

**Corpus of American Civil War Letters
OH3-01, William Culbertson**

**Source: (#1328) William Culbertson Papers
Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University.**

William Culbertson (b. ca. 1829) was a farmer from Bridgewater, Williams County, Ohio. He was 35 years old when he was mustered in as a corporal in Company H, 38th Ohio Infantry on August 30, 1862. He also served for a short time in the 1st Battalion, Pioneer Brigade, Army of the Cumberland. He was discharged for disability on October 15, 1863 and died sometime before the census of 1870. The letters are written to his wife, Julina Culbertson.

**Transcribed by M. Ellis, December 2009
Proofed and corrected, January 2010**

Camp Toledo Sep Friday
25th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrihting you a <few?>
<l?>ines to inform you
that I am well and
I hope these few lines
will find you injoy
ing the same
We arrived in camp
yesterday Evening about
half an our before Sun
down the camp is 3
miles from the station
we got our supper as
soon as we arived
this is rather a sing
uler looking plase
there is about 200
[page 2]
Shantyes all bilt out
of pine lumber and
about of a Size there
is all kinds of Chaps
here it was a perfect
<howl?> here all night
this morning me and
<??>ers was Detailed

to do the Coocking to
Day and we have just
got through with Diner
we have got plenty to
eat Bakers Bread fresh
Beef Potatoes Coffy
and Shooger we expect
to leave here tomorrow
for Columbus Enoch
frisby is going home
to morrow and i send
this with him right
Soon and let me
know whether you get
[page]

this or not I will
right to you as soon
as we get to Columbus
I want you to be Chearful
and keep up good hart
for I will Shurly com
Back I want you to
right all of the particu
lers and let me know
what is going on right
what you thought of them
Pictuers and what the
girls thought of there
little Boocks tell them
to keep them nise til
i come home I will send
Wm Walles a present when I send
the Satchel home that is if
I dont dome with it my
self Julina i cant tell
you yet where to Direct
[page 4]

a letter and you had
better wait til you hear
from me again i will
right soon
give my resp
ects to all
I cant think
of any thing more at
present

So Good By
for this time
Wm Culbertson
to wife

Bart has just come in and he
says we will be in columbus before
letters will get there So you can
Direct to me at Columbus Ohio in care of
J B Hanna

Camp Toledo Sunday Evening,
Sep the 28th / 62

Dear wife

I Set Down once
more to inform you that I
am well and i hope these
few lines will find you the
Same I rote to you last
friday but you will
get both of the letters
at the Same time I
Expected Frisby to leave
here the next day after
I rote to you but he has
not com yet but he told
me this Eavening that he was
going to Start back tomor
row morning and i thought
you would like hear from me
Sooner than to Send it
[page 2]

by mail This has ben
a busy day although there
has ben lots going on there
is a noisy Set here
there was a lot of boys
Just Come in here to
have a dance but i Trowe
them out there has nothing
Serious hapend here Since
we came here ther is
a few of the boys Sick
but not Serious i was to
town yesterday the only time
i have ben there Since we
came here we have just
got the word that the 38
Ohio regiment is in luis
vile Cantucky and the 38
here gave three harty Chears
with the hops to Soon
meat them I will right
to you soon again perhaps
[page 3]

you will get a letter
from me nex Satterday by

mail you may loock for
one if i get a chance to
right you must Excuse my
mistakes for there is so much
Confusion here that it is
all most imposible to right
the boys is having a regular
fandango out dores I was
releaved from coocking yester
Day Eavening but i Expect
to soon go at it again for
there is but few here that
Can Coock I gain in flesh
evry day and it is no
wonder for i have an affel
apatite to eat I have rote
one letter before this to night
for delbert and i have got
to right a few lines for
Johnson yet So I will have
[page 4]

to bring my letter to
a close oh i forgot to tell
you that we got orders to day
to Start next tuesday morning
at four oclock for Camp Delaware
and you may Direct your
letters to me at Delaware
Ohio I will right down
all that you nead put on
the invelop w^m Culbertson
Delaware Ohio
and the will come to me till
we move again and i will
then tell you where to Direct
you neadent Send any to
Columbus til you hear from
me that is all that i can
think of at present to right
So Good by for this time
W^m to Julina

[added around left, top, and right margin of page]

Johnson has concluded not to have any thing rote for him <to?> night but if you have any chance
to send word to his girl tell her that he is well

Camp Delaware Wednesday Oct 1st /61

Dear wife

I take the opportunity
of writing you a few lines
to inform you that I am
yet well and hearty and
I hope these few lines will
find you the Same It seems
as though it was all most
impossible for me to get to
hear from you we are in our
Second Camp now we got
here yesterday at noon and
we leave to morrow morning
for camp chase Bart has just
returned from Columbus and
he shoed me his Commision
as Second Lieutenant
he said that we would

[page 2]

leave Camp Chase day after
to morrow for the regiment
that is at louisvilleCantucky
the are going to husel us
right through we will receive
our clothing and advance pay
at Camp Chase I rote to you
last friday and likewise last
tuesday and i sent them both
up by Enoch Frisby if you
dont get them before you get
this you had better send william
walles over to Frisbys and get
them I rote to you in the
last one to right to me and
direct to Dellaware but if
you hant sent any there
I am glad for i wont get
it I am verry ancious to
hear from you but i suppose
I cant til i get to the

[page 3]

regiment so you may as
soon as you get this right
to me and Direct to me

in this way William Culbertson
38th Regiment O V u S A
in care of Captin Newman
I want you to right me
a great big letter and right
all the paticulers if i find
out that we will be detained
Sevrel days at camp chase i
will let you know i will right
to you so that you will git
a letter from me evry week and
i want to hear from you evry
week you hardly know how
much good it would do me to
hear from you i want you to
right evry thing you can think
of and when you cant think
of any thing more let some of
the rest right i want you to
[page 4]
right and let me know
how many was drafted to day
in bridgewater township and
who the ware there was 44 Drafted
in this County Delaware to day
I thought we had got in a
hard camp when we got to
toledo but that was nothing to
this camp but still i dont
complain I expected to see hard
times but as long as i keep my
health and have enough to eat
as i have so far i will get along
I will right to you just before
we leave camp chase I will have
to bring my letter to a close for
i have rote the sheet most over
Kiss the Children for me and tell
them to be good children So
good by for this time yours truly
from william Culbertson to Julina Culbertson

Camp Columbus Sunday afternoon
Oct the 5th 1862

Dear Wife

I take my pen in
hand this afternoon to inform
you that I am well and
harty and I hope these few
lines will find you the
Same we drew our clothing
and money yester day and
I Expressed (30) thirty Dollars
to you in care of George
L Starr you had better to
to Bryan as soon as you
get this letter and get the
money it is all in united
States Bills the Boyes could
not agree to send there money
all to one place some sent
to one and some to another

[page 2]

I thought I would send
mine and Delbert in
Care of George L Starr
and the close are all in
two boxes and sent to
Burk the tavern keeper there
where you Stoped when you
got of ov the Cares my [cares = railroad cars]
Satchel has got a card
with my name on it
you will to pay the Charg
es when you get the
Satchel send word if you
can ~~that~~ to Mr geratage
to Mr heratage that
Delberts Satchel is there
right as soon as you
get this and let me
know whether you got the
money and Satchel
we will leave here tomorr
ow morning for Camp Denison
[page 3]
but it hant likely that

we will stay there long
I hant recived a letter
from you yet nor i dont
expect one til i get to
the regiment but i want
one when i get there with
out fail as soon as i get
there I told you in my
last letter to Direct to me
at the regiment so i will
give you the Direction again
Direct to William Culbertson
38 regiment O V u s A
give my respects to all
and tell them to right to
me I will quit righting
for i have not got a good
plase to right So Good by for
this time yours truly
from

William to Julina

[page 4]

in this letter i enclose
the receipt for the money
that i Expressed to you
take it to Bryan with
you when you go after
the money

Good by

Camp Near Lebinon Ky

Oct the 23d /62

Dear wife

I take the oportunity of
wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am
well at present with the exceptions
of a cold and I hope these
few lines will find you well
and the Children and the rest
of the friends we have had a
hard time of it for the last
three days we have marched from
morning til night and last night
we marched til ten oclock you
had better beleave I was tired
last night we are in camp
now but we may not be here
one hour it has ben very plesant
here ever Since we have been here
[page 2]

with the exception of nights
the have ben cold and frosty
for a few nights I received your
letter as we were marching through
Danville I rote you a letter
a week or ten days ago but I
hant had a chance to male it
til now all mail communication
has ben cut of between here and
louisville till this week the hant
had any male at Danville til
this week for Sevin weeks but the
way is clear now I was glad
to hear from you I want you
to right evrry week for you
dont know how much pleasure
it gives me to hear from you
I supposed Cyrous would have that
house fixed before this time I want
you to right to me and let me
know what the reason is that
he dont fix the house and
[page 3]

let me know whether the
Corn is husked and the potatoes

dug and about the buck wheat
and how much wheat you got
I want to know it all I
got a letter from Rachel when
I got yours the were all well
the most that we suffer for here
is watter we have the miserablest
water here that i ever drank
I want you to take that money
and lay it out for clothing
and the next that i send to you
if you dont Stand in nead
of it i want you to pay my
little dets with you Stated in
your letter that you would
send me your likenes it would
be a great pleasure to me to
have it but you had better
not Send it I am so lodid
down now that it seems as though
[page 4]

I would have to through
part of my stuf away now
there is some of the boys here now
and the dont know hardly what
to do with them you had better
get yours and the childdrens taken
and keep them til i come home
tell Sarah Elon and lidda
that I was verry glad to hear
from them and i want to hear
from them often but the will
have to excuse me for not
wrighting to them this time
for i dont know what minet
I will have to start give my
respects to all and tell the
Children i would like to see
them no more for this time
you Directed your letter right
only you must direct to
william Culbertson Sen there is
two of us by the same name
in the same company he will
have his to william Culbertson Jr
[in right margin]

good by for this time wm to Julina

Page 1

Camp Near Lebinon Ky

Oct the 28th /62

Dear Wife

I take this oportunity
of wrihting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well
at present and I hope these
few lines will find you injoy
ing the same I received you
your letter last night that
you and henry rote I was
glad to hear from you I Cant
have the privlage of Seeing you
but it is a great privlage
to heare from you i want to
heare from you evry week if
possible my health is good now
last Saturday we had the first
Storm of any kind we have had
since we came here it rained
[page 2]

2

all the after noon and just
at night it commenced Snowing
and snowed all night well we
had a hard night of it with
out any Shelter i[t] cleared of Sun
dy after noon and it has ben
plesent ever since <over?> head it
rather Cool nights though we
are looking for our tents
evry day i will have to stop
righting for a little while we are
orderd out for inspection
well now I will finish my letter
we did not get in from our drill
<??> til <??> noon and since dinner
I have ben takeing Care of Delbert
he is sick to day I am glad
to heare that mother is coming out
there to live with you I hope the
boys will bild a good warm house
for you to live in you must have
it fixed up good before you moove

[page 3]

3

in to it I cant tell you
any thing about when we will
leave here we got orders yesterday
morning to marct at nine o clock
and he hant herd any thing of
it Since you wanted me to right
about the plase we are in I cant
tell you much about the plase we
came here in the night and i hant
run around any we are here among
the hills and mountains on what
is called the rolingfork a Stroom
of water about as large as the
H. <?> the only runing Stroom that
I have seen since I came to this
state my cloths are clean and hole
and i have plenty of them for the
present I will send you my
picture again as soon as i get an
oportunity to have it taken
I guess you neadent worry about
my being in battel verry Soon
[page 4]

4

the rebles are agraid of us the
greatest truble will be to catch
them you know catching comes before
hanging tell the girls to keep there
Books clean and nise til I come home
I will put a pare of Eare rings in
this letter that Jerry give me and
give them to Adalaid and i will
Send Della Some thing els some time
you neadent be any alarmed about
letters getting here now there hant
any rebles to stop the male between
here and Louisville I expect Hiram
Nobles was in louisville when i was
there but i didnt know it then
and if i had I might as well
look for a needle in a hay Stack
as to look for any boddy there I Saw
one man there from Newlondon he knew
Charles i have gorgoten his name he

married one of James R A Disbrows
girl's I rote to you in my other
letter how to Direct to me and for fear
that you dont get the letter I will send
it to you again there is two of us by
same name in the same company and i
will have myne m Culbertson Sen and his
will be Wm Culbertson Jr by that mean we
[continued in right margin]
wont read each others letters

Sunday Afternoon

Galiton Tennise Nov the 9th 1862

Dear Wife

I take my pensil in
hand to inform you that I am
well at present and I hope these
few lines will find you the
Same This makes the third letter
that I have riten to you Since
I have got any from you I
dont know what is the reason
that I dont get any letters
any more but I dont get
discouraged yet I am in hopes
evry day to get one we are
thrity miles East of Nashville
garding railroad at present
the rebles has burnt all the
Bridges between here and Nashville
and bloed the tunel ful of
rocks it was all dun this

[page 2]

week by the rebel Jeneral
Morgan General Morgan is caled
the most dangeros man there is in
the suthern Confederacy he knows
evry aker of this hole country
and he is doging around among
the hills and mountains and
when he can catch a Small
forse of men he will pitch on
to them and kill all he
can and take the rest prisnors
and then doge of some wher
Els it hant ben but a short
while Since he was in our
Camp in disguise and nobody
knew it til he was gon he
tried to take Nashville last wedne
sday but they was to much
for him he lost two hundred of
his men yesterday our cavelry
took twenty of his men about
three miles from here I dont
[page 3]

think we will have a
batel with him our forses
are to strong for him and
he wont try us and i dont
think we can catch him for
he knows the country better than
we do I have no more kews
of any importance to right
this time So i cant right
much more if I had just
received a letter from you
maby i would have some thing
to right about Some times
I think you are Sick or
you would right but you
are well our regiment is
all well at present as far
as i know give my respects
to all inquiring friends and
right soon give me all the
poticulers when you right
right about the Children

[page 4]

we have verry Singular wether
here it is dry and plesent
last friday it was rather Cool
& Spit Snow all day but
yesterday and to day it warm
and plesent it is cold
nights no more at present
Good by for this time
yours truly

william Culbertson Sen

to Julina Culbertson

Galiton Tennasee Nov the 24th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well and
I hope these feu lines will find
you the Same I have riten to
you once before since i received
a letter from you I Should have
riten to you sooner but I wated
a few days to See if i would
ent get a letter from you
But I want to right so that
you will get a letter from me
evry week So I will right to day
I will have to stop righting now
i am Detailed I dont know
when I will get a chance to finish
tuesday morning Nov 25th I will try
and finish my letter this morning
I am at the city of Galiton

[page 2]

I am Detatch from the regiment
I belong to a core of Engineers
and Mechanicks the probibility is
I will Stay in the core as long
as I stay in the Service I dont
know but I think I have made
a good Exchange If I pas as a
Mechanick I will get forty cents
a day Extry from my monthly
wages the think the will put me
to huing timber mostly we dont
have gard dooty to do nor not
so much marching nor we dont
have to work Sunday we are
going to work now on a fort
at this plase I dont know how
long we will stay here we may
stay 2 or 3 months but if there
is a rail road bridge burnt
to night any where we will have
to go to it tomorrow John Allman
is with me you must Direct your
letters Just as you have dun til
I give you further orders

[page 3]

I Shant right much this time
I will have to go to work at
ten oclock and it is about nine
now I had the best nights rest
last night that I have had for
Some time we are quarterd in
a large brick bilding with plenty
of Straw to lay on Lieutenant
Gleeson our bos says he will
get ticks for us to lay on if he
can I have looked for a letter
from you for a week we dont
get our mail reguler yet the
cars cant run through yet to
us from the East so we dont
get our mail reguler but the will
have the tunel fixed in a few days
and then we wil get reguler
mail if old morgan dont raise
the old harry again you must
righ often for the time Sems long
to get a letter I feel first rait
this morning give my respects

[page 4]

to all inquiring friends
and kiss the Children for me
right all the poticulers when
you right I wil right next
Sunday again if I am well
and oportunity will permit I
Cant think of any thing more
to right this time So good
by for this time

yours truly
Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Nahsville Tennisee Nov 30th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well at
present and I hope these few lines
will find you the same I received
your and henrys letter of the 16th
of Nov and was glad to hear from
you we are in the Citty of Nashville
at present we are stopping in the
Parler of a rich Jentleman we are
on the second flore the family
living in the house it is a large
Brick bilding the rooms that we
ocupy is carpeted and as well finished
as any room that I ever saw we
came here from Galiton last night
on the cars it is raining a little
to day it looks lonesome and
Dismal to day it makes me a little

[page 2]

home Sick with the rest I am
with the Engineers and mechanicks yet
I rote to you about Joyning them
last week so if you get my other
letter you will understand all about
it you stated in your letter that
you was almost discouraged trying to
right ot me you said you had riten
five letters to me I guess i have got
that many from you since i left
you nedent be dis couraged as long as
you get letters from me it seems long
for me between times to get letters from
you but I know how it is the mail
communication has ben cut of
between here and Louisville ever since
we have ben this side of louisville
and mail couldent go regular but
the railroad is opend through now
from louisville to Nashville and we
will get regular mail each way as
long as i stay here there is no
knwoing how long that will be

[page 3]

you wanted me to right about my
Socks the are good yet my other
cloths are good the only truble is
to keep the lisce out of them although
I have not had many of them yet
I have kept my self Clean this far
but the nisest people in the world
cant all ways keep red of them I have
Catched 5 or six in my cloths since
i have ben in the army well that
is enough about lice you said you
thought if we ever got to gether again
we would know how to appreciate
Each others Company well i think so
to I would give evry thing that
I have got in the world if I could
be with my family to night but
that is all the good it does to think
about home there is a great many
Soldiers dies with nothing but home
Sickness right soon so no more for this
time good by Wm to Julian Culbertson
Direct your letters as you have done
[page 4]

Dear Brother and Sister

I hope these few
lines will find you well and injoying
the blessings that are handed down
to us from on high I am well
at present and i hope these few
line will find you the same
I have got pretty well down
in dixy and there is know
knowing how much further
i will have to go I hope not
much further I am in hopes to
get home this spring but I dont
know how it will be yet If you
have got plenty of potatoes yet
eat a few evry day for me I want
you all to do the best that you
can and I will do the same it is
getting dark and i will have to
Stop righting for this time So good
by for this time Wm Culbertson
to Henry and Betsy

Nashville Tenn Dec the 7th /62

Dear Wife

I take this oportunity of
wrighting you a few lines this morning
to inform you that I am well
and harty and I hope these few
lines will find you injoyng the
Same Blessing I ansuerd the last
letter I received from you the four
part of last week I expect there
is a letter for me at the regiment
I would like to be reading a
letter this morning from you we
are Still here at Nashville we hant
done but one days work Since we
have ben here the is a great
deal of excitement here at present
about peace the majority of the
people here thinks that peace will
be proclaimed with a month
it is hopeful that it will

[page 2]

we have verry plesent winter wether
here it Snowed here day before yester
day yesterday and to day the Sun
Shines and looks verry plesent
it is verry lonesome to day for me
I wish i could be at home to day
with you but I hope it will
not be long til i will be at
home I expect you are keeping
house by this time and injoying
your self as well as you can
if mother is with you give her
my respects and tell her that I
would like to see her I expect
you have got the cold winter wether
there by this time we are Stil
in that big Bric house that i
rote to you about the people
are Strong Sesessionest but the
dasent Say much It has ben
two weeks since we left the
regiment we have had Easy times
of it Since we left I dont

[page 3]

know how long it will last
though I received a letter from
Elias Culbertson when I got your
last one the were all well
tell the Children to al be good
Children when i get home I dont
ant to hear of them being bad
children I would like to see
them verry much it would do
me a great deal of good I think
of you all a great deal that
is about all that i have to
think of now days when you
right again right where charles
is and what he is a doing also
where Sammy is I expect the
young folks are all fixing for
Christmas and newyers back there
Give my respects to all I will have
to stop righting for this time
So Good by for this time

yours truly

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Nashville Tenn Dec the 19th /62

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am well
and hope these few lines
will find you injoying the
Same Blessings this makes
the third letter that I have
riten to you since I have
received any But I dont
think it is any falt of yours
I expect I have got 2 or 3 letters
at the regiment and i suppose
the hant had any chance to
Send them to me John Allman
rote to hamen to to day to
mail his and my letters to us
I have Just eat my diner what
do you think I had for diner
[page 2]

I had Mush and Huney
the were both a rarity to
me I am still with the Engineer
and Mechanic Brigaid we have
got our tents and have moved
two milds from town the wether
is cool and cloudy but we
hant had any rain yet to
amount to much there is
some talk that the are going
to send our Brigaid to
Louisville Ky to build a
fort I hope the will but
I gues there is no such
good luck the had a little
battle about 10 miles from her
the other day the rebles got
thrashed our army took 150 prisners
one canen one Sesesh flag and
a lot of horses and wagons and
provisions we dont hear much
news now days <but?>
[page 3]

Peace being Declared and we
will all be home this spring

but I am afraid the news is
to good to put to much dependance
in it but i hope it is so
you must excuse my righting
this time for i have got a
hard way to right I want
you to right evry week the
letters will come after a while
our adress is changed now
and after this our letters wont
stop at the regiment I will
give you the Directions on the
next page kiss the children
for me tell them that I oten
think of them and all the rest
of you give my respects to all
So good by for this time
yours truly

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

[page 4]

Direct your letters
William Culbertson
1st Battalion
Pioneer Brigade
army of the Cumberland
Care of Lieut E Gleason

Nashville Tenn Dec the 20th /62

Dear wife

I take this opportunity of
writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well and
I hope these few lines will find
you the same I received 3 letters
from you last wednesday and
was glad to hear from you
our regiment has moved to nash
ville the are camped 2 miles from
here I was over to the regiment
day before yesterday I saw John
Parker there he got to the regiment
2 weeks ago he expected to find me
there two brewbecker and Henry
Anspaw is there to I am going
Back to the regiment tomorrow
to Stay with it you may Direct
your letters to the regiment after this
the General opinion is at present
[written upside down across top of page]
Oh you tell the children that there
Paw loves them and would like to see them
[page 2]

that peace soon will be declared
and if it is i want to be with
the regiment so that I will get
my discharge when it does this
Mechanick busines hant agoing to
amount to much you have herd
Smiths and Rockwells folks tell a
great deal about Preacher P<??>
not being with the regiment and
only Preaching but 2 or 3 times
I will tell you how it is I
herd our Colonel and Adjident
talking about him the other day
about a year ago he was taken
Sick and Sent here to the hospitle
when he got so as to be able to
be out the set him to nursing
in the hospitle well the liked him
so well that the made him post
Stuerd of all the hospitles in this
City which Numbers 25 or 30 and he

Spends all of his time going from
one hospitle to the other day and
[page 3]

most of the night seeing to the wants
of the Soldiers and talking to them
chearing them up and getting Books
and papers for them to read and little
nourishments that he can get holt
of for them to eat the colonel
Said he had dun more good and
was doing more good and was the
best man in Nashville besids I
have herd a great many others say
the same thing since I have ben here
It is verry plesent wether here at
present with the exceptions of nights
the are pretty cold it is Just like
dry plesent spring wether in ohio
you stated in your last letter that
you felt most sick I was sorry to hear
that you must be careful and not over do
your Self you said you was going
to move the next day i think you
had better waited til you felt better
you wanted to no of me what you
had better do about the hogs I hardly
[written upside down across top of pages two and three]
tell Sarah Elen that I hant got any room
to right to her in this letter I will right to
her in the next

[page 4]

what to tell you but i think
if the pigs are pretty good now
you had better not kill the old sow
it wont pay to turn hogs that
are fated out and put up a lean
one if the pigs are pretty well
fatted kill them til towards
spring and let the old sow <????>
and have pigs this spring it
wont cost any more to keep hur over
than it will one of the pigs at
least that is my opinion you must
use your one Judgement partly about
the matter I am glad that mother will
Soon be with you it wont be so lonesome

for you about the recording of that
deed you nedent be in a hurry about it
pay the taxes if you have money enough
I will send you some money as soon
as I draw some I hant drawed a sent
since the first that i drawed
I get letters from fathers folks evry week
or to the was all well the las that i herd
I will have to stop for this time So good by
right soon from your affectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to Julina Culbertson

Nashville Tenn January 7th /63

Dear wife

I take the opportunity
of writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am still enjoying
the Blessings of life and health and
I hope you all do the same it has been
some time since I have heard from
you I am very anxious to hear
from you but our mail connection
has been cut off again for two weeks
but the Bots has got to running
to Nashville I don't think Morgan can
burn burn the river up if he
can the railroad I suppose you
are anxious to hear from me and
this is the first opportunity that I
have had for two weeks as we
have had a very busy time here
for about that length of time
we have had a very hard battle to
[page 2]

fight at Murfreesboro it ended last
Saturday night after six hard days fighting
I was there last Tuesday after noon and
Wednesday morning I didn't have a hand
in the fight but I did the duty
assigned to me I was cooking for our
detachment and the wagon train
with provisions and baggage was ordered
back to Nashville and I am here yet
we had to fight our way back part
of the time old Rosy was too much for
Bragg this time but I expect he will
follow him up and thrash him
again I saw Linas Stevens that day
we went on the field also I saw John
Lepper I tell you that there was some
hard fighting done there that morning
I <??> the balls fell like hail around
all around where I was one six pound
ball came so close to my head that
I felt the wind of it very plainly
there was 4 or 5 hundred wagons in
the squad and the rebels threw
[page 3]

Canon balls and shells in amongst
us so as to cripple the teams so that
they could capture the provisions but
they slipped up on it there was an
awful Slaughter of men but the amount
is not ascertained yet I have seen
John Parker for two weeks although
I passed within 50 yards of the regiment
the day we left the Battle field but
I did not know it at the time
I think he is all right yet as
near as I can find out that
Brigade was not engaged in the
fight I don't know how long
I will stay here I will write
to you soon and you must do
the same when you write to me
Direct to 1st Battalion Pioneer Brigade
Army of the Cumberland in care of
Lt E Gleason Give my respects to
all inquiring friends and kiss the
children for me So good by for
this time your affectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to Juliana Culbertson

Murfreesboro Tenn Jan the 19th /63
Dear wife

I take this opportunity
of writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well
and happy and I hope you all
enjoy the same Blessing I
received two letters from you
yesterday and was glad to hear from
you it being 3 or 4 weeks since
I got a letter from you it seems
strange that the mail is so irregular
but it is the same way with
other folks letters So I dont complain
it wouldnt do me any good if I did
we will have to put up with it I
Suppose I will try and write to
you every week and you do the same
to me and we will get them some time
I got back here to the Battalion

[page 2]

yesterday I was employed in the
hospital a few days taking care of
the Sick I dont know but I will
go back to the hospital in a few
days the doctor says he wants me
as soon as there is a chance for me
it is the easiest place I have had
yet you said that you did not get
any answer from anything that you
asked me I have tried to answer
everything I think at least I intend
to I am glad to hear that mother
is with you I expect you see a
great many lonesome hours at least
I do I would give anything in
the world if I was at home with
my family again But Julia that
thing is impossible at present So
we will have to wait for future
events and trust in the Lord when
the time comes that I can get to

[page 3]

my family again ~~there~~ I will
go to them with all possible speed

there is no chance to get a furlow
now and to get dis charged I Can
not if I could get either i would
come I guess you had beter not
Sell any corn to pay the taxes yet
let it go a Spell I think I will
get Some money before long it has ben
four months Since any of the men have
got any pay they are making out pay
roles now that looks Some like it
if you can you had better keep the corn
to feed the hogs next Summer wait
a Spell any how tell the children that
I think of the all of the time I would
like to See them as well as all of the
rest of you you want me to tell you
what kind of company I have well
I have all kinds of company a man
Cant pick his company here we
[page 4]

we have to go where we are Sent
and Stay where we are put and come
when we are caled there is all kinds
of people here but Sosiety is demorilized
I have herd but one Sermond preached
Since I left home but I dont
forget to pray and I allways think
of you all in my prairs I read
my testament evry oportunity I get
tell mother I send her my respects I would
like to See her verry much I would
like to have you Send me 50 Cents
worth of postag Stamps I am intierly out
and cant get any in this Country
get them all in one peace and you
Can Send them in a letter you
can buy them at the post office I would
like to be there to eat Some of your
pies and potatoes and cabage and
pig meant you must cooked up
[page 5]

the fifth Page 5

I rote the other Sheat so fool that
I didnt have room to finish so i
will finish on this ~~Sheat~~ Strip
I would like to heare the next

time i heare from you that
you are keeping house and have
got your buckwheat thrashed and
potatoes Dug and corn taken care
of I will Stop righting for this tim
I must right a little to henry
right Soon and right a long letter
tell william walles I want him to
be a good boy and hurry and
learn to right So that he can
right to me I hant heard any
thing from him Since I left right
about him and what he is doing
Give my respects to all So good
by for this time yours in love
from Wm Culbertson Sen
to Julina Culbertson

[page 6]

well Henry you may be
thankful it hant you that is
in the army you would not find
Mam here evry night to go to bed
with I Stand it first rait
here this far but i would like
it better if i Could be at home
rights we have plenty of hard
Bread and Coffy and Shugar
and pork and fresh beef we have
a drove of cattle with us all
the time Henry i tell you that
I am hungry for potatoes and i
want you to eat about ten good
Sised ones for me as Soon as you
get this and this winter when
you are eating pankekes think
of me tell Betsy i send her
my best respects and i would
like to see her verry much give
my respects to all inquiring
friends right to me Soon So good by
for this time your truly
Wm Culbertson Sen
to Henry and Betsy Oneal

Murfreesburrow Feb the 5th /63

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am
well at present and I hope
these few lines will find
you the same I cant think
of much to right this time
the hant any news of imp
ortance at present and I have
riten to you once Since I
got a letter from you I am
on gard to day and
I hant got much to do so
I thought I would right
it is verry disagreeable
wether here at present it is
verry muddy and cold Snowey
wether it Snowed last night

[page 2]

and the Snow lays on the
ground yet I have not got
that box yet you Said in
your last letter that you guessed
I rote to So many that I
dident get time to right
to you i right to you evry
week and fathers folks evry
two or three weeks that is all
the righting that i do John
Parker is well <??>y Williams
Died last week it is one of
the williams that lives down
towards Montpelier he was one
of the new recruits the rest
of the boys has tolerable good
health at present I have not
got any money yet it is
Strange that we dont get
any I dont know but it
is as well that is if you

[page 3]

hant Suffering for money
for it is dangerous Sending

money at present and when
I draw my money I want
to send it home for it is
not safe to carry much
money in this Country when
I do get it I will send it
to you the talk as though we
will draw about the 12 or 15th of
this month I wrote to you last
week and told you what
to call that boy of mine
if the name dont suit you
you must Say so i want you
to take good care of him as
well as the rest of the Children
and your Self right Soon
and let me know how you
get along Keep up a good hart
I will come home the first
[page 4]

opportunity that i get I
think we will all have a
chance to go home this Spring
yet at least i hope so I
keep a good hart and you
must do the same
I think of you all evry
night and morning in my
prayers and you must do
the Same by me give my
respects to all and tell
them that I would like
to See them right soon
So good by for this time
from your affectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to
Julina Culbertson

Murfreesburo Tenn March the 5th /63

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am stil
alive and well and I hope these
few lines will find you all
the Same I would have riten
to you Sooner in the week
but I was waiting to see
if I wouldent get a letter
from you I hant got any
yet this week from you so
I will right a little any
way there hant much news
ot importance to right this
time I am not a pioneer
any more at present our Company
is detailed as Pontooners my
first trial at Pontooning
[page 2]

Dident set verry well
with me we was orderd out
a week ago to night just as
we was getting reddy to go to
bed to go and put in a
Pontton Bridge then it was
huraw Boys lead up the Botes
and go seven milds that night
and put in a Bridge well off
we went and put the Bridge
in and got it dun by three
oclock that night I laid down
on the wet ground to rest
til morning and caught an
afful cold and hant got farely
over it yet I think though
when the wether gets warm
I will like it verry well
the Captin Says that I have
to Drive Eight Mules on one
of the Pontoon wagons what do
[page 3]

you think of that wouldent
you like to See me stradle of
a mule with a single line

driving Eight we drew
part of our money the other
day and I dont know hardly
what to do about Sending
you some it is verry <Scaly?>
Business sending money from
here now there is a report that
the express train was robed
between here and nashville
the other day I think i will
wait a few days and see if
i wont get a chance to send
it by some one that is going
there there is talk now that
Rosencrance has issued orders
to Captains of Companies to
furlow five out of evry hundred
for thirty days to go home

[page 4]

if that is the Case there
will some of the boys get
a chance to go home before
long probily in a week or ten
days you needent look for any
tel you hear from me again
there is lots of the Ruggles
Boys camped within a hundred
rods of here I was over to there
camp the other day but the
was all gon foraging but
Joseph Crow I saw him I Cant
think of any thing more at
present so good by for this
time my respects to you all

from Wm to Julina

Culbertson

Tenn

Murfreesburow March the 15th /63
Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting to you once more to
inform you that I am well and
harty at present and I hope these
few lines will find you injoying
the Same blessing you must Excuse
me for not righting to you last
week we went away one week
ago yesterday to put in a bridge
and didnt get back til about
two hours ago so you see I hadent
a chance to right although I got
a letter from you and was glad
to hear from you you stated in
your letter that you had ben over
to henryes to eat warm shugar
well I would like to have ben
there to but that is all the good
[page 2]

it does me you wanted to know
if I had rather be where i am than
be at home making Shugar I ashure
you I had rather be at home than
be here you wanted to know if
i Could Come home this spring
I think the chance is slim without
the war closes tell della i would
like to have ben home on her burth
day I have got your letters verry
regular for a few weeks I intend
to right to you evry week and
you must do the same I had bad
luck I left my knapsack here
with a fellow and him or some one
els Stole my postage Stamps and
invelops I hant mist any thing
els yet my righting material was
the first thing i looked for after
i got some thing to eat I am
driving teem now i like the business
[page 3]

verry well I hant seen John
parker for two weeks but I presume

he is well I hant got that Box
yet that father sent and I presume
I never will oh how I wish I was
at home but that is all the good
it does me I Still keep up good
hart and hope that the time will
not be long til i can go home
and you must do the same I sent
you some coten seeds in a letter
when you right again tell me whether
you got them or not tell the children
that I would like to see them the must be
good children til i come home give
my respects to mother and all the
rest of the friends I cant think of
any thing more at present I hant sent
you any money yet if i dont get a
chance this week to send it by some
body I will express it to you
[page 4]

right as soon as you get this
and let me know how times
is there I got a letter from
Sammy Barnes last week he was
well also I got one from fathers
folks and the were all well and
one from Elias Brandeberry and he
was well no more at present
So good by for this time
From your affectionate Husband

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Tryune Tenn March the 26th /63

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of writing you a few lines once
more to inform you that I am
well and I hope these few lines
will find you the Same I received
your letter date March the 8th and
was glad to hear from you
I notified you in a letter last
week that I had returned to
the regiment I have ben back
about a week for two or three
days it has been cold and disagre
able but it has cleard of now
and looks verry pleasant I was
out on picket and have just
returned to camp we went out
yesterday morning when we started
it was raining mixt a little with
[page 2]

snow and hail but it soon
broke away and we had a verry
good time with the exceptions it
was rather Cold last night I would
have riten to you sooner in the
week but I hant had time this
week we have ben to work
day and night all most for a
few days building fortifycations
we have got the top of a mountain
nearly fortifyed now so that we
are in purfect safety as long as
in them we are ourly expecting
an atact we are marched out
2 or 3 milds evry day to meat
the rebs but we hant Seen any
thing of them yet although there
is heavy firing a few milds
from here towards Nashville the
Say there is a large force of them
that has got in back of us

[page 3]

So it is uncertain whether this
letter will go through or not
but I thought i would not

wait any longer for it may
be Sevrel days before this raid
will be over although I dont
aprehend any thing verry serious
I hant injoyed better health
Since I have ben in the service
that I have for 3 or four weeks I
Sent you my likeness and ten
dollars in it last week right as
soon as you get it and I will
send you some more I sent
William Walles a Bilet of war songs
tell him to lern some of them so
he can sing them for me when I
get home you wanted to know
how I got along for clothing, I have
Clothing enough of all kinds but
Socks I hant got any but army
[page 4]
socks and the are poor things
I expect Elizabeth was married last
tuesday March the 24th to Horace Heath
Sarah rote to John to that afect
is all that I know about it
Perhaps you know all about it
though you must keep a stif uper
lip for I ashure you I do the
Beat of the Drum nor the crack of
the musket nor the Boom of the
canon dont make me loos a
minutes sleep I have plenty to
eat such as it is and feel first
rait although I would like to be at
home with my family as well as
any body give my respects to
Mother and all inquiring friends tell
the children that I love them all
and would like to see them right
soon from your affectionate husband Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

In Camp Near
tryune Sabath
afternoon April 19 / 63
Dear wife

I now
take this oportunity
of wrihting you a few lines
once more to inform you
that I am on the gain
I feel a great deal better
than I did when I last
roat to you yesterday was the
first that I walked out
to day I had a nother
walk I feel firs rait only
I am weak Julina I got
that Box that father Sent a
day or two ago the things
were pretty Badly Spoild <?>
it there was a can of Aple

[page 2]

Butter and a can of Peach
Sauce that cept first rait
there was a can of cow
Butter that perhaps would way
5 or 6 pounds that is Badly
Spoild although we saved 3 or 4
pounds that is a good as any
we would have to pay the
Suttlers .60.cts for no better the Boots
was fild with apples and the
were all mush there was
Sweet cakes an onions and
all kinds of trash that was
all Spoilt what is good I tell
you it coms good to me now
there was two pare of Socks
that wasent Spoilt a bit the
came good to me for I was
intierly out the let me
eat of the Sauce John
parker hant ben well for
[page 3]

a few days he had got this
Jandice but he is better now

Julina I hardly dare
to hope to get a Discharge
But I am going to try
for one a man never will
get one with out he trys I
shal begin to figer in a
day or two the health of
the regiment is verry good now
I rote to you last week
I Sent you a <??>ler in the
letter that I rote to yo and as
soon as I get some more
I will send it to you
I hope you will get that
likeness for that will be
a considerable of a l<??> tell
the Children that I think
of them every day

[page 4]

tell william Walles he will
to excuse me for not
wrighting to him for I hant
got a great deal of strength
yet give my love to mother
and tell her that I sould
see her my love to you
all right soon and I will
do the Same

Wm Culbertson
to his affectionate Wife
Julina Culbertson

Camp Triune Tenn June the 12th /63
Dear wife

I take this opportunity of
writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well this
morning and I hope these few lines
will find you the same I received
your kind letter of last week and
was glad to hear from you yesterday
was my day to right to you
but we had to stand in line
of battle so I didnt get a
chance to right the rebles maid
a dash in yesterday the
bulldogs began to howl and we
had to Sholder our muskets we
didnt get to see them though
the are wonderful fraid of us
I dont think it will amount
to much the only wanted to see
our Strength and try our courage
[page 2]

I will enclose a ring in
this letter for you and when
you get it right and let me know
how you like it and how it fits
It is the first one I ever maid
you musent put it in warm water
or the sets will come out I suppose
John parker will Start for ohio the
27th of this month I Suppose you
will not get them things that I
boxt up and sent away we herd
that the were taken to the hospital
at nashville for the benefit of the sick
I got a letter from Ben and Mary
this week the were all well also I
got a letter from Ezra the are all
well there hant any posible
chance for me to get a discharge
without I Should happen to get to
a jeneral hospital that is the way
the most of them gets discharges
once in a while if the think
a man is going to dye the will

[page 3]

give them a discharge at the
regiment it is only 14 months
more til we all get a discharge
that is if the war lasts that
long I am in hopes it wont
last that long though I was in
hopes you would go to Ashland
Co and Stay til towards fall
I am sorry to hear of Henryes
and Betsyes bad luck in loosing
there babe we expect to get our
pay again in a few days
I will have to stop righting
for this time to go to camp
Poleaceing I have no knews of
importance to right give my
respects to all kiss the children
for me and tell them I think of
them evry day no more at this
time from your affectionate
Husband

[policing, i.e., cleaning up around camp]

William Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Louisville Aug the 31st / 63

Dear wife

I take my pen
in hand once more to
inform you that I am stil
alive and feel tolerabel well
I am at Louisville in the
hosptial I am gaining a
little evry day Julina It
has a great while since I have
herd from you the last letter
that I have got from you you
rote while you was at John
Baileys and that Seems like a good
while to me I got two letters from
Ruggles last week the are all
well John Parker has got home
Elias Culbertson as much as told
me that he was going to get
married this fall if he wasent
drafted I have forgotten the girls name

[page 2]

I have riten to you evry
week yet and mean to til
I get an answer from you
this last week has ben verry
Cool and plesent we had some verry
hot wether while I was at
Nashville I was there 2 weeks
I hant any news only war
news and I suppose you get
as much of that as we do
I am so that I
hoble about the room on cruches
i hope these few lines will find
you all well give my respects to
all and Kiss the Children for
me I Cant think of any thing
more to right at present so good
bu for this time Direct to me hospital
No 8 ward 8 Louisville Ky from your
affectionate husband william Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

