

Robert D. Jamison Letters

Letters and Recollections of a Confederate Soldier 1860-1865

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ROBERT D. JAMISON

Robert David Jamison, son of Henry Downs and Sarah Woodlief (Thomas) Jamison, was born April 13, 1838, in Rutherford County, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

His father, Henry Downs Jamison, was a soldier in the Creek War of 1812. He moved to Murfreesboro in 1816, and was a prosperous farmer. He was secretary and treasurer of the Murfreesboro and Nashville Turnpike Company.

Robert David Jamison secured his early education in neighborhood schools, and later attended Thomas Academy in Williamson County, Tennessee. Here he was taught by his uncle, Athanasius Thomas.

On December 26, 1860, in a triple wedding ceremony, he married Camilla Butler Patterson, born May 1, 1840, the daughter of Samuel Alexander and Camilla (Campbell) Patterson. His Sisters, Susan Cornelia Jamison and Sally Gannaway Jamison, married John Lane Henry and John Carter, respectively.

Shortly after his marriage, and following the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined Company D, 49th Tennessee Infantry, of the Confederacy. He spent four years in the army — surrendering at the very last under General Johnson at Greensboro, North Carolina, in April, 1865. He was cited several times for bravery.

Some years after the War, he became principal of Union University located at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Later he moved to Nashville and bought interest in a mattress manufacturing business, presently known as Jamison Bedding, Incorporated.

Camilla and Robert D. Jamison's children were: Atha Thomas, Eris Campbell, Samuel Patterson, Henry Downs, Ella Patterson, Madie Woodlief, and John Carter.

Robert David Jamison died August 12, 1912, in Brooksville, Mississippi, and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Tullahoma.

January 10th, 1863

Mrs. Camilla P. Jamison

My dear wife,

As Mr. Leatherman expects to go home in the morning, I write you a short note principally to let you know I am still in the land of the living and am enjoying excellent health. I hope the Yankees have not as yet come into our country or our neighborhood.

Various reports reach us of where they are and what they are doing but have not as yet heard of them interrupting anything in our neighborhood and pray God that I never may hear of it. We are now nearer home than when I wrote to you by Alex and hope by the next time write we will be nearer still, Our army is now moving Northward and hope before the first day of March we will be in Louisville, Kentucky. God grant that our sacred soil may not be long polluted by the tread of the base hirelings. I have today completed the trade with Mr. Leatherman and put in Becky and Evaline. He now has a bill of sale of all our Negroes (on condition that he does not get either of them in possession.) I am to pay him the stipulated price for the one or ones not obtained in Confederate money which Uncle Atha promised to let me have provided I should want it. I have delivered to him Ely and he expects to go home tomorrow to try to get Jack and then the rest of them. He speaks of not taking the rest before he catches Jack for fear it may prevent his getting him. In return, I have his title bond to make you a deed to one hundred and ten acres of land as soon as times are such as to survey the land. If he can only get Jack you will be free from much trouble as he will carry him off immediately. My dear, above all things do not let this be known so that the Negroes can find it out. Keep it as Still as death until Jack is caught. If Mr. Leatherman gets him in possession once, it is all right. He gets the mules and thresher also. think. my dear, this is the best I can do under the circumstances as it will relieve you of much trouble and probably save our property. As far as I am concerned, I would not give the land for twice the amount of Negroes.

My dear, I do hope that you Can come this side of our lines to some of our friends, if possible, for there is no telling how badly I do hate to leave you behind in the enemy' s lines. I feel more confident in the mercies of God and my faith is stronger than it ever was before. I feel that whatsoever befalls us, I will make the best of it and leave the count with God. As old Paul says, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." My constant prayer is, my dear, that God may preserve us safe through this war and grant us the privilege of living together the remainder of our lives in peace. God bless you, my dear, and preserve you from all harm. Give my love to Ma, Alex and sister and tell them all to write to me.

Your devoted and affectionate husband

R. D. Jamison

February 16th,

Monday evening

My dear husband,

My company is still behind and I guess they have made other arrangements. Mr. Williams from this neighborhood is going down in the morning and if you can conveniently, please send me some paper and envelopes. (there is none in this

neighborhood.) The gentleman I am boarding with has 3 sons the 32nd Tennessee Reg. You can perhaps find out when there will be passing to this neighborhood from them. Since writing this morning have heard the Yankees were in the neighborhood of Aunt Virginia's. I will therefore not go there. Write soon and tell me all the news and what the other company is going to do or where they are. May the Lord keep and protect you from all harm is my prayer.

Your loving wife,

Camilla Jamison

What number is your company?

February 21st, 1863

My dear darling husband,

I am perfectly delighted this morning with the idea that you will certainly get my letter unless Andrew falls in the hands of conscript officers. I wrote you a few days ago, and hope you have received it 'ere this. Andrew got here yesterday after much toil and vexation of spirit. 'Tis enough to fret a saint to come through such roads as we had to.

I am getting along very well, occasionally get sad though, but I love to be sad sometimes, for a sad countenance maketh [sic] the heart better. The lady with whom I board has a very interesting family of children; two daughters perform very well on a melodeon and I have a quarrel occasionally with the baby, a little girl of five summers, and altogether time passes away as pleasantly as I could expect.

I went to Pulaski yesterday and had quite a pleasant time. The town has the appearance of having once been a beautiful place but the depredations committed by our enemies seem to have nipped the bud of prosperity and like all other places where they go it lies in almost perfect ruin. I suppose the Yankees have a great many goods in Murfreesboro. Wish you would send down and get me a dress or two. I am foolish enough to think you are coming to see me some night. I have looked for you several times. I had given Andrew out, thought they had found lodging somewhere near camp. I have planned and arranged many ways to do with myself. The last I hit upon is to hire someone to go with me to Alabama and if Henry is in the army, which I think quite probable, his wife will not let me stay outdoors and I can live someway. I will wait here tho [sic] till I hear from you and then I will be so far from you I cannot hear from you often. am paying 3 or 4 dollars board per day that is me and Jimmie and I cannot stand that long. I hope the day is not far distant when our enemies will leave our land and return to their own desolate firesides for surely they have loved ones at home as well as we who wait as anxiously for their coming. Oh, that God would clog the wheels of prosperity, and turn their faces northward without the shedding of more blood. The only hope I have for peace is through the mercy of God. He has promised to be a help in times of need. He declares He will not send us more than we can bear, also to give us

what soever we ask. When I think of such promises and think that they are given to such unworthies [sic] as we are, why should we doubt a moment? The darker the day the stronger my faith. My dear, I have never prayed a prayer but what it was heard and answered and go to God as my only friend and protector. I don't feel that I have any other, especially out here among strangers, and though board is so hard to get yet I have no fears but what I will be taken care of.

My dear, pray earnestly that your life may be spared to me through all the dangers of the battle field and diseases of camp, and permit you to come home to me soon. My dear, I do get so lonely away from you,, but God has brought you home to me after a long separation, and He is able to do it again. Still, when think how much happier we might be, my patience almost exhausts and then I have such a dear husband to leave alone. I often thank God for giving me so good a husband, and I never receive a favor of any kind but my heart abounds in gratitude to God as the author. May He bless you, my dear, and keep you the same good husband is my constant prayer.

Camilla P. Jamison

Feburary 23rd, Sunday

We all came to Mr. Leatherman's this morning. Since I got here I learned that he could not board me. I will therefore set about immediately to get someone to go with me to Alabama. I hate very much to go so far from you but pray for me that I may always look to God for protection. I am very sorry I cannot stay here a while, at least, but it will be all for the best. Mr. Leatherman and junk got here yesterday. He told us Willie Butler was dead; death is abroad in our land. An old deaf and dumb man died, a Mr. Wells, this morning. I will go back there to stay until I start South. I wish I could hear from you before I leave, though it may be some time before I get off. Write to me if you can. I hate so bad to leave you, though know I cannot see you, but still I might hear from you a little oftner [sic]. My dear, my hand is so cold I can't write. May God keep and protect you from all harm is my constant prayer.

Your devoted wife

Camilla P. Jamison

P. S. Since writing the above Mr. J. L. having learned my intention of going back to Mrs. Webb prevailed on my staying here. I will therefore be here or in the neighborhood till I hear from you.

Yours and c.

Huntsville, April 1st, 1863

R.D. Jamison

Much beloved husband,

Yours of the 28th has come duly to hand bringing with it joy and gladness. There has been a good deal of April news here today which is not very hard to hear, though it represents us in a tolerably bad condition. Also heard, though from a more reliable source, that Breckinridge's Div. had been ordered by way of McMinnville to Kentucky. I therefore had my picture taken to send immediately and all the reason I can find for not getting a good picture is good looking folks won't make good pictures. You must have yours taken the first opportunity, for while sitting by the fire with it in my pocket, it melted the nose and mouth away. I have been very industrious this week; made five shirts in two days. 'Tis very strange to me that Kit and co. haven't decided what to do yet. I thought Mr. Fletcher would keep Mrs. Smith and Uncle Matt would take Kit and all the difficulty that they would have would be getting there. 'Twas [sic] not their intention to keep house I know. Hasn't Kit found Uncle Matt yet? They will have a sweet old time keeping house together. My dear, I wish you would come to see me. If there is no possible chance for you to get furlough yet, do try and come. 'Tis not very much farther than Giles. You can come on the cars by five o'clock. I would most take a fit if you would come.

Poor Billie Wade! I do wish 'twas in my power to nurse and care for him in his sickness. Great God, will the time never come that poor soldiers may be nursed in the bosom of loved ones at home? Who can measure the extent of suffering in the world? The mind can scarce imagine the tenth part. Oh, Heaven, send deliverance to an oppressed people. Thy arm alone is strong enough to help in this time of great need.

My dear, you do write me such dear good letters. Every one makes my heart abound in fresh gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts for such a dear, good husband, and make me pray with more faith for the preservation of your life and an early departure time to me.

How much longer do you think the war will do you think will last, and what moves do you think next be made by Bragg? Tell me about everything you think about it. If you go to Kentucky, I think I will follow and visit. I want to see you so bad. If I had thought there was any hope of your coming to Giles to see me, I would not have left on any condition whatsoever. But when I left you last, I left with the expectation of not seeing you again in a long, long time, and never once thought that you would come to see me. But I am going to look for you now every evening when the train comes in. You know you don't like to be disappointed and I don't like it a bit, so you must not disappoint me. What sort of Negroes of ours are gone? Send me Lon's and her Ma's letters, if you will part with them. I will return them if you desire. I think I have written you several letters you did not receive. Did you get one mailed at Pulaski? My dear, excuse this short letter. I am now very busy making soldier's clothes and I believe 'tis the first time in my life that I was ever doing good for anybody save Self. Ella sends a kiss. I wish I could put my arms

around you and get a sweet kiss this evening. May the Lord bless you and guide you in every undertaking, prosper your soul, and soon restore you to your lonely wife is my constant prayer.

Affectionately your own true wife,

C.P, Jamison

Huntsville, April 20th, 1863

R. D. Jamison

My dear darling husband,

Good morning, Sir. How do ye do this morning? Glad to See you. All's well, I thank you.

Yours of 16th was read last night past at nine o'clock, giving the usual degree of pleasure and satisfaction. Although I hasten to write immediately, I will promise you nothing interesting for I am unusually dull this morning. Besides the meanest pen in 40 states has fallen into my hand and if I could say ever so many good things, this pen would not write them down. My dear, you certainly mistook my meaning in some remarks in my last letter, or else I misunderstood some in yours. I did not have any idea of such construction as I think you have put upon it, but will wait until we meet and then explain. I thought you could put the last picture in the case you had if it suited you better than the one you have had all the time, and destroy the one that you did not like. I could have gotten case there, but thought one was as much as you could keep conveniently; however, I will send you another picture if you desire. Ella got here Saturday night—safe and sound. No, she didn't for all the children have the whooping cough. I will move down to her house today, and we will have a rich old time. But I believe I will be afraid of buggers. Bass is not like himself at all; he is as ugly as he can be, and doesn't like me any better than he did last winter. But I'll make him like me yet if he doesn't watch. Nellie is the same old Neil. She makes me think more of home than anything I've seen since I left home, and I am getting anxious to get home. I had Jinnie brought around to see how she was looking, having been told by everyone who knew anything about the boy that she would be well attended to, but instead, she is the poorest object I ever saw. Henry will get me some corn and I will try and fatten her myself, and then if I think best I'll sell her. I would have made more by letting her stay at the stall at \$9.00 per month than letting her be worked to death for nothing. It grieved me very much at first, but now I have gotten over it, for those who have must lose, and our lot has been to lose all the time, but I hope there is a better day coming.

Grant has taken a back track and going to Vicksburg again, I suppose, and our troops have been ordered back from Chattanooga . Well, I am glad of it. Wish Rosa would do likewise and let old Tennessee get a good breath once more in her life. She has been smothering a long, long time, and if she has to live in Yankee pollouted [sic] air much longer, they will die with consumption. My dear, if I were to send you that present you would have to inquire of someone what it was, for I know you never saw anything of the

kind, and I don't think you will have any use for it just now. However, modesty and prudence forbid my sending it; you will doubtless wonder where I got such a present. Mrs. S. found it and gave to me. Without her explanations I never would have been any wiser, and I will give you the whole history when I see you. Mrs. S. says come if 'tis but to stay two hours, and you certainly shall have a present. I know, my dear, you would come if for no other reason than to see poor unworthy me, if you could. Well, I reckon war has stopped and war will stop again if it ever does, these beautiful, clear, sun-shiny days make me feel very much like there was fighting [sic] somewhere. If Kit depends on Mr. Lawrence to bring her home I fear she will stay there a whet [sic] yet. How is Mrs. Smith? Sam Crocker was very energetic and had good will enough, he might succeed in getting Jack out for Mr. Leatherman. I heard there were three hundred negroes burned to death in Murfreesboro – short time since. Such freedom they would have received in a few days or years at most, if they had stayed at home, and perhaps in a more honorable way than by burning. If that is the treatment they received, they will not go off with them when they leave. I was very glad to hear from Lizzie, and will write to her soon. I would write to her and Mother too, but I know your writing will do just as well as mine. Write to Mother or Mag every opportunity. Tell them I am doing finely and perhaps Ella and I will visit them this summer if they will give us plenty to eat. My dear, excuse this poor seraph of a letter; write soon and often to a wife who will ever love you and pray for you.

Yours affectionately,

C. P. Jamison

The richest blessings of Heaven rest upon you.

March 4th, 1863

I have been busy all day making ink and will try to write a little plainer but have got the meanest pen in seven states. We are all improving in health today. Fannie has been very sick for several days but I think she will be well in a few days. If you write home again tell them to write everything that has transpired since I left. What everyone is doing, where my trunk is and etc. I never saw such short letters. At first I was glad to get them but they ought to have told me all the particulars of home. Kit has no idea of going home. She builds many air castles. Griggs sails down to Mobile every night and back again. But poor me I sit right still, in the same place every evening. Good by and write soon. May the Lord protect you from all harm is my constant prayer.

Your devoted wife,

Camilla Jamison

Huntsville, March 24, 1863

Mr. Robert D. Jamison

My dear darling husband,

After waiting and looking in vain 'til patience was exhausted, I dreamed last night, I received 5 or 6 letters from my dear dated "Virginia" "Mississippi" and c. You can imagine my great delight when I received yours of 21st ins. this morning. I was anxious to send a letter from Mr. L. but Mr. T. insisted it would go sooner from Huntsville. When we arrived here the door was closed and could not mail. He then said he would mall at Stevenson and you would receive sooner than any other way. I guess with the whirl of excitement it went on to Mobile. We all wrote from here. We left Mr. L. Friday and got here Monday, and the others started Monday on the five o'clock train. Fannie was quite sick when they started and the rest were all well .I guess you were quite puzzled by not getting my first letter. The reason I came here, the people Giles were all blue as indigo about the time I left. Thought the Yankees would be there in three days. We all concluded if I wanted to go on farther, that was as good an opportunity as I would have. They all came in private conveyances to Huntsville. I thought when I got here I could get Willie C. to go on with me, but my buggy broke down at Elkton. Mr. T. then bought a buggy and left mine to be mended, sold his when he got here. But when I got here Willie had gone to Tennessee, which I regard as all for the best, as I found Henry here, expecting his family to move here. I never have seen anyone who takes the war as hard as Henry and Allen Crockett. It makes me laugh to hear them lamenting. By the time they have tried it twelve months they will be better reconciled.

My dear, I will be so glad if we all get back to Murfreesboro again. I want to see you so again. I want to see you so much, have so many things to talk about. I hope there never will another Yank come here. Oh shux! [sic] I wish and hope so many things I can't tell what I do want. My dear, I never have such a thought as your being led astray by the temptations with which you are hourly surrounded, though I know 'tis not impossible, I have such perfect confidence in your faith. You will never leap the bounds of discretion. I feel so thankful, too, when I think of your many virtues and have so little to fear as regards your being led astray. I think I have been specially favored in the choice of a husband. My daily prayer is that we may soon meet and live useful lives in the service of God from whom all blessings flow. My dear, you don't know how much good your dear affectionate letters do me. I read and reread them with perfect delight, it brings us so much nearer together. Would I could get them every day or two.

Henry comes to see me every day; he is in the cavalry and stationed here. I would like to see his wife and Ross but if the Yankees leave I can't wait long to see them. When I start back I will call by to see you. I will have to take Jennie back to make a crop with. I am so afraid the Yanks are not really leaving, but just fixing a trap for Bragg. 'Tis rumor here that Mr. Bragg's wife is dead. If you all would apply furlough now you might perhaps obtain it.

I wish you could see Ella Bell. She is the sweetest thing in the state. I very often whistle, and Ella says, "Aunt Puss ain't [sic] no boy to whistle." She says I must kiss my sweetheart for her. I am very fortunate to find pretty children to love and love me. Poor little Fannie! I fear she will not long survive her trip to Mobile. Mr. Fletcher thinks it terrible we have no children, took privilege to say more to me on that subject than anybody else ever did. He thinks though when get in better health 'twill be different. I told him I was already in good health. but he didn't believe it. I felt right curious talking to a man stranger on such subject. He claimed the privilege from being an old man, told me of the contract you and he made and c. Wants to hear from us in ten years. But I have been with such squally children since I left home, part of the time I am almost out of the notion to ever-go where another one is.

Allen Crockett thinks 'twas very foolish in Kit to go way down to Mobile with Tom's wages for support but everyone to his notion. I hope you will rec. the first letter I wrote. If Tom hasn't heard from them yet tell him they all left Huntsville well and hearty, fine spirits, bound for Mobile or Oyster Sand the 16th of March with letters to mail at Stevenson. They were making quite a pleasant trip of it, but before they get back they will have experienced the reality of such a journey, I guess.

Good bye, my dear love, let me know when the Yanks get far enough away for me to go back. Now don't be uneasy about me, my dear. I am doing very well. May God keep you safe through all the dangers of the Battlefield, bring you safe home to me Is the constant prayer of your devoted wife

Camilla

P.S. Mrs. Crockett says please inquire something about Coby and Bob Crockett whether or not they are well. Here comes this same old ticket it will mail letters at Tullahoma.

Huntsville, March 30th, 1863

Mr. R. D. Jamison

My dear darling husband,

Yours of 25th ins. was rec'd. this evening which afforded the [illegible] Your letter was unusually sad which I regret the chief cause being my unworthy self. My condition seems to you to be very bad which it is, but 'tis not worth while to be troubled about it. I have been waiting very patiently sometime for Ella to get here. Henry has gone out on a scouting expedition. He will go home and if she still insists on coming he will assist her all he can. She is more anxious to go to Pulaski than Huntsville. I thought perhaps I had beet wait till she came and perhaps we could make arrangements together which would be advantageous to us both. I think it is very doubtful whether or not she comes at all. Her mother will be very much opposed to her leaving and unless her mother comes, I think she will make different arrangements all together. Henry is in "Rodney's" cavalry.

His company is here catching conscripts. He thinks he will get the Chaplaincy of the regiment. He went up to Tullahoma last week with prisoners and would have gone to see you but didn't have time. They have sent from 8 to 10 hundred conscripts and deserters to Bragg.

I am very sorry indeed that Alex fell in to Yankee hands at last, he did dread it so much and then 'twas for me he risked so much. I suppose all the Negroes are leaving in Rutherford. I wish we had have sent ours South and sold them where I could never hear of them again, for if they go off altogether we will lose them at best, won't we? My dear, I want to see you as bad as anybody ever did in the world, and all the consolation I have is I have got the best husband in the world and there is a probability of our yet seeing each other and living together. Thought the clouds are now very dark indeed, I still think there is a brighter day coming. Mr. J.A. Crockett was here yesterday from home or the vicinity, brought the same news which you have heard. He thinks there will never be another Yank in this part of the Confederacy, but vain are the conjectures of man. The only difficulty is they don't come often enough, and I appreciate them very highly. If I didn't, I ought to be in the Yankee lines, for 'tis all the comfort I can have from my dear.

I have taken a walk two hours and ½ long, went through the principal part of town, saw some beautiful yards and houses, and went to the Graveyard. There we saw many friends of the departed bringing fresh flowers to put upon the graves of loved ones – seemingly to drive away the dark gloom that hovers on the graves of dear loved ones. Saw the grave of Col. Mitchell. No loved hand was near to supply his with fresh flowers of loveliness, and thus 'tis with hundreds who have died away from home and friends and no one to drop a pitying tear. Our enemies, too, lie there side by side in large numbers; they too have friends at home. Would to God the remainder would return home and let us alone.

Lizzie did not go home with Alex. I would like very much to get a good long letter from home and hear all the particulars. I will remain here a week or two longer and then, if we think best, I will go back to Giles. I can't move tho' [sic] until I get the buggy and that is standing in the street where I left it, never been touched. The workman says he is in government service and will fix it as soon as he can. Tell Jim Alexander I think there are plenty of "Gals" here who would like to marry "Nobody but a soldier". Just come and make selection. I am going to work in the morning on government work if I can get it, and make eight dollars per week. My dear, can't you come down here to see me? 'Tis not much farther than where I was before, and I assure you I would appreciate such a visit very much. Mr. Leatherman sent me word to send my horse and buggy back to his house. But the horse is doing very well now. Has Tom ever heard from Kit yet? Kit is going to have Tom transferred to the Mobile army - Mrs. Smith will have Andrew.

How does Tom like Kit's departure? Mr. Wall eats all day and in the evening buys a barrel of flour. He thinks he will starve to death.

My dear, I hope it will not be long 'til I meet you again because you are the dearest husband in the world. I very often find myself making comparisons, but always arrive at the same conclusion. You are the best, you are so patient, and forgiving, so kind and so good, no wonder I love you. But I mustn't brag too much for two years experience is not quite as strong argument as 20 years. If the Lord will only permit us to live together again, I will never cease to praise His name. If not, may He grant me grace to bear the separation. My dear, what do you love me for? I can't see anything about myself to love very much. I don't think strange of your liking me after Mrs. Crockett. Ella says you had better come here to see her, and get a pattern; all you will have to do is to look at her. Some people are getting very bold in talking to me about children and I don't like it very much.

God bless you, my dear darling. and keep you from all harm is the constant prayer of a devoted wife.

Camilla P. Jamison

Huntsville, April 5th, 1863

Mr. R.D. Jamison

My dear darling husband,

'Tis Sabbath evening, and feeling so lonely, thought I would write to my dear love. I do realize so fully this evening how much I love you. 'Tis so hard to live apart from all I hold dear on this earth. If I knew positively that you would be permitted to come back to me, I would bear it with moderation. But I can only ask God if 'tis His will to let you come, His name be glorified in all things. When I am constantly hearing of someone who has lost a beloved friend, I cannot help from bringing it to myself and often when I send to the office, I await the return in breathless silence. But when I learn all 's well, my heart rejoices in God' s goodness, for surely none is so good as He .

Petitions are to be made this evening for peace. All the churches will be opened and a general prayer meeting. Were I at home among friends I would delight to be one of the number, but among strangers I prefer to enter my closet alone, where I go every evening (not only Sunday) and make known the desires of my heart. But my dear, I am so great a sinner, will my prayers avail anything? God is a merciful God – if it were not so, I surely would have been cut down as a cumbrance of the earth. I know I was made for some good purpose, but can no where in my past life see where I have lived to the purpose. Oh; that we could all lay aside the sins that doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race set before us. I am ashamed to know that am such a poor sinner; wish could always live a Christian life. If I really know anything about it, 'tis the happiest state of existence, But my dear, I often have serious doubts as to whether or not I have ever known anything about the experimental religion of Jesus Christ.

My dear, I would prize so highly this evening a real old fashion talk with you, such as we often had during our short stay together. I get very impatient when old memories crowd the mind. I wonder if we ever will be as happy again. It seems to me I would give the whole world, except enough for us to live in, were it mine to give. If we could only live together again as happily as we use to live. And I emphatically believe we will. I think the time is not far distant when things will assume a different form. I think the prayers of the righteous will avail much and certainly there are as many as two or three who agree as touching the same thing in this Confederacy.

The general belief here is that there will be general engagement in Tennessee in a few days, I wish " Rosa" would go home without a fight; it really looks hard to force our visitors away, but when they forget the old adage "visitors should not make their visits too long", they will have to be gently reminded of it.

Here comes Ella, and she says she is anxious for paper and pen to write you.

April 6th: Since writing the above have received yours of 3rd inst. which was read with pleasure and reread with delight. Nothing gives me so much pleasure as your kind and affectionate letters giving me so much assurance that you prize my poor attempts at letter writing so highly, and all my poor endeavors are appreciated by thee. It makes the burden of life doubly easy to bear. I wish I could write my feelings. My dear, if you could just take a peep into my heart you would not doubt but what there was a girl in love with you.

I deeply sympathize with Col. Hall in his dire bereavement; may it prove a blessing in disguise. It seems to us if a man ever did need a wife 'tis in this time of trouble and separation. While he is compelled to leave his family altogether in the care of wife and mother, but God sees and does what is best and has promised to be Father to the fatherless and I reckon Mother, too. I am sorry Kit and co. are not satisfied with Mobile, but 'tis no more than we expected. I never would have gone so far under the circumstances they did.

There is a perfect Negro mama here that everybody is trying to buy at the most outrageous prices. They pass all reason. Mr. Crockett has sold all but two. When you get into old Kentucky capture a few and send them South. Henry has not got back yet but look for him in a few days. When I first commenced sewing, I thought making two shirts was a good day's work, but now can make five and make them well. Mrs. C. is telling me heaps of bad things to tell you, but I am afraid it would make you blush. I will be sure to tell you when I see you again. My dear, I had rather not see you in six months than that you should offend in the smallest point. I get so anxious to see you sometime. I can't resist inviting you to come. I was only jesting when I said I would look for you every evening. I know full well you can't come. I hope, tho [sic], it won't be long 'til we are granted the privilege that High Heaven allows us. I hope men will take a more correct view of things in general, and learn the foolishness of war. This war has

continued about long enough. I am getting tired of it. If Jeff and Abe don't stop it, they will get another fuss on hand.

My darling, may the smiles of Heaven rest and abide with you forever; keep you unspotted from the world; bring you safe through the dangers of the battle field and all other dangers, is the prayer of one who lives in hopes of meeting you soon in this world, and of living a long and useful life together in the service of God.

Write soon and often. Mrs. C. returns her highest regards. Most truly and affectionately your wife,

C. P. Jamison

[written at top of page, upside down: I forgot to thank you In my last for that wee bit of soliloquy. All young husbands are not quite so ignorant as he. Camilla]

Envelope addressed to:

Mr. R.D. Jamison

Company D

45th Tennessee Regiment

Brown's Brigade

Tullahoma,

Tennessee

Tullahoma, April 6th, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My dear darling wife,

Your sweet letter of the 12th was received yesterday evening after a little delay and I never read a letter with much more interest and one that did more good. I had been looking for one for several days and was almost sure I would get one before yesterday, but was sorely disappointed because our post master was too lazy to go over to town after the mail. I thought yesterday was one of the longest days I ever saw just because I firmly believed there was a letter over in town from my dear old sweetness and sure enough there was one. Dearest, I feel really ashamed that I have waited so long in writing to you, but circumstances have been such that it was almost unavoidable. It has been raining for several days until today, and in rainy weather it is almost impossible to do anything unless it is to try to keep comfortable. Last night I had an opportunity of writing a little and I concluded to use it in writing to Mag and defer yours until tonight as Sam Fletcher had got a furlough for 4 days to go down to Rutherford. He expected to start early this morning and could send it by him, but lo, he was badly disappointed

because he could not get a horse to ride. He intends going tomorrow if he can get off. He got a furlough through the influence of Col. Hall on the plea that Mr. Hall had just died and by his going down he could save some of the negroes and other property. Kit is not pleased at Mobile for several reasons, but the chief one is that she and the children are not healthy. Tom is going to try to get them back to Tennessee as soon as possible. Mr. Lawrence has been up here for several days and speaks of going down to Mobile after Tom's family. He says he goes down home very often and that the neighbors are all going to try to raise something to live on. Old Mr. Harrison and Willy Crockett have turned plough boys. Ellis Alexander has just come from his Pa's a day or two ago and says Ma has more corn than any of the neighbors, and also he learned from a reliable source that they had been sent to Nashville and Camp Chase. I do hope they will soon turn them loose. Mr. Lawrence says everyone is expecting that Jim and he will be arrested as he keeps passing in and out helping our men whenever he can. I am afraid he will be. I received a letter from Lizzie yesterday which I enclose to you and let you read for yourself. I will write to her soon, as she has no other means of hearing from home and she is very anxious to hear. She seems to be very much surprised to hear of your being down at Huntsville. We need not be surprised at anything these days and especially about where a soldier's wife is when the Yankees have possession of their home. I forgot to tell you in my last that Billy Wade had gone to the hospital. He left here about two weeks ago and we have not heard from him since - even at what hospital he is. I am awfully afraid Billy will never be well again and ought by all means to be discharged. Uncle King has been with us for several days and is as cheerful as ever. He has just heard that 90 of his Negroes had gone to the Yankees and there were only four at home now, but he does not seem to mind it. It does look hard that such old men as he is and the women and children cannot stay at home in safety. I see from the late papers that the Yankees are leaving Vicksburg and firmly believe they are coming up to help Rosecrans, having found out Vicksburg cannot be taken. Of course they will all not leave there. If that is their program, we will soon receive reinforcements and be prepared for them. Our army here is in a real good fix and I expect we will have something to do soon. Our orders are to be ready to send all our tents, except two to the regiment, to the rear together with our extra clothes. We would not be surprised if they were sent off any day. But enough of the war. Let me talk to old sweetness some, although I cannot say anything scarcely I want to say. Dearest, I cannot see why you love me so much and are afraid of making me an idol for I am nothing but an old man and a hateful soldier. Why should anyone think anything of me and especially a nice sweet lady like you. How can I realize it? I do hope as you love me so well your earnest prayers to God may cause me to be a better man and make me worthy of such love. I do not want you to love me more than God, but I still want all the love you will give; that is, all short of idolatry. I expect, dearest, love you too much, but still can't help it and can only pray to love God more and you less. I cannot bear the idea of loving you any less than to the full extent that God will permit. I know I do not love God as much in proportion to His goodness and that is one great source of my being so mean, sinful and awfully depraved. Dearest, I have been trying to have my picture taken for you but

there is no artist anywhere about here; therefore I cannot have it done now. Your picture is ruining for the want of a case but I can't help it.

My dear, why do you think if we were permitted to live together I would soon wish I had pushed you off the summit of Lookout Mountain? That time is looked forward to by me with more pleasure than anything else in life when we can see ourselves the dresses, ribbons, and laces, it seems you have resolved that if that time never comes, such things shall never be known in our family and you and I will never be known in posterity, although we have been man and wife for nearly 3 years, but this is an unpleasant subject to you. God grant our bright anticipation may be realized. I have a great desire to know what your present is Please tell me in your next letter what it is. If you can't do that, can't you bring it to me? I can't imagine what it is. Present my kindest regards to Mrs. C. and tell her I would come immediately after that pretty thing but Master Bragg wants me. Tell Ella to love and kiss you for me.

Please write soon and often.

Your true and devoted husband,

R. D. Jamison

Tullahoma, April 21st, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My darling wife,

As I have a few leisure moments tonight I will spend them in writing to you, for if do not I will be thinking about you all the time and why not write a little and think some other time, when I have not the opportunity of writing. I wrote you a day or two ago but that is no reason why I should not write again. I firmly thought I would receive a letter this evening, but in vain. My hopes were baffled and I have to take it out in thinking of you and writing myself. I have got so that I look forward to the time for the mail to come with as much interest as I used to look for evening to come when I would be received by you with smiles and joy. You know how pleasant it used to be when the toils of the day were over for us to meet at twilight hours and relate to each other the events of the day and c. but it is useless to speak of these things now, and furthermore, it is injurious because it has a tendency in our present condition to make us restless and impatient about the war ending. Such times and even better may yet come for which let us keep praying. If the war would just end, we would no doubt be better off than ever in one respect at least, or that is my firm belief.

The old 45 is in a great glee tonight or at least you would have thought so if you had been here this evening and heard the boys yelling at dress parade when the order was read that all our division would hold themselves in readiness to move at a moment's warning, and that Brown' s Brigade would prepare 3 days rations and proceed at 1 clock

p. m. tomorrow on the road toward Wartrace (six or eight miles) and select a suitable camping ground and the next day Preston would start. The cause of so much excitement is that this indicates a move north which we are all, of course, anxious for. This, together with the fact that we have and are receiving 8 or 10 thousand reinforcements, forces one to the conclusion that "Old Rosy" had better watch or he will have us on him before he knows it. I think Bragg has waited for him to come nearly as long as he is going to. If he does not move soon I think Bragg will. We do not know whether we are just going out to get us a new camping ground or are just commencing the summer campaign, but in either case the move is in the right direction. The boys of the company have just come down to carry me up where they are having a grand jubilee, but I begged off by telling them that I was writing and could not go. It saved me a powerful whipping which I hear them giving some of the other boys. They owe me one for not taking part with them a few nights ago.

The report this evening is that the Yankees are near McMinnville about 8 thousand strong and expected to get train today and would in all probability have done so if it had not been for an old citizen who reported the fact in time to save it. They cannot hurt much. Today we had a sham battle between our Division and Claiborne's and we whipped them powerfully. Next Friday we were going to have another and bring in the artillery on each side, but this move will break it all up.

Dearest, you ought to see me. You would hardly know me because I am so fat and have shaved off all my whiskers. My face is as clear of hair now as when at home when there was no war. Must I turn out my whiskers any more or not?

Dearest, if a battle comes off soon and you learn that I am wounded you must come to me and get me to some private house where you can attend to my wounds yourself. You may think this is rather anticipating things before they happen, which is true, but still I thought I would tell you what I wish beforehand so your mind would be prepared for such an emergency – should it be my lot to thus suffer. No attention would be half so good as yours or would do more towards curing me, were I thus afflicted, than all the surgeons could possibly do.

Yesterday, I got all the letters you have written me since the retreat and read them all over again and found new charm in them, even though I had read them often before. After reading I was troubled to know what to do with them. If there is a prospect of a battle, I would not let the Yankees get them for anything in the world and I do not want to burn them for I want to save them years. They would be so nice to show to our children years hence when peace and quietude reigns in our land and we passing the meridian of life. Did you think of my birthday when it arrived? It does not seem possible that I am twenty-five years old. I can hardly realize it but it is even so. Although years counted make me that old, still I am as young in feeling and appearance as when I was eighteen, and I might say in another respect. We were going to have a big dinner that

day but afterwards concluded to take as usual cornbread and bacon. That is good enough though, for soldiers and especially soldiers fighting for liberty. If we lived too high we could not appreciate it so well when it is gained. The Yankees think it awful fare we have. My dear, I do not know when I can write again but will do so as soon as I can. Please write often whether I write or not. Direct to me as usual and I will get the letters.

Present my kindest regards to Mrs. Crockett and Sister Ella. MayGod [sic] bless and protect you, dearest, at all times is my constant prayer. Pray for me, dearest.

Your devoted husband

R. D. Jamison

Tullahoma,

April 23. 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My darling wife,

After I wrote you last night the order was countermanded on account of the inclemency of the weather. However, about 11 o'clock another order came from Gen. Hardee to cook three days' rations and leave by day for Manchester to support Gen. Helms, the commander of Hanson's old brigade of Kentuckians. Accordingly I was up cooking until about one o'clock. The regiment started off in the rain early this morning with about one tent to the company with the exception of ours which had two, together with a few cooking utensils. The balance of the baggage is here yet with no transportation, the wagon being in Lincoln (County). I was detailed by Col. Searcy to stay here and take care of Capt. Johnson's papers etc. with authority to carry them to some secure place in case of danger. I am now alone keeping house and will have a lonesome time of it unless I get some company. Won't you come up and stay with me? Of course you will, as you are the only one whom I have invited to share my couch with me.

I do not expect them to stay more than three days as I think the trip will prove of no avail. I expect the Yankees are half way to camps now, for I have no idea it was anything more than a reconnoitering party, and will of course be out but a short time.

God bless you darling, and pray for your unworthy husband.

R. D. Jamison

Envelope addressed to:

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

Care C. W. Briggs

Mt. Hope, Alabama

April 25th, 1863

Dear Brother,

Not having heard from you all in some time, and being very anxious to hear, thought I would write a few lines. It is a very difficult matter to get a letter through now as the enemy have been passing considerably for the last few weeks past. A land force moved out and camped between Mr. Harrison's and Mrs. Morgan's this week', they would come out in the evening and start back by daylight next morning. They said they did it to see if the "Reb's" would fight. We heard from Alex yesterday; he is well and is staying with White Hall, and is at liberty to go anywhere he pleases in the lines, but they will not let him come home. A Yankee came out and told us about him, and he seemed to be a very clever man. He is a Tennessean and says he joined the Northern Army through revenge. Mag has not gotten home yet. I suppose you have heard of them burning the mill; I don't know what we will do for grinding. As it happened we had enough meal to do for sometime, but when that is out we will have to eat hominy, and be thankful to get that. If the Yankees advance soon they may take all of our corn, then we will have to live on roots. But I have no fear of starving. I can say as the psalmist of old, "In God I have put my trust. " I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. I have nothing new to write. I am in hope the war will soon be over and you all can come and that peace and harmony will reign in our country once more. When you write to Puss give her our love and tell her Mother says if she and Henry need any money she will send them some if she can do so safely. She has been talking about sending them some provisions, but will have to give that out now. Write soon. May God bless and protect you from all harm and danger incident to a soldier' s life, is the prayer of your

Affectionate sister,

Nannie

Fairfield,

May 3, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My darling wife,

According to promise I write you the first opportunity after my return. After leaving you the other day had a fine time viewing the fine wheat fields and the farmers eagerly preparing their ground for a large corn crop, but with all my cogitations, "old sweetness" was connected, wondering when if ever this unholy war would come to a close and grant us the great privilege of living quietly and peaceably together. I got to the man's house with whom stayed all night last spring about 11 o'clock, where I stopped a while and had Jennie' s shoes fixed and had her fed without its costing me anything. Then I

started again and came through Mulberry and Lynchburg to a place about 10 miles this side of the latter place a distance of about 60 miles. Next morning as soon as Jennie ate, I started again after paying a dollar and got to Sister's about 8 o'clock and thence to this place by 3 o'clock and found the boys well and all things quiet. All your dear letters were here waiting my arrival, which were read (Tom says) with as much interest as if I had not seen you in a month. Although you had told me all that was in them but still I wanted to hear it all over again. I am so glad, dearest, that I do appreciate so highly everything you do or say. I would not have it otherwise for anything in the world. I surely have the best wife that ever was, or at least I think so, and that amounts to the same thing. You know not, and neither can I tell you, how much I think of you, but suffice it to say I think abundance of you. As you have turned the joke on me on the first subject you spoke of in your last, I will have to quit talking on that subject for the present, as the facts are against me and you are inclined to make use of them. At some future time I hope it will be my time to rejoice, especially when the war is over. I got the moss you sent me and will preserve it in remembrance of my dear. I can hardly realize that I have been to see you and back, but it is even so, and I have had the nicest time in the world, so pleasant and agreeable that the days I was with you seem as many hours. If we never meet again on earth we have one blessed assurance that the last time we were together we were as happy as mortals can be. I hope, though, that is only a small part of the happiness we will yet realize. I have thought for some time that if I could only have the privilege of meeting you again, how well I could enjoy your society, and now I can assure you that every hope was realized. I this day thank God that He has again granted us the privilege of meeting on the shore of times, exchanging a few words face to face.

I expect to have an opportunity of sending a letter to Ma as Mr. Lawrence is expected here tonight. All things are quiet and the pickets are where they have been for some time, and accordingly I will make use of the first opportunity of sending down there. They have heard here that the Yankee General says Lee Leatherman is the bravest boy he ever saw. Threats to kill him had no effect on him. He would reply that he had but one time to die and he would rather die for the Southern Confederacy than anything else. He and Sammie have been released. They took Dr. Yeargan at the same time and have him yet, but the expectation is he will soon be released. They took others but cannot mention now. I see no prospect of a fight now than two or three months ago and would not be at all surprised if we remained here for some time with nothing but skirmishing. I am afraid it will be all the worse for us by being quiet so long. There is great talk about peace again which I regard as being no good for us. As long as we are deluded by talk of peace, we are not as well prepared to fight as we should. Give my love to Sister Ella and Henry and tell Ross the next time he treats me so coolly when I go to see him I will treat him well when he comes to see me just for spite. I hope Henry will have the privilege of staying a long time at Huntsville.

God bless you all and protect you from all harm. Accept, dearest, my love with a kiss.

Your devoted husband

R. D. Jamison

Fairfield,

May 5, 1863

Mrs. Camilla P. Jamison

My dear, darling wife,

As I have just answered Nannie's letter of the 25th I have concluded to write you a short letter and send her letter to you, as it contains a little news about Alex. I am glad to hear that he is not confined entirely to their filthy prison which must be very loathsome in every respect. He and White are no doubt seeing a fine time of it, although they have not quite as many privileges as they used to have at home, or horses to ride whenever they choose. I was a little disappointed in hearing that Mag was still on the other side of the Yankee lines, as I expected the next time we heard from there that she had got back home, and still think it will not be long before she meets with an opportunity of doing so. Am very sorry to hear that Parker's old mill is burned, for when Bob undertakes to go to some other mill, the Yankees will be sure to try to catch him. I still hope that the meal they now have on hand will last until our troops get possession of that country again and which I am in hopes will not be long. The report of Forrest capturing 1700 prisoners with their horses and equipment has just been fully confirmed so that nearly everyone believes it, and hopes he may catch them all in that country. I am more directly interested in his fighting down there now than at any other point, and consequently watch the papers closely. No doubt they will lose a number of men before they reach Huntsville, or even Decatur. I think you all need apprehend no danger as yet, and will have timely warning before they get up as high as you are. Ma seems to be suffering more uneasiness about her children than about her own situation, while we are very much concerned about her welfare. She must think you have spent money in a hurry if she thinks you are out, but I don't know as your economy is principally the cause of your having spent so little. Taking everything into consideration I have got the best wife in the world anyway. Dearest, if you will continue to be as good a wife all the time as you have so far, old age will bring no regrets to my mind in selecting you as a partner for life.

Give my love to Henry, Sister Ella and Ross, and may God bless you all. Accept my love with a kiss from your husband

R. D. Jamison

Fairfield,

May 10, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My dear, sweet wife,

Long looked for has come at last. For several days past I have been looking for a letter from you, but did not get one 'til this morning. Yours of the 5th ins. came to hand, three days later than it ought to have been, owing to the fact that our postmaster [illegible] to Wartrace [illegible] when he pleases and that not oftener than two or three times during a week. But when it did come, it was such a good one that it fully repaid me for waiting, and I must thank you for it by sending you a kiss. I wrote to you a few days since a note and sent with it a letter from [illegible] which I expect you have received [illegible] this. Old Major Hoskins told me this morning that Capt. Moore told him that Alex had been released and was now at home. I do hope so much that it is true, but fear very much that it is not. From the same source I learned that the Yanks had taken 2 or 3 more of Mother's horses and some more corn and also destroyed every thing she had in her garden. They rode their horses in and let them eat and tread on any and every thing they saw proper. Jimmie does not stay at home any scarcely these times.

The Yanks have drawn in their pickets several miles on the Manchester turnpike, but on no other road. They are still in their fortifications and all is quiet. I suppose you have heard of the glorious victory in Virginia, and Forrest has, I suppose, gained considerably the advantage in North Alabama. I do hope the first thing our people will do is to give thanks to God for His goodness in giving us such victories. It is true we have some very brave soldiers and much depends on that, but still we would be able to accomplish nothing if God were not with us both to own and to bless their feeble efforts. Then we should give Him all praise and glory. Billy Wade returned from the hospital yesterday and looks much better than when he left. He said he has been at Chattanooga most of the time, but was in Georgia a while and [illegible] very well. He is very anxious to see you all and especially Sister Ella. You ask how Jennie is getting along. I cannot say positively because I have not seen her for some time. In a day or two after I got here, I sent her over to Sister's and have not heard from her since, but suppose she is doing finely as Sister has fine grass and plenty of corn. She will plough her a little and let her run on grass the rest of the time. I sold my saddle for \$80.00 to Buck Alexander who has joined the 3rd Georgia Regt. of Cavalry and could have sold that fine bridle I told you of at the shop for \$20.00 several times. If you meet with an opportunity of sending it, please tell Henry to buy it and send it to me at any price under \$20.00. I am very glad you have got your watch fixed and hope it is keeping good time and will need no more repairs soon. I wish and earnestly pray that our land may soon be blessed with peace and prosperity, but if you are not going to survive, I will not be much benefitted. expect you are joking about not surviving it, and will, I hope, live many, many years after peace has been declared. Oh, I do hope our prayers will be heard by Almighty God in sparing our lives, and that we will get to spend many happy moments in the service of God, not

because we deserve it, but because He is a God of goodness and has promised to bless those who diligently seek Him and grant requests of those who ask in faith nothing [illegible] but not of those who ask [illegible] that they [illegible] it upon their lusts. Can we not, dearest, ask this one thing of God without selfishness, and with faith that we will receive the blessing . I am so glad you all feel so secure now, for I could not help being a little uneasy when down there as the citizens were so much so, although I could not think candidly that there was much danger. The citizens are so worldly minded down there that I would not be surprised if at any time some punishment was sent upon them.

If you still contend that am the best man in the Confederacy, I will not dispute it, as it is to my interest for you to think so, but I know some one (who is not a man) who is the dearest, loveliest, sweetest, and best creature in the world. Can you guess who that creature is? If you can't just put me to guessing. I expect Ross can guess as I have heard from good authority that he very often kisses the same fair object. Tell Ross I am glad he has changed his notion about me and has concluded to love me. I am anxious to love him, but he would have nothing to do with me. I hope, as he has taken such a fancy to you, that his company may help you considerably to while away the time and divert your mind with his childish fancies. You and he will no doubt be great friends from this out.

Billy Wade sends his love to you, [illegible] and Sister Ella. Dearest, give my love to Henry and Sister Ella, and tell her I deeply sympathize with her in losing her meat as it is such a scarce article, but hope it will be cheaper this fall than last. I am very glad to see the prices of articles falling so fast in Virginia and South Carolina and the best of it is the speculators are the losers. I hope they may lose all they have made. Accept, dearest, my love with a kiss, and may God ever keep us in the path of duty and humble before Him, and preserve us from all harm.

Your devoted and affectionate husband,

R. D. Jamison

Write soon and often.

Camp near Wartrace

June 16th, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My own dear wife,

I wrote to you a day or two ago in reply to yours of the 11th inst., but as I will not have a chance of writing again for several days I thought I would write you a short note this morning. I have been chosen as one of eight men to go down between our lines and the enemy's to buy and bring out cattle, sheep etc., and expect to start in a few hours down there. It will take us three or four days to make a trip, and not hearing from you in that

length of time will be a great hardship, however it will not be much longer than usual and then I will be so much more healthy, and it will be so much more pleasant riding about over the country these harvest times than living around camps. I expect we will be engaged in this business at least two or three weeks, if we are not so unfortunate as to be captured by the Yankees. I received a day ago a letter from Ma and one from Nannie but as they have written one to you, and there is a man going out to Aunt Virginia's tomorrow, will send mine to her, knowing she is very anxious to hear from home and I have not got time to write her a long letter. I got a letter from Lizzie yesterday by Mr. Allison, the man she is boarding with. He lives in sight of Aunt's, and the reason she boards there is she has no one to go with her every morning from Aunt's. She is teaching at Old Salem and has about twenty-five scholars and expecting more. She is well pleased and doing well, and says if she cannot get home when the session is out, that she will commence another. That is the kind of determination I like to see the ladies of the South have, and not give way to circumstances especially these times. She speaks of selling Lewis as he has grown so much and got to be such a fine horse she cannot ride him and is afraid some one will steal him. Cousin Camilla sent me her love with some other message which Lizzie was too modest to write. Old Sweet. is it not a bad case with us when even Cousin Camilla is making fun of us? Ought we not to be ashamed of ourselves and do better? I think we ought and if you will just come to see me I think we will. But enough of this. I wish there never was such a custom in the world. Brother John wishes to know if Lizzie is engaged and says he is going to call on her. He intends to advance cautiously this time I suppose, as he was whipped so badly before. I hope Lizzie will not treat him so badly as you did and at least fool him. She says she intends to be absent when he comes and not see him at all. No news of any importance from Vicksburg for several days. Jimmie. who is just from the front, says Rosy has undoubtedly received reenforcements [sic] from Burnside; to the about fifteen cavalry regiments and that the belief is prevalent that he also got more infantry in Nashville. If this be the case, we may soon expect an advance of their army, and we may fall a little and send the most of our army up in to Kentucky in their rear. If Burnside does reenforce Rosy, he will leave down a big gap and commit a great military blunder. I can hardly believe the report on this account. Time will show whether it be true or false. If you were here now, we could stay together a short time in the country a day or so as I am a little more independent than usual. But then I would be down in front more than up here. If you were at Mrs. Watkins or some place down there, we could be together nearly every night for the next two weeks, unless some move is made. Don't you wish you were there? God bless you is my prayer.

Your devoted husband,

Write as usual.

R. D. Jamison

Camp near Wartrace,

June 25th, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My dear darling wife:

have just returned from the front where I went over a week ago and hasten to write to you. I have been very anxious to write ever since I left but did not have a chance of sending a letter but once, and then I did not know of it in time to write. Therefore, you must pardon me for delaying so long to write to my darling who is the dearest object in life to me. It is not then, dearest, because I love you less that have not written sooner, but because circumstances have forbidden it. I received your dear, sweet letters of the 13th and 16th while down at the front, and I assure you they afforded me great pleasure. I looked for a letter before I left camp and was in great anxiety to hear from you from that time to the day they came to hand. If I had got yours of the 13th - the day I expected it - I would not have gone on the trip I did, but would have written to you to come. From what you said in the one just before that, I had come to the conclusion you were not coming to see me at all. and therefore was not expecting one bearing the news you were coming whenever I said so. I had been looking and looking so long that I had almost come to the conclusion that these troublous times, or something else, had taken much of your former courage from you, and that you would not undertake to come at all, and that would have to be content with receiving and reading letters from you. I am really glad to hear that you have the courage to undertake the trip, and hope the opportunity will soon present itself that you can come. Just at the present it is not prudent for you to come, as everything is in such a confused state that I cannot promise to be with you.

There has been fighting yesterday and today all along the front and some think there will be a general engagement, from the fact, I think, of their breaking through at two or three places, but I do not think they are going to advance any farther. However, no one can tell about these things until they take place.

Day before yesterday we got some cattle from Cousin Amanda Kimbro and brought them to Uncle Joe Marshall's that night. Early yesterday morning we learned that the Yankees came out the evening before - not long after we got out our cattle - and had driven in the pickets at Rover and were then at the place near us. We soon drove them out above Fosterville 2 miles and had got back to Mrs. Watkins on our way after more cattle, when we learned that they had surprised our men at Liberty Gap and were in 1-1/2 of our Cattle again. We hastened back and drove them out just in time to save them, and on here today. They drove us in two or three days sooner than we expected to come. Today a large force of infantry went down to Liberty and I expect will drive them back if they have not gone. I have just heard that they have retired from Hoover's Gap where they attacked yesterday two small regiments and drove them out after killing

twenty men and wounding several others of the 20th Tennessee. They then came in about three miles of this place. They fought where our Regt. was encamped sometime ago. I am sorry they ever got in there.

Last Saturday our Brigade left Wartrace on the cars - leaving their tents, wagons, and sick here. I suppose they went up to Loudon E. T. and they are expected back tonight or tomorrow. They are in Chattanooga now and the cars have been sent up for them. The friends and acquaintances of the boys down in front were grieving very much for fear they were going to Vicksburg, but were elated when the order for us to return to our command was countermanded Monday evening. I found our people down there were well and gathering large crops of wheat. The ladies especially are more energetic than I ever saw them, and seem to be determined to do their part and the men's too, as the men are compelled to be from home. Some that have no one to work for them plow in the fields and never think of such a thing as waiting for a man or boy to go with them when they want to go to a place. These hard times will make many good wives for some men, and I hope good soldiers will fall heir to [half a page is missing]. Averett's one day. I would have gone down there, but I heard they were watching Ma' s very close for A. W. Brothers who was there the next day after I went to the neighborhood. I called to see Cousin Margaret several times, who with family is well and getting along finely. Cousin Amanda Kimbro was very glad to see me, and said several times she wishes you were back there, teaching school and we having Sunday school as usual in days past. She sent you her love with best wishes for your success and happiness. Mother and Lou sent their love, and Mother said she wished you had not remained South, but I told her I was to blame for it entirely, as you were very anxious to return, and was so, even yet. Little Tommie is one of the sweetest things you ever saw. She favors Tom much more than Lou. She is walking about everywhere and can say a few words.

Old Sweet, I am so sorry that I am almost sick because you did not get a chance to come when circumstances permitted. and chiefly because I was gone and could not hear from you . You are so anxious to see your unworthy husband and are so eager for the time to come for you to come to see me. The time is past and I am fearful such a time will not come soon again — although I hope it will in a few days. I feel like I would give half we are worth to see you once more and every day I get more impatient for you to come. But we poor creatures have no foresight. I am sorry, dearest, [missing]

I want to write more but cannot now. The other night when at Mr. W. Batton's, he expressed the wish several times that you were there with me. I wish you were down there somewhere and I could see you often. If the Yankees do not advance this time, you must come and go down and we can be together nearly every night and often in the day..

Dearest, I am sorry you put yourself to the trouble of making me some more shirts, for I have drawn some and Mother dyed them for me. They are a beautiful color and look very well. I wrote to you on the 14th not to make me any, but you did not get the letter. Many thanks to you, however, I hope you will soon have a chance of bringing them to

me. Dearest, ever pray for your unworthy husband. May God bless you and protect you at all times is my constant prayer. Good—bye.

Your husband,

R. D. Jamison

Decherd' s Depot,

July 2nd, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My dear Wife,

Your kind dear favor of the 22nd was received day before y and I assure you that it was read with very great interest and afforded me great pleasure indeed. I wrote you a long letter as soon as returned from the front giving a general description of my trip etc, and hoped you had received it until your last was received stating you had not heard from me in nearly two weeks. I am very sorry that things have turned out as they have. First, that I went down to the front before learning you had determined to visit me, and second, that you have not heard from me in so long a time. For several days everything has been in such commotion that I could not get a chance to write to you and not having seen the wagons in several days until last night. Even if could have written I have had no assurance that the letter would go. When the enemy first commenced to advance, they threw their strongest force against our weakest point on the right, and repeated his assaults so often that our army was compelled to fall back to Tullahoma where we were prepared to whip them. 'But instead of coming there, they passed our right flank - leaving a small force to show us battle and consequently we have to fall back, I suppose to Bridgeport. I hope and think we will soon get the advantage again and send them back. I brought Jennie from Sister's to Mr. Edward's near Tullahoma where I was compelled to leave her as her colt was only a few days old. I hardly think the Yankees will take her as she is poor and has such a young colt.

Dearest, do not think for a moment that I am or have been indignant at your proposal to visit me. You know I have been very anxious for some time for you to come and nothing would afford me more pleasure than to get to see you, but fear it will be a long time now before a propitious time presents itself again. Although we may be separated for some time, still I know you will not forget me, or at least my meanness, as you say you have almost done on account of not hearing from me in so long a time. Dearest, it is a comfort to me when enduring hardships to know that there is at least one heart that sympathizes with me, and that I have a dear good wife whose prayers are constantly ascending to heaven for my welfare, and that I may have faith to overcome them all and come out more than conquerer [sic] through Him who gave Himself for us. I am thankful that I can still say, as did old Paul, "The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man

shall do unto me." Whatever fate befalls, I hope will always be able to say the same thing. I would write more but have to leave. May God bless you always, my dear wife,

Your devoted husband,

R. D. Jamison

Tyner's Station,

East Tennessee

July 28th, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison

My dear darling wife,

Very unexpectedly late last night I received your sweet letter of the 7th inst. If you can but imagine the joy it afforded me to read once more a letter from you - the dearest creature on earth - to me [illegible] I had come to the conclusion that you had remained in Huntsville, and as soon as the Yankees passed far enough you would return to Rutherford. But to my great surprise and delight, my conclusion was ill-founded, and I again have the distinguished privilege of hearing from and writing to you [illegible] It seems to me it was almost a year from the time of receiving your last until I got that one last night. It affords me great pleasure to know that we can correspond again, and also to know that you are not exposed to the insults of the cruel and merciless foe and invader. You say that you thought it quite possible I would come by Huntsville on the retreat. This was exactly my intention, but the first we knew of the retreat was about 12 o'clock at night, and then the wagons were gone and on what road did not know. My horse was with them and therefore I had no way of going. thought once of going by and riding Jennie out, but her colt was entirely too young to travel any distance. At that time it was reported that a force of the enemy had gone around in the direction of Huntsville. These were my reasons for not going by to see you. It hurt me worse in not getting to see you, than in anything else connected with the retreat. For a long time I censured myself very severely for ever going down to the front and thereby missing the opportunity of your paying me a visit. But then I thought just about the time you would have started cur command was ordered to Cowan and would have missed the pleasure oi your company. Had to content myself with the thought that all things work together for good to those that love God. I am very sorry, dearest, to see you taking our reverses so much to heart and about to give the thing up because so much of Tennessee is invaded by the foe. Although many are in the same condition that you (which I think will never be the case), we will then annoy them so that they cannot occupy our country in peace and will have to quit it because they can accomplish no good to themselves by trying to hold it. My opinion is that there will always be enough patroits [sic] left to poison the heels of all invaders of Southern soil. We are into this thing now and there is but one way to get out, and that is to stand every man firm to his post. The fact is that every

man who had any soul at all would rather die than to be subject to the U. S. Government. I would, myself, rather fight the balance of my life and then be killed contending for liberty, than for you and our posterity to be under the rule of such a government . Life is sweet to me, but not so sweet that I would prefer slavery for me and mine to dying the death of a patriot. [sic] Do you think it enough to be? You are the only person on earth who could influence me in the least to desert from such a purpose, and if even you were to tell me to desert, I would think about it a long time, and then I would not do it. We have seen much darker times than the present, so why should we be so discouraged now? A I before this last year we lost Fort Pillow, Island No. 10, Memphis, New Orleans - all of which places were of more importance than Vicksburg as it was then of little importance in official circles, The only army of any importance then in the Western department was a retreating one down in the centre [sic] of Mississippi; now we have about the same there, a large army here, and Price and Kirby Smith are on the other side of the Mississippi River. Then Richmond was threatened by a large force, and we would not have been surprised any day to have heard of its fall; now that same army with several defeats on its crown is a long ways farther North with a fine prospect of getting whipped again very soon. Then there was as much talk about starving as there is now. Finally we have more territory and larger armies now than they, and a much better prospect of something to eat - except so far as meat is concerned. The difficulty with the most persons is that they compare our situation now with last fall instead of last spring and summer. Then speculators and public opinion have reduced our currency so low. I do not pretend to say that our reverses are not great, but I do say they are not as bad as they might have been and have been heretofore. I am very sorry that things are as they are, but as we cannot help it, we should make the best of it as we possibly can and trust to God for the result. I was glad you all succeeded in getting down to Mt. Hope as well as you did. The little difficulties you met with I hope did not hurt you and taught you how other people get along sometimes. As you are about to turn soldier, come up and we will join the cavalry.

You request me to tell you something of the retreat. After falling back to Tullahoma we commenced fortifying and continued 'til about 12 o'clock one night, shovels and axes were thrown away and we were ordered to leave with little noise, the wagons having gone on before. At day we were near Elk River where we stayed 'til near night and then went to Decherd. Next day we crossed the mountains and we all suffered much that day from hunger and fatigue. The next day to Jasper and the next we crossed the Tennessee River on a pontoon and came in 7 miles of Chattanooga where we stayed two or three days. Hence to this place. We have good water and a nice camping ground. We are doing finely, getting plenty to eat and wear, but have no tents scarcely. I will write you more on this subject some other time.

My dear, may the Lord bless you and protect you at all times and may you ever be cheerful - though our trials may be great.

Your husband with much love,

R. D. Jamison

Dearest, please write soon and often and I will do the same. If I have a chance will go to see you and you must do the same. I never intend for us to be near each other again without using every effort to be with you as much as possible. Dearest, I never knew before this war you were so dear to me and the more trouble I have, the more I desire to be with you to receive your cheering word. Good bye, old sweet.

Your old hus. [sic]

As I did not expect to hear from you in some time, I drew me a nice pair of pants and am well supplied in that line. Lieut. Gen. D. H. Hill is now in command of our corps in the place of Hardee who has gone to Mississippi. Grant has gone back to Vicksburg.

Mouth of Chicamauga [sic] Creek

August 26th, 1863

Mrs. C. P. Jamison,

My dear darling wife,

I have written and written so often that I hardly have the courage to write again without knowing you will get the letter. However, as Bro. McMurry expects to see you in a few days, I will write again anyway. I have received several dear good letters from you and I answered by mail every one of them but when I last heard from you, none had been received. Then I wrote one by Jimmie a few days ago when he expected to return to M. T. but he was disappointed in getting to go at the time specified and it is uncertain now whether or not he will go at all. Therefore you may never get that either. Bro. McMurry and Mrs. Smith (as you will learn from them) are on their way to M. T. and they say that you can go with them if you choose. You have, I believe, expressed determination in each one of your recent letters to return as soon as an opportunity presented itself, but in your last letter said you were not particular about going just now and had as soon wait until fall as any other way. If I had known for certain whether or not you would go with them, I would have made some more definite arrangements with them; however, they say that they can carry you very conveniently if you wish to go. I bought a horse a few days ago to send you for fear you might need one and could not get it, but they could not carry him conveniently and therefore I disposed of him. Jennie was unavoidably left behind at Mr. Edward' s about 3 miles from Tullahoma with a very young colt. He promised to take care of her. You can exercise your own pleasure and judgment about going back. I think that Rutherford County now is about as good a place as you could be, but how long it will be so we cannot tell. Also, it will be much more pleasant to you to be at home with your relations than situated as you are now. But still, I cannot get the consent of my feeling s [rest is missing]