

In Camps – Five Miles East of Clarksville Jan. 8th 1862 No. 1

Dear Ninnie, Aunt Lizzie returns to-morrow and I write you this by her – I will write you ever week and give you all the particulars of the march. To begin – we camped at Starksville the first night we left – the fifth – we had a good camping place. I went on ahead of the Regt. And took dinner at my old friends D.C. Young's – had a good dinner. On the sixth – camped on McKenzie Creek four and a half miles from Clarksville – nothing of importance occurred during the stay. Col Maxey overtook us after we camped and Willie was sworn in. He came very near being rejected but the Col finally concluded to receive him. He had ridden nearly all the time. Dr. McKee says he can ride all the way.

On the seventh we passed thro' Clarksville by Locke's Regt and they fined us a salute; after we passed them our Regt was halted, dressed to the left and we stood at a reset arms as they passed in review – before us- we then passed on a mile beyond town and stopped for dinner and I borrowed Bro. Long's pony and went back and saw Bro. Halbert and my old friend bro Black gave me a strap to carry my gun with; so I can now throw the strap over my shoulder and march with much more ease. On of Lock's men met with a misfortune, in firing an old cast cannon they had at Clarksville it burst and broke his horses leg. In the evening just before reaching our present camping ground a very laughable circumstance occurred; we were passing thro' a lane and some of the boys in the rear gave an old bull a scare and here he went raneing down the line and about the time he got halfway down he line a man stepped out of the fence corner (what he was doing is best known to himself) never dreaming that a bull was near him, but the bull being under full headway concluded that the man had as good a right to get out of is way as he had to go around him, he therefore ran over him; no damage being done more than a long slit torn in the back of the mans coat, he very quietly got up and looking very much like the gentleman who as I suppose "buted the bull off the bridge" quietly turned round after the bull had gotten out of gun shot, and remarked, "Well, if my gun was loaded I'de shoot that bull shure: John loan me your pistol." You never heard such a laugh as was raised.

Thursday (the 8th of Jan) we had been in camps all day. It rained a hard rain last evening but we did not get wet. I stretched my cover lid over my tent. I went out this morning cut an old dead tree and in the hollow found a squirell – killed it and Willie killed another this evening. I painted the camp wagons to-day. We resume the march again to-morrow provided it is not raining – it is clear to-night. I will write to you again in a few days my darling.

Now my dear be brave – bear up – don't give way to your feelings. God will help you. I will love you, think of you – and try to be a good soldier and by the grace of God do my duty and again return to my sweet Ninnie,

God Bless you my darling
Your own K

P.S. Jan 9th Thursday morning – A sad affair took place last night – one of the guards set a loaded shot gun down by a tree and some one passing accidentally struck his foot against it and threw it down when it went off and the balls passed threw one of Capt Hills tents and killed one of his men. Bob Baker son of old Uncle Joe Baker.

We are preparing this morning to resume the march – having as before said lay by yesterday. God Bless you dear, K

In Camps near Centerpoint, Pike Co Ark Jan 14th 1862 No. 2 (two)

My dearest Ninnie, I wrote you by Aunt Lizzie when she went back. I promised you then that I would write you every week and give you the particulars of the march. I will give them in the form of a diary. **Thursday Jan 9th** – We struck camps (being encamped five miles east of Clarksville and having lay by one day) and resumed the march – the fore part of the day was foggy and drizzling rain, (My turft coat turns rain finly almost equal to oil – cloth) – we camped on milcrek, 9 miles from Red River having marched 16 miles. **Fri. Jan 10th** – To-day we marched only 9 miles. Reached Red River about 12 o'clock (We crossed the river at the mouth of Mill Creek) – it took all the ballance of the day, to cross half of the Regt. **Sat. Jan 11th** – Choctaw Nation – To-day the balance of the Regt crossed the river and we traveled five miles – camped near the farm of that old rich Indian, R.M. Jones – We had to pack water a mile – the worst camping place we've had yet. **Sunday Jan 12th** – Camped to-day on flat creek, Severe Co, Ark. Marched 14 miles to-day – weather warm and pleasant. Bill Neilson had a chill to-day. **Monday Jan 13** – today we march 16 miles crossed little river about 12 o'clock. The day cloudy and cold – But I did not suffer any. I would be a calvary man if I had a chance. I was very much fatigued for the first 2 or 3 days but now I don't feel tired at night scarcely at all. I have ridden some nearly ever day since I left. When ever I get tired I drop back with the trin and I always find some one that is tired of driving and I get to drive a while and soon get rested again. We have had seven miles of very bad bottom (Little river bottom). We Camped this evening on Cossitt river one mile from Paraclitta, the Co seat of Sever Co. I saw the limb on which a horse thief was hung a few days since – his grave was close to our camps. Bill Neilson had another chill again to-day – he got quite sick and stoped on the road – we never missed him till we got to camps. The Dr. sent back an ambulance for him. I was detailed to go back with the driver. I took plenty of blankets a long and kept tolerably warm – but the road was rough and the night cold. I dreded the trip for it was then nearly night and Bill was 14 miles back but the moon shown brightly and we drove pretty fast and got back about midnight. **Tuesday Jan 14th** – We made a forced march to-day having come 22 miles. We have passed over some rough country to-day – crossed the Saline river about one o'clock. In as much as I was up so late last night the Dr. gave me a ticket to ride to-day – being a little sleepy, I took a good nap as the wagon went along. We are now about 125 miles from Paris – we are camped to-night on a beech of beautiful clear water – plenty of fine long beech all around me – the first I've seen since I left old Tenn. When I saw this this evening I jumped for joy. Bill Neilson is tolerably well to-day he is taking medicine now to keep off his chill – to-morrow being his chill day.

Darling you must excuse this badly written letter. I am writing on my knee by a pine know fire. Dear if you have not already written to me by the time this reaches you – write to me at Little Rock and address you next letter “Memphis” darling write on one end of the envelope this: Private~~~ Maxey's Regt Tex Inft Co A No 11. I and Willie both keep well. How have you been doing since I left darling? Have you kept well? Darling I think of you often dear and pray for you too. I trust all to the good Lord. I pray that he will give you grace to bear up amid your troubles. I feel fully confident that he will be with you and me dear. Let us trust in him and we “shall lack for no good thing.” It will take 12 months long to roll round and then how glad I will be. I will then have discharged my duty. I never wished to be called a coward or tory. Be quiet dear do you duty like a brave patriotic woman – these times will be not last always and when I return I want to see a bright eye and cheek – it is pleasant to think of home and its sweets. I hope that peace may be made and we return before our time is up. Pray for me dear. Let us go forward with renewed vigor trusting fully in God. May you Fare well. Your Own K

In Camps on Saline river, Saline Co Ark Jan 23rd 1862 No 3

Dear Ninnie, This is the third letter I have written you since I left. In my last I wrote you the particulars of the march in form of a diary. I left off at Jan 14. Wednesday Jan 15th – Struck camp near Centerpoint and march 15 miles. Camped on little Mosior's river – a beautiful stream of clear running water the day has been cold, slight sleet and drizzling rain this morning.

Thurs Jan 16th – Made a march pleasant. Friday Jan 17th – We have traveled 15 miles to-day. Camped in Clark Co on Ponwaw Creek. of 14 miles to-day and camped of Wolf Creek. The day moderately pleasant. Saturday Jan 18th – It being rainy to-day we lay by. I have been engaged to-day in painting the ballance of the wagons – finished all but 3 or four – will finish the ballance the next time we lay by. I have been detailed to-day to drive a two horse waggon. I get 40cts a day extra which will raise my wages to 23 dollars a month. I have a good tarpolain sheet on it and have a cott in it. I and Will sleep in it of a night. I only have 4 or 5 hundred lbs to haul and the Dr. says Willie in it all the time with me. In the army there are three classes of labors; Extra duty men, who get 40 cts a day, mechanics who get 34 dollars per month and artisians, they get the highest wages, I think about 50 dollars a month, the work I have done on the waggons will come under the last class mentioned, by the time I get thro' it will have been a month that I have been engaged – so I think I shall get some thing near 50 dollars for the painting I have done.

Sunday Jan 19th – 0 Marched 15 miles to-day- camped on the Caddo river, Frank Thurman, one of our company, got into a skiff and it began to rock (and the stream being very clear he concluded it was only knee deep) and he jumped out and lo and behold it was up to his neck! Weather uncomfortably warn to-day. Monday Jan 20th – Marched 12 miles to-day, crossed the Ouchita river about 1 o'clock and 1 mile this side. I get along finely now as I get to ride all the time and have a good cott to sleep on: it keeps me off the cold ground. If i was stationed I had as leave sleep on the ground as not for then I could get plenty of straw to sleep on. Weather moderately cold.

Tuesday Jan. 21st – made a march of 17 miles to-day, passed thro' Rock Port about 10 o'clock and caned 4 miles this side.

Wednesday Jan 22nd – Have traveled 15 miles to-day and camped in Saline river, Saline Co, Ark.

Thursday Jan 23rd – To-day we have lain by in order to give the boys a chance to wash – Will Long over – took us today. I was very much disappointed. That box you sent me Bill forgot and left it in Rocky Comfort Sever Co Ark. He says however that I will get it at Little Rock (we are now 27 miles from Little Rock) – he says that the stage driver is going to quit and has to go thro' the line from Rocky Comfort to Little Rock to get his pay and that he has instructed him to bring it thro' to Little Rock. The stage passed on to that place to-day and will get there a day before we do. Bill says he gave the driver the money to pay the postage on it and wrote to Dr. Harman an acquaintance of his, to direct the box “J.K. Street Little Rock Maxeys Regt Texas Inf. I suppose I will be sure to get it when I get there.

My health has been generally good since I left with the exception of cold. I have a slight cough now. I hold prayer meeting over Thursday and Sunday at the Capt's tent. I hope by Gods grace to live religious and be as religious and useful as possible during this campaign – pray for me darling but I need not ask you to do so for I know that you will. We heard good news to-day (I hope it is true) it is said that England has acknowledged our indpendance and that she will rase the blockage by the 4th of Feb. If this be so I think that the war will soon be ended. God grant that it may.

My darling I want to hear from you so bad! I think of you so much and it is great pleasure to me to think of you and the many pleasant associations of home and its endearments – Home! how sweetly sounds the word, O I wish that the time nay swiftly pass when I shall again see my Texas home. There is no state that I love better than Texas. My dear I leave you in the hands of God. I feel confident that he will take care of you.

Darling I shall always love you let the circumstances be what they may. I think of you so much thro' the day that I dream of you at night. O my dreams are so pleasant. Dear don't make yourself sick by greiveing for me. I will try to be a good soldier and do my duty to my country and then I shall always, while we both live, study to make you happy and shall be at home with you. Yes at home for I shall have a place that we can call our home and you know that there is no place like home. Dear excuse this badly written letter. I have to write on my knee and I have but a poor light to write by. I would have written to-day but I have been busy painting the ballance of those waggons. We resume the march again to-morrow at Little Rock. Be cheerful as you can my dear, live religious and may God Bless you.

**Your own
K**

In Camps Bayou Metre Pulaski Co, Ark 12 miles northeast of Little Rock Jan 30, 1862 No 4

Dear Ninnie, Friday Jan 24th – We left Saline river and traveled twenty miles – camped eight miles from Little Rock. Jan 25th (Saturday) – reached Little Rock about 1 o'clock – consumed the ballance of the day in crossing the river, (Ark river) and came on this side one mile from the city. Little Rock has improved considerably since I passed thro' it eight years ago on my way to Tex. Then it was a respectable town now it is a handsome city. There are a great many very handsome buildings in the city. It is built on the bank of the Ark on a high bluff quite above high water mark and upon the whole presents quite a handsome view. The view from the opposite bank from city is as pretty for a sketch as I ever say. I did intend to sketch the city and send it back to you, but I did not have time. Dear the stage over took us today and I stoped it and got that box you sent me. Allow me darling to return you my thanks for the handsome “present” it contained. I cooked the apples last night and made pies – Darling I was so glad to get a letter from you. I wrote to br Long to-day. You wanted to know if my feet did note get sore. No dear they have not been sore since I have left – before I was detailed to drive that two horse wagon. I could always get to drive for some one of the wagoners till I would get rested; since I have been driving a team I have fared very well. We get plenty to eat, beef, pork, meal, flour and sometimes molasses, besides plenty of coffee but don't always get enough sugar, but then that you know we can dispense with. I expected dear to get a letter from you here today but I did not. Instructed the post master to forward all mail matter for me to Memphis if any should come. The cars are now complete from here to white river 50 miles – also fro Memphis thro' the Mississippi bottom. Sunday Jan 26th – Struck camps this morning and marched only twelve miles came on Bayou Metre. I believe I wrote you in my last letter that I held prayer meeting twice a week in our company Sunday and Thursday night. Monday Jan 27th – Today we have lain by. I cooked some of those peaches you sent me made some nice pies – and I also made some sweet cakes. Dear I shall not forget to write to you ever week. You requested in your letter that I should not forget to do so – Forget thee! How can I cease to think of my own sweet darling Ninnie? My dear you are the last of my thought at night and first in my mind of a morning than I have such agreeable dreams of you at night. Darling I believe with God's blessing I shall soon realize the reality of my dreams. I will discharge my duty to my country. God will bless me in the effort and it will not be long – even if it is twelve months – till I shall be with you again and happy. Tuesday Jan 28th - Col Maxey went back to Little Rock yesterday to see about getting transportation by railroad and steamboat – returned this evening – rainy and disagreeable – we lay by again to-day. The conclusion is to go on to white river and there take steamboat to Memphis. Wednesday Jan 29th – Weather rainy and disagreeable – sleet

this evening and to-night – consequently we have lain by again to-day. One of Capt Dixons men died to-day this is two we have lost since we left. Thursday Jan 30th – It has been snowing a little this morning but has _____ looks now like it might clear off – on account of the weather we lay by again to-day. We will leave however in the morning. I think the calculation is to go out here about 4 miles and meet the cars and go by railway to white river thence to Memphis by water. The teamsters however will go thro' by land and carry the train. They will go through empty – all the baggage will be put on the cars and boats. Darling our tent has not leaked any since we have been laying by here altho' the weather has been so disagreeable. We did not stretch it tight and it does much better. I sleep perfectly warn and comfortable. When I first commenced driving that two horse wagon I slept in it, but the first cold night that come I slept cold, so I took my cott and sleep now in the Hospital Stewards tent – You see the Hospital wagons all have to be driven close to his tent of a night and he has plenty of room in his tent and a good one too and it being more handy for the present I sleep in his tent.

Darling I was very glad to get that haversack from you, before, I carried my dinner in Bill Neilsons haversack. You wished to know “you won't stay one day longer than you are obliged? Will you love?” No my dear I will not. I would to God that these war times were over now and I could this morning return to my sweet, dearest, darling Ninnie – But dear while these times continue altho' I would like to be at home I feel like staying till my time is up and serving my country as best I can. You want to know, dear, whether I was sick or well and request that I should not hear to tell you the worst. I promised you when I left that I would tell you how I got along and I shall not fear to tell you exactly how I get along. I have been well since I left with the exception of cold and cough. I have had a cold for about 3 weeks – but it is now nearly well with the exception, I never had better health in my life. Since we have been laying by here we have sent 15 sick back to Little Rock hospital. All of our neighbor boys are well. Bill Neilson has gotten well of the chills – Bro Will is well – sends you his love. Dear don't give yourself any uneasiness about me. I know that my pathway is a dangerous one but I have placed my confidence in God and I believe he will be my stay. Dear, I would like to write you more but I haven't room. I will write regularly dear write to me at Memphis don't forget to put the name of the Regt on the back
Your own loveing K

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In Camps, Devall's Bluff, White River, Ark Tuesday Feb 4th 1862 No 5

Dear Ninnie, Friday Jan 31st – we left Bayou Metre and went eight miles back towards Little Rock –(within 4 miles of it) and camped on each side of the railraod – having received orders from Gen Vandorn to turn our train over to the quarter master general at Little Rock and proceed by rail-road to white river, (this place) sixty miles from Little Rock and there take steam boat to Memphis. **Saturday Feb 1st** – It rained and sleeted prety much all night last night – the day gloomy and bad. I went up to Little Rock this morning. I expected perhaps Id'e get a letter from you but did not. Three of our men died last night in the Hospital at Little Rock and two in camps – one belonged to Capt Dillard's Co – from Lamar his name was Johnston – the name of the other I have forgotten – we have lain by here today. **Sunday Feb 2nd** – rained all day to-day (slow drizly rain) and froze as fast as it fell –trees bend beneath the weight of ice – Notwithstanding the bad weather we left and took the cars this morning. I believe dear you never saw a train of cars. The road is first made level and then iron bars on each for the cars to run on. A car has eight large iron truck wheels on which it rests – it is made prety much like an old flat or ferry boat about the same size. A train of cars consists of a number of these! linked or cupled together. There were about twenty to the train we came down in. Passenger cars are made on the same order as freight cars (the kind above described) with the exception that passenger cars are made with nice houses, with windows. The passenger train went down this morning and took our sick the ballance of us started on the freight train about two o'clock. I never sufferd with cold son in my life as I did today – rained all day and we crossed and piled up every way in open cars – my body never got wet any. I had on my turft coat and a blanket around me. We met the passenger train at Brownsville half way between Little Rock and white river. We were so heavy loaded the engineer concluded that he would get the other engine to his train as we were making poor speed; it was then night and we had 23 miles to go. One engine worked in front and the other in the rear – night soon over took us and a darker night I never saw. I never was near froze to death in my life. It was sleetng and a keen east wind blowing in our faces and we were in grande prairie. We had 10 miles prairie after we had gone about half thro' the prairie – the train came uncupled about middle ways. The engine in front went a head of the one in the rear with its portion of the train while the other was left behind with its and neither of the engineers knew but the whole train was to gether. I was on the rear car of the front engine, bro was on a seat next to me just in my rear. After we had gone within two miles of the timber the front train stoped to water – and the rear train came up at full tilt and not knowing as before said that the cars were uncupled it being so dark, it run right in to us. The car in front of the rear train was lifted off its tracks and ran up on the car that I was on. As soon as the rear train struck us I jumped off before the other car ran on to us and escaped unhurt, Bro was butted of hells over head in to a mud whole – lost his blanket he had around him and his gun but was not hurt. I held on to my gun and my blanket. Four or five of our Co were badly hurt none that you knew – two men got their legs broken and one got his arm broken. I suppose there was about 23 or 30 tolerbly badly hurt but none killed or mortally wounded. We were then in a bad fix – we struck out for the timber a foot, two miles off and as luck would have it we found al lot of cord wood and built good fires. The front engine was not hurt but the rear one was disabled – tender broken – that is the trick – she carries her water to replenish her boiler. All the cars that were not injured by the collision were brought by the front engine down to camp with out baggage and then the wounded were all put on one car and carried in to Devalls Bluff – white river – and the cars that had our baggage on then left with us. I got my tent and stretched it but could not get but could not my mess chest being that so many things piled up on it, to get at any ting to eat. Bro Hill gave me a small piece of meat and bread which made my supper, many had neither tent or supper. I got some meat and bread from John McKarten for my breakfast. I did not sleep more than an hour – kept fires all night and lay by them raped in our blankets. **Monday Feb 3rd** – The cars came back this morning and tied the disabled cars and engine to

gether as best they could and brought us in to this place Devall's Bluff, to gether with about a hundred broken guns. Bro found his blanket and gun – not injured.

Tuesday Feb 4th – Weather still keeps gloomy. The boat is here waiting to take us to Memphis. We cooked 3 days rations this morning and will leave now directly, the bell is ringing to go a board. I haven't time to correct my letter darling excuse me – Bill Long went back to Paris the other day. I did not know that he was going till after he left. I send this by Maj Towns. In haste your own love
K

In Camps, Fair Ground, Memphis Tenn Feb 11th 1862 No 6

Dear Darling, this leaves me and bro – well – Tues Feb 4th - we left Devall's bluff on white river and took passage on the Wm H Longley for Memphis. She had tow barges in tow covered with tarpaulins. We left about 2 o'clock in the evening. I wrote to you before we left and sent the letter by Maj Towns. I instructed him to give it to Bro Long or drop it in the Post Office at Paris.

Wednesday Feb 5th – found us gliding down white river en route for Memphis. Passed several very nice towns during the day. Nothing of importance occurred.

Thursday Feb 6th – passed out of White river about day light this morning and entered the Mississippi. The river is very high, nearly out of banks. Friday Feb 7th – Pargoud Memphis an New Orleans boat over took us last night and 15 or 20 went aboard of her. Friday Feb 7th – we reached Helena today at 12 o'clock, 90 miles below Memphis. It has been raining all day and men suffering on the barges – the tarpaulin is so badly stretched over the barges that it is doing but little good – every thing wet. I had almost as leave be in a hog pen – The Col says he will lay by here till another boat comes up. 2 o'clock the D.H. Mears a large C. S Mail Packet just arrived. The Capt said of the boat that this Confederate government has already been ten or twelve thousand dollars expence to him and (not withstanding we were suffering so with cold and rain) he could not take us – His boat was very large, as large as four of the one we were on (the W.H. Leary). The Col told him it didn't make any difference he was going any how – so he stationed a guard with orders to shoot the first man that attempted to loose the cable. Our Co and six others went aboard and for the ballance of the way passed very well. We left all the sick and 3 companies on the Langly Capt Hills, Ragsdales and Leftwicks. Sat Feb 8th – Last night a man by the name of Turner belonging to the Titus Co, fell overboard and was drowned. We reached Memphis this morning at 9 o'clock and after getting some government wagons (eight) to have our things proceeded three miles beyond Memphis to the fair Ground to camp. We had orders to move on immediately to Bowling green – but the Col told that it was no use talking that his men had been exposed for more than a week in had weather and some had not slept scarcely any and besides, the collision of the cars (I wrote you the particulars of that in No 5, the letter I sent y Maj Towns) had broken nearly 200 guns and they were in no fix for going any farther until they recruited and got their guns repaired. The order was then countermanded and we are now ordered to remain here until further orders. When we will leave or where we will go to I am unable to say. The roads from the warf out to where we are camped are so muddy that the 8 waggons hauling for us were till. Sunday Feb 9th – getting all of our things here. I had neither bed clothes or tent last night. My mess chest came and I and bro got our suppers and went to a house about a quarter off (Mr. Marley's) and told our condition and wished to get lodging for the night he told to come in. The lady asked if we had been to supper. I never was treated kinder in my life had a nice feather bed to sleep on and this morning a servant came up and brought a bowl and pitcher and made a bulging fire. I never got up till 8 o'clock – dressed and went down stairs and breakfasted at 9 o'clock city fashion. We had

spare ribs, sausage, eggs bread biscuit coffee, tea, sweet milk – never charged me a cent wasn't they clever dear? I went down to the city this morning went to the Post Office but found no letter from home! Darling please write to me. I do want to hear from you so bad. Capt Shelton has had 3 or 4 letters, got one since we have been here dated the first of this month –I got one from Ma yesterday when I first got here written on 27th Jan. Ma said you had gone home said you were well but that you grieved for me most all the time. O dear don't give yourself so much uneasiness about me. God will be with me and take care of me. The Langly came in this morning and all of our sick and wounded were sent to the Hospital – the wounded were those who got hurt on the cars. Bill Neilson has been having the chills again he is now in Hospital. I was in the Hospital this morning. It's a large four story building containing three or four hundred rooms. Dear it would do you good to go in and see how well the sick are cared for. The Hospital is kept up by a charitable fund all done by the ladies of Memphis - it is called sisters charitable hospital. I recon there are over a hundred ladies that stay in it all the time and wait on the sick. God Bless the women!! Dear they have wounded here sent from the Belmont fight and for two or three hundred miles off – you see they can soon send them by rail road. They have three yankee prisoners, who are wounded here in the Hospital and God Bless those good good women, they pay the same attention to them that they do to our own men! The ladies who wait in the sick in the Hospital call each other sister. If I ever get sick or wounded I want to be sent right here to this Hospital. If it was not for the associations of home I'd as soon be here if I was sick as at home. Monday Feb 10th – Dear I hear so many reports I can't tell you any news – they are so contradictory. Our men were overpowered the other day at fort Henry and were compelled to retreat – 80 men were left to man the cannon and keep up the appearance of a fight while the rest retreated the 80 were taken prisoners. Gen Pillow has since recaptured the fort. We here of skirmishes in KY. No decisive battle has been lately fought. We here a great many sensation reports which turn out to be false. Your own love K

Head Quarters, Camp Iuka, Tishomingo Co Miss Feb 18 1862 No 7 (seven)

Dear Ninnie, This leaves me in fine health – Tues Feb 11th – remained in camp on the fairground Memphis. Wednesday Feb 12th – last night about midnight we received orders to proceed immediately to this place, news having reached us that fort Henry was taken and the yankees were ascending Tenn river. We were ordered to be ready to leave Memphis this morning by daylight. They told us that what guns we had sent to the shop to have repaired that were not finished, would have others furnished us in place of them. We got our things all on the cars by a little after sun up this morning and went to the shop to get the guns (about 200) that we had sent to have repaired, and lo and behold the Smith hadn't mended a single gun, we were then compelled to knock a round and get guns where we could – we found one merchant that had a lot of second hand guns we picked them over and finally succeeded in getting our guns exchanged (that is the broken ones) for as good ones as ours were before they were broken. So we didn't get off from Memphis till 8 o'clock in the evening and we had not had either breakfast, dinner or supper, except a lunch, about enough for one meal and some were not so fortunate to get that you our things were all packed on the cars and we had no chance of cooking any. Thursday Feb 13th - I slept finely on the cars last night – we reached Corinth this morning at breakfast time (Corrinth is in this state 21 miles from this place) and feeling pretty hungry I borrowed four bits and got my and got my breakfast – some of the boys had no money and had then missed three meals. The people of Corrinth hound out their condition and soon there was money enough made up to buy the boys breakfast - that was clever wasn't it? We passed thro' Burnsville about 8 o'clock and reached

this place (Iuka) about ten, this morning and found that the yankees had been up Tenn river, as far as Florence 40 or 50 miles above this place, and had gone back, but said that they would be back again in about two weeks. Friday Feb 14th – I wrote to Uncle Mc to-day. I told him that we would remain here for reinforcements and would then move on the river to East Port and fortify that place. I have since learned that our present Gen (Gen Chalmers) intends to make this place his headquarters. Keeping his troops stationed at the important points along on the Memphis and Charleston railroad, all in striking distance so that his scouts, which he keeps out, give him information of the enemy, he can run his forces to get her for any emergency. We have here the 9th Mips Regts, and 500 calvary and an Ark battery, about 25 hundred. I have not been able to learn the entire strength of the forces in Gen Chalmers command, but enough to withstand the yankees in Tenn river, they are I learn 4,000 strong. I learn that we have fortified below here since they went up and in all probability their retreat is cut off. We have not heard anything of them since they went back. Sat Feb 15th – Ninnie, I can't tell you how much surprised I was to-day. I went down to mail Uncle Mcs letter this morning and the P.M. Mr. Settle knew him and several other gentlemen in the office knew him, they remarked that every body thro' here knew McDougal and Cion Pace. I made inquiry about where grandmother lived, and found that I was in a 11 miles of her place, I went right staright and got a furlough and went to see her. I borrowed a horse from the comissary department. Grandmother was down at Uncle Alberts and Uncle D and family had gone to Mr. Tankesely's, so no one at home. I went back to next house and got directions to Uncle Abners about ½ mile from Grandmothers, he lives north Uncle Whits wife, he has his 3rd wife and four children. He was very much surprised to see me, treated me just as cleverly as possible. Sunday Feb 16th – went up after breakfast to Grandmothers, Uncle D had come home – after dinner he and I went down to Uncle Alberts (8 miles). Grandmother has had a bad spell of pneumonia but is now in a manner well. O dear you never saw such a surprised swt of folks in your life – all glad to see me – had a great many questions to ask which I haven't room to write. Uncle Albert wrote to Uncle Cion this evening and I wrote some to Uncle Cion in his letter. I have some corrections to make I wrote Uncle Cion that we had shiped the yankees out at fort Donalson, since that the scale of fortune has turned against us. It is a hard matter to get reliable news – what you here to day will be contradicted to morrow. I will write you what has been confirmed here and is considered reliable. The fight commenced at fort Donalson Tuesday, we repulsed them both by land and water, they attacked us again Friday and we repulsed them again – they came again Saturday morning with heavy reinforcements and the battle lasted all day and till 8 o'clock in the evening when again they drew off having it is said sustained a heavy loss – got six boats sunk and several crippled, while we had comparitvely sustained but a small loss. They were still ___ to give it up, and Sunday morning about day light they came back reinforced with overwhelming reinforcements and we had no chance to reinforce our men from the fact that Johnson was compelled to have his force at bowling green being compelled to burn up that place on Friday from the fact that the citizens he had been guarding then as Southern men declared in favor of Lincoln, so we could stand it at fort Donalson no longer, haveing already fought 3 days and nights and all the time the odds against us. Our loss at Donalson was heavy – but our forces are now in a fair way to whip them out; our forces that retreated from Donalson are now at Clarksville 60 miles below Nashville on Cumberland river ahead of the yankee gun boats and have made their stand their and Johnson is close at hand aiming to join Gens Pillow and Buckner at Clarksville and besides our old mud turtle and six other of our gun boats have gone in to Cumberland river and the last we heard from them was that they were in pursuit of the yankee gun boats, with 9 thousand men aboard, said feel fully confident that notwithstanding our loss at forts Henry and Donalson we will get in a few days gain another Manassas victory. Monday Feb 17th – I returned from Grand Mothers this evening. I could get a furlough only for 3 days. O dear how I wish you were here. I don't know how long we will remain here – but in all probability we will be here some time our present posision is a very important one and we will remain here till we

learn the movements of the enemy now in Tenn river. Altho' they said that they would be back again in two weeks when they left Savannah last week. I have no idea that they will do it from the fact that our turtle and six other gun boats that have gone up the Cumberland – will draw then out of the Tenn river provided they can pass our batteries below them. We have plenty of cannon in our Brigade – 3 in our Regt and if they do come back we'll give a "kind" reception. Darling I wrote to Uncle Mc to address me at Memphis and that it would be forwarded to me. I didn't know then that we would remain any length of time in Iuka or I would have directed him to address me at this place. If he doesn't answer my letter before you get this tell him to address me "Iuka". I here will give you the proper form –

Maxeys Regt
9th Tex Infantry
Iuka
Co Mipp

Rev J.K. Street

Tishomingo

Gov Harris the Gov of Tenn passed thro' Iuka to-day all the members of the Legislature to gether with the banks and archives of the state on their way to Memphis for fear that the yankees may make their way to Nashville. Tuesday Feb 18th – Lt Latimer was left in Memphis sick he has gotten well and came in just a while ago on the evening train he says that Capt Shelton (we left him in the Hospital at Memphis sick) is getting well and that he is going back he also brings us good war news – he said that telegraph dispatch to Memphis last evening states that while the yankees were concentrating their forces at Donalson that our forces at Manassas marched on to Arlington heights and Washington and took both of the last named places. If it be so it is glorious news for us but I don't know how to accredit the report. I hope that it is so.

Darling this is the seventh letter I have written you but I have never had any letter from you since I left home except the one Bill Long brought me – O my dear, you don;t know how bad I want to hear from you. I feel sadisfied that you have written. Darling I lay up nights frequently when every body else is asleep and think of you. I can't find words to tell you how well I love you – O that we could have peace and I could be with my own sweet Ninnie – but my country needs my services and I an content to undergo any kind of hardships for the good of my country and feel proud to know that I am privilaged to participate in this glorious struggle for independance. I leave you in the hand of God my dear. May he bless you, your own love and affectionate husband K

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"Street Papers, #4180, The Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

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Head Quarters, Camp Iuka Tishomingo Co Feb 25 1862 No 8 (Eight)

My Dearest Ninnie, This leaves me still the enjoyment of good health. Wednesday Feb 19th – rained very had and came near blowing down our tent. We have had a great deal of bad, wet, cold weather lately. Thursday Feb 20th – weather clear warm and pleasant. Friday Feb 21st – last evening, just before bed time, we were called out on the “long roll” and informed that our picket guard had discovered a Lincoln gun boat in Tenn river, and that it had landed at East Port 18 miles from this place. Immediately preparations were made to meet it. Out Regt was marched to town (Iuka) and our rifles and shotguns exchanged for Springfield Muskets with bayonets: We then marched back to camps and cooked two days rations and (having drawn knapsacks and haversacks) packed up and made ready for a fight: we were told that we would leave this morning at 4 o’clock and in all probability would be in a fight before 10 o’clock. I reckon you never saw a more determined set of men in your life. We were ready in due time having got thro’ with our cooking, about 12 o’clock and taken a good knap of sleep. Our Regt and 9th Miss Regt, were in town at the appointed time, armed and equipped, when word came in that the gun boat had gone back. I was informed by a gentleman who was in East Port at the time that not a single man left their gun boat. A gun boat can only carry about 150 men. Our Cavalry were in town (East Port) when they left this morning and as a banter, one of our men shot a minnie rifle six hundred yards and struck the boat. They said, as they did when up before, that they would come back again and next time would land a sufficient force to give us a decent thrashing. Our Brigade is well armed, and I imagine they will not find that so easy a job as they think for. We can, in less that one day, concentrate at this point at this point ten thousand troops; there are encamped here, at Gen Chalmers headquarters, about twenty five hundred. Sat Feb 22nd – Excitement died away and all quiet in camps again – drizzled rain pretty much all day. Sunday Feb 23rd – O what a beautiful, warm pleasant day! not a cloud to be seen and this is the sabbath. I wonder how my Ninnie is this morning? is she well? She is lonesome, off somewhere grieving – come my dear cheer thee up – “be of good cheer” the Lord our God is with us and they that trust in him “shall lack for no good thing.” Darling I am going to church this morning. O how I wish you were here to go with me. I have retuned, heard a good sermon by bro Stainback, the Chaplain to the Cavalry Regt stationed at this place – he invited me to attend his church (he has preaching every Sunday and prater meeting every Wednesday evening) and preach for him. I shall avail myself of the invitation. I went back to Church this evening and heard a sermon by the Chaplain of the Mips (9th Mips) Regt – an Episcopalian. After service (O dear do you see how my paper is blotted I was sitting busily engaged writing to you when one of the boys cut a tree down and it fell different from what he anticipated, and the top fell right plum on me but God be praised, it never hurt me in the least. Two limbs fell, one on each side of me; surely God was with me “And he shall give his angels change concerning thee, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”. I am truly thankful to God – what a wonder. I can’t tell how it is, but I never received even a scratch.) bro Brooks read the proclamation of President Davis, ordaining “Friday 28th Feb” as a day of humiliation and prayer to Almighty God. We expect to try to observe the day here. Will you all do the same in Tex? Monday Feb 24th – Warm pleasant and clear. We have been camping, since we have been here, about half mile from Iuka, we moved to day over next to the Mips and Tenn Regts, so that the whole brigade would be together we are now about a mile from town. We turned over our tents to-day to the Quarter Master of this place and drawd good, roomy and new ones, so that we can now have a chance to keep dry when it rains had and besides we got plank to floor our tents. We learn to-day we had 75 thousand troops at Nashville and that Jeff Davis would be there tomorrow to take command in person. We are in daily expectation of a battle there. Dear your Uncle and Mr. Riddle were here to-day to see me – said grand mother was still improveing and that the connection were well. He told me that he heard from his son who was in the last fight at

fort Donalson, he was wounded and shot thro' the ankle – was in the Hospital at Nashville. I wrote to you in my last letter (No 7) that I had been out to see Grandmother and the rest of my new kin (they live about 12 miles from here) and if I stay here any length of time, which I think shall do I will go back to see them again. O dear how I wish you were here. Grand Ma and all the connection are anxious that you should be here. If you were here I could get to see you ever week or so. The two Jim Yates came up to-day and brought me a letter from you the first I had received from you since I left except the one Bill Long brought me. I have written to you regularly ever week since I left. I am sorry you do not get my letters sooner. The letter Jim brought me was No 3. I have never received No 2 – but I reckon I will get it for Col Maxey left word for all of our letters to be forwarded to us from Memphis to this place. Darling your letter gave me both pleasure and pain. Pleasure in that I was glad to hear from you and know that you are well. Pain in that you seemed to be so distressed. O dear I do hope that you will not give yourself so much uneasiness about me. I know that it is hard for us to be seperated but then dear you know that it is not because I want to be seperated from you that I am away from you but it us because my country – my bleeding country needs my services. O dear you say “I am not patriotic” – shy not darling? What shall we do? Our cuntry is threatened on every side – already the clanking of the tyrants chain is heard – And now in the feartion of our country gloom hangs on the people many of our brave boys are now in a felons prison cell and shall we not sacrifice the endearments of home for a season rather the lie so finely upon our backs and wait till we are all bound hand and foot and the fair daughters of the south reduced to a level with the flat footed thick – lipped negro? No, but we will be free, we will be made indepenant again. Then let the fires of patriatism be kindled in every heart and let every man who can, to arm! and “Strike for the green groves of our sires for God and our native land!” Darling I shall expect to here from you again soon and my darling thy to be cheerful and composed and in the meantime rest assured your K will ever think of you and never cease to love you and when this campaign is over if Lincoln boys don't bind me (which I have no idea they will do) I'll make my way back home again to the wife I left behind me. Yes and again we will be happy. Your own true and loveing K God Bless you good bye

Head Quarter, Camp Iuka, Tishomingo Mips March 3rd, 1862 No 9 (nine)

My Dear Ninnie – I am still in the enjoyment of Good health (I didn't mean to make that capitol “g” in good.) Tuesday Feb 25th – in the evening after finishing my letter to you (No 8) I went to the Hospital (an old school house which has been fitted up for the Tex Regt) to see my messmate, John Bennett, who has been there several days sick. Imagine my feelings! I found the Hospital in a retchedly deplorable condition. It appeared not to have been swept since it had been occupied, and the floor was covered with dirt, spit and every thing else nasty. The sick had no pots to get up to – had to use common was pans, and being too weak to hold themselves straight part of their evacuations would go on the floor and part in the pans, when a shovel full of sand or ashes would be thrown on it, and there it would lay. I found John Bennett lying on his blanketts, on the floor, covered with dirt and blood (his nose had been bleeding) he said he got medical attention every other day. Poor fellow, he was really suffering - very sick. The Dr says he may get well but says his case is a very critical one. My own opinion is he will die. Lieut Gains went and procured a private house for him Bro Doans, and I have since been here waiting on him and will continue to do so until he gets well or dies, (I hope he will not be the latter) I wait on him just like I would a brother. I am satisfied that he would have been in his grave, had I not waited on him as faithfully as I have. Lieut Gains told Bro Doan that Dr. Bennett, John's father would pay them amply for their trouble – they said they did not want any thing. Bro Doan is the Depot agent at the place – is not sick, but is in good circumstances. Kinder people I have never have met with in my life – have excellent fare – so, for the present, I am living high. P.W. Ryan, nepew to Dr Ryan of Paris, is here sick too, but not dangerously. Alvis Ryan is waiting on him. One of us set up one half of the night, and the other the other half and take it time about sleeping during the day. John Bennett has the fever. We have

a private physician, De Tellfair, (said to be the best in the place, and I think a most excellent man,) waiting on him. He says it a peculiar fever, neither typhoid or pneumonia – a fever prevalent only in camps. Wednesday Feb 26th – I went to prayer meeting this evening had a good meeting.

Thursday Feb 27th – Bro Brooks our station preacher – God bless him – has been exerting himself for the comfort of our sick. The ladies of Iuka have contributed in this matter. We have procured a large commodious room, in the female college and have mattresses and cots for all the sick; and Bro Brooks is chief warden and every thing is now kept more decent. I am satisfied that many of our brave boys, that have died since we left have died from sheer neglect. Friday Feb 28th - Today was a day of fasting and prayer – we ate nothing here at Bro Doans until night – had neither dinner or breakfast. I went to prayer meeting this morning and a good one too it was. We learn today from passengers (telegraph communications being cut off,) that Nashville is in the hands of the Federals and from the dome of the capitol of Tenn the hated banner of Northern aggression now floats in triumph! Johnston has fallen back to Murfreesboro' this side of Nashville. We are anxiously waiting to hear of a big battle in that direction soon. Our troops are concentrating there.

Saturday Mar 1 – 2 of the Lincoln gun boats and one transport attempted to come up the Tenn river again to-day and were saluted at Pittsburg 20 miles below this, with southern battery when they changed ends and went back. Our scouts say we lost 4 killed and 4 wounded, don't know how many of the enemy are killed we found 16 that had floated ashore. Gen Pillow passed down to-day on his way to join Gen Johnston – he made us a speech. He was in the fight at Fort Donalson – enclosed I send you his official report. In the case of his speech he said "I am acquainted with the movements of our army and are long we hope to be able to drive the enemy beyond the Ohio" – said that he had fought 15 battles but never had seen troops fight as hard as did our soldiers at Donalson and never before saw so many dead men on one battle ground said we had killed and wounded ten thousand but "said he" 7 thousand men could not withstand 64 Regts. "for" he said "the enemy admit that they had that number in the field." Sunday March 2nd – Dear I went to preaching to-day and heard a most excellent sermon from "Besides this, giving all allegiance add to your faith virtue." Qr Master Harison came up to-day and will pay us off now as soon as he can fix up the "Pay Roll" which will be in a few days. Dear I will send it back to you except what little I may need for the present. I will send it by T.B. Edmonson. Darling we heard from Capt Shelton the other day – he is getting well – we learned that he is going back to stay a month or two till he gets well. Dear wouldn't you like to come out here with him? If he goes back you can come when he comes back if you wish to love – Uncle D, Abner and Mr. Riddle were in town to-day – said all were well – Grand Ma was still improving. Darling Capt Harison got a letter out of the office at Memphis for me from you. I got it to-day. How glad I was to hear from you! It was dated "Feb 14th" marked "No 4". It was in answer to the one I wrote you at White river by May Towns. Darling we have a great deal of fatal sickness in our Regt 9 have died since we have been here, altho' we left all the sick we had at the time, at Memphis. Five died last night, among that no., Walter Guess. I think two or three will die to-night. Dear you spoke of Bro "Hall" (By the way dear didn't you think enough of him to commence his name with a capital "H"?) What is he doing? is he going to the war? or is he going to "Make Worke? O my dearest sweet one why do you give your self so much uneasiness about me? You say "darly do please come home, I can't stand it for you to be thus exposed, you can't imagine how I feel unless you were in my place just a little while". Now darling come let us reason together, 1st What good does it do my dear to grieve 2nd What harm does it do? I think darling it does you no good at all; that you will admit it surely does you harm – think my love of your condition. My love my own sweet Ninnie, will you make me happy? Darling shall our anticipated little one be an idiot!! Darling will you comfort me in my hours of loneliness and sorrow? O then dear please write me one cheerful letter that I may read it and find there worlds of solace. Darling don't become grieved and think that I do not sympathise and feel that truly you have sorrows! Dear you know I love you and would give my very existence for you. Now my dear I know that you would not do one thing to pain me. Then my dear please do not sign and

weep so much for me. Again don't write cheerfully while truly the heart feels differently. I know you will be ever happy – why not love is not God pledged to take care of me? Does he not say of those who trust in him “the power of the sword shall not hurt thee”? God is my trust. I feel fully confident that God, our God, will fulfill the promise he has made and as ere long I shall again be with my Ninnie. Then dear I shall have the consciousness of knowing that I have done what I felt to be my duty to my country. Dear these are perilous times and unless matters take a change for the better, men who will not volunteer will have to be drafted. Would you have it said of me – He refused the call made by his country and had to be drafted? Shall torryism be cast in the teeth of our offspring? Never! Never!! Darling I do not dread the hardships thro' which I shall have to pass during this campaign. I have been used to these all my life. I have felt the pang's of sorrow – the keen disappointments of life – ask my ma she can tell. I want to meet with ills and disappointments. It stimulates me. It makes me morally courageous. Darling believe me I don't fear the dangers of this campaign; dear your grief hurts me a thousand worse. If it was nor for you I would rather be dead. “Sometimes I think it would be best for us both, then you would have nobody to always be teasing you and going after you “etc. – is the language you write me. Dear how could you write so – I live for you. I never have thought it would be best for me to die and leave you. Dear Ninnie, don't you think it would be better for you and me too if a Lincoln should kill me? Don't you think you would be happier? You wouldn't have any one then to grieve for. Now darling if I was to ask you these questions in earnest, what would you think? Dear you say “We ought to be willing to submit to the will of God – if we don't willingly we will have to any how” Darling how beautiful the first part of the sentence – but dear the later part exhibits him (God) rather as a tyrant than a father. Darling trust in God – love God, serve him all the while, trust in him under all circumstances and then dear me thinks, in this, you will find an answer to the question. “Love how can I be happy?” Dear you seemed to think that I would suppose you indifferent when I fail to get a letter from you at the appointed time – never my love. I know you two well for that? O dear what happy moments I spend when I think how dearly my own sweet Ninnie loves me – how tenderly she used to caress me and when I think of uniting again with my darling to again enjoy those same blessings it nerves my arm for the coming conflict. It makes me cheer up when gloomy and disponding and feel that I have something to live for. Dear while setting up last night I picked up sister Doan's Album and wrote the following all alone at midnight. It is only at times the spirit of the muse comes over me and then it is but dimly shadowed forth –

Bone Beetis semfer Lunt – (i.s. the good are always happy)

Altho' in heathen language wild,
The idea is drest,
Yet conscious reason whispers mild,
The good are always blest.

The lonely soldier, from home away,
With thee are humble quest,
Is glad, dear lady, he can say,
The good are always blest.

Tis even so we feel the same,
Tis nature's own behest,
All earthly things, this truth proclaims,
The good are always blest.

Doubt not the truth, faith hope and love,

**Bring to the soul sweet rest. Why angels whisper from above,
The good are always blest.**

My dear I am going to write a piece for you next time I write. I haven't room in this. "I recon I will tire your patience with my long letter" as you say. Dear I love to write to you and I love to ready your letters – don't you love to read mine. I know you do. I read yours again and again. Dear we had a heavy hail storm to-day. Monday March 3rd – It is cold here this morning – is snowing. John Bennett is better this morning decidedly. We are looking for his uncle who lives about 100 miles below here – we wrote to him about a week ago to come. I wrote to John's father De Bennett last week. Dear if you can send him word that Johns is better. Dr says this morning he thinks he will get well. Tell Uncle Mc Alvins Ryan sends him his ficious regards says if there is a man in the world whom he highly esteems it is "Parsons McDougal". Again my dear let me ask you to be contented and trust in God. Darling did you know that there was danger in idolizing the objects of our affections too much and thus lead the heart a stray from God? Dear if you will simply trust all in the hands of God he will do all things right. Pray for me dear – for my safe return – but at the same time say "Lord let thy will be done not mine." If you will do this I know that all things will out right – otherwise it may not. That to my own past I am perfectly willing to submit to Gods will. Dear I didn't fear to tell you of the spree Col Maxey took – no dear I never fear to tell you anything for I know that if I was to tell you not to tell you it you would not – but I did not want to be the first to write of his conduct. I don't think he will do so any more. One good thing Gen Chalmers has declared martial law here so far as whiskey or spiritious liquors concerned. One man sold some to the soldiers – last week and the military orthorities burst the head out of every barrel he had – so that there in none in this place now. Maj Stanly has been appointed inspector general. Your own loveing K

Headquarters Camp Iuka Tishomingo Co Miss March 10, 1862 No 10 (Ten)

My dearest Darling Ninnie, Tuesday March 4th – I don't feel well to-day. You know how I wrote you in my last letter No 9 that I was at Bro Doan's waiting on John Bennett, I told you of the heavy hail stern we had Sunday – it broke nearly all the glass out of the window in our room, and the cold wind pouring in on me last night has given me bad cold and cough again. Bro Doan had new glass put in again to-day and I am taking medicine for my cough and hope soon to be well again. Wed March 5th – dear I got a letter from Ma to-day and answered it this evening. It has been cold all day. Thursday March 6th – Dear we are having a great deal of fatal sickness now in our Regt seven died yesterday and last night which makes 14 within the last four days. George Hertzog died last night : poor Mrs. Hertzog! how it will hurt her to hear the sad intelligence! O dear she is such a beautiful woman, and too poor George, he left a sweet little babe who will never know the good of a father. Friday March 7th – Three more deaths last night among that no. Jack Conklin our drum major – "Poor Jack" said just before he died "is dying in the defence of his country." O dear what beautiful clear day this is. It is like a beautiful spring morning. Old associations are aroused. I am thinking love of the pleasant sunny spring time days when you and I would walk musingly and almost silently to the "Table Rock." Dear do you recollect the evening when (despite little Sammy's capers) you promised to be mine just ten months ago yesterday. How happy I was then: yes dear and you were happy too. How fondly how ardently, I loved you then. Time has not abated that love in the least, but on the contrary, it has strengthened, and now I feel that I love you a hundred times stronger, deeper, purer and more lasting. How swiftly time passed while I was with you, love, but now stern duty calls me off in the defence of my countrys rights, it seems to pass slowly. Saturday March 8th – clear, warm, beautiful weather. Our sick boys whom we left back, came up to-day except those who have died. Poor Bill Haze – Dear you recollect that

I was telling you how wild and profane he was when I first went into camp and how after he went into my mess, I talked to him and got him to quit swearing and promise to do better. Poor fellow little perhaps did he think he would be so soon called from a young and loveing wife to the land of spirits – poor fellow I hope he is in heaven! Did you hear how he died? He was one of the sick left back in Tex. “Back in Tex” how I love to think of my own loved Tex – her beautiful prairies and many colored sweet cented flowers. But what makes it peculiarly dear to me, is “The loved ones at home” are there – my own sweet Ninnie – my treasure – is there – and of corse, I am not to be blamed, because “my heart is there also.” O what sweet music, soul stressing, is wafted on the evening stillness! The Regimental band of the 9th Mips Regt is seranading the young ladies of the female college to night. How beautiful! “Village quick step” “The girl I left behind me” “Sweet Kittie Gray” “Dixie” etc. I wish I was a good musician. I do love to hear good music. It stirrs the better feelings of my nature. Never mind, when I get back my sweet Ninnie will sing for me won’t you dear? I used to try to get you to sing for me when we would be sitting in the moon light contented and happy in each others love and sometimes you would comply and how it would gladden my heart. To me ‘twas the sweetest strains I had ever heard – to me how musical your voice! O dear you can’t know how much good it used to do me to hear you sing. Dear won’t you learn some prety songs to sing me when I come home? Music! O how it lifts the soul quite from the earth to heaven. I hop the time will not be long love when we shall, with Gods blessing, be able to have a quiet little home, that shall be called our home and then by and by, as God may bless our labors, we will have a nice piano – won’t that be nice. But you will say that I am becoming sentimental. Well I don’t mean to be so. But I hope with god’s blessing to realize it all – if not as I have drawn the picture I feel a comfortable assurance that we shall be happy. We have been happy love I tell me not vain, stoic that earth has no charm – no beaties – no happiness. I have had sorrows – my like has been little else but a continued scene of sorrow. But blessed be God – who ever put it in my heart to woe and win my Ninnie. Surely Ninnie you are good – surely will be an angel. Dear if you were to die and leave me all alone in the dreary world like a dove without a mate wouldn’t you come back love and be my guardian angel to lead me the lass of bliss? O how happy the thought would make me! O dear I have spent my time so pleasantly while I have been here at Bro Doans! shut out as I have been from the world and the wicked influences of camp life. I have, (what time I have not been waiting on John) been occupied with reading good interesting books. I can’t tel you how much more pleasantly and swiftly the time has passed. Try it dear, read interesting books, examine my papers and you will find that time will pass off much swifter 0 and you will feel better and all the wiser for it. The books I have been reading are “Angel whispers” what a prety title. It treats of the dead – and offers to the weeping friend the consolations of Religion. “Christians progress” another elegant contribution to the stock of christian litrature “Nights in a black house” illustrating boarder life and Indian warfare, “What can woman do” in which is contrasted the effects of womans influence when exerted for good and when exerted for the evil – “The floral wreath” a beautiful and interesting book, full of sketched and incidents of life. Sunday March 9th – Just 8 months ago to-night and you were a happy bride my love. O how happy we were that evening, notwithstanding I was so sick. I was happy then in your love. O darling how much I then loved you, but now how much more I love you – time has only tended to strengthen the tie. Dear our Regt is suffering so much with sickness that Gen Chalmers has exempted it from duty till we all get well. There were only 144 men able to be out on parade ‘thother day. There is strong talk, both among officers and men, (almost unanimus with officers, Bill Long and Lieut Gains objecting) of disbanding for 60 or 90 days – and being transferred to MO – rendevous at forth Smith I am not able to say whether this will be done. Col Maxey is at Richmond we are waiting his return. I hope we will – rest assured if we do it will not be long dear till your “K” will be with you again.

I will send you a list of those who here died in the Regt since we went into camps.

Co A – 7 - (Shelton’s)

Co B – 8 - (Ragsdales')
 Co C – 7 – (Young's)
 Co D – 7 - (McRunnel's)
 Co E – 18 – (Hil's)
 Co F – 6 – (Leftwick's)
 Co G – 14 – (Wise's)
 Co H – 6 – (Moore's)
 Co I – 14 – (Dixon's)
 Co K – 10 – (Dillard's)
 Total 97

The Hospital is crowd – many more are bound to die. I go every day to see the sick and talk with them – poor fellows how much good it seems to do them. I feel for them; no kind friend to cheer them in there afflictions: perhaps many of then have a wife, mother or sister at home, but they do not feel the gentle pressuring that kind wife mother or sister's on there fevered brows. God give them the sweet consdations of religion to soothe there sorrows in this dark hour of their calamity. Poor Henry Orr, I visited his sick bed this morning. And yet Death is our friend: for it releases the christian from the ills and disappointments of this life and enters him at once into the joys of Heaven. Again it exhibits, in contradistinction to the vain philosophy of Earth's core worn creatures, the triumph of christianity over death – and even while his darts are piercing the heart and the worm like blood is gushing forth, the Christian is enabled the exclaimine enemy tho' I fall yet shall I rise again. Thou shalt not triumph over me. Dear Dr. Baily who came up yesterday got a letter out of the office at Memphis for me and it was from you. I got it to-day. It was dated Feb 24th. The fourth I have received from you since I left home. It was not numbered but I know it was the fifth you have written me since I left. I have never received “ No 2” yet. O dear how much good it did me! It was so much more cheerful than the others you have written me. It really seemed as tho' you were happy when you wrote it. It makes me so happy. Darling won't you keep cheerful all the while I am gone? then maybe our “anticipated little one” will not be “a perfect cry”. You ask me love not to think hard of you for not writing oftener. I won;t dear. I think you have written often enough, tho' I would not mind to hear from you every day if I could. (Dear the team is coming in. I must go to the office, maybe I'll get a letter) I have returned – no letters for me. I am sorry to hear that Aunt Katie's Martha had the chills, but now the beautiful “spring time is coming” I hope they will soon be well again. Dear ain't the prairies getting green in Tex? Tell Aunt K I love her and want to see her. I am sorry to hear that there is a probability that Kate will have to quite school now that Bro Graham is quit taking boarders. Uncle Mc will have so many now to take care of too. If you want to live at Ma's, now dear that “Hell is bound up”, I have no objections. Uncle Mc will not have so much on his hands then. By the way Bill Long came back day before yesterday. I asked him no questions of course he “told me now lies.” You want me to let you know if I get sick. I will love tho' don't be uneasy. I know in whom I put my trust. Most of our boys look pale and thin, but I look well and hearty as I did when I left. It was remarked by some of the boys who came up yesterday “Why Street you look well and hearty” My cough is a great deal better, love the medicine I took has had a good effect and now I expectorate freely, and I think I will be well in a few days. When I first got the cough and cold, my breast pained me very much, but it doesn't pain me any more now, and I am most well. John Bennett is much better. I think now he will get well – night before last I thought he was dieing – he sweated a cold clammy sweat and his feet and hands were cold and he breathed heavy. I stimulated him much with brandy and just before day got a reaction and every since he has been getting better. but we have still to keep him stimulated much with brandy. His father's old family physician, Dr. Dean, was passing thro' here yesterday, heard of him and came to see John. It seemed to do him a great deal of good. He also left him \$20.00. Bro Doan says that he will not receive any thing for his trouble – altho' the two Mr. Ryans myself and John, have all been here on him and will still be here till

both the boys are well. I do believe they are the kindest and best people in the world. They have three beautiful and most interesting little girls and one little baby boy. The Eldest is seven years old. I have fallen in love with sweet little Alice. She reminds me of you dear. I know that you were just like her when you were little – she has deep blue eyes and beautiful curls – one of the sweetest little things in the world. As usual, when I am about where children are, I have gotten them to love me – and sometimes when I get tired reading I spend my time very pleasantly playing with them. You ought to here sweet little Alice say “Boy Teet” – she is so sweet. Dear don’t you reckon our little one will be a sweet curly headed little creature like Alice? If it takes after its Ma ‘twill be one of the sweetest little things in the world I know. And dear we will “teach it when young how to act when it is old” won’t we? But then you know the old adage says “we must not count our chickens before they hatch”. Very well, then we will leave the result to God and trust all in his hands. Dear you say you will keep count how much you stay at Uncle Mc’s if I think perhaps it would be well enough dear. You were mistaken dear, Dr. Hodges doesn’t own the Depot – nor doesn’t he live in Iuka – he lives now about 3 miles from grand mother’s. You want to know, love whether we expect a fight soon. We don’t know. We have to be on the “look out” all the time, and don’t know at what time the enemy may attempt to land a force at East Port. We are expecting to hear of the attempts – everyday. But our Regt is now reported unfit for duty. We here that the yankees are landing at Savannah 30 miles below this. All the troops at this place, but the Tex troops are holding themselves in rediness to march at any moments warning – have two days rations cooked. There are 27 Regts up at Corinth 22 miles above this (Confederate Regts). It wouldn’t surprise me if there was a battle fought in this neighborhood in a few days. Tho’ it is hard telling – all army movements are kept strictly secret so we don’t know what movement will be made every till all is over. A soldier may make every preparation, according to order, for a march and at the same time be as ignorant of where he is going to as “the man in the moon”; not even the Capts of Co’s will know. We have long since learned to obey orders in that respect and ask no questions. Arch Mayo is well – or was the other day I have not seen him for 3 or 4 days. Bill Neilson and Jim Lyons are both complaining a little - but not much sick. Bro Willie is well, all the neighbor boys are “tolerably health” Dear I am afraid you act imprudently by setting up too late at night. I am afraid you will injure your health, dear; take good care of yourself keep in good spirits and health and when I come back I’ll call you “fatty” and I’ll say a heap of pretty things and call you all kind of pet names – dear keep all my letters till I return. I will keep yours. Dear Bro Brown, Bro Leow Brown – came this morning. I was perfectly surprised – for from what I could learn I supposed he was either dead or would die. O I was so glad to see my old friend I do love Bro Leow. I think he is such a good man. He looks a great better than he did when he went into camps. I don’t know but he looks better than I ever say him before. We have a quarterly meeting going on here yesterday and to-day. I have been pretty closely confined with John, now is the time he needs attention, so that I have not had time to go to-day. Mr. Allen has been with John to-night and I have been in church. I have just returned and heard a good sermon, by a Bro Gains from “Enter into thy secret chamber.”

Dear you say that you pray for peace, a speedy reconciliation of these unhappy difficulties – this is right – suffer me to speak plainly love – why do you do this? Do you pray to God to lend his assisting hand in this matter, that our country may again be free and we become a happy and independent people again? or do you rather pray thro’ selfish motives, love? You are ready to ask what do you mean darling? (O me, as usual when I attempt to write something of the sort happens, generally; you see that big grease at the top of the page? My candle went out just now – and where do suppose I was? in the dark of course and I knocked the stick over and spilt the grease on my letter. I beg your pardon for my awkwardness dear – It’s granted and I’m glad of it) Well dear I mean that you must not pray for a speedy peace just simply because it would bring me back to you sooner – but you should pray for it earnestly because it will bring happiness to the heart of many – to the great mass of the people. I don’t say that you are guilty in this respect dear, but I was nearly writing advisedly. I promised you, love, in my last letter that in my next I would write

a piece for you. I don't feel much of the spirit of the muse to-night – but however I will do the best I can, maybe I will write you a better piece some other time –

**'Tis just eight months, my love to-day.
Since you and I were wed;
'Twas in a quiet place, away,
Far now from where I tread.**

**O happy mortal! then I cried!
I felt that I was blest,
The girl whom I long had sigh'd,
I knew I now posses'd.**

**Alas! the vision, soon must fade,
Of happiness, I'de form'd,
My country call'd, quick I obey'd,
And left my love alone.**

**Ere long when th' hated foe is slain,
I'll sing bright freedom's lay;
And then to the wars no more again,
My love, I'll be your K.**

Monday March 10th – We had a heavy rain last night. I was glad that I was not in camps – the boys all got wet – the rain ran under their tents – it rained so hard that their floors, (their tents are flooded) wer over flowed. I was at the hospital this morning – found some of the boys still very sick, and others very down. I saw six or seven that I can't see how they can live much longer. Another died last night, which makes the list 98. There are 215 in the hospital at this place. John Bennett is still much better has quit taking medicine, but is quite weak yet. The officers drew their pay Saturday. We were to have drawn ours to-day, but they say they have no chang – the money will have to be changed.

There is still strong talk of disbanding. I shouldn't be surprised if we do and if we do I shall make right for Texas. I have to write around this greasy spot dear. Dear I recon I will tire you with this long letter you see I have lined and interlined this and have written it very close besides. I love to write to you dear, and I love to read your letters. Write to me dear when you get this and write me a long letter. Edmonson has gone back home got tired of waiting for his money and went without it, so I can't send you what I draw by him, but if the Regt doesn't disband I will try to send you some, some way. Dear we will draw pay from the time we went in to camps –so we will draw 5 months pay this time, besides the \$25.00 dollars for my clothing. Now my love I will bid good by for a while. May God bless you, you own love, K

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"Street Papers, #4180, The Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

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Headquarters Camp Iuka Tishomingo Co Mips March 19th 1862 No 11 (Eleven)

My Dear Ninnie, Tuesday March 11th – John Bennetts uncle came to-day to see him, (he lives in the lower part of this state,) and will take John home with him as soon as he is well enough. I went back to camp this morning and found bro Willie complaining of having had fever every evening for several days, and of not being well. Wednesday March 12th – Received orders to-day to cook two days rations and be ready at a moments warning for marching, learned that the enemys gun boats were again at East Port. We have 3 batteries at Chickasaw a mile and a half above East Port supported by the 38th Tenn Regt a portion of our brigade. Thursday March 13th – All the troops except our Regt was ordered off this morning to Chickasaw and we were ordered to hold ourselves in readiness as a reserve, evening – The enemy. we just learned, engaged our batteries this morning and were considerably worsted – we sunk one of their gun boats – it was not exactly a gun boat either, it was only imitation – shot 3 holes thro' her – the enemy attempted to tow her off, but was compelled to abandon her and leave her to her fate. Willie being worse this evening I took him to the Hospital. We have a very large roomy house now fitted up for the Brigade hospital. I got a room for him in which Bill Neilson and Jim Lyons boath sick. Jim has not been much sick – has never been so sick he couldn't walk about. Bill Neilson is getting well – he has had fever. I would have taken bro to a private house but I don't think he will be much sick – he has good and nice comfortable quarters and I think in a few days will be well. Our Brigade hospital is not like the mean dirty thing I wrote you about in a former letter our Regt was then occupying for a hospital, but every thing is kept in tolerably comfortable style – but having so many patients, it is impossible for them to get proper medical treatment, let the surgeon be ever so good. Our Surgeon Dr McKee is sick and a Fr of this place, Dr Roberts is tending our Regt now for the present. I don't think he is much Dr. Dr Westbrooks and Neesly of the Mips – and Tenn Regts I think are excellent physicians. Friday March 14th - We were ordered together with the whole Brigade, to Corinth – got there about 12 o'clock and found that our troop, 25 thousand strong, had all left Corinth to engage the enemy who was marching on Purdy a little town 18 miles from Corinth up in Tenn. A skirmish took place there this morning, the particulars I have not learned – but the Federals retreated to their boats on Tenn river and our Brigade was ordered back to Iuka. It rained all day to-day, but I didn't get wet for I never got out of the cars. As soon as it was heard at Corinth that the yankees had retreated our Brigade was ordered back to Iuka for fear that they would come up the river in our absence and take East Port and Iuka. We got back about 8 o'clock at night. I went to the Hospital to see how bro was getting along. I found him worse than when I left him, a good deal – he was out of his head. Sat March 15th – I set up with Willie all night last night and don't feel very well myself to-day. Willie is still delerious has high fever. I got Dr Westbrooks of the 9th Mips Regt to take his case in hand – he says he has pneumonia. Sunday March 16th – I slept half of the night last night. Bro Brown set up the other. Neilson and Jim Lyons are still improveing, Will is no better very sick. O how lonely and sad I feel. Willie is some times at himself for a little while, he said to me to-day that he could not stand the noise that is made in the Hospital and that if I didn't get him a private house he believed he would die. Monday March 17th - beautiful clear weather again, Willie doesn't appear to be any better. I set up all night again last night. O how much anxiety is on my mind for his recovery. I put confidence in the good Lord and I believe that he will restore him to health. I have spoken to the Drs about moveing bro to a private house they think it would be dangerous to do so. Tuesday March 18th – Billie has been begging me all day to move him to a private house the De says it will be attended with danger. I tried to get him in at Bro Doan's where John Bennett was but his little girl is sick and needs all of sister Doan's attention. I got a room for him at Mr Rowland's, One of our boys in here now – has been sick is up and about again – he says that Mrs. Rowland is one of the best nurses in the world – says she has treated him like a mother. I think she is a good woman. She

gives bro every attention. Willie has slept more since he has been in the hospital – he was very restless while there, but the moment he got off his shuck mattress and got in to a feather bed he went to sleep right straight and has been resting tolerably well. I think he is better. I got a private physician for him this evening. Dr Tellfair the Dr who waited on John Bennett. He was in to see Willie this evening and appeared to be really mad because those Drs at the Hospital had blistered Willie so badly. He says it is useless and tends to weaken the patient. John Bennett was lower than Willie but he never blistered John. John went home with his uncle yesterday. Wednesday March 19th – Willie is better. Mrs Rowland says she was well acquainted with Uncle Cion and your father, dear. I was talking with her about them this morning. Dear we drew our money yesterday. I drew three months wages and \$25 for clotheing \$58 (dollars) in all. I will draw some money, for the painting of those wagons. I don't know how much but little enoug I reckon. That is to be paid on the extra duty pay roll by the Qr Master. I have not had time to go out to camps to get it yet. Lieut Gains came down to the hospital yesterday and paid me the \$58. Dar I would send you some money but I want to wait till bro gets well first. I will have to pay his Dr bill and board bill he has no money. Bro is a great spend thrift – he bought a pistol from one of the boys directly after he left and promised to pay him with the first money he drew - \$35. Then he bought a pony from Jim Long and promised to pay him out of the first money he drew – to keep him out of a difficulty I promised to see that the pistol would be paid for – not knowing that he had given Jim Long an order on the Quarter Master for his first. I intended that he should pay for the pistol first and then pay for the pony – but Jim has drawn his pay (Willie's) \$34 and so I recon I will have to pay for the pistol. Willie told me to sell the pistol if I could but I don't reckon I can get what he gave for it. Willie sold his pony at little Rock for a watch and \$10 and took it on Edmonson. When he got to Menphis he pond his watch for \$15 dollars intending to get the money from Edmonson to redeem it. He got the money but could not find the man he pond the watch to – to redeem it when we got ready to leave - so he has neither money watch nor pony. I advised him not to buy the pony, and then counseled him not to see him for the watch – but he wouldn't take my advise. I think I can sell the pistol for \$30 so I shall not loose any thing more than \$5. And as to his Dr and board bill I am perfectly willing to pay that if it takes the last cent I get in the campaign. I know you need some money, dear but your friends will not let you suffer. I will send you what I have left, when Willie gets well. Dear Uncles D and Albert were here Monday – said all were well Uncle D said as soon as Willie got so he could travel he would take him out to Grand Ma's and let him stay till he got well intirely. It rained and hailed last night – looks like rain again this morning. Dear our Regt is still suffering a great deal with sickness ____ Record is dead - died yesterday evening. Henry Hertzog died since I wrote you last poor boys. Henry and George are both dead. There has been 8 or ten more dead since I last wrote to you. Col Maxey returned from Richmond last Saturday – has been promoted to a Brigd Gen – left for his command yesterday at Chatanooga. I expect our Regt will be moved there. Darling you must excuse this writing. I have a miserably bad pen and can not write close. Now dear try to be cheerful and contented. I love you as ever and wish I could see you this morning. I would kiss you a hundred times over. Tell Ma not to be uneasy about bro – tho' he is very sick I think he will soon be well he has every attention. Mrs Rowland is very kind. Darling my mind is so torn up that I cannot write. I will try to do better next time love. May God bless you own loveing K

P.S. 1st – My cough is about will dear and I hope with God's blessing to keep well K

P.S. 2nd – our officers all drew five months wages – the Qr Master said the money would not hold out to pay us all five months wages but that in about 2 months the privates would draw again for the two months yet due us. Your K

At Grandmothers Tishomingo Co Mips March 25th 1862 No Twelve (12)

My Dear Ninnie, Thursday March 20th – Bro is a great deal better to-day, his fever broke last night and he appears now to be in a fair way to get well – is perfectly at himself. Our Brigade was ordered to Corinth last night – all of our Regt went, except the sick and those who were left to wait on them. We are in daily expectation of a battle there – both armies are slowly advancing throwing up entrenchments as they go. The forces are tremendous on both sides. Gen'als Beauregard and Bragg are both now at Corinth. Friday March 21st – Gen Breckenridge's Brigade arrived here at Iuka to-day in order to protect our batteries at East Port (as our Brigade has left) for fear the Yankees attack us both at Corinth and East Port at the same time. – O! darling I have sad news to write you – poor Willie is dead! O how sad my heart feels to-night! no one knows my feelings. I have cried till I can't cry. Bro died this evening at six o'clock. Said he did not fear to die – said he wished he could see Ma and sisters once more, 'and' said he, "Sister Ninnie too." I talked to him about dieing before he got so bad sick, before I moved him from the hospital, he told me that he had been a moaner, had always been in earnest, and did not believe the good Lord would cut him off without a preparation. I will write Ma all the particulars. Sat March 22nd – The government furnishes plain \$10 coffins. I paid the under taker \$5 extra and had bro's covered. I hired a two horse vehicle and brought him out to Grand Ma's to-day to have him buried in her family grave yard. I could not bear the idea of burying him among strangers. I met Grand Ma just above the barn going down to see Uncle Whit's wife – she had heard that bro was sick – immediately she asked how he was. I was so full I could only point to the coffin and say "he's dead" – it seemed to hurt her almost as had as if it had been one of her own children, said she was glad I had brought bro to her house to bury him – said she was sorry he had not been brought to her house when he was first taken sick. If I had known he was going to be bad sick I never would have gone to the hospital – but wisely the future is hid from us. Altho' we have the best of physicians in our Brigade hospital, yet from some corse there is scarcely a man ever gets well who is had sick there. Sunday March 23rd – We buried bro to-day – buried him at the head of grand Pa Pace's head – there stands a butiful fine bush at his foot and a red oak at his head. The neighbors generaley turned out to the burying. I wrote to Ma this evening informing her of bro's death and giving all the particulars. I forgot to send her a lock of bro's hair. I here with send it her in this. Dear I am really worn out. I set up with John Bennet 2 weeks and with bro over a week. I have not had but 4 whole nights of sleep in better than 3 weeks. I set up with bro for five days and nights, that I never left his bed side only as I was compelled, and during that time I did not get a 5 good hours sleep – there was such anxiety on my mind I couldn't sleep. I need rest now, other wise my health is good. I have a furlough until the last of this month in which time I can recruit again. Lieut Gains was not very well when I left Iuka yesterday was not able to go with the Regt when it went to Corinth. Wednesday night – Jim Lyon was still improveing about well, never has been sick enough to keep his bed. I think Bill Neilson will be discharged, orthorties say he ought to be he has never been well since we left home. If he is dear, I will send you some money by him. Monday March 24th – I and uncle D went down to Mr Smiths to get him to make me a pair of shoes. O am going to bar creek to-morrow with a wagon to get some head and foot rock, for bros grave and will get my shoes then. Mr Smith says he will have them done. We have been hearing heavy cannonading all evening in the direction of East Port. I expect they are fighting there. The Lord grant they may sink the 1st yankee boat in Tenn river. I was a young man to-day from East Prot who belongs to the artilery (he was at Smiths for a pair of boots) he says that we have batteries at East Port strung up and down the river for 5 miles, all mashed, so that you can;t see them 40 yds from them, and says the cannoneers have orders not to fire if the yankee boats come back until they get in range of the upper gun when they will be simultaneously attacked front, side and rear. He says with the heavy guns we have there they can sink their boats in spite of them. The fight that took place last week was with the upper battery – the lower ones were not planted

then, so that the present entrapment will be a complete surprise to them. Tuesday March 25th – I and Uncle D went down to bar creek, about 6 miles and got some large nice rock for bro's grave. I dressed then off this evening and put them up. I put on the head rock the simple words, "Brother Willie." I got my shoes, they are good and very neat. We heard heavy cannonading again this morning and pretty much all evening in the direction of East Port. I have heard nothing from Corinth more than the two armies are still advancing and digging rifle pits. There will I think be one of the most bloody battles fought there now in less than a week that we have ever had. Grand Ma sends her best love to you all says she would like the best in the world if you were here, while I am here. I wish you were too. O dear I can't tell you how bad I do want to see you. I pray God to shield me from the dangers of camp life and bring me hack again to my Ninnie – but at the same time I am resigned to his will; I know that "the judge of all the earth will do right." Darling I know that when you here of so much sickness in our Regt and of the death of bro you will be uneasy about my health. Now my love I don't want you to give your self any unnecessary disquietude. Trust all in the hands of God. I feel that God will be our friend, and I feel that I shall see my friends in Tex again. I believe that God will brink me again to my Ninnie. But if it should be otherwise dear I know that we will meet again in the bright climes of peace, where we will be done with the sorrow of earth and be forever happy. Now love don't cry when you read the latter post of this letter. Trust in God, serve him with a willing and perfect mind. Dear I would write you more but Grand Ma only has one piece of a candle and it is about out so I must quit. Good by love. God bless you – your own loveing K

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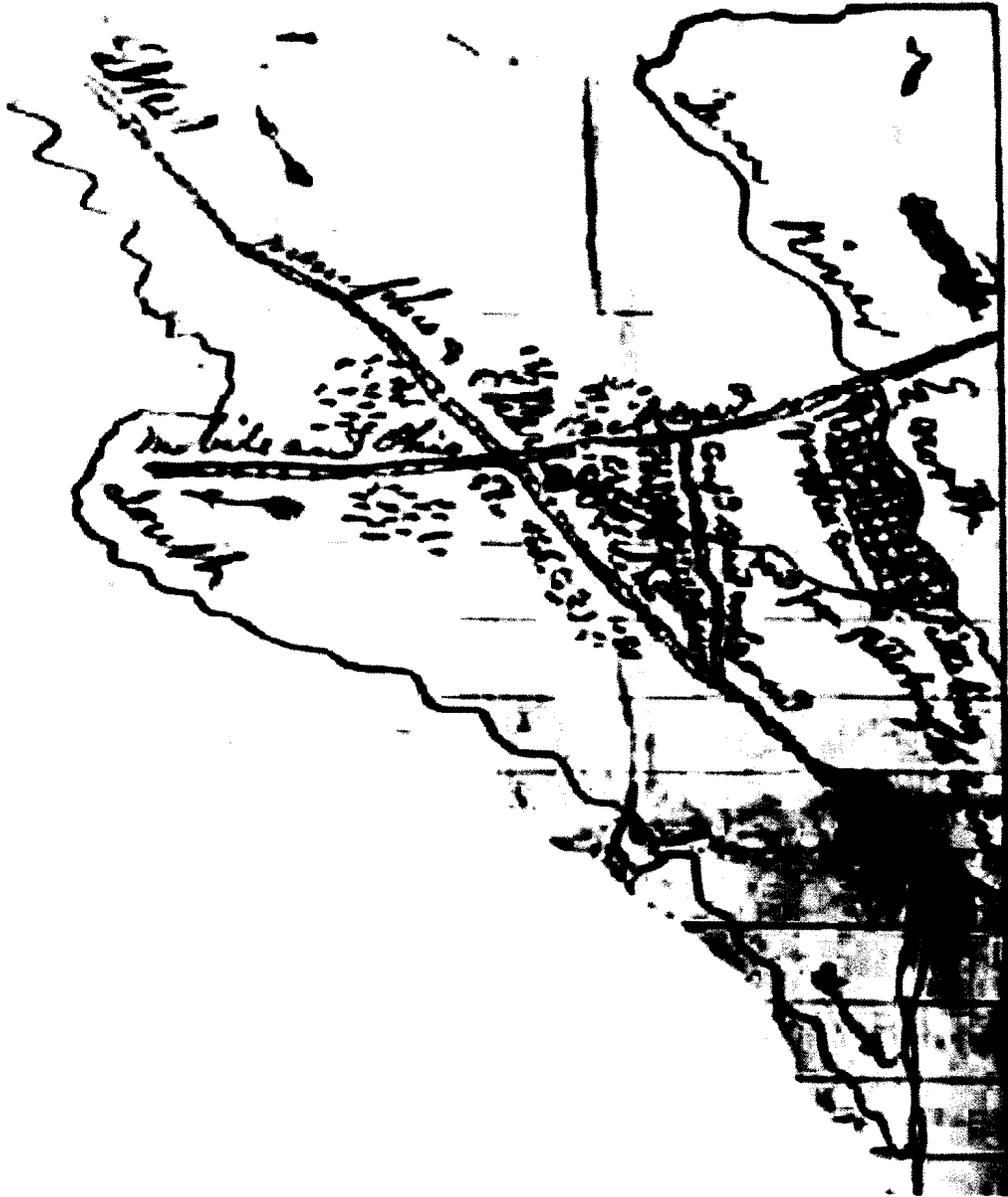
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Head Quarter Camp Corinth Tishomingo Co Mips April 1st 1862 No 13 (Thirteen)

My Dearest Ninnie – I don't intend this letter to be an April fool letter because it is dated "April 1st" – but it is my regular day for writing – Wednesday March 26th – Uncle D belongs to a company made up in the neighborhood of Grand Mother's and they are ordered into Camp at Corinth to-day – and I will not stay at Grand Ma's longer, (altho' my furlough is not out till Sunday) but will go on to Corinth with Uncle D. I have recruited up since I've been at Grand Ma's and feel quite well – in fact am in fine health – but when I got here Sat. I was nearly worn out. We reached Iuka about 11 o'clock this morning and found that Bill Neilson was dead – he died yesterday evening. Jim Lyon was with him – just before he died Jim said he raised up his hands and said "I want to go up." Poor Bill how it will hurt his parents. Ninnie Bill was my mess mate you know and he was a good boy. I loved him. Jim Yates, little Jim, is discharged on the account of bad health. I would have sent you some money by him but I was at Grand Ma's when he left. I think Jim ought not to have left Bill he so sick – but then Jim's health was feeble and could have done him no good. Capt. Tankersley's Co – the Co Uncle D belongs to – left Iuka about four o'clock this evening on the cars for this place. I came with them. Thursday March 27 – I slept finely on the cars last night – reached this place about 2 o'clock this morning – nearly all the citizens have left. I found a deserted house – went in and found some soldiers in it asleep. I undone my knapsack – threw down my blankets and slept till day – dear we have been docked in our baggage, we are only allowed two suits of clothes, the one we have on, and one in our knapsacks and 2 blankets – we are compelled to fasten this on our backs when we go into battle - and when we are moving from place to place we generally fasten on our knapsack. I have got used to it and it is scarcely in my way any. I sent my satchel, bro's trunk and my extra clotheing to Grand Ma's yesterday. Capt Tankersleys father - he brought his wagon to Iuka to fetch the Cap's things. I carry two blankets and my comfort. Dear that cannonading I wrote you about hearing Monday and Tuesday while I was at grand Ma's was at East Port. The yankee's boats came up again and our troops had a little fight with them – no harm done on our side – don't know what damage the yankees sustained – they 'retired' – it was thought we crippled one of their boats. They stood off at long law – wouldn't come close. I went off this morning to hunt our Regt. and you may depend it was a considerable job – it is said we have 75 Regts. here now and among that No. it is a prety had matter to find any one single Regt unless you know where it is. I found it about a mile North of Corinth and returned where I left Uncle D and his Co to get my gun and knapsack – and they were gone and taken my things with them so I was in a worse fix than before. I enquired and found that they had gone out south of Corinth to an old cotton gin to camp until they could draw tents which would be in a short time. I came out and feeling a little tired concluded to stay till morning. Friday March 28th – I am not very well this evening love, my bowels are a little lax. I think it is caused from drink this lime water here. I had free store water at Iuka. I think I will be all right again in a day or two as soon as I get used to the water. I have been chewing on bark and have got my bowels checked – feel better this evening. I tried to preach this morning to Capt. Tankersley's and Swiney's Cos. – they want me to come back and preach to them Sunday, I will do so if I can get off from my Regt. Dear I forgot to say – yesterday I sent you 20 dollars by John S. Orr of red river co. - he is bro to Henry Orr one of my old school mates who died a week or two since. He came to see his bro, heard he was sick but, poor Henry died before he (his Bro) got here. A good many of the boys sent money by him, he said he was going to Paris in a few days after he got home. I told him to leave it with Bro Long for you – dear I would have sent you more but bro's Dr and board bill and burial expences cost me 23 dollars and I only drew \$50. Lieut Gains couldn't make the change he owes me 8 dollars yet. I haven't had the time to get from Qr Mas Harrison what he owes me for the extra duty – they say we will draw again before long as privates only drew 3 months pay while officers drew 5 – they said money didn't hold out. I will send you more when we draw again. I shall stay here again to-night with Uncle D but will return to my Regt

to-morrow tho' my furlough is not out till Sunday – but we don't know how soon the expected fight will come off. Our Regt was on fatigue duty yesterday digging rifle pits. I think we will be attacked at this place Burnsville, between this and Iuka – and at East Port simultaneously. We have all three of these points well guarded – when the fight comes off it will be one of the biggest ever fought in the Confederacy, to my notion. The yankees are waiting for Gen Bewel to join them, when it is supposed their forces on the Tenn river will be a hundred thousand. Ours including those in striking distance on this, Memphis and Charleston rail road, will be about the same no. We have whiped them every time nearly on land – and I think we will do it again here. Dear I got a letter yesterday the envelope was marked paid, 20cts it contained 2 letters from you, two from Uncle Mc, one for John McCarty the other for me, and one from Ma. I was so glad to here from you – and ma – but could not help crying – part of Ma's letter was addressed to bro – and poor Willie was not here to read it – gone – I hope to a better land than this. I answered Uncle Mcs letter to-day. Tell Ma I will write to her in a few days again. I wrote last Sunday – informed her of bro's death. Love your letters were nos. 6,7. I have gotten all but No.2. I have never received that yet – not bro Longs either. Sat March 29th – Dear Tobe Carmack staid with us last night he is here on furlough, belongs to a Mips Regt – now in Va – was in the fight at Manassas. Tobe is in fine health – seemed to be glad to see me. A Confederate Soldier was court martialed here yesterday and shot, for attempting to “force a” little girl. Our picketts have daily skirmishes with the enemy who are said to be in 15 miles of us, and take prisoners almost every day – brought in five to-day. I returned to our camp to-day – heard that the 8th Texas Cavalry were here and went to see them, hearing that one of their Cos was from Waco. I only found one man with whom I was acquainted, that was the Maj – Maj Harrison, from Waco. Ma knows him – Lawer Harrison, the same who her security when she brought Joe back. Dear I received another letter from you to-day. “No 2” – it has been a long time comeing but I was glad to get it. Sunday March 30th – I went back to Capt Tankersley's Co to preach to them again, according to promise, another Co had come in to the old gin making three Co's. The Col of the Regt – Col Lowery – is a minister, he was present and preached a good sermon in the fore part of the day. I preached in the evening and had a good meeting – there was scarcely a eye in the congregation – bro Lockheart a Methodist preacher in one of the companies, exhorted after me. Dear strange insidents will occur in our history. Now when I left Texas, I hadn't the remotest idea that I would visit your childhood's home. As strange an incident as this occured with me to-day – after preaching this evening I was sitting down talking with some gentlemen – one spoke to a young man sitting by and called him Street. I remarked to the young man that that was my name, “Well” said he “maybe we are related.” I remarked that perhaps we were, but that I never knew any of my fathers relations, that I had an Uncle who lived in Lincoln Co, Tenn named Walter Street. “Well sir”, said he “that was my father” – so you see I have very unexpectedly met with an own cousin – the only one of my father's connection I have ever seen – his name is Columbus – is 18 years old. He came home with me and told me a great deal about my fathers brothers and connection. Uncle Anderson lives about 30 miles from here nere Ripley in Tipper Co – Uncle Ballenger Street lives in Ala. One of Columbus's brothers lives in Tipper Co about 22 miles from here his name is Russell. Columbus says he has seven bothers liveing, one dead and five sisters – all married except his youngest sister – he told me their names but I can't recollect them all – Columbus was at Fort Donalson in the 3rd Mips Regt. Most of the Regt was taken prisoners, only a few escaped – he (Columbus) has reenlisted for the war and has joined Lowery's Regt. the same to which Uncle D belongs. Tell Uncle Mc that he has a cousin in Lowery's Regt a son of Daniel McDougal. I got acquainted with him to-day – he is quite an affable cleaver gentleman appearantly. Monday March 30th – Co A has been on fatigue duty to-day we have been unloading cars – commissary stores – bacon, mess beef, flour etc. The Tex Cavalry took 4 yankee prisoners again to-day – among the no. a yankee Col. “The Tex Rangers” as they are called here have a tirable name the sight of one, to a “tamed” person in this country, make them almost children. I have examined our fortifications here – they

are good. I don't think an army of a hundred and fifty thousand could route this army here. I here with send you a diagram, of our present position. You will see that Corinth is right where Memphis and Charleston and Ohio and Mobile rail roads cross each other – you will also observe that our breast works extend from one end to the other about 5 miles leaving Corinth in rear of our line of battle and in a triangle – those dots indicate our camps – squares the yankee camps – from one rail road to the other just behind our breast works in one solid encampment – besides all those other dots you see around Corinth on all sides of the railroad indicating our camps.



I think we now have about 75 thousand troops here – and can run nearly as many more here in less than a day – our Regt is camped in the center of the line of battle just behind the breast works. We have cut down trees in front of our breast works about a quarter of a mile wide clear the whole length of the breast works – they are just as thick as they can lie so that it is impossible for an army to make a change no cavalry in the world can get over the logs. I don't think now that the yankees will attempt a direct attack but will endeavor to flank us in some way. Generals Bragg, Beauregard and Johnston all here. Beauregard rode thro' our camps yesterday – told us "air low and shoot slow." We sent out 3 or 4 thousand Infantry and about two or 3 thousand cavalry yesterday and to-day reconnoiter and try to bring on an engagement with the enemy if possible. I

pray God that if fight we must, each side will concentrate all their forces prety much and fight it out right here at once and be done with it. I think with our present position and force we can with God's assistance ship any force that may be brought against us.

O dear I got another letter from you to-day which makes 8 I have rec'd from you since I left – dear didn't no it tho I guess it was ____ - it was commenced on 13th of March and finished on 16th. O dear you can't imagine how much good it did me – it was such a cheerful letter – I am so glad you don't 'cry' and grieve so much – you make me so happy and I know it will be better for you – but dear it is getting late nearly every one is asleep but me we will talk more about the letter I got from you this evening to-morrow. I am in fine health – my bowels all right again – good night my love my “little wife” God bless you to-night and keep you safe from harm. I shall sleep sweetly to-night love. O your letter has made me feel so cheerful. God bless you my sweet one – how I love you. Tuesday April 1st – Some of our boys were sent out on picket guard last night about a mile from camps and took 3 yankee prisoners. Lieut Kennedy – Joe Kennedy – commanded the squad. Dear I am glad you say that you are happy even as you are in that you know you have my love – that darling you shall always have - you seemed to fear that the Confederacy would yet be conquered. But I have no fears in that respect. The victory at Fort Donalson was a clear bought one to the federals, that they admit themselves, for we killed ten to one – the tide is again turning in our favor. We gained another great victory in Va last week. Killed captured and wounded ten thousand lost only four hundred. “Darling allow me to weep sometimes” yes love you can cry “sometimes” for oft when the heart feels sorrow weeping gives relief – but love, you musn't cry too much. Dear I would be glad for you to come here but don't think it advisable for you to do so now – you see we have left Iuka – there is no certainty about how long we will remain any one place. No one can travel here now, in this country without a pass port – and has to be examined at every rail road station every town on the rail road is ender marshall law. It is a military necessity and is right. If you were here love at Grand Ma's perhaps in a few weeks I might be as far from you as I am now – and you know love we are able to spend money trying to keep pace with me – if we were able. I had as leave you would go along with me as not – then I could always get a boarding house close by for you and upon the whole, love, I recon you had best remain at home and trust God for the result. Dear Col Lowery's Regt is not organized yet – some of the men told me Sunday when I was over there to preach them that they intended to run me for their chaplin, But I can't be there when they organize and I haven't much idea of being elected. But if I am love I will come for you then myself. I haven't much idea tho' of being elected so you will not be disappointed love if I am not. Dear everything is high here envelopes are worth four bits a pack paper five cts a sheet \$1.20 a quire – shoes from 4 to five dollars a pair and common at that. I shall not have any thing to buy. I have clothes to do now the ballance of my time. I must close our Regt goes on fatigue duty this morning – good bye love. God Bless you – your own loveing K

Head Quarters Army of the Mips Camp Corinth April 12th 1862 No 14 (fourteen)

My Dear Ninnie, Saturday April 12th – We have had a big fight and gained a glorious victory. We also have news of another victory for the south at Cumberland gap – our loss but slight. We have also received large supplies of ammunition and 65000 Enfield rifles from Europe, by three large steamers which have run the blockade, Many of the arms have been sent here. They are the finest guns I have ever seen – will shoot from three to seven hundred yards – have what is called a saber bayonet – can be used either as a saber or bayonet. We also have news of a glorious victory in New Mexico by Gen Sibley's Brigade of Texans, over the Federal forces in that victory, which I suppose you have heard before this. Capt Morgan, called the marion of sixty two, (of whom you have doubtless seen accounts) with his little guerilla band, has since the fall of fort Donalson and the entering of the yankees into Tenn, killed and captured 1700 up to last week. He is a terror to the yankees. Enclosed I send you a piece of a letter which I had written to send you before the

battle of Shiloh – it is very much soiled. I carried it althro' the fight and want you to keep it as a sacred relic. I shall now proceed to give you an account of the battle as it occurred under my observation - of course every man has his own tale to tell, but I shall confine my self to facts leaving out exaggerated reports – you may have this published as it will save me from writing to many friends who are anxious to hear some account of the battle -

The battle of Shiloh 1st Day

We had for several weeks past been concentrating troops at Corinth Miss, and had fortified that place ready to receive the enemy – who had in the mean time landed a large force on Tenn river near Shiloh Church, 20 miles north of Corinth. I think that Gen Johnson came to the conclusion that the enemy would not attack him in his strongly fortified position and on the third of April he sallied forth with a force of I think not more than 65000. On the evening of the 4th a slight skirmish took place between the enemy's pickets and our advance guard, resulting in the loss of 5 men killed and 14 or 15 wounded on our side and 84 wounded, two killed and 15 prisoners on the side of the enemy. On the fifth we marched up within a mile of the enemies camp and formed a line of battle and slept on our arms all night. All was done silently and without the beating of a drum – and early Sunday morning April 6th at day light the attack was made – which was a complete surprise to the enemy – they had no idea that there was a “rebel” near them, more than a few scouts, as we afterward learned from prisoners. Our Regt was in Gen Andersons brigade and was posted on the extreme left wing of the army near the centre of the brigade. We marched up to the brow of a hill near the enemy's line and delivered our fire and then retreated to the foot of the hill which covered us from a tremendous shower of ball grape shot and shell from one of the enemies batteries stationed on the opposite hill. After reloading we passed over the hill from which we had retreated and formed in the hollow below, while the enemies cannon were pouring into our ranks the missiles of death and destruction. We were then ordered to take the battery at the point of the bayonet. We made three unsuccessful attempts and were forced to retire from the fact that the Regts on our right and left fled – and Tex could not do all by herself. Just at this critical juncture a company of the Washington Artillery came to our relief and soon silenced the enemys battery. We pushed forward, while the enemy fled before us after passing their first encampment – they made a stand at their second and planted two batteries in an open place where they could have fare sweep at is, one in rear of the other and a little to the right. We were ordered to take them at the point of the bayonet - again the New Orleans Confederate guards and another La Regt to our left deserted us – but the 9th Tex here covered herself with glory; for in the face of all this she pushed forward and drove the enemy from their first battery and took and held it. Here it was that Jimmie Long was wounded – he was shot thro' the foot and thigh – a braver boy I never saw he fell at the head of his company; he had only fired two rounds. I was standing by his side when he fell – he was my file leader. I had the flap of my cartridge box torn off at the same moment that Jimmie was shot. After we drove the enemy from their first battery we charged the second; in this charge Jim Smith had his thigh broke by a grape shot and was shot in the other leg after he fell. Jim Smith acted coolly and bravely – in fact all of our boys fought like tigers. The enemy contested the ground more strongly in this charge. Our Regt held them in check until other Regts came up when we drove them from the second battery. Our Regt now had rest for a hour or two – during the day we were in four or five other charges and did good execution. The battle lasted until late in the evening. We drove the enemy clear beyond their encampment and had it not been for their gun boats, under which they took shelter we could have taken the last man. We took the last battery they had but one by evening. We moved out all the commissary stores cannon and guns that we could that night which we had taken during the day – and occupied the enemy's camp during the night notwithstanding they shelled us from their gun boat, all night. I got lost from the Regt about dark – and came up to where Capt Morgan the marion of 62 was camped. I went into his

tent, and asked him if he was the Marion of '62 – said he was – but was not worthy of the name. I remarked to him that I had called in to see what kind of looking man he was, that it was Texas curiosity, and he must excuse me – he said “certainly” and invited me to take a seat. He is a fine portly looking man – has a soldier like bearing and from his appearance one would judge that he was a human man.

We took some say 5 and some 6 thousand prisoners Sunday evening. I think I should be safe in saying that we took at least 4000 prisoners. I was so tired that I could scarcely stand on my feet. So I didn't take time to hunt up the Regt, but left Capt Morgans tent and I an Ark soldier took possession of a Dutch Cap's tent – had nice cotts and plenty of blankets. I never slept sounder in my life. We all lived like kings – the yankees had every thing good to eat – English peas put up so to keep fresh, roasting years – chees, crackers, ham, eggs, butter, cakes, coffee, molasses, fine white sugar and a host of other things too numerous to mention – besides fine nice mellow apples. I had eaten nothing since morning and being quite hungry you may depend I did the eatables justice.

Battle of the 2nd Day

On Sunday night the yankees were reinforced with 30,000 and renewed the battle Monday morning at daylight. Our brigade was not engaged until about eight o'clock. We were first drawn up in line of battle in a hollow and ordered not to fire until we saw the enemy rise the brow of the hill some 75 yds in front. We lay in this position about half an hour and during this time two companies of our Regt were deployed as skirmishers, soon after they returned Gen Anderson sent to our Regt for a sargent and two privates to act as scouts to find out the position of the enemy Sargent Lewis O.P. Clack and myself were sent. We went up the ravine in which we were lying and found that the enemy were behind breast works made by trees which they had felled. We were ordered to charge them. Again the Regts on our right and left deserted us. When Col Stanley drew his sword, waved it over his head and cried to the Texas boys to follow him. We gave a long loud demon – like yell and rushed forward to what seemed immediate distruction: for minnie balls, grape shot and shell flew over our heads as thick as hail stones – but we faltered not and soon gained the breast works and drove the enemy from their own position. They had to retreat right thro' an open field and you may depend we gave the subjugations ____ as they fled in utter confusion. At another time we made a charge and drove the enemy before us for some distance when our lines seemed to falter. Gen Anderson rode up to Col Stanley and asked him if he could get the collors borne forward? Col Stanley told him he could and he rushed forward seized the collors himself and galloped up with in 50 yds of the enemy's lines and planted them than rode round and faced the enemy by this time our boys were up with him, it seemed to put new life into the whole brigade, for soon all the Regts were with us and again we drove the enemy before us. Bro L.V.Brown was killed in this charge, was shot thro' the neck. Capt Dickson was also killed. Late in the evening I began to think that I should never see home again the enemy were pressing us on ever side – my gun got so it would not shoot. I stoped to pick powder in it and it fired, I reloaded and again it refused to fire I picked powder in it again, raised up and fired – judge of my surprise when looking round there was not a man to be seen the whole brigade had retreated in double quick time and I was left alone. I commenced to retreat in more than double quick time. I had not gone far however before a wounded soldier called to me to stop and give him water. I could not refuse him – he next asked me to pour some on his head which I did – and placed his knapsack under his head he beged me not to leave him but poor fellow I could do him no more good. I seized a belgian rifle ramed a cartridge down

her and by this time the enemy was in 50 yds of me, I laid my gun up between the forcks of a tree and fired. I did not stop to see what harm I did but I left as fast as my heels could carry me. It really seemed to me that I could have thrown up my hand and caught it full of balls. I have given you only a sketch of what I saw and experienced myself. It would be impossible for me to tell you all that I was and realized. The groans and cries of the dieing and wounded – the mutilated bodies of the dead, the scean of death and distruction which every where met your eye – beggars all discription. Suffice it to say we had two of the most desperate days fight that has ever been fought in this confederacy. Inch by inch the enemy contested every foot of ground. We whiped them badly on Sunday. and if we had had them away from their gun boats could have completely routed them. We got the best of the fight on Monday, but the victory was not so complete as on Sunday owing to the fact that we and 30,000 fresh troops to contend with, Our troops were completely exhausted on Monday evening and our Generals thought best return to our camps. We carried 30 pieces of the enemy's artillery off the field and spiked about 50 from the fact that we could not take them off it having rained the night before and was raining when we left the field at 4 o'clock making the road almost impassible – we carried off a large amount of guns blankets clotheing provisions etc. Monday night some who were left behind set fire to their tents. I never saw such distruction of property in my life. I lost everything I had, I lost the cap you made me in a charge but got a yankees in its place. I got my pants torn all to pieces. The battle was fought in a hilly woods country. The battle ground is about 5 miles long and about 3 miles wide. It rained on us all night Monday night. The army came out for about 5 miles in perfect order when ever man took care of himself. I stoped having lost both shoes in a mud whole, built me a fire and set up all night without a coat or a blanket – and it rained all night. I reached camps Tuesday evening having walked all day thro' mud and water up to my knees, barefooted. Strange to say it never even gave me a bad cold. I went back on Thursday to bury the dead. I wrote you a note before I left and told you I would give you particulars when I returned. Our pickets are within two miles of the battle ground besides two brigades of infantry – Generals Breckenridge and Jackson's. We could not pass our pickets under any pretence whatever so we returned without doing anything for our dead – some said that a sufficient force had been left to bury them. I can't tell whether they were buried at all or not. I went in three miles of the battle ground. When I left Thursday morning Gen Breckinridge was anticipating an attack, but I think that their army is so completely disorganized that it will be some time before they will give us another fight. We had no yankees to fight – they were all western men – the flower of their army. Our killed and wounded is variously estimated at from 5 to 10 thousand. I should say judgeing from our own Regt which is a fair sample – 7000. While that of the enemy is at best three times that number. I am sadisfied that I saw at least three dead yankees to one confederate. We have taken Gen Prentiss prisoner besides a number of Cols. We took I think in all 4000 prisoners. We never lost any prisoners except some straglers- never lost any one Regt. We had 65000 men in the field. I took a prisoner Sunday evening he told me that they had between 150,000 and 180,000 men said he "We had two grand divisions and one smaller one". And then Sunday night they had heavey reinforcements to the amt it is said of 30,000. The road is strewn from here to the battle ground with public property. The roads are so bad we could not haul it. I never saw such roads in my life. It has faired of this evening, Sat even. April 12th – and looks like we might have fair weather for a while I hope we may. Gen Sidney A. Johnson was killed in the fight. I frequently when we would have time to rest give the wounded federals water and do all I could for their wounds. They seemed to be very thankful for it. One man was shot thro' the knee, I asked if I could do any thing for him he said he

would like to have his leg bound up to stop the blood – he had no handkerchief. I took my own – then he saw that I was going to give him mine – he said “Don’t, don’t deprive yourself sir.” I told him no, I was only acting out the principles of christianity – “Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you,” and that I was only displaying the spirit of a true southerner. Many of the wounded confessed that they were deceived in the southerners – said that from what they had been told they expected to be butchered when we came up to them. I told them that I was a Texan, and I believed the Texans had the worst name of all the Confederate troops but that they might expect the same treatment from all Texans that they got from me.

It would be difficult to mention all that acted coolly and bravely; for most of the boys were as deliberate as if they were shooting hogs. Arch Mayo passed thro’ unhurt and was always at his post – and I think from the way he fired caused many a yankee to bite the dust. Will Long commanded Co A (Lieut Gains being absent from sickness) and was always at the head of the Co- was struck four times with spent balls but was not hurt. Jim Lyon was not in the fight – was at the Hospital at luka waiting on the sick. Three companies were absent on duty and were not in the fight – Hill’s, McRunnel’s and Dillard’s. We only had about 225 men that were in the fight. We had 14 killed, 42 wounded and 11 missing out of the Regt. To sum up all in a few words the battle was a hard fought one – a bold stroke on our part to make the attack under all circumstances – right under the enemies gun boats and against such odds. But thanks to the all Supreme the result was glorious for the cause of the South. We achieved far more than we expected to.

Your affectionate Husband

J.K. Street

P.S. I send you this by Dr Lyon who leaves for Clarksville this evening he will mail it there to Paris

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Hd Qrst 9th Tex Infty Army of the Mips Near Harodsburg Ky Oct 1862 No 34 (Thirty Four)

My Dear Ninnie, Friday Oct 3rd – I sent you two letters and a piece by Mr Duffey – discharged our of Co B – No 34 was unfinished and I here with finish it. We left our camps this morning and went to Bardstown thence 8 miles out on the Louisville road to Cox creek – on picket duty. My shoes, which have been worn out for a month came to pieces this evening and left me barefooted. I was making my way as best I could along the pike and an old jentleman standing at his gate observed my bare feet and asked what no's I wore. I told him 7 n's he went in and brought me out a pair of boots and made me a present of them. That was cleaver wasn't it? My boots were too short for me and before I got to camps my feet were blistered badly. I swaped my boots for a pair of shoes and think I will be able to get along a little better. Saturday Oct 4th – We were aroused last night about 2 o'clock by our pickets and told that the advance of Buell's army was within a mile of us comeing down from Louisville and that the whole army was advancing on Bardstown – (The pickets of the brigade that ours relieved yesterday have been fighting Buell's advance now for several days.) We immediately fixed up and started back for Bardstown. Which place the brigade reached about sun up and found that the whole army (Bragg's) had taken the Springfield road – my feet being sore I could not keep up- but I knew I was in no danger of the yanks as long as I was between our infantry and cavalry. Soon after I reached Bardstown and was going out on the other side the yankees came in having flanked our cavalry (that is the yankee cavalry had done this) and gotten them between them and their infantry and our cavalry (the 8th Tex) cut their way thro' with the loss only of one man mortally wounded – while they emptied several saddles and carried seventeen prisoners. Maj Harrison of Waco was commanding (the 8th Tex Cavl.) I gave a cavalry man a dollar to let me ride to-day – he over took me this side of Bardstown and was leading a horse. I passed our Regt this evening camped three miles fro Springfield having marched 23 (twenty three) miles to-day. I came on two miles this side of town and have put up at a house for the night. Sunday Oct 5th – We traveled 21 miles to-day and camped at Perryville a beautiful villidge situated in Boyle Co. and in one of the finest countrys I ever say you cannot travel in this portion of Ky without being all the while in a tone – all the country is fenced up and is nearly as open as the prairies of Tex all the timber is nearly being cut away. Monday Oct 6th – We reached Danville about 12 o'clock to-day and then turned for Harrodsburg. Thus we have traveled 20 miles to-day and we might have made it to this place in ten it being just that distance from here the Perryville where we camped last night. By some misunderstanding we came around Danville. I was rather unfortunate to-day. I lost my pocket book and \$22.00 (twenty two dollars). I think it must have dropped out of my pocket when I stopped to rest; being very tired I lay down to rest and my pockets being shallow I think it must have dropped out in that way. Tuesday Oct 7th – We were attached to Preston Smith's Brig. yesterday evening (Pres Smith is brother to Green Smith) – you remember I wrote you we were attached to Gen Stewert's brig. for the time being. We are ordered to cook two days rations and be ready to start to Perryville at 6 o'clock this evening a big battle is expected to come off there to-morrow. Buell's army is following us up still for Bardstown. We started for Perrysville this evening at the appointed time and after having gone 4 miles were ordered back to Harrodsburg to guard the baggage. The Brig. (Smith's) was ordered to be in readiness at any time for action. Wednesday Oct 8th –

Battle of Perryville

Dear I shall attempt to give you a few facts in relation to the Battle of Perryville which was fought to-day. When we awoke this morning at Harrodsburg we could distinctly hear the heavy boom of cannon in the direction of Perryville which gave us to understand that our companions in arms were haveing hot works. I arose eat a snack, committed myself to the care and keeping of him who

is truly "the God of battles." By the time the sun was up Gen Smith had put our Brig. in motion and we were rapidly moving towards Perryville which we reached in an hour and a half. Heavy cannonading was going on between the two armies when we reached the battle field but the infantry had not yet gotten fairly to work. Gen Smith was immediately sent on the right of the left wing of the army – that position being just in the left of Perryville. Perryville is situated in a beautiful valley being surrounded on all sides by a beautiful range of hills – one of the grandest places in the world for a cannon duel. On the left wing of our army there was no fighting except heavy cannonading. About 10 o'clock the roar of small arms commenced on the right wing in earnest, the position occupied by our division (Gen Cheatam's) which suffered more in the fight than any other troops in the engagement. But as before stated our Brigade was detached to support the right of the left wing and left center of the army so that we failed to be in the hottest of the battle which perhaps for many of us was in itself a fortunate circumstance. The battle raged most fiercely for about 6 or 7 hours and was only stopped by the darkness of the night. About sundown our Brig. was ordered to shift its position from the left to the right of the town in doing so we were subject to a heavy fire of grape shell and cannister from the enemy's batteries which he had planted on the hills opposite the town. In getting out of this position we got several men wounded in our brigade, two in our Regt slightly A. Sinclair in shoulder – member of G, Co I one: Sergt Browning in leg, wounds but slight. I am at a loss to know how it was that we escaped so fortunately for we were subject to a tremendous shower of grape cannister and shell which fell thick and fast right in to our ranks for about 15 minuets. Our batteries did good execution which were during this time replying to the batteries of the enemy who was soon beaten back under cover of the hills before the town. To sum up all; this days work has resulted in the loss of 2000 men on our side killed wounded and missing that of the enemy near 10,000. We drove them back for 2 miles captured 17 pieces of artillery and any amount of small arms all the troops who went in to the fight with old muskets come out with enfield and Springfield rifles. Thursday Oct 10th – We were again ordered back to our former position last night. We buried our dead last night and the enemy failing to show fight this morning, we left the battle field and proceeded back to Harrodsburg. As our Brigd was moveing off this morning the enemy ran his battery up on the hill he shelled up from yesterday evening and for about 10 minuets we were subject to a most grueling fire. We had to cross a pike in which the enemy had his battery planted and as we crossed this there were several of the most terrific showers of grape and shell fell into our ranks I ever experienced. Here Capt Lane (son of Col Lane of Bonham) commanding Co H was killed – was shot in the left side with a cannon ball which tore his intrels out. He lived about an hour and a half. Capt Lane and the two wounded yesterday was the only injury sustained by our Regt. The army have all got in to Harrodsburg by this time it now being 5 o'clock P.M. I was in the 32 Miss Regt this morning it sustained a heavy loss. Uncle D was shot in the left hip – prety badly wounded. I saw the wound it is a flesh wound – is not dangerous – he walked off the battle field without help. Lt Harvey, Uncle Mcs nephew was shot dead in the field struck in the breast with two balls wither of which would have killed him. Capt Tankersly was struck several times with spent balls but was not seriously injured. Columbus Street my cousin was not hurt. Thus dear I have passed thro' the dangers of another battle and yet I am unhurt and enjoying good health. For this I feel truly thankful to the Disposer of events. I feel that I am in his hands and am willing to trust all to him feeling assured that he will do all things right. Dear I am anxious now to hear from home the last letter I had from you was dated 9th July and not one word since that. Darling I have not had a chance to write to you regularly but knowing the circumstances I know you will not think hard of me for it. I have of late had many thoughts of home. I know that the time for your confinement has passed and how you passed that ordeal I have no way of knowing. Have I a little boy or girl at home is it well – tis useless to ask all these questions. I leave all these things in the hands of God, and pray him that to all these the greatest good may result. I am still in the enjoyment of the finest of health for which I feel very thankful. Dear the army is a bad place for one to enjoy religion but notwithstanding the absence of almost all religious influences yet I still

**enjoy the sweets of Christianity. If I could not draw hapiness from this source bitter indeed would be my cup. I wish I were a better man. Pray for me my love – but I know you do this and I feel that I am benefited by it. I will close for the present dear. Good bye – God bless you my sweet one.
Your K**

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Hd Qrs 9th Regt Tex Infty Army Mips Murfreesboro' Tenn Jan 3 1863 No 43 (Forty three)

My Dear Ninnie: Sunday Dec 28th – We sent off our tents baggage and cots to the rear about 11 o'clock to-night – preparatory to a grand battle, it having now been ascertained that Rosencrans is advancing on us from Nashville with a force of 15,000 that being the lowest estimate. Our forces all told will not exceed 40,000: already part of our forces are in lone of battle in front of Murfreesboro'. Genrls Whaler and Wharton's cavalry have been nobly contesting the advance of the enemy every since last Thursday. Monday Dec 29th – We are this evening in line of battle bivouaced for the night – there has been some slight skirmishing to-day – our cavalry have been driven in; and no doubt the battle will open in earnest to-morrow morning. Tuesday Dec 30th - It rained on us a drenching rain last night and to-day up to 2 o'clock this evening. The weather is very cold, our division occupies the reserve line on the right of the left wing. Gen Gardiner's brigd is in the immediate front of our brig. resting within 300 yds of the enemies lines while Robinson's battery in 3 sections occupies an eminance between our brigade and Gardiner's. About 3 o'clock this evening the enemy made two unsuccessful attempts to charge and take Robinson's battery. They came yelling and howling like demons – our Regt and the 154th Tenn were sent forward as an immediate support to the battery, but suddenly ere the enemy reached the battery Gardener's brigade arose from behind a fence and poured to their ranks such a well directed fire that they were compelled to retire leiving the ground literally black with their wounded and dead – seeing that their lines were driven back they threw shot and shell at our battery for about an hour and a half; the whole atmosphere was in a perfect uproar I never was in such a terrific bombardment before and I hope I never shall experience the like again. Our Regt occupied the brow of the hill just in rear of our battery, it appeared to me had we been standing up the last of us would have been killed – a casson belonging to the left section of the battery was struck by a bomb and blew up; several men were killed and others badly mangled and wounded. The left wing of the army consists of the following divisions Cheatham's Withers and McCown's.

Wednesday Dec 31st –

Battle Of Murfreesboro'

It became evident on last evening that the enemy's greatest demonstrations would be made on our left centre and right of the left wing (the position occupied our Div – Cheatham's) and during the night Clairborne's division was detached from the right for the purpose of strengthening that point. The sun rose this morning bright and clear and soon the mist of the morning was dispelled: As far as the eye could reach might be seen standing the two contending armies silently and motionless their bright bayonets glistening in the sun light and sparkling like so many diamonds and batheing the gay colors which floated to the breeze with a ray of refulgance and rifting in glorious showers thro' the emerald fringe of cedars which enclosed the field. At length the death like stillness was broken by a volley of musketry from the extreme left (that being the position of Ector's Tex Brigd) which told too plainly that the work of death and distruction ad commenced, and in a moment more the strife had leaped form left to right centre and soon the whole line was one sollid sheet of flames. So terrible was the cannonading and bursting of shells and roar of musketry that it was almost impossible to hear the human voice even right at you. The earth trembled with the roar of cannon – the cedars rocked and quivered like an aspan leaf in the fire beast and the very air was rent with the explosion of shells. The enemy was strongly posted in a dense cedar thicket and behind ledges of lime stone rock, and seemed to stake the fortunes of the day upon holding his present naturally strong fortified position. About 8 o'clock A.M. the division of Cheatham's and McCown were ordered to charge, quickly we emerged from the skit timber in

which we had been sheltered and swiftly but in perfect line moved across the open plain when the battle became absolutely terrific. Of course my particulars will be confined to our Brig. and more particularly to our Regt. It was in crossing this plain that we suffered most severely; Col Young and Dillard both had their horses shot from under them and the adjutant fell mortally wounded was shot thro' and thro': When we were nearly across the field we were ordered to move by the right flank – the enemy was posted behind a fence and not more than 75 yds from us and they poured into our ranks most deadly and destructive fire. Man after man fell either killed or wounded but our onward course was no to be staid – we charged up to the fence – the enemy slowly retiring – the fence was next thrown down and we crossed over – and here we found ourselves without any support on the right the ballance of the brigd having fallen back – by order - our Col did not hear the order or did not want to – at this critical moment the color bearer was shot down when Col Young seized the colors and bore them almost within the abolitionists ranks and the boys rushed forward yelling and shouting at the top of their voices and the enemy broke and fled in wild confusion leaving the ground covered with their dead and wounded: and this the 9th Tex received from Gen Cheatham the high compliment of being the first Regt to break the enemy's lines, and alone with no other support than themselves drove the famous brigd of Jeff C. Davis of Ind., a mile and half. Davis is said to be a cousin of our president – he it was that killed Gen Bull Nelson (federal) in Ky last summer. I was not with the Regt when the enemy first commenced to run having been previously detailed to help bear off the wounded and was busily engaged carrying them to the rear – tho' I was in equally as much danger – balls bombs and shot fell thick and fast all around me but thanks be to God I passed thro the very ordeal unhurt. Jim Yates was also one of the detail and was slightly wounded in the leg. It would be impossible to mention all the particulars. The last charge that our Regt was in was thro' a dense cedar thicket and across an open filed, in this Knot Massey of our company was killed - shot thro' the head. A yankee jumped from behind a tree and fired at Lt Jere Crook but his ball missed his mark. Jere had a gun – he raised it and pulled trigger but the cap burst – instantly, tho', the yankee fell pierced by more than a dozen balls. It would be unjust to particularize any where all did their duty so heroicy and manfully – both our Lts Crook and Tanner used guns during the fight and were particularly conspicuous. Too much cannot be said of the bravery of Col Young – he three times bore the color up to the enemies lines – it is enough to say that we gave the miserable abolition invaders one of the worst whippings they have ever had – in fact the army we fought Buel's old army, never have been whipped before . This was there bragg but said their prisoners and wounded “you have whipped us badly to-day.” Referring to the charge of our troops in the morning the Rebel Banner says, “The enemy offered a most gallant resistance, but nothing human could withstand the impetuosity of that charge. A spirit of fury seemed to possess our men from the commanders down to the common soldiers, and on they swept, shot and shell, cannister, grape and bullets tearing thro' their ranks until the way could be traced by the dead and dying. Still on they went, overturning infantry and artillery alike, driving the enemy like the hurricane scatters the leaves upon its course, capturing hundreds of prisoners and literally blackening the ground with dead. Such a charge was never before witnessed. For two miles thro' fields and forest over ditches, ravines and fences, they swept. Brigade after brigade, battery after battery were thrown forward to stay their onward march, but another volley of musketry, another gleaming of the bayonet, and like their predecessor's they were crushed into one common ruin.”

“Mea tine the brave old Withers was not idle. His line of battle ran diagonally across an extended field, and the enemy had been pouring a murderous fire into his position, until driven almost to the verge of madness by the distruction of his men, he threw his division forward upon the ridge occupied by the enemy. Here was perhaps the bloodiest struggle of the day. The enemy was stronger at this point than any where else upon the field, and long and fiercely contended the position. Directly in front was a wide area of clear land, and across this it was necessary to advance, wander the sweeping fire of six batteries, but with doubtless hearts, and step as proud as tho' upon parade, his men sprang forward it the word, and marched on into the face of death.

Once they wavered, as the enemy poured a perfect hail of iron thro' their ranks, but at this moment Bragg dashed by, the battle fires burning in his eyes, and the fate of nations in his hand – again they rushed upon the for; show down the gunners at their pieces, and drove the supporting divisions far back to the rear.” Thursday Jan 1st 1863 – We offered the enemy battle again this morning but they refused to show fight. Our troop have been busily engaged building breast works of rocks and logs and now have a line of breast works all along our lines bullet proof – but would prove but little protection from bombs and cannon balls. Friday Jan 2nd – Part of our forces have been lying at the breast works to-day and part have been carrying off the enemies wounded and burying our dead. There has also been some prety heavy skirmishing on the right but little or no damage done. Our Regt was also in some prety heavy shelling this evening but no one hurt. Sat Jan 3rd – We have buried all our dead and most of the enemy's – have taken every thing off the filed of any value. Our loss killed wounded and missing amounts up to 5,000. The enemies lowest estimate in killed and wounded is 10,000 and up to night before last we had paroled 4700 prisoners – since that we have carried a great many wounded and our cavalry have captured several hundred prisoners yesterday and to-day. Since the commencement of the battle Wheeler and Whorton have twice made the circuit of the enemy capturing many prisoners, 3000 (three thousand) mules and burning 600 wagons loaded with provisions. We have captured 40 pieces of artillery and several thousand stands of small arms. The enemy have been busily engaged throwing up breast works to-day our pickets and the yankee pickets are not more than 300 yds apart. It is generally believed that the enemy have been heavily reinforced and that the enemy have been heavily reinforced and that we will retreat to –night we have already sent off all our sick and wounded and all our stores from Murfreesboro' not a thing remains. It is unanimous opinion that to retreat would be the best thing we could do. We all, soldiers and officers of the army have the utmost confidence in Bragg. The loss of our Regt amounts to 99 wounded 18 killed and two missing. The following is a list of the killed and wounded in Company “A”: Killed N.K. Massey shot in the head – Wounded T.J. Calaway in head severely, W.A. Mayo not dangerously in shoulder, T.J. Garrand, W.W. Wallace severely in abdomen, D.L. Allen severely in left breast and right arm, J.M. Yates slightly in leg, M.V. Allen slightly in foot, J. Grider slightly in him, Wm Gunter in the thigh Frank Thurmond slightly in leg. I hope I shall never behold such another sickening sight as I saw on the battlefield – men with their heads to pieces with cannon balls and their bodies otherwise fearfully disfigured – but I have already lengthened this letter beyond what I intended and it would be useless to indulge any bad reflections for already my hear feels more than my pen can give utterance to. I am your affectionate husband J.K. Street – Dear if you wish you may have this published – draw a copy. It has been written huridly and contains many mistakes.

Hd Qurts 9th Tex Infty Army of Miss (Braggs Army) Shelbyville Ten Jan 1863
No 44(Forty four)

My Dear Ninnie, Sunday Jan 4th – I wrote you a letter yesterday giving you an account of the battle of Murfreesboro but there being so much irregularity in the mail I prefer to send it by hand as there will be several going home from the Regt in a few days. I wrote you in my last letter that it was highly probable we would retreat having held the battle ground three days buried all the dead and carried off every thing of any value. I herewith send you an account of

The Retreat from Murfreesboro'

Yesterday evening it commenced raining and rained nearly all night. Our division was at the brest works. It was very cold and we were not allowed to have fires – about 8 o'clock in the night the

pickets commence fighting and fought for nearly two hours, and the yankees at the same time throwing sells at us; we suffered severly we were wet and cold, tired and sleepy having then been in line of battle 6 days and nights. About midnight our pickets were drawn in and their places supplied by cavalry pickets. All was quiet no one spoke scarcely above a whisper quietly we moved off the field and daylight this morning found the rear of our army 5 miles this side of Murfreesboro'. Notwithstanding we had borne so much hardships and privations for the last week I hear not a murmur from any one some could account for the retreat but all were sadsified that Bragg knew what he was doing and were willing to do his bidding sadsified that all would work out right in the end. The sun has shown all day and it has been pleasant with the exception of the roads which are very muddy and disagreeable. We are this evening encamped 20 miles from Murfreesboro and with 5 miles of Shelbyville.

Monday Jan 5th – We lay by to-day and give ourselves up to sleep. Omorpheous! what a comforter tour art to our poor tired weary frames. What is more sweet and refreshing to us than sleep when we are tired and worn out? Tuesday Jan 6th – To-day we moved up to Shelbyville and crossed over duck river which skirts the east side of the town. The place looks quite natural, but what a diferance now and in time of peace. When I and Ma passed through here 9 years since on our way to Sumner County the town was all a stir then it was one of the most flourishing and business places in all middle Tenn – now you cannot so much as buy a chew of good tobacco. Our wagons have all gone on to Winchester but I learn that they are ordered back to this place. Wednesday Jan 7th – We moved our camps two miles from town this evening to get a better position. We have a fine camping place, plenty of wood and good water – have plenty of hickory nuts. Thursday Jan 8th - We are still without tents. We have built us brush arbors of cedar which will turn water almost equal to tents. We build big fires roll up in our blankets and sleep very pleasantly. Gen Bragg made a speech in Winchester yesterday, and gave his reasons for retreating from Murfreesboro – he was sadsified that we could have fought the enemy and whiped them again, but he know that the enemy were reinforcing heavily and eventually he (Bragg) would be compelled to fall back with the looss of many of his men and he did not feel disposed to sacrifice his men to no purpose – but thought best to fall back to his present position where he himself could be reinforced and then he thought he would be fully able to cope with the enemy – we had whiped them badly had sent all that we captured form the safely to Chattanooga and should the enemy advance on us in our present position he felt confident of success – and if they did not advance as soon as his army was sufficiently recruited and he was reinforced he would himself advance on the enemy – he had no idea of abandoning Tenn but would defend the state against the invader to the last extremity. Friday Jan 9th – Our wagons came up to-day with our tents clotheing and blankets. I expect to get a good nights sleep to-night for the first time in nearly two weeks. Saturday Jan 10th – Dear a gentleman from Co I leaves in the morning for Tex – he goes right thro' Paris I send you these letters by him. Jere Crook is well – he passed thro' the fight unhurt. Mayo was doing his duty manfully when shot there are no better soldiers than he. Ben Orton is well – he commanded Co E in the fight and did his duty manfully. Capt Kennedy was badly wounded in the left side of his face. I think he will get well but will in all probility loose one of his eyes. I feel truly thankful that I escaped unhurt. I can't see how it was unless I attribute it to an over ruling Providence. Dear you must pray for me, I shall continue to trust all to God and if I fall in this war I want to fall my full length towards the glory land. May God bless and take care of you and my precious little Lizzie. I dreamed I was home the other night. You and Ma and sisters were so glad to see me. I took Lizzie up in my arms – she laughed. I think I see her now. I awake and I was sorry it was but a vision of the night – your loveing husband J.K. Street

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