

Murfreesboro Tennessee
January the Eighth 1863
57th regt ind vol

JAMES JONES

father and Mother

i feel thankful that i have the privilege of once more informing you that i am alive and well tho i feel Some what worried down wee have been in line of battle almost day and knight ever Since christmas you have nodout heard of the battle at this place by this time i come out Safe but i dont pretend to Say that i am better than hundreds that fell wee had a Serious time wee was in from beginning to end wee done our hardest fiting the day before new years our regiment lost Seventy men killed and wounded our colonel and lieutenant colonel and adjutant was all Shot from there horses but neither of them was killed the adjutant was Shot threw the breast and Shoulder it is uncertain about him getting well the colonel was wounded in the thigh and the lieutenant colonel in the knee one of our captaintd took command of the regiment the colonel commanded us threw the bigger part of the engagement he took it afoot the most of the time wee done our fiting in a big cotton field along the river bank the 15th ind was on our left they lost Something over too hundred the rebels made a charge on us once they come rushing up double quick yelling like indians they come up within a few rods of us wee give them Such heavy voleys of musketry and our batteries Just mowed them with grape and canister they turned t there course and went back about as fast as they come wee done our fiting mostly laying down wee would rase and fire and drop down if wee had of Stood up i dont believe there would been a dozen men left in the regiment i think our colonel Seved a great many of our lives by manging us as he did i hated it very mutch when i looked around and Seen him laying by the Side of his hors i thought he was killed and didnt know any better for Sometime the Smoke was So thick Sometimes wee couldnt Shoot to mutch certainty wee run out of ammunition and had a Supply brought to us i Shot one hundred and too rounds that was more than the most of them Shot i didnt loose much time when i had a chance parker truit was wounded in the back of the head Charlez thornburg was wounded in the thigh whites Sun was wounded in the arm and one of the banz boys from Smithfield was Shot threw the lage Surlses boy had a hole Shot threw his cantine I had a cannon ball to hit me on the Shoulder the Second bounce but the power was So near gone it didnt hurt mutch i Seen the 36 boys after the first days fite they was badly cutup Jim wood was missing either killed or taken prisoner

January Ninth

i will finish my letter this morning fowler had his belt partly Shot of and a hole threw his cap groves was badly wounded in the

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face our company and company eye was throwed out as Skirmishers
a new years morning the rebels fierd on us tolerable heavy wee
got behind trees and rocks it was every man for him Self wee had
too boys wounded that morning out of our company the rebels made
a desperate effort the evening after new years it was just
a cross the river from us our men give back Something like a half
mile by this time there was four batteries come up on the Side
where wee was which made thirty too guns the rebels was rushing
up one rank after another these guns then commensed firing across
the river into the rebels this Soon turned them the artillery
fierd in Such voleys it apperaed like the hole earth was Shaking
our men Shelled them until they was all gone and continued
Shelling a good while after dark it would be a Site for you to
See canonading after nite it makes the fier fly i helped to bury
the dead after the battle it was a disagreeable Job i helped to
bury Some that was tore in pieces and throwed in every direction
one leg here and another there wee Just had to gather up the
pieces and fix them away the best wee could wee caried a hundred
and fifty together and dug a big ditch wide enough to lay a man
crossways and layed them in Side by Side there was a board to each
ons head and the name and reg. i never want to See another battle
field I didnt feel any fear a part of the time when wee was fiting
but when the cannon balls would drive there way threw the ranks
on each Side of me i didnt know but one would hit me next wee
are three miles from the battle field now wee are in our tents
a half mile South of town wee have drawed plenty of rations i
think wee will Stay here Some time tho i may be mistaken i
would have rote Sooner but i have had no chance at al wee have
had no male Since wee left nashville i Seen bil truit this morning
he Said wee would get the male this evening in changing our
positions wee had to wade the river three times at nite wee would
lay down rite among the dead and wounded i will finish on an other
sheet our male has come i got a letter from you and Nathan i am
always anxious to hear from home i want you to rite as Soon as
you get this i will rite often if i have a chance i have time
enough to rite but the difficulty is i cant have the materal to
rite with all the time Sometimes our napSacks are in the waggon
and wee have nothing to rite with wee drawed big gun blankets
this morning that will keep us dry in any rain there is no
scarcity of clothing wee can draw all wee want when wee got in
the battle wee throwed of our blankets and let them go wee
gathered up others after the battle the ground was covered with
them i must quit for the present dinner will Soon be ready wee
have taters beens rice coffee Shugar beef and pork and crackers
(this leaves me well and i hope will finde you all well i am
Still looking forward for a better day

So good by for the present

James H. Jones

to all inquiring friends

Murfreesboro tennessee
January the twelfth 1863
57th ind.

Dear brother and Sister

it is with pleasure that i Seat my Self this morning to inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i received your letter the other day and was glad to hear from you you Said you was ready to Start to Nashville and give it out i dont Suppose you would have found us there wee left there the day after christmas it is a common thing to hear Shooting about christmas and new years maby you think wee didnt hear any if you do you are a little ~~big~~ bit mistaken wee heard the Sound of artillery for eleven days Strate along well nate wee had a hard battle but i was one of the lucky ons that come out Safe but i am not bragging on it the men fell all around me i didnt know how Soon it would come my turn i had a cannon ball to bounce up after it had tore too big holes in the ground and hit me a tap on the Shoulder but it didnt hurt mutch i was very busy about that time and didnt pay much attention to it the bullets was whizzing around us all the time but i didnt mind the little bullets as much as the cannon balls i Seen men with there legs and arms tore of by cannonballs and and Some tore all to pieces i helped to bury the dead after the battle it was a desperate looking Site tho i had Seen the like before at pittsburg landing perysville ~~ans~~ and greenriver bridge i have Seen as many battle fields as i wanto i never craved the Site you Spoke about coming down as Soon as the battle was over i would like to See you tho i hardly know what to Say about it there is Some cases of Smallpox here in town you wouldnt like to get it and take it to indiana i cant tell how long wee will Stay here Some Say that wee will move on after the rebels before long i dont know where they have gone Som Say they have gone to chattenuga rite as Soon as you get this and tell me what the people think about this battle give me the news in Jeneral So good by for the present i will lok for a letter from you Soon

James H Jones to
Nathan and Cerena Jones

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Murfreesboro tennessee
January twenty Second - 1863

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this Morning to inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines Will finde you all well it has been over a month Since i have had any letters from home the last i got was dated December 21st i have rote Several Since the battle i Suppose the male has been Stopped Some way i am always at a loss to know what to rite unles i can get letters. John truit and thornburg was here they can tell you more than i can rite wee had hard times while he was with us he can tell you Some thing about it truit give me too dollars that Some of you give him wee moved camp yesterday wee are one mile east of town in a nice grove this town is about the Size of ~~ma~~ muncie but it has a great many more inhabitants at the present Every place is filled with Soldiers wee was out foraging day before yesterday with too hundred waggons wee was out ten miles which made a tramp of twenty miles wee dont mind marching 20 miles now and then but when it coms to 25 and 30 everyday wee would Just as Soon lay in camp and do nothing thirty five of our waggons was captured by the rebels cavelry yesterday 8 miles from here it was bad management in our officers the rebels can hide here in the red cedar thicketts and make a dash when ever they See a good chance thee army is Stripping this country of every thing things are going quite different Since Rosecrans has been commanding us he takes every thing before him he is around among us every few days he pays as mutch attention to the Soldiers as the officers during the battle wee could See him every little while riding along the lines he always went in a lope he had on a big oald citizen over coat and hat of the Same which covered his uniform the other day when wee past threw town he was out on the Side walk bare headed Smoking a cigar the talk was that the Smallpox was in town but i hear nothin more of it the last letter i got from home Nathe was talking of coming down i Suppose he has give it out before this time it is well enough as i have had the good luck to get threw the battle and Still keep well i am getting along very well if i Should get Sick and hafto go to the hospittle or get wounded then i would want Some of you to come down as long as i keep well i can get along where any body els can i have been among Strangers So mutch i can make my Self at home any where you that are at home had better Stay there until further orders i am not home Sick or any thing of the kind i am as well Satesfied as when i come in to the army but it is Sweeping our best men daily a battle is considered a Small matter with a great many but they no nothing about it as for clothing wee have plenty the

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weather is not cold here like Indiana you spoke about having a pair of boots made I suppose you did not know that truit was coming or you could have sent them by him about half the boys in our company have had boots sent to them by mail perhaps you can send mine in that way they are rapped up in a close package the postage on those that have been sent has been sixty and sixty five cts I think they will come to me as well as any body else I am not suffering for them but if they can be sent I would like very well to have them if you sent them I want an extra half sole put on and two rows of tacks around the heels and tacks around the toes it is tolerable hard on soles marching on the pikes and there is no chance of getting them mended Just direct them the same as a letter boots sell here from ten to fifteen dollars rite as soon as you get this send me a half dozen stamps tell me if you have heard any thing from the boys that are gone and tell me what the people think of this battle we cant tell where the rebel army is Some say they have gone across the tennessee river I suppose we will follow them up tho I dont know how soon the boys are not as anxious for fite now as when we left Nashville captain Magraw is commanding the regiment captain Blanch will take command as soon he comes from Indiana we have had some as heavy rains as I ever seen but the last 2 days is pleasant this is a nice day we are setting around our stove doing nothing our stove keeps our tent comfortable we have plenty of rations we always have plenty unless something happens the supply train and it dont get to us I will close for this time I am looking for a letter everyday every day rite soon and I will answer if I have a chance

James H Jones of the
Fifty Seventh Regiment
Indiana Volunteers
Company E

Murreesboro Tennessee
Sunday January

as i have nothing to do this morning i will inform you that i am well and getting along as well as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee went out on picket day before yesterday and come in last evening wee ~~didnot~~ didnot See any of the butternuts Some of the boys fierd a few Shots about midnight they thought they Seen cavelry but it finally turnd out to be nothing but Some loos horses

tom kent of the 36 was killed he was wounded in the Shoulder and then finished with the bayonet i have heard nothing from Jim and Wo-----is only a helf mile from here i think i will go over there to morrow * captain dun is Sick he talks of resigning every thing is quiet to day i cant tell when wee will leave here the cars will hafta run threth first So wee can get provision a trane of Seven hundred waggons come in from Nashville last evening loaded with provision it takes no Small amount to do this army the talk is that Rosecrans is gone to Washington i dont know how tru it is i have but little to rite i have no word from any of you yet you cant expect me to rite mutch i guess there is Some difficulty in the male i have rote Several letters i dont know whether you have got then or not

i will close for this time Send me some Stamps this letter takes the last one i have i Sill have plenty of money i guess wee will be payed of be fore very long of you get any of the letters that i have been riting rite and let me know how you are all getting along

James H Jones

Fifty Seventh Indiana company E

*There were holes in the letter. That is why in the above letter
you see -----.

jdt

Thomas Kent, 36th Regiment, was killed at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862. Terrell's
Report,

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Murfreesboro Tennessee
February Sixth 1863
57th reg.ind.vol. co E

Dear brother and Sister

i will drop you a few lines to inform you that i am well and Stout and hope that these lines will finde you all well well John this is the coldestday that wee have had this winter but it is nothing like as coald as indiana i have not Sufered any with coald this winter only the nites that wee layed on the battle field
i was over at the 36 reg yesterday i got the things you Sent me the boots is about the rite Size and Soots me very well there was 3 pare of Socks in the package too of them was directed to the 36 boys and the pare that was in the boots belonged too me each one got his Socks all rite the appels you Sent is the only appels that i have Seen Since wee left nashville William wood come to Nashville an could not get any further the 36 boys Said they was a going to take Jim wood up and take him to Nashville no citizens are allowed to come in to our lines on any occasion you Said you had Some notion of coming down it would be no use to try it they wouldnt let you threw and the measles are here you would be Shure to get them i would like very well to See any of you but while i am getting along as well as i am at the present you had better Stay at home if i Should get wounded or any thing happen me then i would want Some of you to come down
our regiment have been doing considerable of work on the fortifications there is Some very Strong works here wee have one forte here prettinear dun that is bum proof Some think the rebels will attact us here but i have no idea they will they cant whip us out of these forts i think there will bee another big battle near here before many weeks wee hear canonading almost every day our men go out foraging and they Generally find Some rebel cavelry but a few Shell Soon Start them
i was sorrow to hear that pap was taken down with his oald complaint from what i could hear i was in hopes he would get entirely well

parker truit come up to the regiment 3 or 4 days Since his wound is about well you Said you had Started a letter but it hasent come up yet i will close for this time rite often and Send me Some Stamps

James H Jones

to J A and Marthy Jones

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Murfreesboro Tennessee
February tenth 1863
57th reg

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this morning to inform you that i am well and getting along as well as common this morning looks like Shugar making wether i come in from picket yesterday i was on over forty eight hours on the out post the orders are very Strict on out post picket i am wareing the boots you Sent i got the Socks tho i am not needing them at the present you Said you Sent a couple of cans they never come up they was Sent from Nashville by the 36 waggons the boots come Safe but the cans i Suppose was taken by Someone it wont do to trust any thing of that kind in a Soldiers hands you Spoke about the roads being very muddy if you was here at the river where the wagon trains are all the time crossing and See Some of the mules that are mierd down and cut loose from the waggons and left there to dye in the mud you would think that was a hard way of doing i gues the bridge is about dun now the waggons can cross then quite handy i got Six letters yesterday and day before too from Sam Simmons one from Mr banghan i was glad to hear from home once more i had begin to think i wasent a going to get any letters but the male is getting more regular the letter that Sam Simmons rote come threw in Six days the health of the troops i think is getting Some better than it was 2 or 3 weeks ago perhaps you will think i am Scarce of paper i have plenty one of the boys got a big book at head quarters wee Just rite on a leaf and cut it out

alot of the 57th was drunk last nite both officers and men if Colonel hinds had of been here he would have Stratend them out in a hurry he rote back to the reg the other day and Said his wound was mending very Slow i guess captain Blanch is appointed Major for the 57th but he is Sick at the present time he is one of the best men in the regiment according to my Judgement i guess William can tell you Something about him he Seen him at pittsburg landing there is Some few cases of measles here but nun in our regiment yet i guess they all had it last winter Some of the new recruits will be very aft to get it

you Said you had been doing Some fencing i am not uneasy about you getting along at home the rails and fencing in this part of the country is all burnt the Sunday after the battle our bregade moved down the river about a half mile and Stacked our guns a long on the flat rocks wee was all wet and coald and the rails had all been burnt that was any where ~~the~~ close but there was a big log barn and too houses and 4 or five stabels that Stood near and Some ~~a~~ other Small buildings oald waggoner our brigadier tole us to tare them down the buildings Soon disappeard and wee all had a big hot fire where ever an army goes distruction follows as i have this Sheet about filled i will close for the present rite often you Said you had been unwell fore Sometime past i hope these lines well finde you all well Still Send me Some Stamps there is no chance of getting them here

James H Jones

i will rite a few lines to Mr bond

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57th - reg - ind - vol - co - E
Murfresboro Tennessee
Monday February Sixteenth 1863

father and Mother

as i have no employment this evening i will inform you that i am well and fairing as well as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well

PAR - the wether has been pleasant for the last few days it begins to look like Spring here

PAR - wee was called out in line of battle this morning before day and Stood until daylite our guns are Still in Stack and wee hafto keep our catridge boxes on - the troops are all held in readiness the batteries have taken there positions ready for operation but i dont think wee will have any fiting here wee was inspected by General wood yesterday but i was not here i went down in town yesterday morning and helped to load a waggon train with rations i come back by the 36 reg. the boys Said that William Wood had been there i didnt know it at the time or i would have went over and Seen him if he gets home rite and let me know how he got along

PAR - Sam Manifolde come here last evening and left this fore noon he had been at Nashville 3 weeks trying to get threw he finally Slipt threw as a Setler his ~~brother-in-law~~ was brotherinlaw was badly wounded but was getting better the mail comes in every day but i have had no litters for Several days ~~but-i-have-had~~ i will quit riting for the present and finish in the morning

tuesday february 17th

PAR - Every thing is quiet this Morning wee had quite a rain last nite but looks like clearing of this Morning

PAR - Sam Manifolde come back last nite he will not leave before tomorrow

PAR - Our captain is very Sick i think it is uncertain about him ever getting any better

i have but little to rite So i will close

James H Jones

you will finde some cotton Seed in this i cant tell whether it will grow in indiana or not i guess the ground hasto get tolerable warm to make it Sprout

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Warriors. Tennessee 37th Reg.
Sunday, February twenty Second 1863

father and mother

i will inform you this morning that i am well and getting along as well as common and hope that these lines will finde you well i have been driving our team the last three days our teamster is unwell able to drive it wee went out fifteen miles yesterday foraging east from here our bregade went as gard and about too hundred wagons it turned out to bee the wetes job i ever Seen it commensed ~~*****~~ raining about eleven o clock and rained hard all day every place was covered with water the regiments had to wade threw lots of places that was belly deep to the mules i was driving our teem and had my oil blanket So i got threw dry the waggons cut in the rode So that the hubs roaled threw the mud

i went don day before yesterday to town after rations the mules run of with me the waggon was loaded with poark barls and Started up threw town and the mules got Sceard at Something i didnt know what and ~~##~~ if every mules run it was then i tried to holde them but it is useless for one man to try to holde ~~##~~ Six mules So on they went the further the faster threw town and up the pike i finally come to a leavel piece of ground and i pulled the leaders of the pike and run them in a field where the ground was so soft that thay had to Stop So nothing was hurt

our captain is Still Sick not any better

the river has been very high our bregade was down at the railroad bridge last Wednesday pulling out logs and trees as they come down the river to Save the bridge they had Several boats and tied long roaps to them as they come down then wee would hall them out

i will close for the present i have been getting Several letters lately the male coms regular now

i have no idea when wee will leave here
rite often

James H Jones

this is Washingtons birthday a battery from each division have just now been firing each battery fired thirty three Shots it begin to Sound a little like it did down on the battlefield

this evening is alittle cooler and Snowing Some little

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Thursday March 20th 1863
Murfreesboro Tennessee

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this Evening to inform you that i am Still alive and Well and hoping that these lines will finde you all Well i received a letter from you Several Since but have neglected to answer wee have been Moving Our camp wee are camped now Just at the edge of town on a nice piece of ground the 36th boys are camped between a quarter and a half mile from here i See Some of them prettinear every day i got all the things that you Sent by Richard Leavell he was here yesterday the things he brought was quite a treat butter here is worth Sixty cts per pound Eggs a half dollar a dozen the Setters have what thay call apple butter to Sell here but i call it stewed appels

Dunn this is a pleasant Evening the boys are out playing ball Colonel captains and all wee have had tolerable Easy times Since wee quit foraging there Was considerable fiting the other day Some twelve Miles from here in a Southeast Direction near a town by the name of Milton Wee could hear the canonading very plain wee had to get out in line of battle as usual but after a little while the canonading ceased and all was quiet wee hafta get out in line of battle here evry morning a little before day our men are building breast work here all the time it will bee my turn to work on the breast work or go on picket to Morrow wee work very moderate on the fortifications Colonel Hinds is Still at Indianapolis i gues he mends very Slow Major blanch is riding about Some i guess he will bee able to tak command in a few days Capt Dunn is now commanding our company he is tolerable Stout i was down in town the other day every thing is Moving lively i Seen oald Rosecrans riding threw town you ought to See his horse and Saddle it is little the finest i ever Saw his horse looks like he might have come out of a band for oald rosy has a lot of brass about him but he is like the boy Said by General Washington he is nothing but a man

i guess the rebels are tolerable close here Some think they will fite us here but i hardly think they will tho i may bee mistaken if they ever come here they will have a harder job than Stones river Richard Leavell could tell me a little about every thing it is ^agreat Satisfaction to See Some one from home i got a letter from Sam Williams and Wil Leavell Several days Since the peach trees here are in full bloom but the horses and mules have nawed the bark of them and the limbs to as high as they can reach one of our boys come from Nashville day before yesterday that was Shot threw the Side of the face he is well but it leaves a tremendous Scar he Says he is a going to make Some rebels headache if he gets in another battle i Seen him get wounded it was on new years morning he was a little in the advance behind a tree when ever he Seen a rebel he would drop him The peaped around the tree and was drawing Site when Some one brought him over he fell on his back and layed a little bit then cralled of out of the waw So good by

James H Jones

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Saturday March 28th - 1863

i have Just come in from pcket wee had a heavy rain lasy
knight wee was one and a half miles from camp posted in a
barn wee Stood one at a time Some 30 or forty rods from the
barn it is a tolerable lonesome place on picket when a fellow
is posted in the cedar thickets that are here by him Self
but i have done So mutch of it i dont mind it mutch I Just
now received your letterdated 20th Stating the death of
Grandfather haymond you need not Send any more Stamps for a
while i have some thing over 30 you may Send me 2 or 3 pen
points i can get them here but they are a poor article our
men are building breast work every day i gues they are looking
for an attact all the time rite often and let me know how
you are getting along this leaves me well and hoping that it
will finde you all well the health of the troops here is good

James H Jones

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Fother and Mother

I will once more inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have had dry winds wether here for the last three days wee are fairing tolerable well now wee have done no drilling for Several days wee hafto Stand picket about once a week wee have been doing Some work on the breast works in the last few days this is a clear day and Some what cool for this part of the country Every thing is quiet here now wee are Still called out in line every morning Just at the brake of day and Stack our guns on the cullerline then return to our quarters Richerd Leavell was here yesterday Evening he had Just received a letter from Mr Leavell of March 24th i received a letter from you Stating the death of Coleman Haymond it appears that the folks at home are Subject to Death as well as the Soldiers the health of the troops here is good but where there is Somany men there is always Some one dying there was a man Died in our regt night before last he belonged to the drafted company i guess he was a Substitute the Substitutes got from too to three hundrd dollars would not turn me a hairs bredth in a case of this kind if i was not willing to Join the army money would not hiermeto Join it

and if i wanted to Join the army no man could keep me from it

our men are Still fortifing this place i got a pass from Major blanch Monday last and Spent the bigger part of the day in town and down about the river and different forts it would Supprise you if you was here and See the amount of work that has been done by this army iseen heavy fortification at forte dolelson and bowling green but they are Small works by the forts that are bum proof they have twenty four and Sixty four pounders in these works ready for fite any time

i dont think the rebels will ever fite us here

i hear no talk of leaving here i Spent the bigger part of last Sunday at bregade head quarters with bil truit i got a letter from William dated March 22 Stating that he was going to Start to illinois the next day i Sent him a day book Stating Some few of the items which has taken place Since i left indiana but reading and imagination is different from experience

James H Jones

i will hafto go on picket or camp gard tomorrow it would bee customary to Say if nothings happens but wee go here happens or no hapens rane or Shine

Wednesday April first / 63
Murfreesboro tennessee

as i have no employemny this Evening i Will Endeavor to give you Some little idea of the great change that has taken place here within the last Six or eight Months. i passed threwhere last august Murfreesboro and vicinity was then a Splendid part of the country She compaired with other towns and portions of tennessee as the red bird among the Most common fowls of the air. but the red bird has now lost her fethers the adjoining plantations that was once a Scene of beauty and wealth is now occupied by troops and camps artillery & all its Splendor has disappeared

Dist. the Streets that was occupied by the ladies and Jentleman in days gone by in riding back and forth in there vehicles of Splendid qualities Are now crowded with goverment Waggon the horseman and cavelry making there way threwhere ever they can finde a Space or vacancy Everything Moves with a rush. the Side walks in many places are blockaded with boxes barrels and Military Stores of every description

Dist. the Splendid gardens and yards of Shrubbery and flowers now resemble that of a brick yard. the fruit and Shade trees that formed there lines along the walks have long Since been throwed out to the commons and the bark and Smaller limbs have been consumed by the horses and Mules. they resemble the oald Stubs and Shrubs that May be seen in Some oald dedding. the fine dwellings hotells Store rooms ware houses and other buildings are occupied by Military affairs in various ways. Some turned into hospitals a large portion of them filled with provisions bakeries doctor Shops & But very few citizens remain in the town. i Suppose the thundering of the cannons on Stones river Started them out. there is nodout numbers of families in this region of country that are almost entirely destitute of every thing Starvation is almost Stairing them in the face

Dist. the court house in this place Stands on a high piece of ground whitch can be seen for many miles around. on top of it the Signal flag and lite is to be seen Manovering both day and knight. the bigger part of the court house yard is filled up with artillery of different kinds and qualities from ten to twenty four pounders there is fortifications on evry hill and Shore near this place within them are placed the twenty four and Sixty four pounders ready at all times to make the earth tremble if the Enemy Should Make his apparance at any point the groves of timber that was Waving in the breze at the arrival of Rosecranses army is now in Stockades and ashes Nothing left but the Stumps and brush perhaps you are tierd of reading Such as this. i must close and prepare for Dressperade

James H Jones

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Saturday April Eleventh 1863
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

I have Just come in from picket wee have very pleasant wether here now things are quiet. i received your letter of april fifth this Morning i am always anxious to hear from home my health is as good as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well

(par) there was a man Shot here in town this week he was found out to be a Spy for the rebels he has been going about threw the regiments for a good while Singing UNION Songs he calls him Self the army poet his name is lock i have Seen him lots of times he is quite an oald man he was Searched and he had all of our fortifications drawed of and the number of men in the different regiments he was placed under a gard and he under took to brake away from the gard and he Shot him threw the lage with his Musket but that dident Stop him the gard then drawed out his Six Shooter and Sent the oald fellow to his long home

parker truit got wounded last Wednesday knight while on picket it was rather a Singular circumstance i will try to give you Some idea how it was done in the first place wee have Six men and a Sargeon on a poste too Stands at a time Some 50 rods out in front and close enough to See each other the Sargeon Sometimes goes out to See how they are getting along So parker went out to See how the boys was getting along the boys was a Short distance apart and parker walked on threw the line to See if the boys would discover him he done this with out considering the danger he was in the boys discovered him esra Surls was on the post and as Soon as Surls Seen him he Shot him threw the arm above the elbow the ball grazed him a cross the back cutting threw both his coats it was a very narrow risk the bone in his arm was not injured i was looking at it this morning it is a tolerable Sore arm but not dangerous i Seen Richard Leavell day before yesterday he keeps well the report is now that the trane was captured last evening between here and Nashville i have learned no particulars yet i will close and finish tomorrow

James H Jones

Monday night April 13th 63

this has been a pleasant day wee had brigade drill this evening i Suppose you have heard before this time that the trane was captured between here and Nashville it was entirely distroyed the rebels got a large pile of money and all the male i Started a letter to John that went on that trane i dident care for the letter but it had ten dollars in it i Suppose it is in the hands of the rebels now but i am willing to Square of with them if they never injure me here after i have Something over forty dolars by me i guess that will do me until i draw agan there has been Some fiting at franklin i have learned no particulars

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wee could hear the canonading wee get the cincinnati and
lewisville papers here evry day igot a letter from Sam
Williams the other day i Seen about 75 prisoners the other
evening that our men captured out towards Mcminville i guess
i will quit riting for to night my health Still keeps good
the health of the troops i think is generally good rite often
James H Jones

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Sunday night Aprile 19th 1863
Murfreesboro. Tennessee

I will once more inform you that i am Still alive and well hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have been in line of battle for the last three days about too miles from camp wee come in last evening about Sun Set thursday friday and Saturday clear and pleasant wee had a Small Shower of rain to day the talk has been for the last 3 or 4 days that wee would bee attached here Shure but nothing of the kind has taken place yet

wee have orders to Start on a Six days Scout in the morning perhaps wee will have Some fiting to do before wee get back

I have received no letters this week i Seen Richerd Leeavell this evening he Still keeps well parker truit Started home the other day if you could See him he could tell you all about how things are going on here i rote a letter to you last Sunday night i dont know whether you get all the letters write or not

Curt pucket of the 36th got his discharge on account of his week eyes he Started home this evening

The boys have all gone to bed and as i have nothing Strange to rite i will do the Same

Colonel kinds keeps quite lame he is not able to ride a horse back Major blanch is commanding the regiment

Eggs Sell here as high as Seventy five cts a dozen appels from 5 to 15 cts each butter has entirely played out

rite often give me the news in Jenerel

James H Jones

Monday morning aprile 20th

wee have not Started on the Scout yet the order is to be ready at any call wee may Start in ten minutes and maby not before tomorrow this is a clear morning

James H Jones

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June the Ninth -- 63
Murfreesboro tennessee

Dear brother and Sister

i Will once more let you know how i am getting along i# am getting tolerable Stout agan i have been considerably under the wether for Some days bill truit has been Sick but is now about well i Seen him last evening, hatfield is at Nashville in the hospittle this is a very cool morning wee have had 3 or 4 very cool days and accompanied with considerable of rain i Suppose you are busy now in your corn i have not Seen a hill of corn this Seizin wee are inder Marching orders but there is no telling when wee will leave i think it depends alltogether on the movements at other points for my part i am not caring how Soon wee leave here wee have been fairing better here than any place that wee have ever been yet i have but little to rite this time rite as Soon as you recisieve this and give me the news in Jenerel tell me all about the youngsters excuse my Short letter and i will try and do better the next time you must charge my pen with this bad riting Sogood by rite Soon

James H Jones to
Nathan and Cerena Jones

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Saturday July Eighteenth 1863
Murfreesboro Tennessee

father and mother

i Seat myself this Evening for the purpose of once more informing you that i am Still alive and Well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i was glad to hear from home once more i received yours of the 9th of July this forenoon it has been a month Since i recved a letter from home there is nodoubt letters for me at the regt i have rote to the captain to Send them to me i am looking for them every day perhaps i have neglected riting too long i have been wating Still thinking every day that i would get a letter from Some one Wee have been fairing very well Since wee have been here wee get up about Sunrise and drill an hour then eat breakfast and from that wee have nothing to do until near Sunset wee then go out and drill an other hour that is all wee haf to do i like it Much better than infantry drill our guns are forty pounders wee have 25 men to each gun wee are getting drilled So that wee can throw them around tolerable brisk When wee heard of the capture of vicksburg wee had the privilege of trying our guns wee fierd 34 Shots it almost deafens a man when they are fierd wee have our powder in Sacks wee Just ram in a Sackfull at atime wee wet coffey Sacks and roled them in tite roles and tied cords around them for to ram on the powder when wee fierd it jarred Some leaves from Some brush that had been throwed up on Some forks for a shade which Stood about a hundred yards off our guns are rifle parrots Eleven feet long the captain Said wee would Soon have 2 more 64 pdr wee only come on gard once in 10 days and then wee can Set down in the Shade when it is raining wee can Set in the Stockade where it is as dry as any house our Stockade is bumproof it is covered over the top with heavy lumber hewed timber and gravel in all it is 3 feet thick wee are but a few yards from the railroad and Some 30 rods from the river there is very heavy freight running on this road all the time every train has a car hitched on that is wetherboarded with 5 inch lumber and filled with Soldiers they have port holes to Shoot out and a cannon ready for action at any time i will try and lay of the Shape of our forte and Stockade Some of these days So you can form Some little idea how it Stands i told you last winter i would Mark of the battle field where wee fought So i tried it but i couldent do it So you could under Stand it it was more of a Job than i thought for Well for Something els wee have been feasting on blackburies for the last 2 weeks all of the Surrounding country here is covered with buries they are twice as large as i ever Saw before Some of us are out every day wee can pick a bucket full in a little time wee go in Squads and take our guns along So as to bee ready for the rebels if wee Should find any wee generally go down the river on the battle field the briers and weeds are hier than a

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mans head it is a pleasant Job to pick buries to what it was running threw the briers last winter in line of battle wee can See the rebels hands and feet Sticking out of the ground where they was buried Just on top the ground last winter i was picking buries day before yesterday where the weeds and briers was very thick along a little holler i come to a man that was partly washed out by the big rains that has lately fell he was pretty much decayed away there was no Shape of a man about him he was a rebble i could tell by his clothes it looks hard to See a man laying on the ground rotting like a dead horse or mule i was Supprised to hear of the death of William H. Jones especially in the way it happened i suppose his folks would take it very hard there is men dying here all the time in the hospittels. our regiment are down on the cumberland mountain they are in high Spirits and living fat. there is Springs down there that would almost make a Sick man well I suppose the folks in indiana and ohio in Some parts will get a Slight interduction to this rebellion Since morgan has been visiting them i wish all the trators or copperheads or what you please to call them would Join him and come down here and attact us i think a few 40 pound doces of grape Shot would clean him out i have rote to all the boys and leavell and Mr Caughan and have got no answer from any of them yet i never feel like riting unless i can get answers I must close and go to the river a swimming Rite often as you can and i will try and do better here after

James H. Jones

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this is a pleasant day Wee have had Some warm wether here. the last 4 days has been cooler tolerable pleasant i believe i have Seen as warm wether in Ind. is i ever did here you spoke about having dry wether up north i never Saw more big rains then wee have had here this Seizin i dont know whether you can understand any of the marks on the other Side our fort is the center of all the forts every hill here is fortified if i ever get home i can tell you more about it. the inside circle is the Stockade which is coverd and under that is the Magazine our camp is in front of the door on the north Side wee have drawed new tents Seven of us occupy one tent all 57th boys but one he belongs to the 49th. ind. i will give you the names Ira Bunker from wayn county Phillip hunt from Ways. Co. frank Zeek from ~~Wayn~~ Wayn, David Duglas, from henry Co. James Smith from Wabash Co. Daniel fulton from Layfaett wee have platforms of plank to Sleep on Some 3 feet of the ground wee get plenty of rations beef 2 days out of aweek fresh bakers bread every morning i will close rite Soon Direct as before this leavs me well and hoping it will finde you well

James H Jones

(See picture on reverse side)

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