that you had frost thair [sic] A Bout [sic] the middle of September Rite [sic] if your Corn or foderr [sic] got bit or not and how you managed your fodder and if that man Braut [sic] that leather or not tena [sic] I am nearley [sic] Bar foot ted [sic] and my old Britches is to the patch and hant [sic] Bin [sic] washt [sic] sence [sic] I left home and the Each [sic] and lice keeps mee [sic] Rite [sic] Bissey [sic] tena [sic] I want you to git [sic] A nuf [sic] of wheat if you can to sow the ground on the fur [sic] Cide [sic] of the Branch if you can find the wheat to sell anywahir [sic] you shal [sic] hav [sic] the money to pay for it git [sic] it from J.R. Weaver if you can tell him for mee [sic] that he shal [sic] hav [sic] his money shore [sic] as I liv [sic] and tena [sic] try to rent that peace [sic] of land from him that me and you taulket [sic] A Bout [sic] tell him that I in tend [sic] to make A Crop at home next sumer [sic] I am talul king [sic] with the Bark on yes tena [sic] I want you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this let ter [sic] direct it to the Regmant [sic] I was sory [sic] to hear that Cris le [sic] was Cick [sic] Cis told mee [sic] A power ful [sic] Bad tale on you the other nit [sic] in A dreame [sic] tell g [sic] that I cant [sic] hardley [sic] think hur [sic] tale is true tell John to feed his hog well that I will be at home in next month and margrett [sic] to feed hur [sic] Chickens Be shure [sic] to rite [sic] I am Cumming [sic] just as soon as I git [sic] my money you may lo [sic] for mee [sic] as shore [sic] as life

[written in top margin across all four pages]

tena [sic] I want to see you all powerful Bad may God Bless you [sic] pra [sic] for you [sic] day tena [sic] I want you to pray for mee [sic] and for and for my children and for God to instruct you how to liv [sic] that when you cum [sic] to di [sic] that you may have nothing to doo [sic] but to di [sic] tell m [sic] houdey [sic] and I want to see him vary [sic] bad and tell all of my frends [sic] houdey [sic] kiss my Boyes [sic] for mee [sic] you need not rite [sic] any more after you anser [sic] this letter fair [sic] well

John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

November 19, 1863

november [sic] the 19 1863

dear wife with pleasure I tak [sic] the op portunity [sic] of Riting [sic] to you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you no [sic] that I am as well as Comon [sic] hoping thase [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] [rest of line obscured by fold] and my dear lit tle [sic] Children all well and dooing [sic] Better than mee [sic] if you ant [sic] you air [sic] dooing [sic] vary [sic] Bad tena [sic] I am seeing the badest [sic] time now I Ever saw in my life we dont [sic] git [sic] no mor [sic] than half A nuf [sic] to Eat half [sic] time no meet [sic] and [sic] word [sic] [line obscured by fold] how [sic] wood [sic] like to see pap take A peace [sic] of Cold Corn Bread for his Breckfirst [sic] and vary [sic] Small at that its [sic] for you and

them that I am suf ring [sic] if it was not for the lov [sic] I hav [sic] for you and them I  
wood [sic] not stay in this war no longer than dark But I was not musterd [sic] in to surviv  
[sic] when the Rest of the Regmant [sic] was and I wont [sic] git [sic] my money tell [sic]  
A Baut [sic] the first of Jan uary [sic] un less [sic] I Can sell [illegible] my Best to sell  
[illegible] tha [sic] air [sic] owing me 77 dollars for wagers [sic] and A Baut [sic] 60  
dollars of Comppotishing [sic] money that was A lowed [sic] for my Clothing that I never  
tuck[sic] up in All mak ing [sic] one hundred and thirty seven dollars tena [sic] this is A  
lit tle [sic] two [sic] mutch [sic] for mee [sic] [illegible] after mee [sic] sufering [sic] as  
mutch [sic] as I hav [sic] for it tena [sic] I shall sell the firs [sci] Chance I hav [sic] and  
them I am cuming [sic] home dont [sic] git [sic] out of hart [sic] you no [sic] that it wood  
[sic] hav [sic] Bin [sic] A Bad chance for mee [sic] to hav [sic] stad [sic] at home in all of  
that fus [sic] that has Bin [sic] in old Buncomb [sic] tena [sic] I Rote [sic] to you By david  
[sic] waggner [sic] for you to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you got it and let me no  
[sic] how you was giting [sic] A long [sic] and if you Ever got my Bl[rest of line obscured  
by fold] [illegible] lost going home or not I got my Shirt and slips you sent mee [sic] at  
tullahoma [sic] I hav [sic] got them on now O how glad I was when I got them Because  
you sent them I hav [sic] got you A pair of Shoose [sic] if I Can send them to you levey  
[sic] in[illegible] will take them to you tena [sic] we air [sic] on the norwest [sic] Cide [sic]  
of the mishnary [sic] Ridg [sic] in Cite [sic] of Chat ta nooga [sic] tena [sic] it is A Cite  
[sic] to Be hold [sic] from the top of this Ridge you Can see Chat ta noogia [sic] and  
yankys [sic] A plenty tena [sic] wee [sic] hav [sic] A Baut [sic] seventy fiv [sic] thousan  
[sic] men hear [sic] and the feds has A Baut [sic] twist [sic] that A maunt [sic] this is A  
awful Cit [sic] to loock [sic] A pon [sic] our pickets [sic] lins [sic] is in two hundred yards  
of Eochotter [sic] I was on picket the other nite [sic] tha [sic] was whisiling [sic] at us all  
nite [sic] trying to git [sic] us to go over to them But my mind Run Back to your Bossom  
[sic] and my sweet little Children I Cood [sic] not go But thair [sic] A maney [sic] one  
going over and if tha [sic] dont [sic] feede [sic] us Bet ter [sic] tha [sic] will All go and git  
[sic] a Cup of Coff fey [sic] my Best fred [sic] is at home James M Ray he is mist [sic]  
powerful Bad By the Boyes [sic] he is All man send him wod [sic] tyhat I say so tena  
[sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] waiting for A let ter [sic] from you But I Cant [sic] git [sic] no let  
ter [sic] tell all of my friends houdey [sic] kiss my Boyes [sic] fair [sic] well

John W Reese to CT V Reese

December 6, 1863

december [sic] the 6 1863

dear wife with pleasure I am pur mit ted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you  
no [sic] that I am still in the land of the living and jn Joying [sic] tolerbill [sic] good helth  
[sic] with the Exception of A Bad Cold hoping thase [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the  
Children all well and dooing [sic] Better than mee [sic] if you aint [sic] you air [sic]  
dooing [sic] power ful [sic] Bad tena [sic] I hav [sic] thaut [sic] and sed [sic] that I wood  
[sic] not Rite [sic] to you any more tell [sic] you thaut [sic] A nuf [sic] of mee [sic] to Rite



[sic] to mee [sic] my feelings is hurt to think I hav [sic] Rote [sic] and Rote [sic] and I Cant [sic] git [sic] any letters from you I hav [sic] Rote [sic] 8 or ten letters to you sence [sic] I left home and has onley [sic] got one from you this is hard it Cuts Close Con cidder [sic] this mat ter [sic] for your self [sic] I Can speek [sic] for my self I hav [sic] not for got you no no I Can say to you the grat [sic] Battle on mish nary [sic] Ridg [sic] has Bin [sic] faut [sic] and Bragg has Recieved [sic] A nother [sic] Compleet [sic] whipping [sic] and we air [sic] now at dalton [sic] in Georgia this fite [sic] Commenct [sic] the 25 of november [sic] on Loockout [sic] mountain the yankeys [sic] Charg [sic] ouer [sic] Brest [sic] works on the loock [sic] out and tuck [sic] them from ouer [sic] men and on the 26 the next day the pickets Run in ouer [sic] pickets A Baut [sic] ten o Clock we was li ing [sic] in ouer [sic] Brest [sic] works ouer [sic] Canons [sic] was plast [sic] in ouer [sic] Rear on top of the mish nary [sic] Ridg [sic] and ouer [sic] Brest [sic] works was at the foot of the Ridg [sic] in front of Chat tannogia [sic] ouer [sic] Batters [sic] Cood [sic] play on the yankeys [sic] Clean over us tha [sic] was shel ing [sic] Each oth er [sic] in the Eving [sic] and the order Com [sic] up for ouer [sic] officers [sic] to send us up to the top of the Rid [sic] Just a fue [sic] at A time to keep the yankeys [sic] from dis Covering [sic] the Retreat well I think I was A Baut [sic] in the third squad that started fur [sic] the top of the Ridg [sic] well the yankeys [sic] disCoverd [sic] the game and hear [sic] tha [sic] Cum [sic] By thousands it was A Baut [sic] half A mile from the Brest [sic] works to the top of the Ridg [sic] when I got ABaut [sic] half way up the Ridg [sic] I loock [sic] Back over the valey [sic] the yankeys [sic] was A Baut [sic] A hundred yards of ouer [sic] works and the Shels [sic] was flying as thick as hale [sic] over mee [sic] Boath [sic] ways ouer [sic] men had to Run up to the top of the Ridg [sic] whair [sic] the in tended [sic] fite [sic] was to Cum [sic] off thair [sic] was lots of ouer [sic] men never left the Brest [sic] works at tall [sic] when the yankeys [sic] mounted the Brest [sic] works tha [sic] pord [sic] A voley [sic] down in ouer [sic] dches [sic] poor men tha [sic] intended I Expect to Be taken prisners [sic] But I am A frade [sic] tha [sic] lost thair [sic] livs [sic] By so dooing [sic] then up the Ridg [sic] tha [sic] startted [sic] and ouer [sic] men that had started for the top was Caut [sic] Be twene [sic] the fiar [sic] of ouer [sic] men that had gand [sic] the top and the yankeys [sic] in the rear O what A turbill [sic] affair ouer [sic] Bregad [sic] was in the gap of the Ridg [sic] at Braggs [sic] hedquarters [sic] we helt [sic] the top of the Ridg [sic] tell [sic] ouer [sic] men had giv [sic] way on Boath [sic] Cides [sic] of ouer [sic] Bre gade [sic] and the yankeys [sic] had gand [sic] the top of the Ridg [sic] on Boath [sic] Cides [sic] of us and we had to Run our from under A croos [sic] fiar [sic] tena [sic] the Balls flue [sic] as thick as hale [sic] I Cood [sic] see the durt [sic] fly up all A Round [sic] mee [sic] But thank god [sic] I got out safe and to him the prais [sic] Be long [sic] tena [sic] that Sweet name to mee [sic] I Can say with mutch [sic] Joy that whil [sic] Riting [sic] this letter I ReCieved [sic] one from you that was Rote [sic] the 29 of nov ember [sic] I am so proud of it I Cant [sic] hardley [sic] Rite [sic] tell John to keep them Chickens for as soon as I git [sic] my money I am Cumming [sic] home and I want my little Cag ful [sic] of Brandey [sic] to work the Cold out of mee [sic] the 58 and 60th Rigmants [sic] is Con Solidated [sic] we lost 97 men out of the two Regmants [sic] frankling [sic] Black the Preecher [sic] was kild [sic] or taken pris ner

[sic] he was mong [sic] the last that left the Brest [sic] works you did not git [sic] that leather well I hav [sic] got you A vary [sic] good pair in my nap sack for you and I am going to bring them to you as soon as I git [sic] my money wee [sic] will draw A Baut [sic] Cris mus [sic] tena [sic] we air [sic] A Bad whp [sic] set of folks we lost all we had thousands of dollars worth of property went up Sutch [sic] A destroyed [sic] armey [sic] neve [sic] was Be fore [sic] no histerry [sic] ever giv [sic] no sutch [sic] ACount [sic] it is A shame But Just as I sed [sic] it wood [sic] Be and so it is

March 31 1864

Dear wife onst [sic] more I Am pur mited [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] to let you no [sic] that I Am still on top of the ground and still im proving [sic] I think sloley [sic] as to my janerril [sic] helth [sic] it is tolerbill [sic] fair But my foot and leg truBills [sic] mee [sic] vary [sic] mutch [sic] yet it is stif [sic] in my Anke [sic] Joint and tena [sic] I Am A frad [sic] it will Remaine [sic] so it swells vary [sic] Bad of A day and gose [sic] part ley [sic] A way [sic] of A nite [sic] I Am un Easey [sic] A Baut [sic] my left Arme [sic] it is Brok [sic] out on the El Bow [sic] Joint vary [sic] Bad But I am in hopes it is not the Eri ciples [sic] [Editor's note: erysipelas] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and my deal little Children All well and dooing [sic] well But it dont [sic] loock [sic] lik [sic] I hope this from the way I hav [sic] treated you A Bout [sic] Riting [sic] to you or sending you sum [sic] money But tena [sic] I giv [sic] you my Reas on [sic] for not Riting [sic] to you if you think I hav [sic] dun [sic] Rong [sic] By not Riting [sic] to you under thas [sic] surcum stances [sic] say [illegible] in your next let ter [sic] to mee [sic] [illegible] wood [sic] Be un Easy [sic] wurse [sic] than not to hear at tall [sic] tena [sic] if I hav [sic] dun [sic] Rong [sic] parden [sic] mee [sic] tena [sic] I Am dragig [sic] out the most misre Bill [sic] lif [sic] I Ever livd [sic] I Am hear [sic] and Cant [sic] git [sic] A way [sic] tha [sic] won [sic] fur low [sic] mee [sic] tha [sic] say I liv [sic] two [sic] near the yankeys [sic] lins [sic] if I had livd [sic] any whair [sic] futher [sic] sout [sic] I Cood [sic] hav [sic] got A fur low [sic] But I Am glad my home is just whair [sic] it is and I wood [sic] Be mor [sic] if I was at it whair [sic] I in tend [sic] to Be when I git [sic] Able you may not think so and you hav [sic] A Rite [sic] to think so But I think you ort [sic] to par den [sic] mee [sic] tena [sic] I Am A frade [sic] you and the Children is sufering [sic] for sum [sic] thing to Eat By my not send ing [sic] you sum [sic] money But tena [sic] I hav [sic] had no Chance But I will send you A hundred dollars By the firs [sic] one I see going home that I think will Be safere [sic] to take it to you But I am in hopes I will Be the first one I see going I am going to try for A fur low [sic] to go see my folks in South Carolina I think mabey [sic] I will git [sic] off to go thair [sic] if I doo [sic] home I Cum [sic] and if tha [sic] dont [sic] home I Cum [sic] just as soon as I git [sic] Able to walk you may de pend [sic] on this I wood [sic] hav [sic] Bin [sic] thair [sic] long A go [sic] if it had not Bin [sic] Just as it is doo [sic] the Best you Can plant All the potatoes [sic] you Can and so [sic] All the seeds you Can I want you to Be shore [sic] to git [sic] mee [sic] one Bushel of Buck wheat to so [sic] or speek [sic] fur [sic] it if you Can mange to plant A patch of Corne [sic] doo [sic] so I Can work By moonshine A nuf [sic] to make Bred [sic] for us tena

[sic] dont [sic] for git [sic] to plant my peech [sic] seede [sic] plant them in the garden A  
Baut [sic] 2 feet A part [sic] thais [sic] is a Bord [sic] of dotors [sic] cuming [sic] from  
Richman [sic] hear [sic] to Examan [sic] All Crippels [sic] and the doctors thats [sic] hear  
[sic] two [sic] to see if thair [sic] ain [sic] sum [sic] of them fit for survis [sic] and I think  
tha [sic] will doo [sic] sum [sic] thing fur [sic] mee [sic] A Bord [sic] of sound men will if  
tha [sic] cant [sic] I will Rite [sic] to you any how this week A gane [sic] and let you no  
[sic] I will finish on A small pece [sic] of paper

Sunday, April 3, 1864

April the 3 1864 Sunday

Dear wife with pleasure I Am pur mitted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lins [sic] informing  
you that my helth [sic] is A Baut [sic] as it was when I Rote [sic] my leg dont [sic] seem  
to mend vary [sic] fast the joint is vary [sic] stif [sic] my left arme [sic] is A Baut [sic] as  
it was when I Rote [sic] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the  
Children [illegible] well and dooing [sic] well if you air [sic] it is not Becuase I hav [sic]  
sent you so mutch [sic] money But I am in hopes you hav [sic] got sum [sic] from sum  
Bodey [sic] tell [sic] I cood [sic] send you sum [sic] this tena [sic] has giv [sic] mee [sic]  
more un Easness [sic] than any thing that has Cum [sic] my Rode [sic] senc [sic] I left  
home I Am A fraid [sic] you hav [sic] All hav [sic] suferd [sic] if you hav [sic] I want you  
to let mee [sic] no [sic] it in your let ter [sic] tena [sic] I hav [sic] not tride [sic] for A fur  
low [sic] sence [sic] I Rote [sic] But I shal [sic] try nex [sic] tuesday [sic] to go to green  
vill [sic] south carolina [sic] if I fail in that I shal [sic] ask this Bord [sic] no more But doo  
[sic] as I sed [sic] I wood [sic] in my letter to you if I dont [sic] git [sic] A fur low [sic] I will  
Rite [sic] soon as I can so you may no [sic] what to depend on John is in urnest [sic]  
thair [sic] is But 3 or 4 north [sic] Carolinaers [sic] in Atalanta [sic] [illegible] thas [sic] of  
the [illegible] [illegible] has tride [sic] fur lows [sic] was [illegible] on the same grounds  
that I was Becaus [sic] we were in western coroner [sic] most too near the yankeys [sic]  
this ma [illegible] soot [sic] sum [sic] But not John John is Just John yet in Regard of  
sum [sic] things if north caronirs [sic] will stay A way [sic] from famleys [sic] on this ac  
count [sic] Jus [sic] let them stay I dont [sic] no [sic] whither [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] fur low  
ing [sic] any out of the Rig mement [sic] or not I hant [sic] hearn [sic] from it But onst  
[sic] or twist [sic] since I left it the 8 of fbRuary [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] fiting [sic] A lit tle  
[sic] Every fue [sic] days tha [sic] will hav [sic] A tall time of it Before vary [sic] long A  
Baut [sic] dalton [sic] But john [sic] wont [sic] Be thair [sic] tena [sic] I want you to  
answer this letter Just as soon as you git [sic] it dont [sic] tak [sic] time to wash the  
dishes and let mee [sic] no [sic] how you air [sic] All dooing [sic] I was at your paps last  
nite [sic] in A dreem [sic] and talk withe [sic] AB lots I Am at hom [sic] mos [sic] Evry  
[sic] nite [sic] O what tru [illegible] it giv [sic] mee [sic] when [illegible] wake up I want to  
hear from All of the Boyes [sic] powerful Bad and unkel [sic] feels [sic] tell him that I  
wood [sic] Be glad for him to Cum [sic] to see mee [sic] he Can find mee [sic] in the  
institute hors pittle [sic] As fine A house as thair [sic] is in attalant [sic] I stay in the

second flor [sic] thais [sic] is over two hundred Bunks in it this house was Bilt [sic] for A  
fee mail [sic] Coledg [sic] and darkeys [sic] to wait on mee [sic] this is A larg [sic] plase  
[sic] Bacon is 4 dollars A pound and Corne [sic] 16 dollars pur [sic] Buchel [sic] and  
other stuf [sic] Acorden [sic] the wether [sic] is vary [sic] un setteld [sic] hear [sic] But to  
day [sic] is fine and warme [sic] tell Joseph that I hearn [sic] A fine surmet [sic] the  
other day in A rume [sic] nex [sic] to mee [sic] you can find the tex [sic] in pauls [sic]  
letter to the hebr ews [sic] the forth [sic] chapter ninth vers [sic] thair [sic] Remanth [sic]  
th[illegible] A Rest to the people of god [sic] Reed [sic] the hole [sic] chapter tell Boath  
[sic] of my mameys [sic] houdey [sic] for mee [sic] tell Rebcky [sic] houdy [sic] And to  
go on and if I should not never meet hur [sic] on urth [sic] any more that I want hur [sic]  
to meet mee [sic] whair [sic] partng [sic] will Be no more

John W Reese to Cris tena V Reese

Atlanta Georgia. May 1, 1864

Attalanta [sic] ga [sic] may [sic] 1 1864

Dear wife withe [sic] grate [sic] pleasure I tak [sic] the oppur tunity [sic] of droping [sic]  
you A fue [sic] lins [sic] in answer to your vary [sic] kind letter that Come to hand  
yesterday it found mee [sic] well as comon [sic] my leg is still vary [sic] stif [sic] yet and  
pains mee [sic] sum [sic] But I sit A cide [sic] mmy Crutches this morning I hope and  
trust thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] find you and the Children All well you dont [sic] no [sic]  
how proud I was to git [sic] your letter I was as proud as A little girle [sic] with red shoos  
[sic] on But sorey [sic] to hear that pap was ded [sic] I did want to see him one time  
more in this life But deth [sic] is A Broud [sic] in the land he has paid the det [sic] that  
we All hav [sic] to pay you did not state what was the mat ter [sic] withe [sic] him and  
whair [sic] he died at and if he sed [sic] any thing in Re gard [sic] of meeting his god tell  
leekey [sic] that I Can sim pheythise [sic] with hur [sic] in Regard of hur [sic] Brother I  
take it to Be hur [sic] name and sta cey [sic] tell them Both that can see them Both A  
gan [sic] in peace if tha [sic] will But try I wood [sic] like to say more But paper wont  
[sic] ad mit [sic] it this time your let ter [sic] was dated April the 21 and maild [sic] April  
25 and I got it 29 it come to mee [sic] in fore [sic] days from the time it was maild [sic]  
tena [sic] you did not say whithe [sic] this was the first letter you had Rote [sic] sence  
[sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] hear [sic] or not pleas [sic] number them All as you Rite [sic]  
them this is the forth [sic] one that I hav [sic] Rote [sic] to you tena [sic] I want to see  
you and the Childrn [sic] the worst I Ever did in my life may the god of heaven hav [sic]  
mercey [sic] and proteck [sic] you and help you and what good news it wood [sic] Be to  
mee [sic] to hear that you was A Changd [sic] woman tena [sic] this is my harts [sic]  
prair [sic] Evry [sic] day o may the Be answerd [sic] in peace I want you to Rite [sic] to  
mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this and Rite [sic] lots of it and let mee [sic] no [sic]  
how your cows and yearlings is dooing [sic] and if you hav [sic] got my gun at home if  
you hav [sic] I want you to git [sic] hur [sic] at home and keep hur [sic] oild [sic] in cide  
[sic] tell margrett [sic] that sh [sic] need not Cum [sic] after mee [sic] when the yankeys

[sic] Cums [sic] for I intend to Cum [sic] then tell your mother houdy [sic] for mee [sic] tell hur [sic] that I git [sic] A good Cup of Coffey [sic] onse [sic] A while [sic] and I think of hur [sic] drinking it tell All of my friends houdey [sic] and to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] tell margrett [sic] to rais [sic] us sum [sic] to bacco [sic] for I hav [sic] got to smoking Reglear [sic] tena [sic] I hav [sic] saw lots and learnt [sic] A good deel [sic] tena [sic] if I was at home I wood [sic] git [sic] vary [sic] fleshey [sic] A gane [sic] my Chin Begins to hang with fat and Cheacks [sic] vary [sic] fair and Red and my lipps [sic] needs kissing pawrrful [sic] Bad tell john [sic] to feed yard well do he Can tree sqirls [sic] Cis and Rupurt to Rais [sic] lots of chickens and mar grett [sic] the toBaco [sic] the big fite [sic] will soon [illegible] off

[written in top margin across all pages]

At daltan [sic] tha [sic] air [sic] orderd [sic] to keep two days [sic] rashings [sic] on hand constant I will rite [sic] to Peter Ball tomo row [sic] or next day I am glad to hear that he is vary [sic] kind to you I must cum to A close for the want of paper to rite [sic] on Kiss the Boys for mee [sic] I will Rite [sic] A gane [sic] this week tena [sic] be shore [sic] to rite [sic] onst [sic] A week to mee [sic] fair [sic] well for A fue [sic] days When the ci[illegible] gits [sic] rite [sic] me [illegible] I cum [sic]

John W Reese to C V Reese

May the 23 1864

Madison Stout Hospital

May the 23 1864

Mad dison [sic] Stout hospittle [sic]

Dear wife onst [sic] more I Am Blest [sic] with oppor tunity [sic] of Riting [sic] to you onst [sic] more to in forme [sic] you that I Am as well as Comon [sic] hoping thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and my dear little ons [sic] All well Bless thair [sic] little harts [sic] I Cant [sic] git [sic] to hear from them and you But it dont [sic] keep mee [sic] from thinking of you All tena [sic] I hav [sic] loock [sic] for A letter from you till I hav [sic] lost All hops [sic] what is the matter I hav [sic] no ider [sic] I have Recieved [sic] But one from you since december [sic] tena [sic] that is the l[illegible]iest time that Ever Rold [sic] over Johns [sic] hed [sic] it seems lik [sic] that All that Can giv [sic] mee [sic] trubbel [sic] has A fair shak [sic] at mee [sic] I no [sic] that I will not liv [sic] all ways [sic] and if I new [sic] I wood [sic] hav [sic] to spend the Rest just as I hav [sic] Bin [sic] speding [sic] my time for the last two years I wood [sic] ask not to stay But I Can hope for Better times tena [sic] as for news I hav [sic] more than I cood [sic] Rit [sic] in A week Johnson has fell Back to Cass station five mils [sic] this cide [sic] of Kingston whair [sic] I suferd [sic] so mutc [sic] last febRuary [sic] and the Enemy [sic] still pressing him this thing is near at A Close I think But how it will wind up I Cant [sic] tell you in this the yankeys [sic] has got Rome 18teen [sic] mils [sic] Below Kingston the

papers say that shurmans [sic] Arme [sic] is moving [sic] on Johnson in three detachments [sic] today is Sunday [sic] I will finish this letter in the morning I will give [sic] the news to you [sic] and in the morning from the front I will give [sic] it to you as it is given [sic] to me [sic] good By tena [sic] I have [sic] set down to finish this letter as for news Buy [sic] the train [sic] this morning I got But little But the yankeys [sic] has Burnt [sic] Cass station their [sic] is grate [sic] Excitement [sic] hear [sic] the malisha [sic] is all ordered [sic] to Report at Atlanta [sic] as I have [sic] Rot [sic] to you Before [sic] this Atlanta [sic] wood [sic] Be the mane [sic] struggle [sic] their [sic] will Ce A mane [sic] A man die [sic] Be for [sic] it will Be taken [sic] we have [sic] lost in this last Rout from Dalton [sic] to Cass A baut [sic] three thousand [sic] men A Baut [sic] six hundred kild [sic] ded [sic] A pon [sic] the feeld [sic] and A grate [sic] mane [sic] more will die [sic] that is wonded [sic] so A doctor [sic] told me [sic] this morning Johnson headquarters [sic] is at Marietta [sic] it is twenty miles [sic] A Bov [sic] Atlanta [sic] I Cant [sic] find out whether [sic] he is still falling Back or not I will Rite [sic] day after to mor row [sic] to you this is Monday [sic] tena [sic] I will have [sic] to go to the front [sic] A Baut [sic] Friday [sic] if no sooner But I will Rit [sic] the last thing I doo [sic] Befor [sic] I leav [sic] hear [sic] I Rote [sic] to John W Edmonds the other day and to Peter [sic] Ball all [sic] if you doo [sic] give [sic] the letter Rite [sic] to me [sic] direct your letter to Madison [sic] Stout hospittle [sic] I must Cum [sic] to A Close kiss the Boyes [sic] for me [sic] Bless their [sic] little harts [sic] how Bad I want to see them yes and gab and may the Best of All tena [sic] tena [sic] be in good hart [sic] as you Can I will Be at home Befor [sic] vary [sic] much [sic] longer this is so tell Beckey to hold out faith ful [sic] tell all of my friends houdey [sic] tena [sic] Rite [sic] to me [sic] may gods [sic] blessing Rest with you

John W Reese C TV Reese

[written in top margin of pages 2 and 3]

Tha [sic] air [sic] running their [sic] stuff [sic] to Augusta [sic] from Atlanta [sic] while [sic] Riting [sic] your name [sic] the cars past [sic] loded [sic] with stuff [sic] from Atlanta [sic] as will [sic] Edmonds ust [sic] to say loock [sic] out for Brothers

Baldwin County, Georgia May 31, 1864

Baldon [sic] County Georgia may [sic] the 31 1864

Dear wife with pleasure I am pur mit ted [sic] to drop you A fue [sic] lines [sic] to let you no [sic] that I have [sic] got to my regmamat [sic] I am still suffering [sic] sum [sic] with my ankle [sic] I had to walk ten or twelv [sic] miles [sic] after I got off the cars and that did not doo [sic] me [sic] any good tena [sic] I hop [sic] and trust thas [sic] fur [sic] lines [sic] may find you and the children all well I found the regmant [sic] in fine helth [sic] as for news I cant [sic] give [sic] much [sic] thats [sic] reliable tho [sic] I am hear [sic] in A line of Battle whair [sic] tha [sic] have [sic] Bin [sic] fighting [sic] for sum [sic] time I got to the Regmant [sic] last Sunday [sic] Eaving in A allful [sic] thicket I lay down and went to sleep and a bout [sic] a leven [sic] o'clock [sic] I was wakend [sic] By that powerful noyes

[sic] of canonading [sic] we had to fall in and march out in a old field and thair [sic] we lay tell [sic] day brak [sic] then wee [sic] moved a long [sic] the line a bout [sic] two mils [sic] whair [sic] we air [sic] yet thar [sic] was no fiting [sic] last nit [sic] hardley [sic] but tha [sic] air [sic] dooing [sic] a little this morning the canons [sic] is roring [sic] how this thing will End I cant [sic] say not noing [sic] but we air [sic] a bout [sic] 12 mils [sic] dew [sic] west of maretter [sic] the fit [sic] commenst [sic] at dalton [sic] sixty mils [sic] from maretter [sic] we hav [sic] lost a heep [sic] of men and kild [sic] a heep [sic] of yankeys [sic] and hear [sic] we go you all dont [sic] no [sic] a thing a bout [sic] hard times and de struc tion [sic] of pro pirty [sic] if you cood [sic] see the corne [sic] feelds [sic] and wheat fields that is ful [sic] of stock all is de stroid [sic] thats [sic] the truth no one Escaps [sic] the hors [sic] of this thing whair [sic] we go we hav [sic] lost but vary [sic] fue [sic] out of this Regmant [sic] tha [sic] giv [sic] mee [sic] a gun to tote But this morning colonel [sic] weaver [sic] had it turned over so I hav [sic] no gun to tote I am helping Elic wagner [sic] at tend [sic] to the horses at my old trad [sic] a gane [sic] tena [sic] dont [sic] be uneasy a bout [sic] mee [sic] I can say to you that I recieved [sic] your letter yester day [sic] tena [sic] dont [sic] you no [sic] how glad I was to hear from you it was rot [sic] the 22 of may [sic] I was sory [sic] to hear that Peter Ball was gon [sic] I am in hops [sic] to will find woman a plenty in the country whair [sic] he has gon [sic] tena [sic] I must cum [sic] to a clos [sic] I will rite [sic] in a fue [sic] days a gan [sic] and mor[illegible] of it the arme [sic] is fed vary [sic] well we git [sic] a half pound of bacon pur [sic] day and plenty of bred [sic] tena [sic] if my leg dont [sic] git [sic] well by the time this fit [sic] cums [sic] off I will git [sic] a fur low [sic] and cum [sic] home o how glad pore [sic] john [sic] wood [sic] be tena [sic] cololnel [sic] weaver [sic] told mee [sic] that you was a pattern for all others to go by in trying to liv [sic] I am glad to hear this but new [sic] you wood [sic] doo [sic] your best ma [sic] gods [sic] bless ings [sic] be with you and my sweet ons [sic]

[written in top margin]

Kiss the boys for mee [sic] tell the children howdy for mee [sic] tena [sic] I rot [sic] this in a hury [sic] look over the bad riting [sic] direct you letters as you did the last

JW Reese CTV Reese

July 9,1864

July the 9 1864

Dear wife onst [sic] more I am Blest [sic] with op protunity [sic] of Riting [sic] you one mor [sic] let ter [sic] in forming [sic] you that I am as well as comon [sic] hoping and trusing [sic] thas [sic] fue [sic] lins [sic] may find you and the Children all well as for news I hav [sic] lots to Rite [sic] if I had the time to Rite [sic] it the yankeys [sic] Keeps us two [sic] Bisley [sic] well the last letter I Rote [sic] to you we was near mariretter [sic] we hav [sic] Crost [sic] the Chatta hooch [sic] Rivdrer [sic] we air [sic] A[illegible]est [illegible] sum [sic] five miles of atta lanta [sic] we hav [sic] had [illegible] little [illegible]

oure [sic] Regmant [sic] was out on picket and the yankeys [sic] Charg [sic] them and  
drov [sic] the [illegible] in to thair [sic] Brest [sic] works we lost sum [sic] in the Charg  
[sic] we hav [sic] lost siverel [sic] men in ma [illegible] Ches Either gon [sic] to the  
yankeys [sic] or home I Cant [sic] say [illegible] [illegible]ing and tha [sic] all nearly talk  
[illegible] I for got [sic] to tell you that thair [sic] was A compney [sic] out of the 54  
verginia [sic] Regmant [sic] Belonging to ouer [sic] Bregad [sic] one nite [sic] whil [sic]  
on pickets the liutenant [sic] in Command of the Companey [sic] he went over an [sic]  
mad [sic] airraingmet [sic] with the yankeys [sic] pickets and Cum [sic] Back and tuck  
[sic] the Companey [sic] over with him and sum [sic] has went sence [sic] and sevril [sic]  
has went out of the 58 N C Regmant [sic] the Boys Calls this when on [sic] Runs A way  
[sic] or is miss ing [sic] that the owls has Cout [sic] him or them well tena [sic] I hav [sic]  
Run sum [sic] vary [sic] narrow Excaps [sic] By most All kinds of Balls tena [sic] thair  
[sic] has not Bin [sic] A day senc [sic] I Com [sic] Back to the Regmamant [sic] Be what I  
hav [sic] hearn [sic] Can ons [sic] or small armes [sic] and most all the time in Reach of  
them tena [sic] the last little fite [sic] ouer [sic] Regmant was in the time tha [sic] was  
Run in J J wevear [sic] got A gun A Rifle thas [sic] A hed [sic] of any thing I Ever saw in  
the way of A gun [Editor's note: a Henry repeating rifle] in my life it shoots sixteen times  
with out [sic] loding [sic] if it was mine I wood [sic] not take A thousan [sic] dollars for it  
Weevr [sic] was in Charg [sic] of the picket that and after he was Run in he was Repost  
ing [sic] his pickets and this yankey [sic] was tite [sic] he sed [sic] he was orderd [sic] to  
advanc [sic] his post and he was so drunk he did not no [sic] what he was dooing [sic]  
and advanct [sic] two [sic] fur [sic] and Cum [sic] throu [sic] ouer [sic] lins [sic] I wood  
[sic] lik [sic] to hav [sic] it for Rupert as John has one he hated to giv [sic] it up vary [sic]  
Bad he swor [sic] at firs [sic] he wood [sic] [illegible] up tell [sic] he went and saw his  
lieutenant But it was to [sic] lat [sic] then tena [sic] I hearn [sic] from you the othe [sic]  
day I got A letter from Sarh [sic] bell She stated that you and my swee [sic] ons [sic]  
was well and your Corne [sic] loock [sic] well I was glad to hear from you all tell Sarh  
[sic] that I will Rit [sic] soon to hur [sic] tena [sic] I Cant [sic] Rite [sic] just as I want to  
we air [sic] loosing [sic] A heep [sic] of men as we fall Back tena [sic] tak [sic] good  
Cear [sic] of your lit tle [sic] stuf [sic] tell [sic] I Cum [sic] home try and dont [sic] let an  
[sic] one tak [sic] off my [illegible] and [illegible] it is nothing But [illegible] any how I  
want my Bodey [sic] to Rest in N C soil I will Bring you a pair of shoos [sic] when I Cum  
[sic] tell All of my friends to Rite [sic] to mee [sic] and that I send houdey [sic] to All of  
them and that I wood [sic] Rite [sic] to them if I had the time it is thout [sic] tyhat we will  
go on to west point [sic] But I in tend [sic] to see tena [sic] Be fore [sic] I see west point  
[sic] if I liv [sic] tell Rebecky that I still air [sic] trying to surv [sic] my god and how thak  
[sic] [illegible]ul I Am [illegible] that I Ever mad [sic] the start

[written in top margins of pages 2 and 3]

Tell mother tha [sic] I hav [sic] not forgot hur [sic] yet tell your mother and pap tena  
[sic] Be shor [sic] to tell them if I never shall see them any more on urth [sic] tha [sic] I  
want them to meet mee [sic] whaer [sic] parting will Be no more tena [sic] I want you to  
Rit [sic] to mee [sic] as soon as you git [sic] this and giv [sic] mee [sic] all the news you



hav [sic] I will Rite [sic] in a fuer [sic] days A gan [sic] tena [sic] I doo ]sic) the Best I  
Can A Baut [sic] Riting [sic] I dont [sic] Expect

[written in top margins of pages 1 and 4]

You git [sic] All the letters I start to you tena [sic] thos [sic] that livs [sic] to see 3 more  
months pass over will see peac [sic] made this think will I think soon Clos [sic] it cant  
[sic] hold out mutch [sic] longer thank heaven [illegible] I Bleav [sic] it will soon clos I  
must Close I pray that you may Still Be Blest tena [sic] I must Cum [sic] to A close kiss  
the Boyes [sic] for mee [sic] tell Cis and margrett [sic] to Be good gals

[written in left margin of page 1]

John W Reese to his loving wife C T V Reese

Undated incomplete letter possibly from Georgia, 1864

Tena [sic] this is the 5 letter I hav [sic] Rote [sic] to you from this place and sum [sic] to  
John W Edmonds and sum [sic] to Peter Ball I hav [sic] got one from you is All I  
Reckon that I hav [sic] out livd [sic] all of my friends I will Rite [sic] to John W Edmonds  
in A fue [sic] days I Rote [sic] to Peter Ball the other day I hear that Johnson had  
forteene [sic] men shot the other day out of the 58 and 60 north [sic] Carolinars [sic]  
Regmants [sic] But onley [sic] one or two out of my Regmant [sic] I hav [sic] not lernt  
[sic] any of thair [sic] names for dezerting [sic] I understand tena [sic] I saw one of my  
com paney [sic] the other day on his Re turne [sic] from home on furlowe [sic] he told  
mee [sic] that the yankeys [sic] was at marshel [sic] and ouer [sic] men at the mouth of  
Big ivey [sic] and that tha [sic] was Bush whacking [sic] A Baut [sic] Elxanders [sic] and  
that the folks thout [sic] tha [sic] wood [sic] soon Be up at Ashville if this Be the Case  
mee [sic] and you will soon Be dun [sic] git ing [sic] litters [sic] from Each [sic] others if  
this should Be the Case I want you to git [sic] A letter throu [sic] thair [sic] lins [sic] if you  
can and hav [sic] it maild [sic] to mee [sic] tena [sic] I wish you had this pair of shoos  
[sic] I hav [sic] Bin [sic] tot ing [sic] so long for you no [sic] you stand in need of them  
tell John to learn gard [sic] to tree RabBits [sic] and squirrels [sic] Susan and Ruprt [sic]  
to Rais [sic] all the Chickens tha [sic] Can and mar grett [sic] the toBac Co [sic] and mee  
[sic] and hur [sic] will smok [sic] and spit and gab and Rupert I must Cum [sic] to A  
Close I will Rite [sic] in A fue [sic] days A gane [sic] you Be shore [sic] and Rite [sic] to  
mee [sic] onst [sic] A week may the Blessings of god [sic] Be with you fair [sic] well to  
A Ivoinv [sic] wife I lov [sic] As dear as my life

John W Reese C T V Reese

Undated incomplete letter, possibly February 1864

But he cood [sic] not git [sic] off But he has Rote [sic] to mee [sic] twist [sic] lattlely [sic]  
tell barrett [sic] that mee [sic] and John I Expect will git [sic] furlows [sic] At the same

time and if we doo [sic] we will Cum [sic] hom [sic] to gether [sic] in your next letter I want to no [sic] whoo [sic] the Boys volenteeard [sic] under and whair [sic] will [sic] Edmnds [sic] is what L D ReechRard [sic] is dooing [sic] and the janerl [sic] news I under stand [sic] that L D Reechard [sic] has out of woar [sic] if he has I think he ort [sic] to Cum [sic] and take my plase [sic] and let mee [sic] go home and stay A fue [sic] days I got A letter last Sunday from Mr [sic] Burnett in answer to one I Rote to hun sucker [sic] it giv [sic] mee [sic] grat [sic] plesure [sic] he sed [sic] he had hearn [sic] from you the day Befor [sic] you was all well kiss the Children for mee [sic] John W Rees [sic] V T V Reese tell all my friends houdey [sic] A little more thair [sic] has Bin [sic] severil [sic] hear [sic] with out [sic] fur lows [sic] and its [sic] not A going stop tha [sic] will go lik [sic] sheep over A fence Samuel hewey [sic] and James Bolenger and tob [sic] hyAtt [sic] and samuel [sic] Barrett and 8 others last Sunday nite [sic] was two [crossed out] one weeks Ago and nite [sic] be fore [sic] last thair [sic] was nine more left All out of thie Rigment [sic] thair [sic] has A Baut [sic] fiftey [sic] I think Run A way [sic] from this Rig ment [sic] and from the way the Rest taulks [sic] I dont [sic] think thair will Be many left By the firs [sic] of march [sic] RobBert [sic] vanc [sic] old Rigment [sic] is on the Rite [sic] wing of this armey [sic] twelv [sic] mils [sic] from hear [sic] I hav [sic] saw sum [sic] of the Boys I hav [sic] not saw John E Barrett yet I Rot [sic] to him to Cum [sic] and See mee [sic] when I was Cick [sic]