

Boggs Letters 1861-1864

Song

[image: face of a man wearing a stocking type cap]

Hail. Columbia! Happy Land!

Hail Columbia, happy land! hail, ye heroes! heaven-born band!
Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,
Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,
And when the storm of war was gone enjoyed the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast, ever mindful what it cost;
Ever grateful for the prize, let its altar reach the skies.

CHORUS.

Firm, united let us be, rallying round our liberty!
As a band of brothers joined, peace and safety we shall find.

Immortal patriots, rise once more; defend your rights, defend your shore;
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Invade the shrine where sacred lies of toil and blood the well-earned prize,
While offering peace sincere and just, in heaven we place a manly trust,
That truth and justice will prevail and every scheme of bondage fail.

Firm united let us be, etc.

Sound, sound the trump of fame! let WASHINGTON'S great name
Ring through the world with loud applause,
Ring through the world with loud applause;
Let every clime to Freedom dear listen with a joyful ear;
With equal skill and god-like power be govern'd [sic] in the fearful hour
Of horrid war! or guides, with ease, the happier time of honest peace.

Firm, united let us be, etc.

Behold the chief who now commands, again to serve his country, stand -
The rock on which the storm will beat,
The rock on which the storm will beat;
But, armed in virtue firm, and true, his hopes are fix'd [sic] on heaven and you.
When hope was sinking in dismay, and glooms obscured Columbia's day,

His steady mind, from changes free, resolved on death or liberty.

Firm, united let us be,
MUMFORD AND CO., CINCINNATI.

Undated Letter

Here Is A Song Ballot [sic] Peggy I had for your name Peggy [sic] till Seen it and it was all
Wright [sic] and Sounded Just as Naiteral [sic] Natriel [sic] as ever

Thomas Dallas To Cosin [sic] Peggy And Clark

Undated Letter

I Can Send you A Song Ballot [sic] A Bout [sic] Pore [sic] Soldiers Cold an [sic] Hungry if
you want it

Peggy

Envelope

Addressed to:

Mr [sic] James C Boggs

Racoon Marion County

Illinoise [sic]

[images on envelope: woman holding a US flag leaning on a drum with a picture of a
country scene. The words THE LOYAL STATES, UNION, Indiana are written in the
envelope. There is a 3 cent stamp in the right hand corner that has Washington's profile
on it. There is also a stamp on the envelope that has illegible writing as well as JAN 27
1862 III.]

Envelope

Addressed to:

Mrs [sic] James C Boggs

Marion County Racoon

[illegible letters] III

[images on envelope: An eagle holding a shield with stars and stripes. The words The
Union, The Constitution and the Enforcement of the Laws. is written under the eagle
image.]

Envelope

Written on the envelope: Mr [sic] thomas [sic] parkison [sic] in in [sic] care of Mr [sic] Alexander brient [sic]

[image on envelope: A battle and written underneath: [missing]rate hand to hand encounter over a Battery.]

Envelope

Addressed to:

Mrs [sic] Margaret, Boggs,

Raccoon [illegible]

Marion County

Ills

written on left side of envelope: Soldiers [sic] Letter

Ect Bates Maj

80 Ill Vol.

[stamp: DUE 3]

[stamp: NASHVILLE TENN. MAR 5]

Envelope

Addressed to:

Mrs [sic] Margaret Boggs

Raccoon

Marion County

Ills

[images on envelope: A soldier leaving with a woman, man and little girl standing near him. The words written under the scene: "THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME." He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – O! I do not deem him weak – For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek Go, watch the foremost rank, in danger's dark career; Be sure the band most daring then has wiped away a tear.]

[stamp in upper right hand corner with Washington's profile on it]

Jefferson Barrack

Aug 26 1861

Mr [sic] and Mrs [sic] Boggs

I take the present oppertunity [sic] of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the liveing [sic] as on mercy and pride of eternity I have lots of fun out here I like camp life first rate we have the civilest [sic] company in the regiment and I have the civilest [sic] mess in in [sic] the company we have a Jolly time out here vagay [sic] company yesterday I was at preaching Col Hicks maide [sic] a few remarks after preaching that brought a great many to tears I never heard such heart striking words in my life I dont [sic] beleive [sic] that any person that thinks any could have listened to it without sheding [sic] tears

we have got our shoes and socks and I dont [sic] know when we will get the rest of our uniforms we will get our arms this evening and guess that that [crossed out] we will go to s.t [sic] Louis to morrow [sic] to camp benton [sic] that is the s.t [sic] Louis fair ground there is a talk that we will winter I think that if we winter there that you might come and see me it wont [sic] cost you much you [sic] lodging wont [sic] cost you any thing while you stay with us are you all well how did you like perkins [sic] fore [sic] a preacher does he preach as well as he talks O well I must bring my scribling [sic] to a close by requesting you to write soon I remain your friend

H M Parkison

Direct to [crossed out: Jeffe Barracks]

Jefferson Barracks Missouri in care of capt [sic] Stuart CO H 40th regiment Illinois vol

Fairburg, Sept. 11th, 1861,

[image: flags, a cannon, a drum, an eagle and a man's face in an oval frame. The words: "the UNION! – 'tis your own." DH Tripp and Co, Peoris are written under the image.]

James C Boggs

Sir

In reply to your letter to Nichiols I will state what I wish you to do, if it can be done. Go to the man that bought that horse. if [sic] the horse is worth say \$80. or \$100. in ordinary times, and tell him you want to redeem [sic] it. if [sic] you can get it for about double what you [crossed out] he paid for it, take it of him and I will give Allen his notes and then at any time he can redeem [sic] his horse if he chooses. if [sic] such can be done I will come or send after the horse, and will bring or send the money. perhaps [sic] I had better not confine you to \$10. I will say do the best you can. but [sic] not let the horse cost extravigantly [sic] including the notes.

Put the house in your own charge if you can, and I will pay for his keeping until I get it.
write [sic] soon.

Respectfully Yours.

Wm. B. Nichols by Chas. E. Gray.

firm of Gray to Nichols.

November A.M. 26, 1861

State of Missouri Livingston Co

[image of a flag along the left hand margin with the writing: "And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the Free, and the home of the Brave."]

Dear uncle and aunt i [sic] seat my Self to let you know that We are Well at present hoping When these few lines Will find you all Well I recieved [sic] your letter on the 25 fifth Which gave us grate [sic] Satisfaction to here [sic] that you Was Well I have Nothing Strange to Wright [sic] to you We have left Chilacoth [sic] and gon [sic] four miles West on grand [sic] River it was So Cold to Stay in the [illegible] We Came to the Botom [sic] to Winter We are Clost [sic] to utica [sic] on the Rail Road there has Bin [sic] a good deal of Sickness in the Ridgemen [sic] it is the Measals [sic] and Some has Died With them We haint [sic] lost a man out of Company yet We have twenty five men gon [sic] home to See there [sic] Wivs [sic] and Children and to fetch Some more men With them. i [sic] think We Will get to go home next Spring to Stay and if We dont [sic] get to go home if i [sic] can get a furlow [sic] for twenty Days i [sic] am Coming to See you this Winter if you Will Stuff the Old gobler [sic] for Dinner and the [sic] plet [sic] her for Supplies We have fine times but it is hard telling how long it Will last i [sic] cant [sic] tell We have aworking [sic] to Day in Camp Choping [sic] Old logs and Cuting [sic] Dow [sic] trees and Claring [sic] out the Camp We are going to make this Our home this winter Wright [sic] to me wat [sic] you all are Dooing [sic] these hard times to make Money i [sic] can tell you how i [sic] make money Shooting Rebels [sic] and robing [sic] them i [sic] haft [sic] to cill [sic] fifty for twenty five cts [sic] and then Run like the Dieans [sic] to get to keep it for Some Won [sic] els [sic] Would Want it Joshua and my Self has With us won hundred Dollars in Scrip i [sic] wish Jane had it it is gerting [sic] late and i [sic] must quit So Nothing more at presint [sic] but Remains Your friend till Deth [sic] Wright [sic] Soon as you get this

Cornel Tindoll

Ridge ment [sic] Missouri

Volunteers Twenty 23 Mo.

Direct yours letters to Chilacoth [sic] From Thomas Dallas to William Hicklin And Aunt J Dallas 1861 26

Birds Point Mo

Jan the 25 1862

Dear brother

I now seate [sic] my self for the purpose of writing you a few lines two [sic] let you know of my wellfare [sic] I am quite well and hearty Well Clark I am still fatning [sic] on solding [sic] I now weigh 170 pounds it is rather strang [sic] that wone [sic] will fatten on any thing that they dont [sic] like Well Clark we drawed [sic] new uniform yesterday our caps and coats are a deep dark blue and our pants are a pale blue I havent [sic] nothing of importence [sic] two [sic] write two [sic] you now the boys had quite a rough time when they went out into kentucky [sic] it was very cold part of the time and very weet [sic] the balance [sic] of the time I did not go the day before they sarterd [sic] a kittle [sic] turned over of [sic] the fire and caulded [sic] my foot slightly so that I could not go but it was the first time that I have stayed be hind [sic] well [illegible word crossed out] when we go again I think that we will see the elephant the river [illegible word crossed out] has rose about 14 or 15 feet so that will give the gunboats a good chance at Columbus and I think that they will attact [sic] before long I think that we can clean them out without very mutch [sic] trouble because I think that the gunboats can drive them from there [sic] forts so that we can get a chanel [sic] at them there surle [sic] will be some thing done before long it looks rather strange that they would keep us here doing nothing and keep us from home so long when we might as well go home for the boys was all promised a furlow [sic] ever [sic] three months and now it will soon be six months and no prospect yet of getting there [sic] go home Well if they keep the soldiers here mutch [sic] longer they will go home with out leave fore [sic] there is consderable [sic] of dissatisfaction Well I am in great hopes that we t [crossed out] will all get to go home soon I think that peace will be made against the first June any way the secesh soldiers [sic] time is out the first of february [sic] so that will go against them there was part of our regiment and part of three other regiments hve [sic] started at eight at night and marched and marched on untill [sic] just before day light when all at wonce [sic] the formest [sic] regiment was fired into or they got scared and commenced firing among them selves it was so dark that we could not see [crossed out: a man] a man five steps two [sic] save more life Well the formest [sic] regiment and part of the next fired and evry [sic] wone [sic] was throwed [sic] into confusion and ithink [sic] that our men shot and killed more than the sesech did if there was any there for I dont [sic] think that there was any there Well I saw 4 killed and 14teen [sic] wounded and none died soon after it loked [sic] hard two [sic] see them liing [sic] there in the rain it commenced raning [sic] just after the fire Well we just waited untill [sic] day light and there and there [sic] was no sign of the rebels ever being there Well they have had a lot of prisners [sic] here the citizens out of Mo they had the old Bird her in his cage well he did not sing mutch [sic] Well wone [sic] of his darkeys [sic] was passing his cage and stoped [sic] and looked in and said [crossed out] exclaimed well Massa you worse pile than I eber [sic] be in mi [sic] life and then lauged [sic] and went off steping [sic] as big and high as a colonel

well evry [sic] thing is still and quiet here now I havent [sic] any thing more two [sic]
write of importence [sic] and havent [sic] time two [sic] write more so good by

as ever your affectionate brother John C Boggs

Write soo [sic] and often

Murfeesboro [sic] Tenn January 11th/62

My Dear Wife I now take my [illegible mark] pen in hand once more to let you know that I am still on the land of the living I am well only a diereah [sic] that has run me down considerable I have not had any word from home since this day one month ago but I expect to get one or two this evening And I hope that I will hear that you are all well And I hope that when this findd [sic] you and family in good health Well Margaret We have been on the march ever since Christmas and have rested only two days We started from near Galiton [sic] and went to Glasgo [sic] and from there to Cave Citty [sic] after Morgan and from there to Bowling Green and from there to Nashville Tenn and from there to Murfeesboro [sic] and now in camps Two miles east of Murfeesboro [sic] with General Rosencrans [sic] main army and I expect we will get to rest a few days We passed over the battle field or a portion of it it looked bad to see the destruction of horses and mules but not as bad as if the dead bodies of the men had a been lying as they were a few days before There was not any of the boys that I knew killed David Goree and the three Couch boys Tom Gaston Green Elking John McRaney Matthew Gaston Lacy Beard all Safe S.M. Cummingham Wounded in leg and Prisoner Paroled Matthew and George Cinningham Prisoners James McCrary Wounded taken Prisoner and Parrolled [sic] Well my Dear wife I expect you know more of the battle that was fought at this place than I do so I will not attempt to tell you any thing more we get no papers Well I would be glad to see you all again and I hope that this will soon come to a close that I may have the pleasure of seeing you all and if I should be called into an engagement and fall a Sacrifice for my Country that it is for my Country that I am fighting and for the rising generations [sic] hapiness [sic] There is no thought of there being an engagement near this place but I do not know how soon we may pursew [sic] the fleeing enemy Well Margaret I do not know how things is geting [sic] along at home to give you any advice how to manage So you will have to manage things the best you know how you will remember me in your prayers So no more at present But Remain your affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death

James C. Boggs

To Margaret Boggs

When you Write direct your letters to Nashville Tenn in this way

James C Boggs

Co. H. 80th Regiment

Illinois Vol Nashville Tennessee [sic]

Murfreesboro Tenn January 20th/62

[Written on top margin: Write as often as you can you Write whether you want any bddy [sic] to go on the place or not and Who you would like to have on it]

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to let you hear from me I am Well enough to attend to duty again I am in hopes that those lines will find you and the children all Well and harty [sic] and doing Well I have had a little Sick Spell I was right sick for two days with cold and diereah [sic] Joseph has been Sick for Eight days with fever he is better and has been on the mend for three days and I think he will get along Well my dear Wife I have not had any word from you Since the 11th of Dec and I am almost Sick to hear from you once more and you will keep writing and probaly [sic] I will get one after a while [sic] I would be more than glad to See you and the Children once more and to hear their Sweet voices around me Well I have been around Some Since we came here I have seen Several of my friends I have seen S. M. Cunningham he was wounded in the right leg and [crossed out] above the knee a flesh wound and he is geting [sic] along well and thinks he will be able to go home in a few days he was Parolled [sic] Rev. John. McMaster was here and Preached on Sabbath about a mile from our Camp and I went to hear him and he Sends his best respects to all the friends he preached us an excellent [sic] Short Sermon he is in the War hart [sic] and hand Well My Dear Wife we have had wet disagreeable weather for Some time back it had been raining a greateal [sic] of late and the streams is full and flush and Some bridges injured there was some of our teams was water bound for five days between here and Nashville Well Margaret you would like to know some thing of how I am geting [sic] along in the cold and wet I have had plenty of clothing but my pants is geting [sic] considerably worn is the worst I am off for clothing at this time in your next you will Send me a Scane [sic] of flax thread for I cannot get it here We have not received any pay Since we left Centralia I have been without any money for some time but I could get along if I could get paper and tobaco [sic] I am out of both and will have to do without untill [sic] I get Some money you can Send some paper in your letters paper is scarce and is Worth two cents per Sheet you need not try to Send any thing only in letter for any packages hardly ever comes to us you Spoke of sending Some tobaco [sic] it would not get here at all Well Margaret you will remember me in your prayers and pray that peace may Soon be restored on our once happy land again and that husbands and sons may return to their once happy homes and friends So no more at Present but Remain your Affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death James C. Boggs To Margaret Boggs

[The following was written on the same paper right after the above letter.]

Jan 22nd/63

My Dear Wife I received a letter from you to day and was So glad that I had to Shed tears over it I am tolerable well only I am tierd [sic] with scouting the rebles [sic] took about thirty of our wagons and teams and one hundred and fifty of our men out of the

hundred and fifth Ohio Regiment and Robert Oldfield was taken with them and we went out after them and we lay out night without any blankets and we suffered with cold and this morning I and three others left the regiment and returned to camp I was to [sic] weak to stand the fatigue I am in hopes that they will catch them we heard that our cavalry was in one mile of them but I am afraid they will not catch them It was a forageing [sic] expedition that they were on Mr [sic] Franklin Hogue has just been in to see se [sic] me and he is well and harty [sic] he thinks he may Stop and see you all as he returns home Tell Bet I have not forgotten [sic] her or any of the Friends at home but I cannot write to all for I cannot get paper to write James C Boggs to Margaret Boggs

January the 24 AD 1862

State of Missouri Livingston County

Dear Uncle and Aunt

It is with pleasure that is [sic] Seat my Self to Wright [sic] you A few lines to let you know that we are bowth [sic] well At present hoping when these few lines Comes to hand they will find you all well and in good helth [sic] i [sic] have wrote to you fore [sic] or five times and i [sic] have Not got any answer yet I thaught [sic] iwould [sic] wright [sic] you another won [sic] I have not herd [sic] from ay [crossed out] any of you for Some time and iwould [sic] like to here [sic] from Some of you the Best in the World i [sic] got A letter from Jane Sweten and Betsy and georg [sic] pope [sic] and they was well and Satis fied [sic] of There [sic] Moove [sic] they had Made from Missouri to Illinois they Say they are Dooing [sic] Well and Wants Josh and My Self to Come to them But i [sic] cant [sic] go till we get loose from Uncle Sam and i [sic] dont [sic] know When We Will get home [crossed out: Whether or I not] or Not But i [sic] hope we will See that Day to Come When you Wright [sic] to us tell whare [sic] to wright [sic] to uncle John Sloan for i [sic] dont [sic] know whare [sic] to Wright [sic] to him and Wright the name of the Post Office and Wright [sic] if uncle David Canaday wright [sic] if we have to Direct to Sprty [sic] or Not and if he [crossed out] we haft [sic] to Wright [sic] to him I have wrote to All the Cin [sic] and herd [sic] from All but Stephen Ogdon and Nancy When you get This Wright [sic] Soon and let Me know how you all are and Dont [sic] forget to Wright [sic] And Dont [sic] for get to Direct your letters to Chillicothe Moissouri [sic] and put Company D and the 23 Ridgement [sic] Mo volunteers Nothing More At Present But Remains your friend Till Death

From Thomas Dallas To Uncle William Hicklin

Dont [sic] For get [sic] to Direct to the 23 Ridgement [sic] Missouri Volunteers and put on Company D and i [sic] will get it any whare [sic] i [sic] go

Wright [sic] Soon and tell All to Doo [sic] the Same

Co D Co Co. D. D

Co D Co D CO D

Thomas Dallas and Joshua Dallas i [sic] send my Best [rest is cut off]

March 11 1862

[illegible text]

Livingston Mo

[image on letterhead of a flag and a circle within the flag that has 2 gentlemen shaking hands and the caption: UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL] There is also a man in armor standing on a rock that says Columbia]

Dear Coisin [sic]

This is the 11 of March that iseat [sic] my Self to Answer your Cind [sic] letter that you rote [sic] To me We are Bowth [sic] well At this time Hoping when these few lines Comes to hand they will find you All well I have Nothing Strange to Wright [sic] to you this Morning i [sic] was on gard [sic] when i [sic] recieved [sic] your letter and to day iwas [sic] on gard [sic] it is the Talk we haft [sic] to go to Tenisee [sic] and we are Orderd [sic] from here the first of A [crosse dout] Aprile [sic] and the day we leave here will bee [sic] Some fighting to do for us and i [sic] dont [sic] know how that will go but iwill [sic] Say for my Self idont [sic] think it much fun in the game of musket Balls Coming Against A fellow Some Says it is nothing But fun I recieved [sic] A letter from Jane and Betsy March 10 and they war [sic] all well whey [sic] they rote [sic] the letter March has Bin [sic] the worst Month on us Since we Came in the Survis [sic] it has Snowed and rained evry [sic] Day Since the first Day But this Day and yestar [sic] Day [looks like Ane has been erased] and has Bin [sic] very Cold on us for we have Bin [sic] out on A Scout all the time and you wanted to know if we have killed Any rebal [sic] i [sic] cant [sic] tell you for Surtain [sic] But i [sic] can tell you what eye [sic] have Seen Out from Camp in the winter i [sic] have Seen the Snow for won [sic] half mile you Couldont [sic] See the Snow for Blood that was on Wilson Creek and the rebals [sic] Cant [sic] last long for uncle Sams [sic] boys will Cill [sic] them all in afew [sic] more Battles peggy [sic] I have bin [sic] home too [sic] times in Seven Monts [sic] we have plenty of evry [sic] thing Eat and Drink and plenty of Money to Spend when we See Any thing we want When you get this wright [sic] all the war news you know Nothing More At Present But remaning [sic] you Cosins [sic] Till Deth [sic]

From Thomas Dallas To Peggy Boggs

Pore [sic] Soldiers Pore [sic] Soldiers Pore [sic] Soldiers Cold and Hungry

March the 26 1862

St Louis Camp Benton Mo

Dear Cosin [sic] it is with plasure [sic] that iseat [sic] my Self to Answr [sic] your Cind [sic] letter we are Bowth [sic] well At present hoping when these few lines Comes to

hand they will find you all well I have Nothing Strang [sic] to wright [sic] to you At this time I recieved [sic] your to Day and was glad to here [sic] from you but iwas [sic] Sorry to here [sic] of the boys geting [sic] Cut up so at fort Donalson [sic] but Some body hast [sic] to fall in time of battle to gain our freedom back We are wating [sic] here to here [sic] the orders to march from here the Captain thinks we will leave here this week for [illegible] the way the Damd [sic] rebals [sic] runs is fun to us here but it may not be fun long to us but the boys are all redy [sic] to try the rebals [sic] a full O yess [sic] I Came very near forgetting [sic] to tell you John Pope is in here to Night and won [sic] of his Brothers John Po is by my left Side looking at me writing and he has my Spring riful [sic] in his hand looking at it and he says he Can Cill [sic] any rebal [sic] ever looked out of mustashes [sic] We will have the trial of Shooting at them there is fifty or Sixty peases [sic] of Cannon in Camp Benton at this time and men no end to them John pope [sic] belongs to the 15 soura [sic] reg He Sends His Best Respects to All of you You Said you had wrote four letters to us but we never got But two of them And i [sic] have Answerd [sic] them evry [sic] won [sic] of them we herd [sic] from Jane and Betsy and they was well and harty [sic] and well pleased to here [sic] from us Cleary and Alfred is well and Dooing [sic] well When you read this Wright [sic] Soon and let me kow [sic] how you are Nothing More A [sic] present but Remains Your Cosins [sic] till Deth

From Thomas Dallas To Clark Boggs and Cosin [sic] Peggy Boggs

Tell All The Pretty girls for me i [sic] want them to Wright [sic] to me Wright [sic] to me if Emly [sic] Hays is marrad [sic] or not

Direct to the 13 reg Mo Vols Co D

From Thomas Dallas To Clark Boggs and To All the Cin [sic] Foaks [sic] T D C B

Camp near Louisville Kentucky

Sept 7th/62

[written on letter head that says at the top: "He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – Oh do not deem him weak- For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek; Go, watch the foremost ranks in danger's dark career, Be sure the hand most daring there has wiped away a tear," Color image of a girl burying her head in a soldier's right shoulder. Written on the left: Published by JAMES GATES Cincinnati. Written on the paper: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.]

My dear wife

I now take the opportunity of fullfilling [sic] my promise of writing to you I am in good health but I am a little wrried [sic] from marching and looseing [sic] Sleep I hope when this reaches you it will find you all well and a geting [sic] along well I will toll [sic] you something of our journey we rode on the cars from Centralia to the Ohio river at Portland [crossed out] newalbany [sic] Ind we had a fine time riding on the cars and we landed at Portland [crossed out] new Albany on Friday night And had a fine supper

given to us by the co [crossed out] citizens of the Town the [crossed out] They appeared to be as glad to see us as if we were connection We received our armes [sic] at Portland [crossed out] Newalbany [sic] on yesterday and crossed the river about five oclock [sic] in the evening and had the pleasure of showing our new Guns to the Citizens of Louisville Then they appeared to be glad to See us And there appeared to be a larg [sic] majority of them loyal cheerd us all the way through the City From the citty [sic] out to camp we had a horrible [sic] time with the dust we have

Sept 8th/62

a nice place to camp high rolling ridges and Springs to get water from The health of the company is generlly [sic] good we left two of our men on the road sick Meg Porter at New Albany Sick There is considerable of excitement in the coutry [sic] around here but I think there is not mutch [sic] danger at present there is some Thirty Thousand infantry around here Two Thousadad [sic] Cavalry and I do not know the quanty [sic] of Artillery [sic] There was a Regiment of Indiana troops cut to pieces not far from here but the officers was said to all be drunk and were a raw recreut [crossed out] regiment and f [crossed out] thought they caould not be wiped [sic] and acted the fool I have to go on drill so no more at present farewell y [crossed out] my Dear Margaret Peggy

James C Boggs

Direct letters to Camp near Louisville Then Co H 80 regiment Ills volunteers or Direct in this way James C Boggs Co H 80 Regiment Camp near Louisville Ky

Sept 11/62

Camp near Louisville KY

[written on letter head that says at the top: "He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – Oh do not deem him weak- For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek; Go, watch the foremost ranks in danger's dark career, Be sure the hand most daring there has wiped away a tear," Color image of a girl burying her head in a soldier's right shoulder. Written on the left: Published by JAMES GATES Cincinnati. Written on the paper: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.]

My Dear wife

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and I hope these lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing of God [crossed out: wa] we mooved [sic] on yesterday about one mile to get a better situation for Camping we have a nise [sic] place to drill on and have to drill six hours a day besides dress parade and it keeps us busy all all [sic] the time some of the boys thinks it hard to to [sic] drill so mutch [sic] The health of the company of [crossed out] is good Samuel Y Andrews had a spell of the diareah [sic] yesterday and is better to day only one other sick in our company some others complaining Meg Porter is better and with the Company there was one of Captain Stratens [sic] men gun fierd [sic] accidentally on picket and shot off the fore

finger and the next one to it half off of the right hand one of the cavalry men shot himself through the hand accidentally with a pistol ball oth [sic] day There is no enemy near here that I have heard of Since we came here they were said to be in a few miles of here three days before we came here but I guess we gave them a scare The Brigade general is a fool al [sic] of our Officers have fell out with him he is an upstart of a captain of Artilery [sic] that was whiped [sic] at Richmond in Ky the Indianah [sic] was with him and it is reported that he was drunk this morning our officers has petitioned our governor to be removd [sic] from under him Well I would be glad to see you all but there is no use of talking about going home as long as we are under this fool General There are Two of our companies out on Picket and Two men from each Compny [sic] gone on a forageing [sic] Expedition this Evening So no more at Present Farewell yu [crossed out] my Dear wife and Children and as [crossed out] Connection

Write as soon as convenient and as often Direct to Company H 80th Reg Illinois Volunteers

James C Boggs

Sept 15th/62

Camp Buel [sic] Ky

[written on letter head that says at the top: "He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – Oh do not deem him weak- For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek; Go, watch the foremost ranks in danger's dark career, Be sure the hand most daring there has wiped away a tear," Color image of a girl burying her head in a soldier's right shoulder. Written on the left: Published by JAMES GATES Cincinnati. Written on the paper: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.]

My Dear wife

I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am harty [sic] and well at present and hope that these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing of God We mooved [sic] on Friday about tw [crossed out] two miles toward Louisville and the report is to day that we go to Louisville to marrow [sic] to take passage to some other point but we do not know where we are a going to I am Satisfied to Stay here for we have a healthy Situation here plenty of Good spring water to drink bit [sic] Since I commence writing we went out on drill and received orders to march at Seven Oclock [sic] tomarrow [sic] morning for some place I do not know were [sic] I wil [sic] write as soon as I know were [sic] we stop Well it has been verry [sic] warm to day [sic] and looks lik [sic] rain to night [sic] there is lots of troops around here there was three bateries [sic] of Artilery [sic] in Sight of us last night one of them left this morning for lebanon [sic] Ky about ninety miles from here Well I have not heard from home since I left home I would be glad to hear from home there is some of our men is sick but none of them dangerously bad it is late and I must quit writing and fix for bed So Farewell my dear and affectionate wife

Margaret Boggs from your husband James. C. Boggs

Camp near Louisville Ky

Sept 19th/62

[written on letter head that says at the top: "He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – Oh do not deem him weak- For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek; Go, watch the foremost ranks in danger's dark career, Be sure the hand most daring there has wiped away a tear," Color image of a girl burying her head in a soldier's right shoulder. Written on the left: Published by JAMES GATES Cincinnati. Written on the paper: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.]

Mrs [sic] Margaret Boggs after considerable delay I Answer the letter I received from you I received it yesterday morning at Two O'clock [sic] and was glad to hear that you were all getting better of the sore eyes I am Well and harty [sic] and tierd [sic] and I hope these lines will find you all well. I stated in my last not [sic] that we had marching orders We did march on Tuesday out to Louisville on review and a march it was Every thing packed tents struck and wagons loaded in Marching order. Off we Started for Louisville four miles and in the hot Swultered [sic] Street of Town with coats on and buttoned up to the neck and Knapsacks on our backs catridge [sic] box and and [sic] Equipment in proper place with Forty rounds of Catridge [sic] we went through review and then marched Four miles in the hot streets and then out to our old Camp again and the road from town to camp was Strown [sic] with men over come with heat There was Thirteen of company H came in In [sic] regular order I was one of the Thirteen Three Companies not one came in it was expected that there would be a number die of the heat but I have not heard of any yet and I hope there will be none! We rested one day and received marching orders For five O'clock [sic] Thursday morning we got up at two O'clock [sic] and started at five and pitched our tents again at nine O'clock [sic] Two and one miles nearer Louisville on a nice camping ground And at two O'clock [sic] I was detailed with nineteen men from our company to dig Rifle pits a place for Sharp Shooters And we worked till night and then received orders to prepare two days rashons [sic] to go on a scout but the order was countermanded and we did not go the general impression of firm men is that there will be no fiting [sic] here but there is no harm in being prepared to fight if the enemy does come on us I can give no Ideal [sic] of the number of troups [sic] around here Some says Fifty Some Sixty Some Seventy five Thousand I am not alarmed at the preperation [sic] that is going on here but I do not know what may come I am in good spirits and so is the most of the boys I would be glad to be wit [sic] you and the children you stated in yours that you wanted to send my Likeness to you I have no chance of geting [sic] it where I am

[continued on paper with same letter head as first page]

Or I would send it immediately I will get it and send it as soon as I can. The privates is not allowed to go out into town unless on important business and such as that is not considered important business

As for yours and the childrens [sic] I would like to have them but it would be a heap of trouble to take care of it I know of Several that has got Spoiled already with Sweat and other ways So counting the trouble and expense I do not think it would pay to send it Well the weather is warm and dry last night was the coolest we have had Since we came into the State the corn crops is light as far as I have seen I have seen some fine sweet Potatoes and Watermellons [sic] and I Guess I have helped to eat some of them The old Secesher's [sic] Potatoes Chickens Geese and pigs Suffers when the Boys Can get their fingers on them but they do not waste as a general thing It is against orders to take them without we nead [sic] them I had forgot the irish [sic] Potatoes they come in in good play to [sic] we drewed [sic] irish [sic] potatoes for three days from one patch by order of the officers there is some grapes that is taken in double quick without order of officers Well I will tell you somaethin [sic] of our Regiment the big officers Says we have the best Regiment of men they ever saw and Company H the best company of the regiment Well write soon and tell the friends all to write and I will answe [sic] as far as I will have time it is not every day that I have time to write but tell them to send on their [sic] letters for I would be glad to hear from any of them Our first Lewtenant [sic] said that the Colonel Mr [sic] Allen Said that he expected we would stay here and drill for some time probably all fall So no more at present Farewell my Dear and Affectionat [sic] family and I [crossed out] Inquiring Friends

To Margaret Boggs From her Affectionate husband James C Boggs

Sept 24/62

Camp near Louisville KY

[written on letter head that says at the top: "He turn'd [sic] and left the spot – Oh do not deem him weak- For dauntless was the soldier's heart, though tears were on his cheek; Go, watch the foremost ranks in danger's dark career, Be sure the hand most daring there has wiped away a tear," Color image of a girl burying her head in a soldier's right shoulder. Written on the left: Published by JAMES GATES Cincinnati. Written on the paper: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.]

Mrs [sic] Margaret Boggs My Dear I take pen in hand to write a line to let you know that I am well and harty [sic] and I hope these lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing of God I received yours on night before last and I was glad to hear that you were all well I would of answered sooner but I have been on duty all the time since untill [sic] this morning the last two nights we have lain with our armes [sic] at hand ready for active at a moments [sic] warning it is reported that the enemy is within a few milles [sic] of us their pickets were driven in monday [sic] night by our scouts about Forty miles from here a comeing [sic] on our scouts was two thousand strong all cavary

[sic] on their return they burned all the bridges of importance on the way And the report was that Buel [sic] was only ten hours [sic] march behind the enemy I think we have got them in a trap and some of these days it will fall and catch a lot of the enemy they say they have Seventy Five Thousand but what can they do between two larg [sic] armies They have to fight or surrender and surrender looks like their only chance We have over one hundred Thousand men here I do not think we will be attacked here we are to [sic] well prepared for them at least I dont [sic] think we will have to fight but there is a great excitement in camps and Louisville the women is all ordered out of town over the river the sick is all taken over the river but that dont [sic] proove [sic] that we will have a fight Well our Company has been out cutting corn down out of the way about 1.10 acres Well I have been looking for Martins [sic] regiment but have not seen anything of them yet I must quit and fix to go on picket duty I like to go out on picket to get sweet potatoes So no more at present give my best respets [sic] to all inquiring friends Farewell my Dear and Affectionate Wife

James C Boggs to Margaret Boggs

Sept 29th/62 Camp Near Louisville

My Dear Wife I now have an hour or Two to rest and I pen a line for you to let you know that I am well and I hope these lines will find you the same I have had no news from home for some time I have only received two letters Sunce I left home I would like to receive another from Some Sorce [sic] I am tierd [sic] and sleepy to day and so nervice [sic] that I can hardly write at all I was on picket Duty night before last all night did not lie down at all and on camp duty guard last night five of our Corporals is not able for duty and it makes it hard on the other three to do the service of the company Well I cannot think of mutch [sic] to wright [sic] our Company divides into meses [sic] to day we have been divided into tent messes for three weeks our tent mess J M Boggs Thomas Davis of Centralia a verry [sic] civil man James Clayborn Wm Clayborn Franklin andrews [sic] and mySelf [sic] Eating mess 22 in number the first mess of the company [2 illegible words crossed out] Well no more of that I have not got my minature [sic] yet we are not allowed to go into town only on official business there was an order given to the captain of each company to give leave to Two men of each Company for one half day to go out to see friends So I do not know when I can get to go out I have been looking for the 111 Regiment but have had no word from them There is about Two hundred Thousand men around Louisville I have seen Several men that was in the pea ridge [sic] fite [sic] I have seen James McCrary and James Hoge they are harty [sic] and well I was glad to see them Well we have had a heap of talk of a battle and there is no more prospect of one now than there was a week ago the report came to us yesterday wile [sic] on picket that the enemy was comeing [sic] we waited for them untill [sic] Sundown and did not see any of them nor have I heard of there being any nearer than twelve miles of here I say if they want to come let them come we are ready but they will not come Well I am tiered [sic] and lazy and sleepy So I will quit and

get ready for dinner write soon and let me know where the 111 is gone to if you know
So Farewell ymy [sic] Dear Fansill [sic]

From your affectionate Husband

yours Truly James. C. Boggs

Oct 15th/62

Camp near Danville KY

My Dear and affectionate wife I now take the present opportunity of writing you another letter to let you know how I am getting along I am well at present and have been well and I hope these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing of God I will tell you something of our traveling we have been on the march for two weeks to day [sic] we are resting and the talk is that we will stay here some time and rest We have been driving old Brag [sic] ever since the first days [sic] march and on the Eighth of this month we thrashed him and since have drove and scattered and captured his army and is still after them I heard fiering [sic] this morning we had them surrounded and they were obliged to Scatter to get out and our forces is catching some of them every day Well we have got so far out in the country to get any news of importance and I know nothing about what is going on in other places only reports Well we Suffered for water for Three days before the fight and the day of the fight we had our canteens filled at five oclock [sic] in the morning and had no more of consequence untill [sic] Eleven oclock [sic] that night and it was warm and dry and dusty the next day we rested and the next day it rained and we mooved [sic] about two miles and we have had pleasant marching and plenty of water But we have suffered some for provisions for the day of the battle our provision train was part of it ordered back some miles for fear of a defeat But it came up to day [sic] Well the day of the Battle is a day I will remember I never was more out dun [sic] in my life than I was that evening we traveled about seven miles and then went one mile on double quick into the fight and after being engaged fell back and rested a while and then mooved [sic] another mile on double quick to another portion of the field to support a battery and remained there untill [sic] dark then fell back one quarter of a mile and lay on our armes [sic] all night expecting to go into it in the morning again but was hapily [sic] disappointed they skedadled [sic] that night our guns opened the next morning but received no answer from them and a part of our forces that was not engaged the day befor [sic] followed on after them and came up with them the next day but they run like white heads Well there has no more of our company died since I last wrote S G Andrews is geting [sic] along well yesterday morning there one of our company that has not come in yet Meg Porter the last we heard of him he was runing [sic] about a mile from the field of battle witout [sic] a gun Well I lost every thing I had of Clothing except one suit all my paper and ink and books Well farewell my affectionate wife J C Boggs

Munfordsville [sic] Hart County Ky Oct 18th/62

My Dear Wife Margaret Boggs I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and have been well and harty [sic] and I hope that those lines will find you and the children enjoying the same blessing of Almighty God And I hope you will look to him for aid and comfort in your troubles and call on him to bless your efforts as [crossed out] in training the little ones under your care and recollect your Husband in your prayers We have had verry [sic] disagreeable weather for two days raining day and night but it is warm but I expect a cold Storm when it clears up again Well the regiment is dwinling [sic] away verry [sic] fast some sick and dying others unwell and not able for duty There was one of our Regiment died on Sabbath and there was Three of our Regiment buried on yesterday and Four or five others in the hospital that is not expected to live. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the regiment with the treatment that they receive and the Colonel he is not fit for a sergahnt [sic] for he is not capable of Commanding a company and he is cross and crabet [sic] to his men and is all the time a looking for a higher position I believe there will be a mutiny in the regiment in a Short time if there is not a change The Major is gone to Washington Citty [sic] and I think there will be a change when he gets back and we are lookind [sic] for him every day Well Margaret I do not want you to make yourself [sic] uneasy about me for I think I can take care of myself with what little experience I have had in souldering [sic] I only have to go on guard duty every other day and night I would be glad to be freed from such service for it looks so verry [sic] bad to be carrying an old musket to guard men from going where they wish I mean good honest men in civilized Country we have some Secesh around here but they do not dare to cut up here there is one some times comes in and reports to the colonel and he cuts up and then the men gives him fits for protecting secesionists [sic] property Some of the men went out on Sabbath day and brought in Some apples and there was a man came in and reported that the boys had been stealing them from him and the Colonel never made him proove [sic] that he was a loyal citizen but had every tent in the regiment searched and there was some Apples found and the men arrested And by such conduct as that and worse the regiment is down on him [illegible] I am in hopes that things will soon go off more smoothly there is no force of the enemy near here that I have heard of it has quit raining and looks like it is going to clear off again Well Margaret I will close this and write a line for your Father so no more at present But Remain Your Affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs to Margaret Boggs

[written on same paper]

Munfordsville [sic] Oct 18th/62 P.M.

Mr [sic] Wm Hicklin Sir

I have thought that I would write a line for you for some time and have neglected it untill [sic] now I would be glad to be at your house to talk to you about matters and things in general And I would be glad to be there to help you gather in the corn and to take care

of the things peggy [sic] stated in her last letter that your eyes was not well yet I am sorry that it is the case but it cannot be helped you will do the best you can with the things and what you are not able to attend to haire [sic] some one to attend to it and I will make it all right Some time if I live to get home I wish you to write and let me know how things is doing and how you and the neighbors is getting with your work And if you know where John Hicklin is write to me and I can write to him I would like to know how he is geting [sic] along it [crossed out] So No More at present But remain Your Affectionate Son Till Death

James C Boggs to W, Hicklin

Write soon if your eyes is so you can for I am glad to hear from home

Lebanon Ky Oct 21st/62

[image at top of paper of soldiers taking a fort with the caption TAKING FORT DONELSON]

Mrs [sic] Boggs I received yours of the Eighth last night and was rejoiced to hear that you were all well I am well at present and have been harty [sic] all the march and I hope these lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing of God We left Danville at two oclock [sic] on sabbath evening and landed at Lebanon at two on Monday [sic] evening a forced march of Thirty miles I made the trip all safe and sound We are resting to day [sic] and I expect we will rest a day or two untill [sic] the rest of our brigade comes up there was only two regiments of our brigade in our moove [sic] from danville [sic] When we moove [sic] again I cannot tell where we will go but the talk is that we will go to Nashville Tennisee [sic] Well Peggy you will expect me to tell some thing about the moovements [sic] of the rebels but if you get the papers you know more about it than I do For we have reports that they are one place and the next day away in a different direction alltogether [sic] one thing I do know that is we drove old Brag [sic] into the mountains and I think by this time he is out of Kentucky For up to the time we left Danville the prisoners taken from his army were being brought in every day more or less on Saturday [sic] I saw eight of them come in Three were commited [sic] to goal [sic] for high way [sic] robbery [sic] and five were parrolled [sic] the report was that there would be three hundred the next morning to be parrolled [sic] Well there is quite a number of our Company that is sick and give out and left behind Jacob Lieuty is the only one left that you know S G And we have not heard from since I last wrote Well I do not know whether I have said any thing about the country not in my other letters I will say this now that we have passed over some awfull [sic] rough country hilly and rocky And some verry [sic] nice country where we are now it is nice the corn and hay crops is good hogs and Cattle is apparently plenty the wheat crop I think from appeance [sic] was light tobaco [sic] and coton [sic] I have seen none of that yet Well Peggy tell the old man that I would like him to write as often as convenient for I would be glad to hear from home every day tell the friends to write and not wait on me for it is

not every day that I have time to write I would be glad to hear what is doing in our settlement so no more at present

I Remain your Affectionate Husband In this I inclose [sic] some red silk ribon [sic] found on the battle field

James. C. Boggs

Munfordsville [sic] Hart County Ky Oct 22nd/1862

My Dear Wife I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and I hope these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing of God I received yours of the 15th on yesterday and was verry [sic] glad to hear that you were all well I am sorry to hear that your eyes is not well yet. you wrote to me about Wm Mercer and you supposed it did not get to me I received the first and wrote immediately and you have not received from me I have writen [sic] several letters that I know that you have not received I sent a bolt of Silk riben [sic] in a letter and if you got it let me know in your next I would not of taken a dollar for it. I found it on the battlefield And I have sent my miniture [sic] to you and I am afraid it will not reach you Well I will tell you something about the Mercer Debt my understanding in trade was that he would pay interest from due untill [sic] payed [sic] if I recollect right but I have forgotten [sic] how it was and you and him will have to fix it up the best you can and I will be satisfied I wish I was at home a few days to attend to such business as that in place of you having to do it for me we are Still here and I expect we will remain here I have heard no talk of us going to Columbus at this time there is two Companies of our Regiment guarding the station at Cave Citty [sic] and one is Some place guarding a Bridge and [crossed out] There is a good many of our Regiment Sick And there has been Five deaths in the [illegible word crossed out] last week three out of our company Henry Beadals – Alpherd Richardson – Robert Falkner Beadals and Falkner had the Measles Richardson had been lingering for some weeks there is three cases of Measles in the hospital from our Company two of them is geting [sic] better there is quite a number of our company that is unwell but is still able to stay in camps Well we have had some disagreeable weather we have had three days of rain and to day [sic] is a nice day we had the hardest freeze last night that we have had

Well our Major has returned to day [sic] but I have heard none of his news yet he was out on battalion Drill and he looked as pleasing as a basket of chips I have not anything of Interest to write you said that S.D. Hays was to Commence gathering our corn and I hope it is nice weather so that he go a head [sic] and get it in out of the weather So No More At Present But Remain Your Affectionat [sic] Here I Stoped [sic] Short And went to the buriel [sic] of Robbert [sic] Falkner and casey [sic] Redburn it was a Solemn buriel [sic] with the Solemn Music and the men with arms Three vollys [sic] faired [sic] after they were put in the Grave No More At present But remain Yours Affectionat [sic] Husband untill [sic] death

James. C. Boggs to Margaret Boggs

Munfordsville [sic] Hart County Oct 25th/62

My Dear Wife I now tak [sic] the opportunity of writing you a line to let you know that I am well and harty [sic] and I hope when these lines comes to hand they will find you enjoying [sic] the same blessing of God Well we started from Lebanon on Wednesday Morning and landed here yesterday evening a march of Forty five miles in Three days the talk is that we go to Nashville next There is no rebles [sic] near here in armes [sic] that I have heard of this place is well fixed with breast work it is the place where there was a fight when we were at Louisville and our men were take [sic] prisoners Well I have not mutch [sic] time to write and it is a chilly disagreeable morning cloudy and looks like rain it has been verry [sic] pleasant weather and all this month we have had only one wet day the rords [sic] have been some dusty We have had plenty of water ever since the next day after the battle Our provisions has been rather scarce and to day [sic] we have two crackers a piece but we will have time to parch corn and we may have some meal Every thing almost is eat up in this part of the state And it is the poorest place to live in I ever saw I will have to quit for the time the mail goes is about up so farewel [sic] my Dear and affectionate wife and children yours affectionately

James. C. Boggs

Munfordsville [sic] Ky Oct 28th/62

Dear Mrs [sic] Boggs I again take pen in hand to let you know that I am well and harty [sic] at present and I hope that these lines will find you and [illegible letters crossed out] children the same we have been here four days and Saturday night we had about three inches of snow it went off on sabbath and we have had pleasant weather since cold frosty nights and mornings to day [sic] high winds and we had a faire [sic] in camps company F was considerable damaged by it in blankets and overcoats we have shelters made of shock fodder and you may guess how they would burn a dry day we haver had no tents since we left Louisville we were a looking for our tents Every day now to be up with us Well I guess we will stay here a few days longer to guard the Bridge here at this place old Brag [sic] Burnt it down before he left here they are now rebuilding it for the second time since the war began it is a large Bridge it is reported here to day [sic] that there is fighting at Nashville but I do not believe it I think it Likely that we will go in that direction to guard the Railroad as it is repared [sic] The number of troops here I cannot tell for they are passing and comeing [sic] in every day there is fiver Regiments in our brigade and all our brigade is all here Well I would be glad to see home once more and I think that I will get to see it between now and spring for I think the rebel army is wasteing [sic] away verry [sic] fast for we hear from them no were [sic] but what we hear of them deserting and giving themselves up to our army to get to go home and they all say that they are tierd [sic] of the war and will not fight any more if they can help it We have had several rumors of peace in camps already And I hope and pray that it may soon come but I do not expect it before December but I think it will come about that time Well Peggy I expect you have cold weather now and you and your pap will have to manage things the best you can I do not know how things is and I

cannot advise you how to do it so do the best you can Well it is so windy it is disagreeable writing and I have to go out on battalion drill and you will excuse me for not writing more. Well I had like to of fortgotten [sic] There was a man fell of [sic] the bridge that is building here and was killed instantly he was a workman the place from where he fell was one hundred and sixteen feet the word has come in since I have been writing that our tents have come to the river I am glad of that I will close by saying to you to remember me in your secret devotions

Give my best respets [sic] to inquiring friends so farewell my affectionate wife and children

yours Respectfully

James C Boggs

Cave Citty [sic] Ky Nov 2ond/62

My Dear and affectionate wife I now take the opportunity of answering your letter of the 24 Oct I received it three nites [sic] ago and have not had the opportunity of writing sooner the next morning after I received yours we recieved marching orders and started at four oclock [sic] in the morning from Munfordsville [sic] and stoped [sic] at this place in the evening eleven miles from Munfordsville [sic] on the road to Bowling Green we came here to guard some provisions sotres [sic] at this place when they are mooved [sic] I expect we will be mooved [sic] to [sic] where we will go I do not know but I expect we will moove [sic] back to Munfordsville [sic] There is a great many troops concentrating at Nashville Tenn

Part Second

Cave Citty Nov 2ond/62

Mrs. Boggs

you are anxious to hear from me I am well and harty [sic] except a little cold and I have ben [sic] well and harty [sic] all the time and I hope these lines will find you and children and connection all enjoying the same blessing of God Well we have had pleasant weather Since the snow on this night a week ago it looks like we will have rain to night [sic] Well Margaret I have just received yours of the 26 and I was glad to hear that you were all well you stated that the letter of [crossed out] you received was not the first I rote [sic] since the battle your letter was broken open when it came to me and there was not any thing in it to show whether or not any thing was take out of it there was not any thing in it but the letter. you stated in it that you could send me some stamps. I can send my letters without stamps and you can pay if the postage there is no chance to get stamps here without sending off after them and then we have to send the gold or silver or united [sic] States currency and that is carce [sic] I saved my money when I lost the things and I have money to buy things that I ned [sic] yet And Our officers is making out pay Rolls for us to be paid off again When I commenced I intended to send

a few lines to John [illegible word crossed out] but you stated in yours that the regiment was to start to Columbus and I shall postpone writing to him at this time I am sorry to hear that he takes the field for I know from experiance [sic] that he is not able to stand the hardship that a soldier generally has to undergo Soldiering is a hard life at least such as we have done since we have been in Kentucky we were on the march all last month we only rested four days untill [sic] we arrived at Munfordsville [sic] but for them four we made forced marches sufficient to make them full days [sic] marches And I have only slept in tents three nites [sic] but I hope we will enjoy our tents for some time now Well now you can send on your letters for the Railroad is open through to Bowling Green and will soon be complete to Nashville the trains passed over the large Bridge at Munfordsville [sic] on yesterday Well you said that your Eyes was not well yet my Eyes has got well and as good as ever I am sorry that yours has not got well yet they will hurt you in the cold [illegible word crossed out] I stated in my first writing that it looked like rain the wind has shifted to the northwest and is quite cool and will be cold where you are Well I hope I will soon be relieved from the service and get home and see you all once more I would be glad to be with you now but I can not have things as I would wish So no more at present But Remain Your Affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death

James C Boggs

write as often as you can I would like to hear from you every day

Part Second

Cave City Nov 2ond/62

Mrs. Boggs

you are anxious to hear from me I am well and harty [sic] except a little cold and I have ben [sic] well and harty [sic] all the time and I hope these lines will find you and children and connection all enjoying the same blessing of God Well we have had pleasant weather Since the snow on this night a week ago it looks like we will have rain to night [sic] Well Margaret I have just received yours of the 26 and I was glad to hear that you were all well you stated that the letter of [crossed out] you received was not the first I rote [sic] since the battle your letter was broken open when it came to me and there was not any thing in it to show whether or not any thing was take out of it there was not any thing in it but the letter. you stated in it that you could send me some stamps. I can send my letters without stamps and you can pay if the

Munfordsville [sic] Hart County KY Nov 9th/62

My Dear Wife

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and harty [sic] again and geting [sic] along well and I hope these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing of God this is sabbath and is the first sabbath that has passed that we have not received orders to clean our guns we have no public religious service in

camps that I have heard of to day [sic] it is a poor place to enjoy religion I hope our Chaplain is a good man but I have some fears that he is not or we would have religious service oftener in camps Well we mooved [sic] from cave citty [sic] on Tuesday back to this place and are guarding the bridge across the river here This is an important point on the Rail Road the Bridge is about Eight hundred feet long And over one hundred feet high and has been burned down [illegible letters crossed out] Twice since the rebellion broke out. Josphe W Boggs was uwell [sic] and not able to keep up with the regiment the day we mooved [sic] and was behind with three other of the boys and had occasion to stop and those with walked on and before he overtook them again Four garrilas [sic] came out of the woods and took him and marched him off into the woods some hundred yards or more and parrolled [sic] him [crossed out] and searched him and took his canteen and haver sack [sic] all that he had except his clothing he had on his Knapsack gun and catridge [sic] box was in a wagon they got Twenty five cents he had a five dollar bill That he sliped [sic] out of his purs [sic] and sliped [sic] it up his sleeve so they did not find it What he will do we do not know it is not known yet whether his parroll [sic] is good or not the case is under investigation and I expect will soon be desided [sic] whether he will stay with us or not I expect you will hear a big tale about it before this reaches you I hate that such a thing occured [sic] our Colonel is about to get himself in a tite [sic] place for the way he acted about it Well Joseph is able for duty again Thomas is unwell to day [sic]. there is one forth [sic] of our Company Complaining Some of them quite poorely [sic]. Considerable of yellow jaundice in camps we have a comfortable camping ground it is in the timber in the river bottom We have cold nights and pleasant days except when it is cloudy we had some snow and sleet night before last to day [sic] is verry [sic] pleasant Well we have drawed [sic] new blankets and some other clothing Well Margaret I have not received a letter since I wrote to you last here comes the mail I have just received a letter from E.M. Hays that states that he was at your house and you were all well and that the Children was going to school and I was glad to hear that there was a school in the district for them to go to [illegible letter crossed out] tell them to be good boys at school and try to learn to read so they can read to their grandpa and help him to work Mr [sic] Hays stated that he wanted me to give a sketch of our travels as I have been doing I believe you have a full sketch so far if you have received all my letters he stated that you wanted to know who was our General we were placed under Brigadier general Ferral Acting under General Jacson Division General They were both killed in the Perryville fight And now we are under Brigadier General Hall of Ohio Promoted from Colonel to General after the Perryville fight And if we have a division General now I do not know who he is I suppose we have a Division Generall [sic] for they say we belong to the Tenth division and Rewsaw is General of that division but I do not know whether that is correct or not There is no troops here only our Brigade our Brigade is formed of the following Regiments The Ohioh [sic] 105 Indiana 101 Illinois 80 and 1,23 General Hall was Colonel of the 105/Oh I would not be surprised if we would be removed to some other brigade for our major is gone to springfield [sic] and to Washington on some business I know not what it is thought by some that is his business Well I think that is enough of

that Well margaret [sic] you may look for to find a present of a miniture [sic] at the office some of these days I have got one for you and will send it as soon as I get stamps enough to send it I have plenty of stamped envellops [sic] but no stamps it cost one dollar. I had liked to have foroten [sic] to answer one of Mr [sic] Hayss [sic] questions he wanted to know what the soldiers thought of Lincolns [sic] Proclamation as far as I have heard they are generally well pleased with pleased [crossed out] with it and the citizens thinks that it is the verry [sic] thing to bring about a speddy [sic] peace I mean the good loyal Citizens there is several of them around here So no more at present But remain Your Affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs

To Margaret Boggs his Wife

Munfordsville [sic] hart County Nov 15th/62

My Dear Margaret Boggs I received yours of the sixth and take my pen in hand to answer it I am well at present and I hope that those lines will find you and the children enjoying the same ble[rip in paper] God and I hope if we are not spared to[rip in paper] in this world that we will conduct [rip in paper] in such a way that we will meet in [rip in paper] but I hope that we will soon meet in this in good health but the prospect of peace is dark yet but the south is geting [sic] verry [sic] mutch [sic] dissatisfied with the way they are being driven back at al[rip in paper] points they are drove back in texas [sic] and in Virginia and we have drove them out of Kentuck [sic] and they say that they are bound to give up Tenisee [sic] and Mississippi our men is being sent into them States and they have no force to keep them out And I think that is encourageing [sic] news Well I expect we will stay here for some time yet probably all winter. I Started my minature [sic] the next day after I started the letter that I sated [sic] in that I had got it and I am afraid that you will not get it I sent a bolt of silk ribon [sic] in a letter to you and you should of had it before now if it was not lo[rip in paper] And one letter that I received was [rip in paper] Open wehen [sic] it came to me and I am afraid Some of the letters that I have writen [sic] to you [rip in paper]s been lost or destroyed for I have writen [sic] Eight [rip in paper]ters since the battle at Perryville and this is the [rip in paper]nth Well Margaret you wrote to me that you wanted me to come home and see you this winter I cannot make any promise about it I will come [rip in paper]ou as soon as I can but I have any [rip in paper] that will be I would be glad to come [rip in paper] now if I had the chance I would be [rip in paper] come to stay with you and the children you wrote to me that the last letter you received from me you was so glad that you shed tears when you red [sic] [rip in paper] I do not read or write one but that I shed a tear [rip in paper]r you and the children. I hope that you and them will get along well you stated that you had the hogs up to fatten I know that the Stock will be a great trouble I do not want you to expose yourself on their account I would rather you would hire some one to attend to the stock than to expose yourself your pap is not able to attend to them if his Eyes [rip in paper] not well I expect you could hire some of Watsons [sic] to attend to them for you. I want you to write whether Lucinda has left the place or not if she has left it will be to [sic] bad for you to go there to feed and have no faire [sic] to warm yourself so no

more at present But remain your Affectionate [rip in paper] Untill [sic] Death James C Boggs [rip in paper]et Boggs

Munfordsville [sic] Ky Nov 27th/62

Mr [sic] Wm Hicklin

Sir it is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a line to you I am well and I hope these lines will find you and family enjoying the same Blessing of God I am sorry to hear in every letter that your Eyes is not well yet I am in hopes that when these line comes to hand that they will find you better I have not any thing of importance to write at present to interest you We have received marching orders there mutch [sic] speculating about where we are going Some say to Alton Ills others south others say west but I think South will be our course but if we go to Alton you need not be surprised if I stop at your place an hour or two as I pass through I would be glad if we were to go there but I expect to go to Bowling Green or Nashville Tennisee [sic] I am verry [sic] well Satisfied here There is considerable of Sickness in our regiment and Several Deaths in the last few days there is some fifteen of our company that is not able for duty Cahal Free is about geting [sic] a discharge he is looseing [sic] his hearing Jacob Leuty has not been fit for Service Since we left Louisville Jett Ward has not been able for any Service Since we came into the State there is two Bruce Boys in the Hospital for Some time with the measles and is geting [sic] better Well I have not heard any thing from John and Tom since they left Salem I suppose they are at Columbus Well I was out on picket last night and we had a little allarm [sic] there was a man came around on horseback and he came up on us and we gave him a welcom [sic] of [crossed out] with two muskets Shot and he made of [sic] for other quarters I do not know whether he was Struck or not Well I am on duty every third day and night We have pleasant weather for the season cold nights and some disagreeable winds but mostly pleasant Sunshine by day So No More At Present But Remain your Affectionate Son Untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs

To Wm Hicklin

Write Soon and oblige yours Truly

Dec 2ond/62 Glasgow Barren County Ky

My Dear Wife I received yours of the 23 of Nov on Saturday and started that night for this pl[cut off] and it rained all day sabbath on us and we la[cut off] on monday [sic] a distance of Twenty five miles we have a nice place to camp and no enemy near that I have heard of. Well I am well and harty [sic] Still You stated in yours that you were all well but William I was sorry to hear that he was unwell but I hope it was one of his little brashes [sic] I was sorry to hear of the death of our friends at ho[cut off] Thomas Horton Brown Morton S G Andrews I kn[cut off] that the day of the burial was a solemn day w[cut off] them that has friends in the army every day is solemn to me we should live in readiness for death in the army or at home Well I am out on picket to day [sic] and we

have fresh pork for dinner we have plenty to eat and we have plenty of duty to perform we have plenty of clothing and blanket And it is not as cold here as it is in Illinois Well you wanted to know what I thought of you comeing [sic] to see me I would like to see you ver[cut off] well out here but I would a greateal [sic] rather s[cut off] you at home I do not think it adviseable [sic] for you to try to come out to see me for by the time this reaches you I may be mooved [sic] to some place else I do no think We will stay here verry [sic] long the army is not allowed to go into winter quarters and I [cut off] not think we will get to stay in any one [rip in paper]ace long at a time so I think it would the [cut off]t for you not to try to come It could cost [cut off]me fifty or sixty dollars to come here and back home again Well Margaret I have received some letters from the connection in the last few days John Telford was sick and Julian had a chill the last day I heard from them Well the boys is laughing so that I can not think of mutch [sic] to wright [sic] I think the reason we came here [cut off]y are holding Court for the first time since [cut off] rebellion broke out and they were afriaid [sic] [cut off] being broke up by the Secesh the country here is nice Country only there is to [sic] many rocks the Setlers [sic] here is wealthy and generally union Well I will Close So no more at present but remain your affectionate Husband untill [sic] death

James. C. Boggs

Wright [sic] soon and let me hear from home

[written at bottom of page] Dec 3rd I am well to day [sic] and I hope they will find you all the same I have not the paper to write more at present we have a Pleasant day to day [sic] and no word of any secesh near here So Farewell at present But Remain your affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death James C Boggs

Castilion [sic] Springs Tenn Dec 12th/62

My Dear Wife I take my pen in hand to write you a line to let you know that I am well and harty [sic] I expected to receive A letter from you to day [sic] but I have not yet and it is now in the afternoon We have been on the march for the last week we started on Saturday and stoped [sic] here yesterday Evening and I expect we will stay here a day or two I will not give a history of our march at present for I have not time This place is not far from Louisville [crossed out] Nashville about Thirty five miles North East We stayed night before last where there was a fight on sabbath day Old Morgan captured about Nineteen hundred men all that was at the place there was reinforcements sent in but they were to [sic] late geting [sic] there the rebles [sic] run as soon as they captured our men and the reinforcements got there as they were crossing the river and they threw some bums [sic] after them that made them scatter in a hurry there was three regiments of our men that was taken two Ohio and one Illinois One of the Ohio regiments laid down their armes [sic] without a stugle [sic] the Illinois regiment fought hard and it is said that if the other regiments had a fought as hard as they did that they would of whiped [sic] them bad they did not get many of our army taken off with them they had no time to gather them up and get them away they took the cannon Six guns

We expected them to Attact [sic] us the two last days we marched but they did not undertake the job of takeing [sic] us but they may undertake yet if they do they will have a merry time of it for we have Eight regiments here at present Well Margaret I have not heard from you since you wrote that William was not well and I have been uneasy ever Since and would like to hear again from home but I will have to wait with patience for the mail Well I expect the next you get from me will be from Some other point for I expect we will moove [sic] in a day or two more Well My Dear wife the news I hear gives me hopes that I will soon get home again it is said that old General Lee is in Washington to try to make a teaty [sic] of Peace And I think the Presidents [sic] proposition [sic] in his message is as good as they could ask that is graduel [sic] emancipation And some of our big men says that we will get home by the first of April We had a snow the day before we left Glasgow and we have had cold weather ever since but it has been clear and pleasant and the Snow is about all gone and there is some little appearance of rain this Evening The health of our boys is improveing [sic] some there has been no deaths in our Company for some three Weeks the boys that was sick is geting [sic] better we heard from them this Evening all but Samuel Baldrige and he was left at Glasgow Well the boys is bothering about cuting [sic] up some beef for them so I will close so no more at present but remain your Affectionate husband untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs

to Margaret Boggs

[illegible letters written at bottom of paper]

Near Castillion Springs Tenn Dec 15/62

[illegible initials at top of page]

My Dear Wife I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and have been well and harty [sic] and I hope these lines will find you and all the rest enjoying the same blessing of God Well I will give you a sketch of our march we started on Saturday 6th and had a cold day and sabbath was a cold day and Monday [sic] was a little more moderate we made Twelve miles each day on monday [sic] night we received orders to go to Heartsville [sic] where that battle was on sabbath and Tuesday we marched Seventeen miles and Wednesday we marched Sixteen miles and over the roughest Country that my immagination [sic] ever looked at or that I ever expect to see we started off the top of a high ridge and went down a deep narrow hollow and it was the head spring of goose creek [sic] and we went down to it within Two miles of the cumberland [sic] River and then we left it for Hartsville which was a little west of the creek we got in about Eight oclock [sic] at night it was a tolerable cold night but we had plenty of secesh rails to make faires [sic] of the next day we mooved [sic] Eight miles west to castillions [sic] Springs and yesterday we mooved [sic] two miles west of the castillion springs [sic] and how long we will stay here I cannot tell Well I will tell you something more of the Hartsville fight there was about forty of our men killed and about the same number wounded and there was about one hundred of the

secesh killed the number of wounded we do not know for they carried off their wounded with them in their retreat that was able to go Well we have been watching for old morgan [sic] ever since we came in here but we have not seen him yet There was one of our cavalry shot through the hand night before last by a bush whacker [sic] while on Picket and last night one of our Pickets killed a bushwhacker so he will not bother the Pickets any more Well Maragaret you wanted to know who our Major was Mr [sic] Bates o [sic] centralia [sic] and you wanted to know who our Captain is James Cunningham has a Captains [sic] Commission and John. R. Cunningham a Second Lieutenant and you wanted me to tell you how I James for a captain I can tell you about that when I get home you wanted to know how my feet stood the cold I have not suffered any with them this winter yet as for standing guard I have done none of that only on picket I am acting corporal and do not have to stand guard but have to attend to the guard Jospeh has take his place as a Soldier in the ranks and is going to stay with the regiment you sayed [sic] taht [sic] you would send me a pair of socks you need not send any for I have plenty to do me I have more clothing than I like to carry on a march and you Wanted me to writ [sic] what I knew about meg [sic] Porter we do not know anything what became of him the last we heard was on the day of the battle at the time of the engagement him and some others got seperated [sic] from the regiment and there was a bum [sic] fell close to them and he broke to run and they holered [sic] at him to stop and the more they holered [sic] the harder he run and that [illegible letters crossed out] is the last we have heard of him Well I stated in my last that I was looking for a letter that day I received one that night dated the Third and one this morning dated the ninth and was verry [sic] glad to hear that you were all well you will Still direct your letters to Louisville or Munfordsville [sic] and the letters will follow me it is best to keep them on some direct rout [sic] and they are shure [sic] to follow on we are within six miles of the railroad Running from Louisville Ky to Nashville Tenn Well we have heard of our men taking Murpyesborrow [sic] and several other places of Importance and I hope it is so So no more at Present But Remain your affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tenn Jan 30th/63

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to let you know something of how I am geting [sic] along I will tell you the truth I have been sick for Seven days I have been able to wait on myself all the time but I am verry [sic] weak and I was weighed to day [sic] and I only weighed 151½ lbs [sic]with my overcoat on I think I will get along if I take no back set I received yours of the 28 Dec before I sent out my other letter you were all well when it was writen [sic] and I hope those lines will find you and the little one all well and your Fathers [sic] Family to [sic] Well I read a letter of David Gorees it Stated that Wm Watson Wm Morrison Cynthia Bet an [sic] Rachel was going to Columbus I hope they will have a pleasant and safe trip Well Margaret you wrote you had some money that you would pay any little debt I wanted you to you had better to pay our taxes if you have it or expect to get enough to pay if you have it pay Wm Crosier Three dollars that

we owe him pay the taxes first Well Margaret we expect to get some of our pay in a few days and if we get mutch [sic] of it I will Send some of it home to you if I have any chance to Send it by an Individual it is not safe to send by mail but I do not expect to get mutch [sic] at this time two months [sic] pay is all we will get at this time the pay master has been here some time paying off the troops Well the health of the troops is generally Good Our Regiment has had a heep [sic] of Sickness but not fatal sickness there is only Twenty of our Company able for duty now the sick is generaly [sic] geting [sic] better Joseph is still on the mend but it is slow Thomas is still back at Nashville he has been sick and was better and I heard last night that he was worse again Our Regiment is gone out a foriging [sic] to day [sic] I am in hopes that the boys will bring in something good to eat for I am nearly starved out for something that is fit for a sick person to eat We have not any thing but crackers beans Bacon and Coffee and Shougar [sic] and Beef one day in a week a little Hominy or rice and that is not fit for a Sick person Well there is no talk of a moove [sic] from here that I have heard of f [sic] there is a large number of troops here and around here they are well scattered over the country around here I heard that our men took one hundred and fifty of the rebel cavalry three days ago Well Margaret I would be glad to see you and the children and all the rest of the friends and I hope the time will soon come when we will be allowed to return in peace and harmony if it does not soon come I will try and get a leave of absence and come home a few days and See you all I expect it would be hard to get but I can try Well my Dear I do not want you to think I am indifferent for not writing oftener we have a poor way for a weak man to write and I do not want you to trouble yourself over this word of my Sckness [sic] I thought it my duty to let you know it I think I can now take care of my Self So no more at present But Remain your Affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death

James. C. Boggs

To Margaret. Boggs his Dear Wife

Murfreesboro Ten Feb 2ond 1863

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to let you know how I am geting [sic] along I am still on the mend but it is Slow but I am in hopes that I will get well and harty [sic] again I received your letter of the Twenty fifth of January and was verry [sic] glad to hear that you were all well and harty [sic] and I hope these lines will find you all the same I was sorry to hear that you was dissatisfied with the way things was going on at home I am in hopes you will get along well and be well satisfied at home Tell Mr [sic] Mart that I am in hopes that he will be well satisfied and will take good care of you and the little ones and the stock if he thinks he could take care of the young horses yo [crossed out] and would like to do so you might have them brought home for I know there is plenty of Feed to feed them and I think likely they would be better taken care of I suppose they are still at A. Kells and I know he has more than he can take care of if Mr [sic] Mart thinks he will stay untill [sic] spring and thinks he can take care of them you can have them home and if it interfering with his and your agreement I am willing to pay

for the extra trouble that he will at in doing so and if he is a good rider if the [crossed out] Lucy is not with foal he might have her to ride around to places where he wishes to go You did not say how you were a going to do about a team but I Suppose you have that understood among yourselves I am in hopes that the next that I receive from you that I will hear that you are geting [sic] along well and well satisfied with your change my great study is for your comfort and health I knew that the views of my Sickness would trouble you but I thought it my duty to tell you I do not want you to trouble your self about me for I think I can take care of myself if I do not get any worse than I have been Well Margaret if Frank Watson comes home I want you to have him moove [sic] for I do no not want him to have any thing to do with my property for he is to [sic] fractiony [sic] among Stock I am in hopes that you and Lucinda will get along without any trouble as long as you both have to stay on the place together Well Margaret we have not received any pay yet the talk is that we will get some by the twelfth of this month we will only get two months [sic] pay at this time There is no talk of us mooveing [sic] from here yet we heard that burnsidess [sic] was mooving [sic] on towards Richmond again and I hope he is and will be successfull [sic] in driving the enemy out of his strong hold there and then I would have some hopes of peace some time Shortly Well I would be glad to See you and the children Remember me in your devotions at the throne of grace and if we meet not on earth we may meet in heaven So no more at present but remain your affetionate [sic] husband untill [sic] Death

James. C. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tenn February 5th/63

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to write you a line to let you know how I am geting [sic] along I am geting [sic] along verry [sic] well my health is improveing [sic] verry [sic] fast I feel well only I am weak yet I have had to work a little to [sic] hard for the last two days the regiment all went out on a scout that was able and there was Several of the boys in our tent was Sick and was not able to go and I was the ables [sic] one to work that was left and I have had to get wood and do the cooking and it has left me busy and I am geting [sic] better on it Joseph is mending Slowly he is in the hospital yet Thomas is Still at Nashville yet he has been verry [sic] sick but was better the las [sic] I heard from him the health of the boys is improveing [sic] Well Margaret I am in hopes that these lines will find you and the children all well and harty [sic] and well satisfied at home I would be a greateal [sic] better satisfied if I was at home with you and the children a Siting [sic] around the faire [sic] Side we have a little faire [sic] place in our tent it is pleasant to sit around when it is snowing as it is to night [sic] we have had two days that has been quite cold it is more moderate and is Snowing and Sleting Well I suppose you would like to hear Something of what is going on here I sayed [sic] that our regiment was gone out on a scout the general opinion is that they have went out to have a little fight and I expect it is all so for the report to day [sic] is that there is fighting going on a few miles out and we have heard cannonading all day and to night [sic] there was some prisoners brought in that has been taken / three days ago

one Regiment of our infantry was out Scouting and took Fifteen Hundred Prisoners one thousand of infantry and five hundred of cavalry they were brought in day before yesterday There is a large number of Soldiers that has not went out yet some was ordered out to day [sic] and if the fight continues I suppose all that is able will have to go but I am in hopes that it will proove [sic] to be only Schirmishing [sic] that has been going on to day [sic] I am in hopes that it is not a general engagement for it is so disagreeable to night [sic] is a verry [sic] bad night for men to be out in the weather without fighting and without wounds Well you stated in your last letter that John Cunningham was coming out here he could not get here if he was to try to come General Rosecrans has issued [sic] an order forbiding [sic] citizens comeing [sic] inside the lines or going out of the lines S W Cunningham is not geting [sic] along of late verry [sic] well he has had fever for some days his wound is doing well David Goree is well and harty [sic] so is all the boys in that regiment that you know Well Margaret there was one thing in your last letter that I was sorry to hear that was that James F Morton was not agoing [sic] to except [sic] the call our Congregation had made out for him So Farewell My Dear and Affectionate Wife So no more at Present But Remain your Affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death

James C Boggs To Margaret. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tennessee [sic] February 12th/1863

Mr [sic] Wm Hicklin Sir I take my pen in hand to give you some directions about how I want the place managed if I do not get home in the spring if Mr [sic] George Tweed has got a team I am willing that he should have it if you and he can agree about the terms I want common rent only and will leave the ballance [sic] for you and him to make the contract or agreement it would be best to have a writen [sic] agreement The field in the prairie may all or the portion that is not in wheat if Watson did not sow the oats stubble in wheat I want Some Eight Acres on [illegible letter crossed out] the North End of the Field [sic] put in Wheat in the fall that will leave two fre [sic] Acres for corn if George gets the place I suppose he would want the wheat ground to [sic] The Field at the house the part That was in wheat may be put in corn if he wishes to put it in I am not careing [sic] whether there is any thing put in it or not I would like the orcherd [sic] could be broke in the Spring to keep the trees lively but I am not particular about that but if it could be done conveniently by a carefull [sic] hand I would like to have it done but I would rather not have it done at all than to have the trees injured with the rubing [sic] of harness Well Old man if you can attend to this for me it will accomodate [sic] your Son and would be better than for Peggy to attend to it for a woman is no judge of such business Well About the meadow if you have time watch and get it dry enough and burn it off it if will burn an [sic] if it is any acount [sic] Do wat [sic] you to have it cut and put up and pay yourself out of it for your trouble but there time enough to talk about that again if we all live Well I have not anything of any importance to rite [sic] at present only [illegible letters crossed out] what I have writen [sic] to Margaret only that we have a

heap of wet weather So no more at present but remain your affectionate Son untill [sic] Death James. C. Boggs

Well there is one thing that I forgot to mention that is I wish you to keep the old mare to work this next summer I want you to have a team to work next summer if you want her and the young mar [sic] to [sic] if you want her but I expect you will not want her Well I will say a little more about the place if Tweed does not want it if some one that has a small family and is good and trusty and Peggy [sic] is willing that they Should have it it will all be right with me So they do up the work right and take care of the things If no one goes on the place and some one of the nighbors [sic] wants some of the ground to work or if you want it to work yourself it will be all right to do so to let them have it if any one wanted to put the wheat ground in oats it will all be right to let them have it to Sow in oats As for the stock that will be left I suppose there will not be any thing but the hogs and cattle and they would not need mutch [sic] attention if the colery [sic] kills the hogs they will need no attention Well I cannot think of any thing more that I need to say about that Well old man I will let you know something of how the health is here the health of our regiment is improveing [sic] some there was two deaths in our regiment on night before last they were old cases there was one man fell dead on sabbath that was well and harty [sic] the dctors [sic] said his disease was a disease of the heart the old regiments here is generally verry [sic] healthy there is not one man in The company that David Goree is in In [sic] the twenty second but is able for duty there is no talk of it moove [sic] from this place that I have heard of Well I have not mentioned any of my Brothers Joseph is still on the mend Thomas was on the mend the sixth he is still at Nashville yet So No more at Present Farewell Dear Father James. C. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tennessee Feb 12th/63

[image at top of letter head of a fight between Union and Confederate soldiers with the caption: Brilliant Engagement of General Banks' Division with the Rebel forces under Stonewall Jackson, August 9th, 1862.]

My Dear Wife I take my pen in hand to let you know that I received your letters of the fifth of February 5th and I was verry [sic] glad to hear that you were all well and I am in hopes that these lines will find you all Enjoying the same blessing of God I am in tolerable health at present I am gaining Strength but it is Slow I have a diareh [sic] that is keeping me back considerable I was out on guard duty night before last and it worried me considerable it was a pleasant night night [sic] I am in hopes that I will soon get stout again I do not know any thing of importance to write that is going on here Well Margaret I am Sorry to State the Sad news of Lewis. Thomas's Death he died the night of the Eighth about 8 oclock [sic] he did not speak after one oclock [sic] that day he was Buried the next day and I am sorry to write the painfull [sic] Inteligence [sic] that S.W. Cunningham is not likely to last long he was out of his right mind on [illegible letter crossed out] the Eighth and knew nothing of what wa [sic] going on I

have not heard from him Since Well Margaret I received both of your letters with the things in them all right and I was glad to get them the paper I did not need at present but it will not be in the way I am out of Stamps but you need not send any for the letters will go to you as well without as with them and you can pay the Postage at home there untill [sic] I can buy some here I was sorry to hear of the hogs having the Colera [sic] But if they all die there will be some way provided for you and the Children for meet [sic] I was Sorry that you Sold the Stack of hay as cheap as you did for if it was not spoiled it aught to of been worth more or at least I thought So But it makes no difference now the trade is made Well my Dear Wife you Stated in your letter that you giveout [sic] mooveing [sic] home and that you thought you could resk [sic] George tweed [sic] to go into the new house you will have your Father to attend to the Business of the place for you if he can I will write some thing of how I wish him to manage Well my Dear Family I would be glad to See you all and enjoy your company around the faire [sic] side for a while O my Dear how I wish this war was ended so no more at present But Remain your affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death

James C Boggs To Margaret. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tenn 13th/63

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to answer your kind and affectionate letter of the 5th of March that I received on yesterday I was verry [sic] glad to hear that you was able to sit up and write I am in hopes that you will get along well so that when these lines comes to hand they will find you well and harty [sic] and the children well My health is not any thing to brag on yet but I am able to go on duty when I am called on I am in hopes that when the weather becomes settled that I will get stout again We have rain every other day on an averag [sic] and it makes it verry [sic] disagreeable living as we do here Well Margaret [the next 5 lines are blank] Well Margaret We have not any thing new to write to you only that I heard a rumor this morning that Old Jeff Davis had left the United States for other quarters and I hope it is so but I really have my douts [sic] as well as hopes I think that he will leave before this trouble is settled and I am anxious that it will take place soon So that I can get home to see you and the children and take care of you and them and enjoy your kind company and and [sic] Faire [sic] side Well I stated in my last that the talk was that we would be payed [sic] off the next day but it was a failure we are not payed [sic] yet they sayed [sic] yesterday that we would be payed [sic] of [sic] to day [sic] without fail but I have not seen any thing of it yet The paymaster is around here and I guess we will get it soon Well I had to stop to get dinner and now I write again And I have received yours of the 9th of March and was glad that you and Florida was geting [sic] along so well I have to stop again to go on battalion drill Well Margaret I was sorry to hear that Lucinda Watson and you has not got along any better I will be glad when they get away Well I wish all the Meadow to be burned Old and Young if there is grass enough on them to burn it will not hurt them if they are burned early if [crossed out] Well I have just heard that there was five Hundred Prisoners Brought into Nashville yesterday and that there were several of the reble [sic]

regiments down towards Vixburg [sic] have deserted and is trying to make their way to our regiment [crossed out] Army some where I do not know whether they were trying to get here or some where else Well I hope the secesh will behave themselves in Illinois if they do not they will wish they had if they could see the men that is here it would scare them worse than the conscript Well Margaret I do pray for you and the children in my devotions You will remember me in your prayers So no more at present but remain your Affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death

James C Boggs to Margaret Boggs

Murfreesboro Tenn February 27th/63

Mr [sic] Wm Hicklin

Dear Father I again scatch [sic] you a line to let you know that I have not forgotten [sic] you and the rest of the friends I am geting [sic] better but my health improves verry [sic] slow I am in hopes that these lines will find you and the family well and enjoying yourselves well in these troublesome times I have heard that the legislature of the State has adjourned without accomplishing any of their evil desires toward our government and I am glad to know that our State is Still all right side uppermost I am afraid the secesh will cause some trouble yet in the State There is some dissatisfaction among the Soldiers about the freeing of the negroes they say they will not fight to free the negroes but that feeling is wearing off and the soldiers is geting [sic] better reconciled [sic] and begin to think that likely it is all right Well old man I have not told you that I received that paper that you sent to me it was quite a treat and I was glad to get hold of a good paper to get some reliable news we get a paper every day or two Since we stopped here Well old man I have not any thing of importance to about And I will close so no more at present But remain your Affectionate son Untill [sic] Death James C. Boggs to Wm Hicklin

Murfreesboro Tennessee February 27th/63

Dear And Affectionate Wife

I again take my pen in hand to let you know how I am geting [sic] along I am tolerable well at present and I hope these lines will find you and the children enjoying the t [sic] good blessing of health I have not received any word from you since I last wrote to you I am always glad to get a letter from you or any of the friends health is improveing [sic] in camps there is only five Sick in the hospital out of the regiment The weather here is verry [sic] disagreeable it has rained for thirty six hours and it rained hard all the time It is pleasant to day [sic] Well Margaret I have heard that wheat is worth One dollar and twenty five cents a Bushel if it is worth that you had as well Sell Some Thirty or Thirty five Bushels you might Sell Some if it is worth one dollar a Bushel and there is no prospect of it geting [sic] any higher after [crossed out] Any money that you do not need I wish you to pay our tax and school money Interest and the ballance [sic] to paying off the Note at Samuel Andrews held of Estate money Well My Dear Wife We have not

received any pay yet but I think we will be payed [sic] off in a few days for they are paying off other regiments around us and they say we will be payed [sic] in three or four days And when I get mine and have a chance I am going to send it home to you for to pay debts with and to buy things that you need We have drawn a full supply of clothing We have plenty to eat Such as it is old Bacon and pickled pork crackers once and a while beef And a kind of vegetables for making soup that is tolerable good There is a talk that we will stay here this Summer I hope we may if we have to stay in the Army we have no trouble with the rebles [sic] here now only small garillas [sic] bands they broke into our cavalry pickets last evening and took two prisoners and run off There is no talk of a moove [sic] from this place that I have heard of So no more at present But Remain your Affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death J.C. Boggs. To. Margaret. Boggs

Murfreesboro Tenn March 6th/63

My Dear Wife I again take my pen in hand to answer your affectionate Letter of the 25th February I am sorry to hear that you and William and Gilbert is unwell but I hope you and them will get along well and Mary and Florida tell them to be good girles [sic] while you are sick and when I come home I will bring them a present a piece I geting [sic] along verry [sic] well now I am not stout yet but I have a good appetite and am able for duty again My vaxination [sic] has done well and is geting [sic] well Well my Dear wife I am in hopes that when those lines comes to hand that they will find you and the children all better or well and the rest of the connection all well I was glad to hear that Liza was geting [sic] better I was glad to hear that Frank Watson was home on Lucinda's account But was sorry to hear that Taylor was home in the fix that he is in Well our Regiment started on a seven days [sic] scout on Tuesday I was excused from going on account of my arm being sore from vaxination [sic] they went out for the purpose of Pressing mules and horses I am in hopes that they will have good Success the last we heard from them they were out twelve miles they have a bad time again for it is Raining to day [sic] again They want to get Two hundred and fifty head of Horses to mout [sic] that number of men out of our Brigade And the mules they want to fill the place of them that the rebles [sic] took from us at the time they took Robert Oldfield Well the health of the troops is still improoveing [sic] the boys in our company is all geting [sic] better Thomas is still at Nashville and is in the hospital but is able to be up and around some I heard from him on Wednesday morning Joseph is not able for duty yet he gaines [sic] verry [sic] slow he is not quite so well to day [sic] as common to day [sic] There is not any thing new going on here that I have heard of Well My Dear Wife Remember me in your prayers I rememer [sic] my Wife and dear children at home So no more at present but remain your Affectionate Husband untill [sic] Death James C Boggs to Margaret Boggs And Friends

Murfreesboro Tenn March 11th/63

My Dear wife I again take my pen in hand to let you know that I am tolerable well at present I thought a few days ago that I was harty [sic] and well but I have taken a little more cold and it has affected my bowels again that I do not feel So well as I did Two

days ago I have not received any word from you since I last wrote to you I have been looking for a letter for several days from you I am anxious to hear from home to hear how you are all getting [sic] along with the measles if you have not written I want you to write soon or get some one to write a line for you if you are not able to write for yourself Well There is considerable of rumors in camps of us moving [sic] from here but I think there is no certainty about when we leave here There is not anything new going on here that I have heard of Our Division Came in sabbath day they broke up two rebel [sic] camps while they were out with out a fight they got a considerable number of mules and horses there were a Division out at the same time that had a little Fight we have not heard any thing definite about what was done only that the enemy retreated and our men fell back to their old camp near a little Town called Franklin from what we have heard the rebels [sic] did get the better of the fight they led our men into a trap Well Margaret we have not received Any pay yet the talk to day [sic] is that we will be payed [sic] Tomorrow [sic] I would rather see it as to hear tell of it I am going to have one mess of Chees [sic] when I get money enough Chees [sic] is worth from Thirty five to Fifty cents per pound that is high to pay for cheese but we have to pay high for every thing we buy here we have to pay ten cents a paper for pepper black pepper in small papers butter Fifty cents per pound this is at the sutlers [sic] stores At the Division Commissary [sic] Flour is worth Four dollars per hundred Bacon Shoulders and hams ten cents per pound Irish potatoes Six dollars A Bushel Melasses [sic] Sixty cents per gallon Well my Dear Family I am in hopes that when I hear from you again that I will hear that you are all well and getting along well I hear the Orderlies [sic] Call I am in hopes that I will get a letter O it is orders in place of letters So I am disappointed So I will wait untill [sic] later and I may get a letter to day [sic] yet Well Margaret there is one thing that I think I have forgotten [sic] to tell you that is we have received plenty of clothing since we came here Well to days [sic] mail has come in and I have received no letter So I think that likely you are to [sic] or have been to [sic] sick to write I will have to be content without at present I hope you will get along well Well Margaret I feel harty [sic] this evening And I do not want you to be uneasy about me I have told you the truth of my Situation all the time I do not wish to deceive you or the rest of the friends And I hope those lines will find you and the children well So no more At Present But remain Your Affectionate Husband Untill [sic] Death James C Boggs to Margaret. Boggs And the rest of the friends Mr [sic] Wm Hicklin Please let me hear from you if your eyes is so you can write

March th [sic] 22

St Louis Mo

[written at top of letterhead: THE SOLDIER'S DREAM OF HOME.

“At the dead of night a sweet vision I saw,

And thrice e'er the morning I dreamt it again,

But sorrow return'd [sic] with the dawning of morn,
And the voice in my dreaming ear melted away."

BRYANT.

There is also an image of a sleeping soldier and in the distance is a soldier and a woman with a young boy looking on]

Dear uncle and Aunt it is with plasure [sic] that iseat [sic] my Self to wright [sic] you A few lines to let You know that we are Bowth [sic] well at this time Hoping when these few lines Comes to hand they will find All well we have left Chillicothe and are here at this time but we wont [sic] Stay here longer than This Coming week we are on our way to Tennisee [sic] or Some other Sea port when you See tom [sic] you may think he will bee [sic] on my way home we are All ready to leave St Louis at any time iwant [sic] you to wright [sic] to me if any of the Boys inew [sic] was At fort Donalson [sic] and if they was tell me who they was and if Any of them was kill When you get this answer ti [sic] and tell all the news you know When we Stop iwill [sic] let you know where we are and tell you all the news iknow [sic] of in the South iwill [sic] See iinspect [sic] plenty of Ded [sic] Bodys [sic] on the ground when we See tennisee [sic] there is Some men Stacking there [sic] Camp equipments [sic] to leave Camp Benton it is the Missouri 25 they will leave here Some time to Day [sic] or to morow [sic] and the 23 will follow them Soon as we Can Draw Some Clothing and other guns and we will be redy [sic] to folow [sic] Them Yess [sic] I have Seen John pope [sic] in here And he was at our Camps to Day [sic] and he Said grany [sic] and manday [sic] was well when he left home they are in the 15 Iowa they are lots of Boys in the Company that iam [sic] very well acquainted with in his Ridgement [sic]

Nothing more at present but remains my uncle and Aunt till Deth [sic] John pope [sic] Sends his best respects to All of you

From Thomas Dallas to uncle William Hicklin an [sic] Aunt Anna Hicklin

Fort Hieman [sic] Ky

May 22d 1863

Mrs [sic] Margaret Boggs

Dear and afflicted Sister. I seat myself to answer your letter which I have just received I truly sympathise [sic] with you in your great affliction. It has pleased God in His Providence to deprive you of your nearest and dearest friend and while we with deep sorrow [illegible letters crossed out] with you mingle our tears in mourning his loss as a good brother a kind friend and an affectionate husband and a tender father. I do deeply sympathise [sic] with you and his poor orphan babes he has left behind you say you will trust in God yes do this for He has said they who trust Him shall not lack my good, then only trust Him, lean upon His Almighty Arm for safety and on all occasions look to Him

as your great Protector and guide, and all will be well. Clark doubtless was better fitted for Heaven than earth, God took him home to be with Him where he will be free from all earthly sorrows where sorrow ceases and all tears are wiped away. I know the bereavement is great and it is hard to submit to such a stroke but God's will must be done and let us bow in humble submission to that will saying it is the Lord that giveth and it is the Lord that taketh away and add with true and [crossed out] christian [sic] meekness blessed be the name of the Lord. Then farther you should ever bear in mind that He has promised to be a Husband to the afflicted widow and a Father to the helpless orphan. His ears are ever opened to thier [sic] cry. He is truly the shield to the widow and a stay to the orphan.

God only knows the end of this terrible calamity that is upon us when we think of the untold suffering that is daily going on, of the cries of lamentation and sorrow of the widows and poor helpless orphans that are continually dayly [sic] and hourly going up to Heaven from all parts of the land it makes me shudder at the thought and not only that but the way orphans and widows that are daily being made and the many more I fear that will be made before this awful war ceases. it becomes us all to look to God for help in this time of trouble.

I hope this will find you well, and I hope and pray that God will protect you and those dear children now left in your charge and that you may all meet in the better world and not only you but all of us where sorrow will no more cross our path I will now close my letter

your brother

J B Parkison

Fort Heiman may [sic] the 29

My Dear sister it is a pleashure [sic] to take my pen to awnser [sic] your letter I would have awnserd [sic] it before now but I didnt [sic] have time I was sick last night but I feel better this morning I was out on picket and didnt [sic] sleep hardley [sic] any and out in the night air it dont [sic] agree with me but I hope that time will soon come when they will have to be no pickets out tom [sic] is out on picket now and it is a raing [sic] as hard as it can poor [sic] downon [sic] it is the first rain we have had for along [sic] time I do hope you and the children is well I am uneasy about gilbert [sic] and I wish I could here [sic] how he is whether he is better or not well peggy [sic] I have Just been to breakfust [sic] but I didnt [sic] eat much for I dont [sic] feel like eating much this morning for I have some fever peggy [sic] I haint [sic] got much to write to you this time onley [sic] I want you to try and enjoy your self as well as you can I know you are loneley [sic] but you have a hope that your tears will be wipt [sic] away and enjoy your self with your redemer [sic] and him that you have lost peggy [sic] you know that Clark was the one that I thought the most of among all the rest I longd [sic] to see him again on earth but my hope now is in heaven there I hope to meet him I want you to manage your things the best you can and dont [sic] sell your land sell every thing els [sic] before

you sell that for the boys will be big enough to plow after awhile and then it would do you some good I would like to have your wagon if you sell it that is if I would git [sic] home next winter I would like to git [sic] to come home in harvist [crossed out] harvist [sic] time but it looks like that men cant [sic] git [sic] to go home without they are sick or sent home in there [sic] coffin for they are no more discharges to be given with out he has his leg off or they think he will die in a month or two but our regiment has no right to complain for we have been treated very well as far as exspsure [sic] goes we have not seen as hard times as some regiments has I got a letter from Cynthia about aweek [sic] go she said her and the children was all well and I am alooking [sic] for one to night [sic] I seen it in the papers that we was in the battle of vixburge [sic] but I think they was a misstak [sic] in the figers [sic] we wasent [sic] there and I dont [sic] think we ever will Tell betsy [sic] pane [sic] and florida [sic] I will write to them as soon as I can and I want you to not forgit [sic] to write to [illegible word crossed out] me and I will write more the next time I am aging [sic] to send this with Em adams [sic] I [illegible letter crossed out] would have sent one to cynthia [sic] by her but I wanted to wait to see if I got one and then I would not have time to write and send with her so I will have to send hers by mail so no more but remains your affectionate Brother untill [sic] death John Hicklin to peggy [sic] Boggs and her children write soon soon [sic]

Camp Sherman

Mesinger Ford

Black River Mississippi

Aug 6th 1863

Dear Friend Peggie [sic] I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and doing well and hope that this may reach and find you and children in good health well peggie [sic] I am sorry to tell you that I received both of your letters Your first I received July 3rd at Oak Ridge and the next day we started to Jackson and I had neither paper pen nor ink and the very day I got in camp I received your last letter but I hope you will excuse me for this time if I will promis [sic] to do better the next I was sorry to hear of your troubles but it was God will to call him home and it is to be hoped that he has gon [sic] to fair world while we are here in foul one health is tolerable good in camp I was in the fight out at jackson I would give some of the particulars about it if I had time or space but you can get the letter that I wrote to pap and read it and you will hear the whole story well Peggie [sic] yesterday was was [sic] two years ago I left home and hope again this day year I hope to be at home if I live and keep my health And the rebels dont [sic] kill me turn over I have not heard from the boys for some time the last I heard they were all well I Saw george [sic] Galloway at Snyders Bluff he was well and has had good health ever since he has been out well Peggie [sic] I was out a foraging yesterday and I got all the peaches I could eat and fetched a haversack full in [crossed out] to camp to the boys our duty is quite light now to what it has been for some time

back well peggie [sic] I dont [sic] know what to write and wish you would tell me some thing to write John started home on furlough yesterday morning you will be very likely to see him before you get this and he can tell you more than I can write turn over well Peggie [sic] this is one last places for me to live in this country the moss on the timber grows 10 feete [sic] long it dont [sic] grow on the body of the tree it grows on the limbs and grows right down in ropes about the sise [sic] of my arm I was in Vicksburg since it was taken the most of the houses has got a hole through them maid [sic] by our shells well peggie [sic] I guess I have writen [sic] more now than will be interesting to you so I will quit for this time hopeing [sic] to hear from you soon give my best respects to all inquiring and dont [sic] forget to write soon to your friend

Hugh

Camp Sherman Miss

Aug 28th 63

Dear Friend

I seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and doing the best I can and hope that this may reach and find you and the children in good health and in good spirit I have nothing [piece of the page is torn off] strange to wri[[piece of the page is torn off] the healthe [sic] of [piece of the page is torn off] is improveing [sic] [piece of the page is torn off] kind epistle [piece of the page is torn off] hand last n[piece of the page is torn off] read with great [piece of the page is torn off] I was glad to hea[piece of the page is torn off] and the children was ge[piece of the page is torn off] Oh Peggie [sic] you dont [sic] know how bad I want to come home I never have wanted to go home as bad since I have been out as I do now not even when I was sick or wounded but it looks like it is a Seald [sic] doom that I have to stay until my time is out without geting [sic] to go home the weather has been quite cool down here for several days past you [piece of the page is torn off] got any idea [piece of the page is torn off] it has been down [piece of the page is torn off] hottest [sic] day that [piece of the page is torn off] in Ills was [piece of the page is torn off] to what some is [piece of the page is torn off] here I think this [piece of the page is torn off] unhealthy country [piece of the page is torn off] bout 3 buried out of [piece of the page is torn off]ing every day well Peggie [sic] I am begining [sic] to think that peace will be maid [sic] again spring I dont think that the south can survive longer than that unles [sic] they happen to whip our army in the east I think that Charlston [sic] will be ours before long Peggie [sic] you said that John had told you a goodeal [sic] about our travels I expect that I could tell you some worse looking story than John can and they would be true well Peggie we have prayer meeting every day and [church crossed out] preaching every night but I dont [sic] very often go for they aint [sic] my kind and I feel beter [sic] satisfied in reading my testament well peggie [sic] the cooks are Just begining [sic] to put on dinner and I have a darkey cooking for my mess he is a firstrate [sic] cook he is a preacher we had him to preach

one night and he don [sic] not so bad to have no education and have heard white men that didnt [sic] do any better and you [konw crossed out] know them as well as I do oh I Can see the curse of slavery every where that I have been in the south well I guess that I will have to quit for this time give my best respects to all inquiring friends [sic] and take a reasonable portion to yourself and children and write soon to your friend Hugh

Vale Mills Feb the 9 1864

Dear sister I will try now to to [sic] awnse [sic] your kind letter I so long neglected but I have come to the conclusion I will try and take time peggy [sic] it is not bacuse [sic] I didnt [sic] want to I want you to for give [sic] me for not writing sooner peggy [sic] it is that I have so much to do that I cant [sic] git [sic] time to write but I haint [sic] for got [sic] you in your lonely situation I know that I aught to have wrote to you sooner peggy [sic] I have got well once more god be praised for it for I have suferd [sic] a grate [sic] deal since I saw you last I feel well [eng crossed out] enough but I aint [sic] very stout I am cooking for nineteen men counting my self you may know that I dont [sic] git [sic] much time to rest I do think I will have to quit cooking when it comes warm weather well peggy [sic] we have nice weather down here in dixie [sic] it is dry and warm I can go in my shirt sleeves [sic] all the time I do hope it is warm up there now that it has been I know you have suferd [sic] a grate [sic] deal this winter for I thought of you and your hardships you had to under go Cynthia wrote to me that she had three of her fingers froze I hope I will be at home before next winter to do a grate [sic] deal of the hardships peggy [sic] it is ahard [sic] thing to stay away from home so long but it is my duty that I am called way [sic] so long from home the report is that we will leave here before long we will go th [crossed out] to general logan [sic] when we leave here where ever that may be when we git [sic] to him we wount [sic] see such good times as we do here well peggy [sic] I no [sic] not what to write but I must say [illegible letter crossed out] say [sic] something well the boys went out the other night and pressed a barel [sic] of molasses we have lived sweet ever since and we have baked turkey or goose most every day I am going to bake a turkey for supper if it was at home I could eat it with a good relish but I do hope the time is not far off when I will be there with all of you again for being away from home so long is hard to beare [sic] but when I think of the cause that am away for it revives me up again if it wasent [sic] for that I dont [sic] think I could hold up I long to see this unjust war put down that I may retune [sic] to my dear famley [sic] once more but dear sister you cant [sic] have that hope that he lies under the sod cant [sic] reture [sic] to you but you can go [illegible letters crossed out] to him Oh war is ahorable [sic] thing some times we see some fun and at others we dont [sic] but such fun is no satisfaction to me peggy [sic] I will have to close for this time and hope to write more the next I want you to write as often as you can and I will try and awnser [sic] peggy [sic] think of me and tell all to write tell your little ones I haint [sic] for got [sic] them tell billa [sic] and gilbert [sic] to be good boys and mind there [sic] mother no more but remains your true and affectionate brother

John Hicklin to peggy [sic] Boggs

excuse bad writing spelling write soon soon soon peggy [sic] keep in good course [sic] and dont [sic] greive [sic] your self so much

Vale Mills Tenn Feb the 13 64

Dear Cousin Margaret

I seat my self to write you a few lines to inform you that I am in good health and I hope these few lines may find you and family enjoying the same. well I received your kind letter of the Third was glad to hear that all were well. well Margaret you must cheer up I know you have had to undergo a verry [sic] hard trial but you must try and cheer up Margaret I have had a dear friend laid away here lately no one so near on this grand earth only my Wife and child Margaret no one can realise [sic] the loss of a good mother only those who have experienced it and me being away from home so long I do not know that I will [illegible word crossed out] miss her as much as I would if I had been at home. When we get back home their [sic] will be right smart changes when we go to church their [sic] will be several of our old friends missing that is gon [sic] to the spirit land. but why should we mourn departing friends. we shal [sic] all soon follow them. and we should all live prepared to go to the land of spirits Well Margaret their [sic] is no news of importance here we are doing splendid out here we are out at a mill some 3 or 4 miles from town we expect to get pay soon all is quiet no talk of us leaving here yet as we can hear Well Margaret I believe I have wrote all I know at present to write. Write soon I remain your Cousin until death good by to all

J.C. Storment To Margaret Boggs

Feb 18th 1864

Paducah Ky

Mr [sic] Mrs [sic] Boggs I take the present oppertunity [sic] of informing you that I received your kind epistle some time since it found me well and doing the same I am so over joyed [sic] this evening that I can hardly write so I tell you what pleases me so well our men has taken Fort Donelson and also has taken 10,000 prisoners and has got 4 gen that was secesh commanders Johnson and Buckner and Tomsan and Pillow he put on a negro dress and made his escape a cross [sic] the river and some of the cavalry swam their horses a cross [sic] the river after him and caught him so he made the 4 well Clark this is Tuesday morning and we have got Gen Grats [sic] report of the fight he reported that we got 13,000 prisoners 10,000 stands of arms and all of there [sic] big guns thats [sic] nothing like the Bull run affair this is the bigs [sic] fight that was ever fought in A merica [sic] the report wasnt [sic] so good yesterday evening as it it [crossed out] is this morning But Ill [sic] tell you what so secesh is is [sic] about played out The secesh has avacuated [sic] bowling green [sic] and Ill [sic] tell what another fact the first thing you know seceshidom [sic] will get it neck broke it has alredy [sic]

got its back brok [sic] well I expect that you would like to know something about how our troop come out They got pretty badly cut up the 18th Ill got a good many killed and wounded I cant [sic] tell you much about our loss for there is so many false reports it is reported that the 11th Ill is right smatly [sic] cut up but I cant [sic] tell you any thing about the fact of that well this is enough of this subject I have nothing els [sic] of importance to write at this time so fare you well at this time write soon to your umble [sic] searvent [sic] H M Parkison

March 11 1864

[written on letterhead with an image of a man in a uniform. He has a big moustache and a cap on his head with a plant growing from it. The caption along the left side of the image says: Jeff. Davis Returning from War. The caption under the image says: Jeff Davis Going to War.]

Dear Cozin [sic] I now take mi [sic] pen in in [sic] hand to let you now [sic] that iam [sic] well at present hoping these few liens [sic] may find you ingoying [sic] the same blessing of god [sic] ihave [sic] nothing Strang [sic] to rite [sic] to you iwold [sic] like to Sea [sic] you icold [sic] tell you more than ican [sic] rite [sic] [thos crossed out] though we have good times here we have not bin [sic] in any battle yet we have bin [sic] garding [sic] the rail rod [sic] we are about 50 miles from home but the talk is that we are going South but it is hard to tell [illegible] we will [illegible] more than ican [sic] tell Well i [sic] must bring liens [sic] to a close in [illegible] you to rite [sic] Soon So no more at this time but remain your cozin [sic] untill [sic] deth [sic].

When this you Se [sic] rember [sic] me tell John that he Can ciss [sic] mi [sic] foot
Joshua Dallas

Mrs [sic] boggs [sic]

[riete crossed out] rite [sic] Soon

Scottsboro Ala

Apr 14th/64

Friend Peggie [sic]

I seat myself to answer your kind letter that came to hand this morning! and to let you know that I am well and doing the same and I hope that these lines may reach and find you and your little ones in the same conditions I have got no particular news to communicate at present the boys are all well I am having a very good time and enjoying myself first rate! to day [sic] is [crossed out clod, cou] cloudy and cool we have one day pretty sun shiny and the next will be cold and cloudy and maby [sic] raining well Peggie [sic] what to write I dont [sic] know for we dont [sic] get much news since the regt [sic] left I dont [sic] get many letters now! I have not seen the boys in the 111th for a right smart while John was down there last weeke [sic] they were all well I

think that I will go down there to morrow [sic] and also go to see my girl! You said there was about 10 women to evriy [sic] that will just suit me for I love the society of women and it has been so lonely [sic] since I had the pleasure of hearing words spoken by one of the northern damsels that I dont [sic] know what kind of an effect it would have on me I expect that I have entirely forgot how to entertain them fair ones well Peggie [sic] I was sorry to hear that you had so much trouble about your place and that you had lost your wheat I was also glad to hear that you had got some one to work your farm for you this! I am very sorry about all the peaches being kill for I had been making great calculations about what a good time I was going to have eating peaches when I got home There going to be lots of peaches here in this country this year especially [pe crossed out] in this part I have not travled [sic] any this spring well Peggie [sic] I suppose that you have seen some of the boys that blongs [sic] to our regiment by this time I guess that you would know some of them well Peggie [sic] I am run out of news to write so I guess that I will have to quit I know that I will be glad when the time comes that I will get to quit writing letters home! I have three months and a half to serve yet before my time is out then I will rejoice! Give my kind regards to all in quiring [sic] friends and take a reasonable portion to your self and children and write soon to your friend

Hugh

June the 3

my Deare [sic] husban [sic] I [illegible letters crossed out] take my pen in han [sic] to let you know that wee [sic] are only tolerble [sic] well at this time the childern [sic] has bad colds thay [sic] a baugte [sic] as bad as when thay [sic] had the hooping [sic] caught [sic] I recieved [sic] yours the 2 I was glad to here [sic] frome [sic] you wanse [sic] more it hase [sic] bean [sic] over to [sic] weeks sins [sic] I got won [sic] it wase [sic] rote [sic] the 18 of last month but o Clark I was So glad that I went out and nelt [sic] don [sic] And prayed to god [sic] to Save you and to protect you from all danger I houpe [sic] he will give you helth [sic] and Streng [sic] well the weather has bean [sic] very disagable [sic] it is A prety [sic] day I made A corme [sic] putting [sic] to day [sic] you [sic] brothers wase [sic] here Mary hays [sic] had A wood chopping [sic] to day [sic] all I had was mather [sic] John cunhagnm [sic] and James gaston [sic] and robert [sic] and jesy [sic] gory [sic] I am going to have on [sic] next week Gary fanse [sic] [illegible] has won [sic] to morow [sic] that is the resen [sic] I haden [sic] it tomorow [sic] I will laye [sic] it of [sic] to nexete [sic] week what is here to day [sic] will yull [sic] A rite [sic] smart the settlment [sic] sayes [sic] they will all help next week well Clark I will tell you A boute [sic] my trade