

at least that is the way I always feel as near as I can describe it. . . please send more stamps.

February 14, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee "We left here on the 31st of January and started to hunt for Forest's and Wheeler's cavalry. . . marched to Eggleston the first day 15 miles. We took nothing but our blankets and shelter tents. . . rained hard all night and next day till noon. Next day we marched to Franklin 20 miles and camped about two miles south of town. It snowed all night and very cold for two days after we got to Franklin, but we camped in the timber and made big fires, and kept them day and night. We had to stand picket every few days while the cavalry did the scouting. They were out nearly all the time and did some hard riding and took a good many prisoners. . . had some fun though chopping down big poplar trees three feet through and catching coons as they tried to get away; we caught several of them and tied strings to their hind legs and then made them fight each other, some of the boys got bit too but that only helped keep up the fun. . . marched 22 miles to Eggleston. . . mud was awful deep and sticky. . . rear of the division and did not get to camp till nearly eight o'clock. . . most of us laid down anywhere in our blankets and went to sleep without a fire or anything to eat. . . very stiff and sore in the morning. . . after getting warmed up on a quart of coffee, and meat and hard tack, felt fresh again. . . reached camp (base) by three. . . pulled off my boots and put on a clean pair of socks and a shirt and felt considerable better especially after reading five letters from home. . . I am thankful that I have kind friends who think of me while I am enduring these hardships and it helps to cheer me up when tired and discouraged on a march, and I hope some day, the Lord willing, to be with them and then appreciate the peace and comforts of a home again. I witnessed one of the severest punishments the other day that I have seen yet, and was one of the guards at its execution. Five men of the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry were arrested for stealing and rape; four had their heads shaved and three tied to an artillery carriage and given 40 lashes apiece by the others with a mule whip and then drummed through town and out of camp, it was pretty severe but it was well deserved and right to learn such men a lesson."

March 5, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . had a hard time on our last expedition; but often have as hard on foraging expeditions. One day last week we started out in the morning with only a few crackers apiece and marched about 15 miles, and then loaded 200 wagons with corn, hay, oats and fodder and got back to within three miles of camp at 8 o'clock at night and lay down alongside the road all night. . . our regiment was in advance returning so got through easier (because of mud) than the 81st and 35th and the battery who guarded the rear. It rained part of the afternoon and night hard, but we made good fires and slept near them in our blankets. In the morning we went on to camp and got something to eat, which we were mighty glad of, after being so long without. So you see it is not only large expeditions, but also on small ones that we have a hard time. Forage is getting very scarce around here, and we have to go further everytime we go. . . often times have a brush with the rebel cavalry; there was a company of them tried to stop us as we returned. . . it looks like we may have another fight soon.

"I fully concur with you in regard to the President's proclamation.

I think he was honest in his opinion that by freeing the slaves of rebels, it would tend to weaken their cause and no doubt it would, but how is he going to free them while he has an army to whip first. I think it would have been better if he had not issued the proclamation since he has not the power to set them free; but if he had went to work war would have been ended now. But its as you say, a great many people would rather see the union destroyed than have the rebellion crushed by the Republican party. They say wait till the Democrats get in power, then you will see the government restored in its original purity. It seems by the elections last fall that they carried the day in most of the northern states, and yet what have they done? simply nothing at all, but to pass resolutions condemning the present administration and fillibustering to prevent the passage of bills for the further prosecution of the war, and yet they pretend to want the union preserved, at the same time are not willing to help do it, but are wanting peace on any terms, and yet know very well the only peace the rebels want is to be let alone and recognized as a separate government, a thing I hope they never will get; we have undertaken to whip them back into the union, and can do it too. . . I am well with the exception of a bad cold."

March 16, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . the division went out about a week ago on some expedition, I don't know what, and left me, with other sick boys here. . . (I). . . expect to join them again soon. . . is now warm and pleasant, and I think we will soon have spring weather; the roads are improving fast and there will soon be stirring times in the south. . . six and a half months pay due us. . . I think Uncle Sam would gain the love of the soldiers better if he would pay them more promptly and let paying for the niggers alone till after the war, for the soldiers families need and deserve it worse than the slave holders do."

March 24, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . now encamped half a mile nearer town on a splendid campground; the other campground was getting unhealthy. . . such low ground but we are now on high ground on the Shelbyville Pike. . . the regiment came back. . . they had been to Eggleston and Triune supporting our cavalry who were after Van Doren. . . I don't think it will be long before we have another fight but let them come on we are ready and waiting to have it done with before hot weather. . ."

April 9, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . We cut cedar

in most every day. . . you seem to think I am not fit to stand picket, as it is rather dangerous. . . a soldier's life is in danger all the time more or less and he gets used to it, but I am always on watch, more so in fact than others that can hear better than I. . . if I should be spared through the war, I will have the proud satisfaction of knowing that I helped subdue this unjust rebellion, and also served in the Army of the Cumberland which is an honor. . . Colonel Heg is commanding the brigade. . ."

May 15, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . everything is quiet and we appear to be waiting for something to turn up. . ."

May 23, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . we expected to march a few days ago. . . there are rumors of the rebels advancing on us, and also that they are leaving and going to the support of Vicksburg, but I don't know anything certain. I see Grant is pushing things through double quick and expect by this time has had a big fight at Vicksburg. Colonel Grierson's raid through Mississippi has done the rebels considerable harm, and given them a good scare as well. . . I'm glad that there are a number of Christian associations engaged in distributing tracts and testaments among the soldiers and I see there is more interest on the part of Chaplains for our good. . ."

June 5, 1863, On picket, 5 miles out ". . . we were ordered out here yesterday noon to support the 2nd brigade of our division, who were attacked while on picket, but they drove the rebels off before we arrived. . . one killed and several wounded. . . our whole division is here now, and ready for anything. We are on the Shelbyville Pike. . ."

June 10, 1863, Near Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . we went back to camp the next day after I last wrote, and in a few days came out here again, and are on guard one fourth of our time. . . nothing of importance going on here. . . we are expecting to hear good news from Vicksburg. . . saw the Chattanooga Rebel (newspaper) of the 6th, it reported Banks had been defeated with a loss of 40,000 killed and wounded. That's the way they keep up their spirits. The same paper says if Vicksburg falls 'farewell, long farewell to Tennessee and Kentucky; but if Grant is defeated then poor Rosecrans' army will have to take it.' But I don't think Grant will be defeated, and then they may well bid farewell to Tennessee and Kentucky, as they will have to move a little further south. . . I am sorry to see that the government is so lenient towards the Copperheads in the north, and must say it is a shame and disgrace to the country. . ."

June 22, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee ". . . nothing going on that I know of. . . our cavalry are watching the enemy closely and run in their pickets every few days and it keeps them from sending reinforcements to Vicksburg. . ."

June 30, 1863, Manchester, Tennessee ". . . We left camp on the 24th and marched in rear of our train as guard. . . rained hard. . . we got to Millersburg at 9 o'clock at night. . . our advance had some hard fighting during the day. . . it rained all night; next day. . . only marched three miles. The next day we marched through Greys Gap and camped in Beech Grove. . . the next day we marched to this place. . . probably will go to Tullahoma tomorrow 12 miles off. . . our Brigade has been the rear guard for the whole corps and wagon train so if we haven't been in any of the fights, we have been in enough mud to make up for it. . . we are on Duck river half a mile from town. The prisoners say they don't believe we will have much resistance till we get to Bridgeport or Chattanooga. I am on detail to drive beef cattle, and may be on it for some time. . ."

July 6, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee ". . . we arrived here at noon on the 4th, just as our men were firing a national salute of 34 guns. . . our squad with the beef cattle had to march in the rear, the roads were awful muddy, and it was very hard getting along at all. I am still guarding the cattle but they are most all gone now, we may get more in a few days though. . . I think we will stay here a few days to rest and get provisions before we go any further and then perhaps have another fight. . . He (Bragg) has left one place after another so fast the railroad has not been tore up much. . . cars run through Tullahoma on the 4th and today there was five days rations hauled from there here in wagons. . . we are in very fine country and the wheat is ripe, and is the best crop I've seen yet; the corn is also doing well and there is plenty of grass for hay.

"Dear Maria (unknown relationship). . . I will tell you of a little scrape I got into last night. About 10 o'clock it began to rain very hard, and as we were lying on a gum blanket on the ground with another laid on a few sticks over us, we got plenty wet, especially about 11 o'clock as it began to blow and come down in floods, and our blanket blew off, some were in a bad fix with the water running under us in a stream and thundering and lightning very hard too. So we concluded to adjourn to a nigger's house close by and make a fire and try to get dry. I went to the front door and tried to open it, but it was locked. I shook it and woke them up and asked if we couldn't come in out of the wet, but they wouldn't do it, was afraid, I expect. There were four of us, so after standing in the rain a while we went around to the back and got under a shed, but it didn't suit us and we wanted to get warm for it was a cold rain, so after coaxing a little longer we threatened to set fire to the house and get warm that way, at last two of the boys pushed against the door and opened it. They was badly scared, but we told them we wouldn't hurt them, we only wanted to get out of the rain and get warm; we soon made a big fire in the fireplace, and began to dry ourselves when two others saw the light and came in as wet as we were. We lay down in front of the fire and the old woman give us some blankets to cover us and we had a pretty good sleep after all. We had considerable fun over it and was much obliged to the old man for letting us in out of the wet. It was the first time I had slept with a family since I had been in service. . ."

July 24, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee ". . . you certainly had a very serious riot in your neighborhood, and a great deal of property destroyed as well as lives lost. The four negroes are having a hard time of

it sure. I have read a good deal about the riot, and as far as I can learn it was done by a set of drunken rowdys whose aim was plunder and I hope the government will hunt up their leaders and hang them, and next time there is a riot double-shot their guns with grape and cannister, it is more powerful medicine than a blank cartridge, and will restore peace quicker than mere speeches. . . people ought to rejoice over victories of the past month, but that is the way with Copperheads. . . they get up a riot in the North to counteract the effect of it. . . General Stanley has got back from Alabama. . . he brought in a great many horses, mules and niggers of all ages, sizes and sexes. It was an odd-looking sight to see them, all on horses or mules in four ranks, two on each animal generally and guards on each side to keep them from straggling. . ."

July 12, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee". . . am still with the cattle and expect to be with them a good while, there are 20 of us and a sergeant in charge; we have a fine time of it as the duty is light. While in camp we herd them in the day time and pen and guard them at night, on a march we drive them in the rear of the division. . . The cattle are killed every other day and once we had only eight left, but the cavalry went out and brought in over a hundred cattle, sheep and hogs. . . the cars now run to Decherd, 2½ miles from here, and we have plenty to eat once more."

August 6, Winchester, Tennessee ". . . everything quiet and we are enjoying ourselves as well as we can without much to eat. There must be a raven loose somewhere, as we have been living on short rations for sometime; the cars run all the time too, so it looks as though we ought to be having plenty of everything but as long as we don't starve it won't hurt us to be short for a while longer. . . today is Thanksgiving Day and there will be a meeting about a quarter of a mile from camp. . . we have reason to be thankful to God for the victories he has granted our cause the past month. . . it looks strange for one part of this country to be thankful for victories, while the other is praying for it. . . interesting meeting this morning General McCook couldn't make a speech but that when we started for Chattanooga he would let our division have the advance. We had three brass bands on the ground and had singing besides. . ."

August 11, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee.. ". still here, taking it easy and I expect waiting for cooler weather. . . Bragg's army is in Chattanooga. . ."

August 20, 1863, Cowan Station ". . . I am in a convalescent camp. . . received orders to march last Monday. . . all unable were sent here. . . I was taken sick while out on picket. . . had a touch of Cholera Morbus and was pretty sick for three days. . . There is a large field hospital here, we are well taken care of and have plenty to eat. . . the regiment. . . at Stevenson, (Alabama) I will join them again as soon as I can. . . seems to be an active campaign ahead and I want to have a hand in it. . . I am well now except a cold and a little weak. . ."

August 30, 1863, Sand Mountain, Alabama. ". . . I am well, where I am is more than I can tell at present. . . I joined the regiment again last Thursday night. . . we left camp Thursday night and marched about six miles to the Tennessee River, with a train of pontoon boats, it was slow getting along and was 10 or 11 o'clock when we got there. Our company stood picket on the river bank till daylight. . . we then put the boats in the water and about 30 men got into each and rowed across. . . expected to have some opposition in getting over, but there was none. After the brigade had all crossed. . . made a bridge of the boats. . . by 10 o'clock, General Rosecrans, Garfield and Negley and other officers then crossed with their horses and then the artillery and baggage wagons come over. . . we marched partly up the mountain, but found it so rocky and steep that it was almost impossible to get wagons up so the 8th Kansas and 15th Wisconsin went and camped on top, while ours and 35th Illinois camped at the foot guarding the train till next morning. Then we took another road, but it was not much better, and we had to help every wagon up. . . we got up here about noon. . . I can not tell you anything about future movements.

September 15, 1863, Camp in Will's Valley, Georgia.". . . we have been marching considerable over mountains and across valleys, in the hot sun and dust, with little water and short rations, and have had a hard time of it generally the past two weeks. . . our Corps has been on the extreme right with our division in advance all the time. Last Monday we marched across Lookout mountain in a northeast direction. . . got to the east side about nine o'clock at night. In the morning the road was found full of trees that the rebels had cut the day before to hinder us getting down in the valley. Four companies of our brigade were sent forward to clear the road. . . about half way down. . . it was found so steep that the artillery could hardly get down. . . division cavalry went ahead the night before and another in the morning. . . they (the cavalry) found a line of skirmishers on the crest of the mountain, and drove them to the valley, after some hard fighting, till they got their horses through the brush down the hill; when they charged on the rebel cavalry and drove them six miles. . . we found it wouldn't pay to clear our road out. . . we marched south 10 miles and joined the second brigade in the evening. Next day Johnson's Division joined us and the next Sheridan's. We were expecting to meet the rebels in the valley, but they did not come, and yesterday we went back across the mountain, and are now camped on the west side; we have been within 15 or 20 miles of Rome, Georgia and are now about 40 miles southwest of Chattanooga and the Alabama line. . ."

September 25, 1863, Nashville, Tennessee. ". . . when I wrote last we were in Will's valley and expected to have a rest for a few days at least; but in a few moments after I got the letter sealed up we were ordered to march. We went across the valley to the foot of the mountain (Lookout) and camped for the night (Sept 16). . . in the morning we marched (17th) across the mountain in a northerly direction 22 miles. . . and camped within 3 miles of Dug Gap. . . in the morning we marched down the mountain (Pigeon). . . camping for the night not far off; next day (18th) about noon our regiment went on Picket. . . we stood till nearly night, and were then ordered to march. We marched in rear

of our provision train, the rest of the brigade having gone on in advance. We went 5 or 6 miles and then camped. Next morning (19th) Saturday, we started about 8 o'clock and went 8 miles part of the way double quick through the brush, when the first thing we knew the rebels were firing on us; we returned the compliments, and then charged and drove them for a while; but they soon rallied and drove us back again . . . we had it back and forth all afternoon. . . when Sheridan's Division relieved us, and they fought by moonlight awhile. Only two brigades of our division was there, the other was left at Will's Valley. . . we fought some of Longstreet's Divisions and I guess they got as good as they gave us, from the looks of their dead and wounded. . . I guess we were better whipped than ever before, but held up our own at last. . . they had a good many more men than we did. . . seems they have been getting reinforcements from every direction. . . Colonel Heg, our brigade commander was shot through the neck and died the next morning (Sept 20). . . only ten men of our company answered roll call at night (19th) I was one though slightly wounded. I never saw so many wounded and so few killed comparatively. On Sunday (20th) the regiment was not engaged but a short time, but it was very severe, the rebels having massed their forces again. . . I was struck in the left shoulder in about an hour after we went into it Saturday, but it did not hurt much then, and I kept hard at work all afternoon; sometime another bullet went through my coat and shirt collar, tearing them almost off, but not hurting me any, and towards night, a piece of a shell that burst close by me, tore across my right shoulder blade, tearing both coat and shirt, but not scratching me at all. . . I was pretty closely shaved and owe my life to God's Care. . . towards night my arm began to feel stiff and sore. . . about midnight the Captain woke me up and told me to get in the ambulance that was gathering up the wounded. . . I went to a field hospital. . . all those able and could, got into wagons and were hauled to Chattanooga; the rest that could, walked, myself included, it was 15 miles. I got there about 7 o'clock at night (Sunday the 20th). . . next day Monday 21st) we crossed the river and waited all day for wagons to take us to Bridgeport. Next morning we started, and was all day going 15 miles over the mountains, next day we had good roads for 20 miles. . . (to Bridgeport) started on the cars for this place. . . rode all night. . . I am in Hospital #3 and my shoulder is nearly well and I expect to go back in a few days. . . been pretty rough times, but I expect the boys with the regiment now have had worse."

Both James G. Watson and Rufus Miner were wounded at Viniard Field where many monuments indicate the bravery of many Illinois soldiers, including the monument to indicate where Colonel Heg was hit as described above.

November 1, 1863, Stevenson, Alabama. ". . . I did not expect to write again until I got to the regiment. I have been out on the Memphis & Charleston R. R. for ten days so did not get back to the regiment. I started on a train guard with a squad of soldiers on the 20th with a locomotive and tender. . . (the locomotive) broke through a small bridge that the rebels and partly burned the day before. . . we staid there guarding the cars, expecting every day they would send help for us. . . we started back afoot after waiting ten days. . . we marched 22 miles the first day on the railroad ties. . . my feet are pretty sore and it will be several days before they get well enough to walk to the regiment. . . you may direct letters to the 20th Army Corps. . ."

November 7, 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee. ". . .I rejoined the regiment on the 3rd. . .I am thankful that I have got friends who are thinking of me. . .it encourages me to know that they sympathize with me and would help if they could. . .our regiment is in General Willick's brigade of General Woods Division in the 4th Corps, General Granger commanding. Our regiment is behind the breastworks on the left of Ft. Wood. . .the rebels are in plain sight about a mile distant, the pickets in speaking distance at all places, and are quite friendly. . .the rebels on Lookout Mountain amuse themselves every day and night by throwing shells from a thirty pounder, but don't do any hurt I believe. . .we are strongly fortified. . .I don't know what the Generals were relieved for, so can't give an opinion, but believe as you do that McCook will vindicate himself. . .he did all he could under the circumstances. If it had not been for McCook's Corps coming on the double quick from the right to the left of Thomas at 12 o'clock on Saturday instead of two in the afternoon, as that account said we did, Thomas would have been used up worse than he was. Our brigade lost 669 of our 1218 men, and the other brigade lost about the same. . ."

At this time the Union army is still under siege behind fortifications in Chattanooga.

November 20, 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee. ". . .I don't believe the rebels will attack us here for they know we are strongly fortified. . . as for our attacking the, that is out of the question. . .we will have to get provisions here to last a month at least, before we could do anything. . .been on one third rations for a long time and are likely to have to do so for a month yet. . .the cars only run to Bridgeport, so provisions have to be hauled on wagons over a very rough road until the cars can get through or else boats, so you see it's slow work. Clothing is scarce too and no chance of getting any either soon. I am obliged to you for wishing you could send me something but there is no use. . .the railroad is run to its utmost, and nothing but government supplies will be carried. Sutlers are not allowed here, so there is no chance to buy anything. . .received four months' pay. . .would spend it all for my own use if I could buy anything to eat or wear. . . but as I can't I will send most of it to you. . .my tooth don't bother me any now. . .not very pleasant to have a toothache on an empty stomach. . ."

November 26, 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee. ". . .I am well. I little knew when I last wrote that I should be engaged in another fight so soon but it is over now for a while, and I am all right (Missionary Ridge). We left camp Monday afternoon and drove the rebels over a mile and took their first line of rifle pits. We then worked all night and entrenched ourselves. . .we were expecting to be attacked but were not. . .only picket fighting with an artillery duel. Yesterday Companies A, I and K went out on picket and while we were going out the rebels shelled us from the Ridge and knocked dirt all over us, but after we got out on our posts they did not bother us any, although in plain sight at the foot of the Ridge. . .in about two hours we were ordered to advance and drive the rebels. . .at the foot of the Ridge. We went at them and drove them pretty lively; the whole picket line soon drove them behind their works, and expected to meet with some hard work, but they were taken by surprise and did not wait long but went on a run up the hill double quick and us after them. . . All this time their

artillery was shelling us from the top, and just poured the grape and cannister into us, but they were poor marksmen, and we got up the hill without much loss, with the brigade close behind us. The hill is very steep and it was hard getting through the brush that the rebels had cut in our front to stop us, but we took one of the highest peaks of the Ridge with the help of the 35th Ill. and captured the battery that were working on us, after some hard fighting at close range for about 20 minutes. The rebels were completely routed and we had more fun laughing over it than we have had since the battle of Pea Ridge. They ran like sheep, and threw their guns, knapsacks and everything that would hinder them from running and lots of them run down hill and gave themselves up; General Grant rode along our lines on top of the Ridge, and took off his hat and thanked each regiment as he went along. We took off our equipment and rested for the first time in three days. . . today we have been laying at our ease and have buried the rebel dead. We received a vote of thanks from the President for our great victory; the dispatch was read to each regiment in the Army here. Grant had telegraphed. . . (The Prsident) that he would make him a present of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. One man in our Company was killed (Adam Kilgore). . . others wounded. . . I have merely told you of the part our division took in the fight. . . the whole army has been engaged but I can't tell how they all come out yet, any more that Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge is ours now. . . I believe the rebels are worse whipped and demoralized than they have been yet, and are now making tracks further south. . . we have orders for a four day march in the morning and I will let you know where I am when we get to our destination; but wherever Willick's Brigade, of Wood's Division is, I expect to be. . . have reason to be very thankful to Him for his watchcare over me these last few days. . . we have been very short of feed. . . I picked up a rebel heverseck full of grub. . . and had a good supper last night for once in a long while. . . our overcoats left at Murphreesborough have arrived. . ."

December 9, 1863, Knoxville, Tennessee ". . . we have at last got to this out of the way place, and are as likely to starve to death here as we were in Chattanooga and more so as no cars come as near here as th y did then. We have only drawn four days rations since we started on the 28th (11 days), the rest such as it was, we took from the natives. . . a fellow can't even get an ear of corn to roast for love or money. . . there is nothing to buy. . . I went to a house last night while on picket and tried to get a piece of bread. . . they gave me a piece of cornbread about as big as my hand for 20 cents, which I was glad to get. I expect we will starve to death here this winter, if something ain't done soon to get provisions here. . . last we heard Bragg's army is that they had gone to Atlanta, Ga. . . I haven't told you anything about the battles near Chattanooga because I don't know anything about it but what I was engaged in on the 25th but you have probably seen something in the papers about it before now..."

December 21st, 1863, Blain's Cross Roads, Tennessee "I will try and write a letter, as I have got some envelopes and a lead pencil. There is no ink here to buy and borrowing is out of the question. . . was glad to get a letter once more. . . nearly a month since we have had

any mail at all. . .that piece you sent was the first account of the battle that I had seen, and it was true as far as it went. . .we did not expect to take the Ridge when we started out. . .but when the skirmishers had driven the rebels away from the foot of the hill we were so tickled to see them run that we took after them and the brigade followed as fast as it could, though they did not get to the top till most of the rebels were gone. So the Skirmish line really took the ridge in front of our division at least. . .we've had some very hard times since we left Chattanooga, and have heard no news at all, so can't tell anything about what has been going on. . .our division is in reserve, gathering forage and grinding wheat and corn. . .Our regiment and the 13th went to Marysville. . .and got plenty to eat, as we were sent there to forage. . .we were ordered back to Knoxville and got in cars and rode to Strawberry Plains. . .and caught up with the brigade. . .we are here yet waiting for something to happen. . .we may have a fight again in a few days, but I don't know anything about the situation. . .we have at last begun to draw rations from the government. . .it will be sometime before we get full rations. . .they have to be sent from Chattanooga to London on a boat and then to Strawberry Plains on the cars. . .but we make out well on corn meal and plenty of fresh meat, but not much salt and no soap to wash with. . .I am as ragged as I used to be when running around the streets of Brooklyn and a great deal dirtier. . .I bought a pair of boots as we were going through Knoxville. . .we have consolation that it will be over for us in about 5 months. . .if we don't freeze or starve to death, unless the rebels kill us. . .I heard last night that Longstreet escaped with his army. . ."

January 11, 1864, Strawberry Plains, Tennessee. " . . .our brigade has been here since the 25th of December building a bridge over the Holstein River. . .it is a quarter of a mile long. . .there has been considerable excitement in camp lately about veteran volunteers, and a good many regiments have re-enlisted. Our regiment came very near going for another three years, but there was not quite enough men volunteered. . . I believe if we were in good quarters and had plenty to eat and wear half the Army would re-enlist, but as it is we have to live out in brush hut or sheds with not more than half enough to eat or wear this cold weather and the men don't feel like going in again under these circumstances. . .Colonel Nodine commands the regiment now. . ."

January 29, 1864, Marysville, Tennessee. " . . .glad to get a letter once more as letters are scarce nowadays. . .glad to get those pieces about Chattanooga. . .been moving around considerable. . .but have not had any fighting to do yet. We have been about 30 miles north of Knoxville, in a splendid country on the French Broad River with plenty of grain and meat, but had to leave there for some cause or other. . . Marysville, 16 miles south of Knoxville, is a pretty good sized town. . . the county seat of Blount Co. We have fared very well lately. . . there are two mills here grinding flour and meal day and night for us. We are having splendid weather now. . .seems like spring, in fact some of the natives have commenced plowing. General Willich came in our camp and made us a little speech on the subject of re-enlisting. . . Four of the regiments have already gone (re-enlistment furlough). . . I guess I will wait till next summer, then can go home and stay there till I think the government needs me again. It is only about four

months longer, then our tire will be out. . . I thing after boys have been home a few months they will get tired of it and long for more stirring times. . . there is a charm about an active campaign that tends to make a fellow feel good, and although it is hard sometimes, yet I am always in better health, and enjoy myself better on a march than while laying around camp. . ."

February 11, 1864, Marysville, Tennessee. ". . . New Years Day was the coldest day we have had; it snowed about an inch and was very windy for several days. . . mountains east of us are covered with snow now. . . the sun shines out bright in day time and it's pleasant, but pretty cold at night. The rebels are said to be in the mountains about ten miles off. . . there is a report that they had a skirmish with our cavalry five miles from here. I suppose they are getting froze out of the mountains, and want to get down here where it is warmer. Well, let them come; we will give them a warm reception. . . last of January there was another call made on our regiment to re-enlist, and about one half did. I did not expect to do so, but as nearly all of our company was going into it, thought I would too, as there was a prospect of making something better than we have been getting, and I thought if any one was entitled to the bounty, I was, so put my name down. We started (for home, they thought) and marched 10 miles towards London. Next day we marched to and crossed the Holstein (river) at Lenora on the railroad, six miles north of London; here we were ordered to stay till further orders, as they could not furnish transportation to Chattanooga. . . the 3rd Ind, 15th Wisconsin and 59th Ohio were with us, and we laid there six days, expecting every day to get off; but at last were ordered back to Marysville again as there was no chance of getting off, so all but the 59th came back; they (59th) said there was going (home) anyhow, but I don't know whether they have or not. . . you see what encouragement there is for veteral volunteers. . . there is either too much red tape around us of else they are afraid the rebels will come in here and take what's left of the Army. . . most of the boys swear they will never go into it again after being fooled so often and I know I won't till my present time is out. So much for veteran volunteers. I am well and have enough to eat but none to spare but are in hopes that by spring we will have plenty again."

February 26k 1864, Strawberry Plains. ". . . we left Knoxville day before yesterday where we had been for a few days, and marched here again as the rebels had left a few days before and have gone toward Chattanooga, I believe. If we had a general that wasn't so easily scared we wouldn't have had to retreat so often to Knoxville, because there was not more than enough to drive our two divisions. If General Burnside had been here the rebels would have had some fighting to do before they drove us to Knoxville, instead of the few skirmishes they had. I did not know of all the clothing and provisions that had to be abandoned. (by not standing and fighting) but I do know that we were in splendid country. . . had more to eat. . . since then we have been living on less than half rations and have suffered for the want of the clothing that was burnt. . . the clothing could have been saved if there hadn't been such a scare among the quartermasters; and then there was a lot of new Spencer rifles burnt too, when they could have been given to the men just as well as not, but these are

only a few of the many acts of our officers, yet it don't do any good to complain. . . We had just finished the bridge a few days before, and then it was ordered to be burnt, to prevent the rebels from crossing, while there was no need of letting the rebels get near enough to cross, as there was a stockade this side of the river, and we could have held it easy enough. . . I won't say anymore, its too disgraceful to think about and won't bear exposure. . ."

March 9, 1864, New Market, Tennessee. ". . . those pieces you sent were stale news for once but am obliged all the same for your kindness in sending them. . . that piece about the Chickamauga from Colonel Wilder was partly true and partly false. . . the open field he speaks of, we crossed four different times under heavy fire while his brigade lay behind a fence in the brush, and were out of range most of the time that we were fighting. That ditch in the field was not full of dead rebels nor of our men, but there were a few wounded who crawled in there to get out of the way. . . I have not much sympathy with the Sanitary Fairs that are going in all over the country. I believe they do more harm than good. It is true that there are cases where a soldier is benefitted, but most of the stuff that is sent to hospitals is used by waiters and hospital pimps generally. . . there are soldiers laying around hospitals that are as able for duty as any of us here, and if they got no better food they would not stay there. Now if people want to help the soldiers let them either give him their money or else to some of his folks at home to save for him. . . then after the war he will have something to make a start in life with. . . the best way would be for the peoper to help the government furnish its soldiers with the necessaries of life and let the luxuries go. . . it costs me an average of 25 to 50 cents a day for grub besides what the government furnishes and I don't eat more than common folks. . . the bridge over the Holstein river will be done in about ten days, I expect, as it was not wholly burnt. We crossed the river on the 27th and marched to Morristown on the 29th. The rebels were then said to be at Bull's Gap, about 10 miles further up the road. On the 2nd our division marched back to this place 15 miles and have been here a week and have had no regular camp. . . I don't know whether Longstreet's army is at Bulls's Gap or not, but think most of it has gone to Virginia; if so, I shouldn't wonder if our division went back to Chattanooga. . . and we are here alone away from the rest of the corps; the 1st division is there and Sheridan's at London. . . while we have been doing the scouting for the Army that is here..."

March 27th, 1864, Strawberry Plains, Tennessee." . . . I was attacked with a tooth ache on the 21st and caught cold in it next day, as it snowed hard all day and I got wet through. I lay abed all day too, but the wind blew it all over me. . . three days we had snow or rain. . . and I was wet a good deal of the time. . . I have suffered all the horrors of lock jaw and swelled face that can be imagined. . . yesterday the Doctor lanced my gums. . . for three days I could not open my mouth hardly wide enough to drink let alone eat. The bridge was finished sooner than I expected and the cars run out there the same day. . . our brigade is guarding the bridge and building breastworks and I guess by the time the rebels get here again they will not drive us across

the river so easy. . . the other two brigades are somewhere between here and the Cumberland Gap. . . at last got full rations and although I haven't eat one in a week I expect to make up for lost time. . . I think the likeness of Mother's is a very good one and will keep it to look at. . ."

April 17, 1864, Blue Spring, Tennessee ". . . got to London on the 10th. . . marched from Charleston yesterday 20 miles. . . now seven miles from Cleaveland. . . roads very muddy. . . I was very weak for several days after my mouth got better, and could not open my mouth wide enough to bite a cracker, but have gotten better fast. . . rode nine miles the first day. . . since then I have walked all the time. . . we expect to be mustered out on the 1st of June. . . but if we are engaged in active operations about that time, I don't expect to see New York till the middle of summer or fall. It depends altogether on where I settle for the future. If I settle in the west I'll make you a visit. . . after my time is out, but if I conclude to settle in the east I will want to settle up my affairs in the west, and Jonas will not be able to pay me till after the harvest no how, and maybe not till after corn is ripe enough to sell, as he did not make anything last season on account of the poor crop, and lost two or three horses. . . I find I have to look out for number one a little more than I have done if I expect to make a living in the hard world, so will have to shape my course accordingly, though I am willing to help you all I can. . ."

May 13, 1864, Cleaveland, Tennessee ". . . have not got my tooth pulled yet. . . order from General Meade that we will be apt to stay in service till our time is full up. . . there is going to be stirring times this summer and I would feel like a fish out of water, if I was not engaged in it. . . it is possible this campaign will nearly or quite, finish the job. . . our regiment was left here when the division advanced so we have not been engaged in the fight which has been going on at Daten lately. . . We have a great deal as all the supplies for our own and the 23rd Corps has to pass through our hands. . . great deal of hard work besides picket duty. . . been expecting a cavalry raid in here everyday. . . hope it won't, for we are really in more danger here than we would be with the rest of the army. . . don't know how the army is doing at the front, but from all accounts there has been some hard fighting as the rebels are strongly posted and don't give way so easy. . . I am well, and have more to eat and wear than we have had since last June at Murfreesborough. . ."

May 22, 1864, Cleaveland, Tennessee "Our regiment is guarding this place now alone. . . the first time during a campaign that we have been left to guard the rear. . . there has been hard fighting at the front, but no general engagement yet, as the rebels had to retreat to save their bacon. . . and are somewhere in the vicinity of Atlanta or Rome. . . but what our army under General Sherman can beat the rebels in our front, and possibly capture Atlanta and Rome this summer but it won't do any good. . . unless the Army of the Potomac can beat the rebels in their front. I am glad to hear that the Sunday School is getting along so well, and hope by next anniversary to be with them and enjoy some of the privileges of a civilized life."

May 30, 1864, Cleaveland, Tennessee ". . . we have been having a fine time here for the past month, but will have a chance to help the rebels out of Atlanta yet I hope. . . The 2nd Ohio has relieved us, and we expected a train here to day to take us to Kingston, Georgia but it has not come yet. . . I saw an orderly today that is on the brigade staff, he belongs to our regiment, and has just come from Cincinnati where he had been to take General Willich home. . . he was wounded in the advance of the brigade on Buzzard's Roost. . . you are. . . too anxious about me when there is fighting going on. . . While I am always willing to do my duty, I shall not put myself in any unnecessary danger. . . if I should get hurt or even killed, it would be no more than thousands have already done, and I certainly am not of as much importance to the government or any of my friends as some that have already given up their lives for the good of the country. . . I have thus far been preserved by God's protecting care and hope that He will still keep me, although I must acknowledge I have not been as devoted to Him as I ought to have been, but have grown cold and indifferent in the service. Yet I still have a hope in Christ and trust that I may again be enabled to feel more for His cause, but I must acknowledge that the cares of this world, the flesh and the devil have drawn me aside from the straight and narrow way that leads to life everlasting. . ."

June 16, 1864, Camp in the Centre (of the Army) ". . . started from there (Cleaveland) on the evening of the 3rd in the rear of a train of nearly 200 wagons with provisions. . . we only marched eight miles but it was so dark, rainy and muddy that the train did not get into camp till after midnight, and we had to stop and wait every few minutes, which was worse than marching. . . couldn't see to sit down without getting into a mudhole. . . so it was. . . for four days and nights. It has rained every day more or less for the last two weeks and the ground is very soft. . . our regiment has not been engaged yet but have been under fire and in supporting distance. . . Day before yesterday we went outside the picket lines, and the 32nd Ind. and 15th Ohio had pretty heavy skirmishing and lost a few men, but drove the rebels to their breastworks and our battery and 6th Ohio shelled them out of there in a little while. . . four rebels come in yesterday. . . said one of them (shell) burst and killed General Polk. . . since learned it was true. . . we are now in their works. . . I believe we could hold them (works) against any rebel division in Dixie. . . yesterday there was some hard fighting in our front. . . our division was in reserve yesterday and today but tomorrow we will be apt to have a hand in it again. . . the division has been in the advance nearly ever since they left Cleaveland, over a month ago and has lost a good many men, but has done some hard fighting and will have more to do soon. . . don't exactly know where we are but we are in a dense woods, and as near as I can tell two or three miles from the railroad."

"Everything is going on finely, and we have fuller rations than we ever have had on an active campaign. . . rebels are making desperate efforts to stop our advance, and as fast as they are driven from one line of works, they go to work and dig another ditch, and cut trees

down in front of it for us to climb through and tear our clothes while they are firing on us too; but they have not found their last ditch yet. . . the brick is so thick that we can't see scarcely any distance, and pickets often get close onto each other before they know it. . . The 35th Ill. and 15th Wisc. are consolidated now and is called the 35th Illinois. . . we have a little over 300 men in our regiment yet."

June 20, 1864, Near Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia ". . . we are laying here just behind the skirmish line to support them (skirmishers) in case the rebels should make a charge and drive them in. . . an occasional shot that happens to clear the trees comes singing over our heads once in a while. . . two men out of each company in the brigade build breastworks and such things. . . one boy from Co. B was badly wounded this morning while at work at the skirmish line. . . five were wounded the other day while at work, when our regiment was skirmishing. . . rebel sharp shooters shoot at everything they see in the shape of a man and they are good shots. . . Last Saturday went out about 5 hours on skirmish line in a drenching rain and had a lively fight. . . there were four killed and twelve wounded in the regiment: Co. K lost two killed and three wounded. . . Our company came out without any loss (the first time in any fight we have been in).

"I fell into the mud as we were crossing a swamp and got my gun full of mud, and couldn't get it over very easy, so stuck my ramrod in to make an air hole, and then blazed away: it burst about three inches at the muzzle and the butt hit me a rap on the side of the face, bruising it a little, but didn't hurt me much, it's a wonder it didn't knock me over or kill me. I had several very narrow escapes after that, but that is a natural consequence, and it's not necessary to describe them.

"We have no general engagement yet and I hardly think we will this side the river, as General Sherman don't believe in marching men up in front of breastworks to be shot like dogs when the rebels can be drove out with artillery just as well.

"The rebels have very strong breastworks, and if we had to take them by storm would lose hundreds of men, but that is not the way we fight out west. . . the right and left of the rebel lines have been driven in so far that now their lines are in the shape of a bent elbow. . . and our batteries in the centre can rake down their ditches as far as they can throw a shell. . . so you see what makes them leave their holes so fest, with nothing more than a skirmish line in their front, but a battery on their flank. I never saw batteries used to such good advantage. . . Bridges (nickname of Chicago financed battery Chicago Bridge Co.) and the 6th Ohio batteries both belong to our division and they can't be beat. . . We have not taken Marietta yet nor the bridge across the Chattahoochee. . . we are at work now at Kenesaw Mountain and there are ridges or hills all over the country densely covered with brush, with now and then an open field; as fast as the rebels leave one ridge they fortify another and so on. But I guess they will have to give it up before long, as we have a good many men and it is the easiest fighting I have ever done yet, as we are not at it more than one day a week. . . I don't know how long

it will last. . . we don't make more than half a mile some days. I have seen General Sherman and like the looks of him very well. . .

"I expect Uncle Jonas will want me, but can't make any promises yet awhile. My time will be up the 5th of August after that I shall do as circumstances seem best."

June 25, 1864, Marietta, Georgia ". . . Since I wrote last we have been very busy. There are movements made every day in different places and we do our part of it. We have advanced a good distance from where we were four days ago, and have had several hard fights and been under fire a good deal, the grape and shells flow thick and fast over our heads some bursting over us. . . Yesterday our skirmish line advanced a couple hundred yards and brought on a severe fight for three or four hours. There were three companies of our regiment and three of the 15th and 49th Ohio engaged and a battery of artillery. . . rebels opened with three batteries and soon had three of our batteries replying. . . made us lay close behind our works. . . our boys drove the rebels into their works and kept them there till after dark. Some of our boys crawled to within 20-30 yards of their breastworks and every rebel they could draw a bead on caught it; a few of the boys got so close that they couldn't get back again without getting shot, so had to stay there till after dark when they slipped away unseen. . . there is lots of fun in a skirmish, though pretty dangerous; every fellow watches his chance to get a good shot and has to adopt all sorts of strategy to do so sometimes to draw each other's fire, so as to see their fire, then blaze away. . . but there are so many trees and the brush is so thick that I don't believe more than shot in a hundred hits amon, we have to fire at random mostly. During the four skirmishes I have been in lately, I have fired about 300 rounds, but don't know for certain that I hit anyone, but have made them find a safer hole sometimes. . . Our company i the only one, I believe, that hasn't lost any (soldiers). . . We have a longer front to guard now and there are three regiments in the front line at a time, the other three in reserve and are on and off every other day. . . the rebel works in our front are very strong and may take some time to take them and as fast as the skirmishers gain a little ground the pioneers go to work and dig rifle pits for them to cover in. . . same kind of work going on all the time in front of the different corps. . . fighting is severe at times according to the importance of the position. . . first campaign that we have ever had so much to eat. . . getting awful ragged and dirty. . . no soap to wash our clothes even if we had time. . . glad Old Abe renominated and will vote for him again."

July 7, 1864, Camp on Chattahooche River ". . . talk about fertile fields in Georgia, I haven't seen but very few yet, and don't believe there is ten acres cleared to a thousand in the state. The day after I wrote last our regiment went on picket, we made arrangements with the "rebs" that we would stop if they would, so they was glad to accept our terms, and after that there wasn't a shot fired in front of the works where our regiment was, and in a day or two it stopped all along our division, except on our left. . . we got on friendly terms with the rebels and traded papers, tobacco, coffee or anything else we had to trade. . . our division moved to the left about a mile and took the place of a division of the 14th Corps and they took ours. In the morning we found the rebels evacuated their works and a good many that had got tired of retreating come in a gave themselves up.

"Our corps is now camped along the river east of the railroad and the pickets are on each side of the river plugging away at each other as usual. . . I climbed a high hill yesterday and had a fine view of the contry all around us. Atlanta is just 11 miles from here by the railroad and I could see it tolerable well. . . with a glass our officers can see all the rebel positions. . . we are now on the left of the line instead of the centre. . . I have always said I'd like to see it (Atlanta) before we went home. . . still have plenty to eat and have drawn some clothing and soap since I last wrote. . ."

July 14, 1864, Chattahoochee River "Since I last wrote, (I) have not had any fighting to do except shooting at the rebels across the river while on picket. . . our division crossed (river) day before yesterday after building a pontoon bridge. . . yesterday morning we left them (works) and marched about a mile further to the right down the river, and have built another strong line of works. The order of the day seems to be marching and flanking and building breastworks instead of fighting, but we have to make our moves according to the rebel movements and build defenses as we go in case they should try to drive uf across the river. . ."

July 16, 1864, Near Chattahoochee River "If there is no fight in prospect we will start home about 10 days before our time is out, which will be the 5th of August. . . I think Mother is most too fast in finding me a place. . . the war is still not over. . . I may go at it again. . . then I have to go to Illinois to settle with Jonas. . . If you need any money to use don't forget to take what I have sent you. . . paymasters are said to be on the road with money to pay the Army with, and if there is an army that earns their greenbacks, it is the Army of the Cumberland, and there is not a soldier in it but what is proud to belong to it. We have not taken Atlanta yet, but it will be ours before this campaign is ended, I am pretty sure."

July 23, 1864, Near Atlanta, Georgia ". . . finished a hard little fight and drove the rebels across Peach Tree Creek. . . they build very strong breastworks and have a great many advantages over us, but in spite of all they have yet done, we have been able by different ways to flank them and they have had to leave their works without a general direct attack in front. If we had to take all their works from the front, the army would have been used up long ago, but General Sherman is not so foolish as to make such attacks. . . we are now about three miles northeast of Atlanta. . . rebel works are not far in front of us. . . they have a bad crossfire on us here and we have to keep pretty low or get hurt. . . one in Co F killed yesterday, while in reserve. Our brigade Adjutant was wounded, and an aide had his horse killed which fell on him and broke his leg yesterday while on the line with General Wood.

"Since I last wrote we have been very busy and have marched considerable. . . had some hard skirmishes, but have not lost many men. . . getting close to their main works and may have to do some hard work yet, as Atlanta is not taken yet as was reported a week ago by the papers. . . expected to start home his week, but I guess will have to stay now till Atlanta is ours. . . if we should be conscripted two months longer. . ."

"I will let you know. . .I am much obliged to you for looking out a situation for me when my time is out. . .I can't tell what I shall do till I get home. . .if I ever do. . .which seems very doubtful some times while the bullets and shells are whistling around my ears, but I have to thank the LOrd for His kind protection. . . and believe He has preserved me in answer to the prayers of my friends and relatives besides my own."

July 31, 1864, Near Atlanta, Georgia "Since I last wrote there has been some hard fighting on our right, but nothing of importance in our front except artillery duels and the usual skirmishing. . . our brigade captured the rebel skirmish line and still hold it. . . Six companies of our regiment went out after dark and kept up a lively skirmish all night and our batteries fired a shot every minute over our heads into their works. We had a fine view of the shells as they wailed over us, like many shooting stars across the heavens and then burst over in the woods in our front. The rebels had a very strong line of rifle pits and brush cut for fifty yards in front of them but in spite of it the 49th and 15th Ohio took them without much loss, and captured several prisoners.

"The rebels are now about half a mile in our front and their balls do not come into camp near as thick as they did before. . . rebel prisoners say that Johnston is in command again, as Hood was so keen to fight that after losing about ten thousand men without gaining anything, the army got sick of it and thought the fall-back policy the best. They say that they have orders to hold Atlanta at all hazards, so we may not be able to have a much nearer view of the town than we now have, though the right of the army is in the suburbs now. . . we are well fortified and if the rebels want to try the 4th Corps again we will accommodate them. . . been looking for an order to go home every day lately, but nothing has come yet. . . we will not be kept after our time is out unless something should turn up. . . may not get away from here before the 10th of August after all as only six companies were mustered in on the 5th, the other four on the 9th so we may have to stay a few days later. . . Urbans papers of last week had us on the way home. . . I have no more paper except some coarse rebel paper not fit to write on and can't get any more as I have no money; so this will probably be the last letter I shall write before I get home. . . as for my coming and buying Uncle William's shingle machine, that is something that I won't do. . . but I will take your advice and look around and please myself, and if I can find a pretty girl, who is foolish enough, will marry her and have a home of my own. . ."

August 4, 1864, Chattanooga, Tennessee ". . . we have come this far on our way home, we did leave the next afternoon and went two miles to the rear, next morning we marched to the railroad and got on the cars for Marietta, but had to stay there till next day as there was no train going north but what was engaged. We started about noon and got here about 11 o'clock last night."

Farewell adress of Colonel Gibson of the 49th Ohio

"Officers and men of the 25th Ills. Infantry. As your term has expired and you are about to proceed to your state to be mustered out, it is fitting and proper that the Colonel Commanding should express to each and all his earnest thanks for the cheerful manner with which during the present campaign you have submitted to every hardship, overcome every difficulty and for the magnificent heroism with which you have met and vanquished the foe. Your deportment in camp has been worthy true soldiers, while your conduct in battle has excited the admiration of your companions in arms.

"Patriotic thousands and a noble state will give you a reception worthy of your sacrifices and your valor. You have done your duty. The men who rallied under the starry emblem of our nationality at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Noon-day Creek, Pine Top Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee, Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta have made history for all time, and for coming generations to admire. Your service will ever be greatly appreciated.

"Officers and Soldiers farewell. May God guarantee to each health, happiness and usefulness in coming life, and may our country soon emerge from the gloom of blood that new surrounds it, and again enter upon a career of progress, peace and prosperity."

August 13, 1864, Camp Butler, Illinois ". . .we got here yesterday morning after being on the road ten days including stoppages at Nashville and Louisville. . .drew six months pay at Chattanooga. . .may not get discharged before last of September.

is about six miles from Springfield. I want to see the town before we leave here. We have been welcomed by the citizens on the road here by the waving of hats and handkerchiefs and it makes a fellow feel good to see the differences between the people and crops of the free and slave states. One looks rich and happy, the other poor, ragged and dirty, with a scowl on their faces even, at the sight of a Yank going home alive and well, after three years in their barren country. The crops in Indiana and Illinois looks fine and even in Tennessee and Kentucky they are good along the railroads at least. . .we crossed the Ohio at Jeffersonville, Indiana, and took the cars for Lafayette and from there on the Great Western R. R. to this place. . . we had a fine view of the cuntry. Indiana is not so open as Illinois but is well settled and cleared along the road. . .it looks beautiful to see the cornfields and herds of cattle as far as the eye can reach, after we all went home again on the night of the 19th. I staid all night at

old Mr Lester's night before last and got out here yesterday. . .I shall probably stay here till sometime in the fall, when Jonas will be able to pay me, so you need not expect to see me yet a while, as hands are scarce a I can get all the work I can do, at as good wages as if I was in the East.

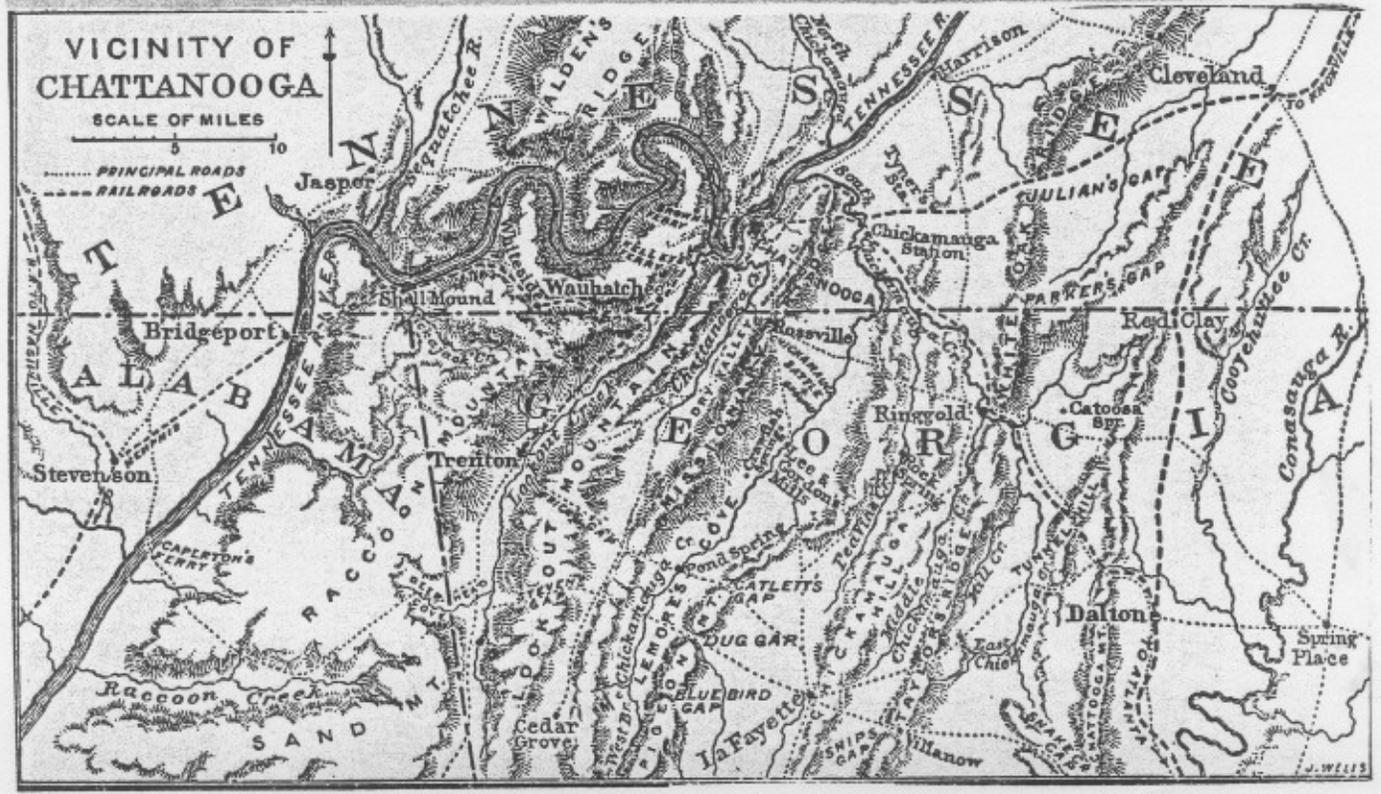
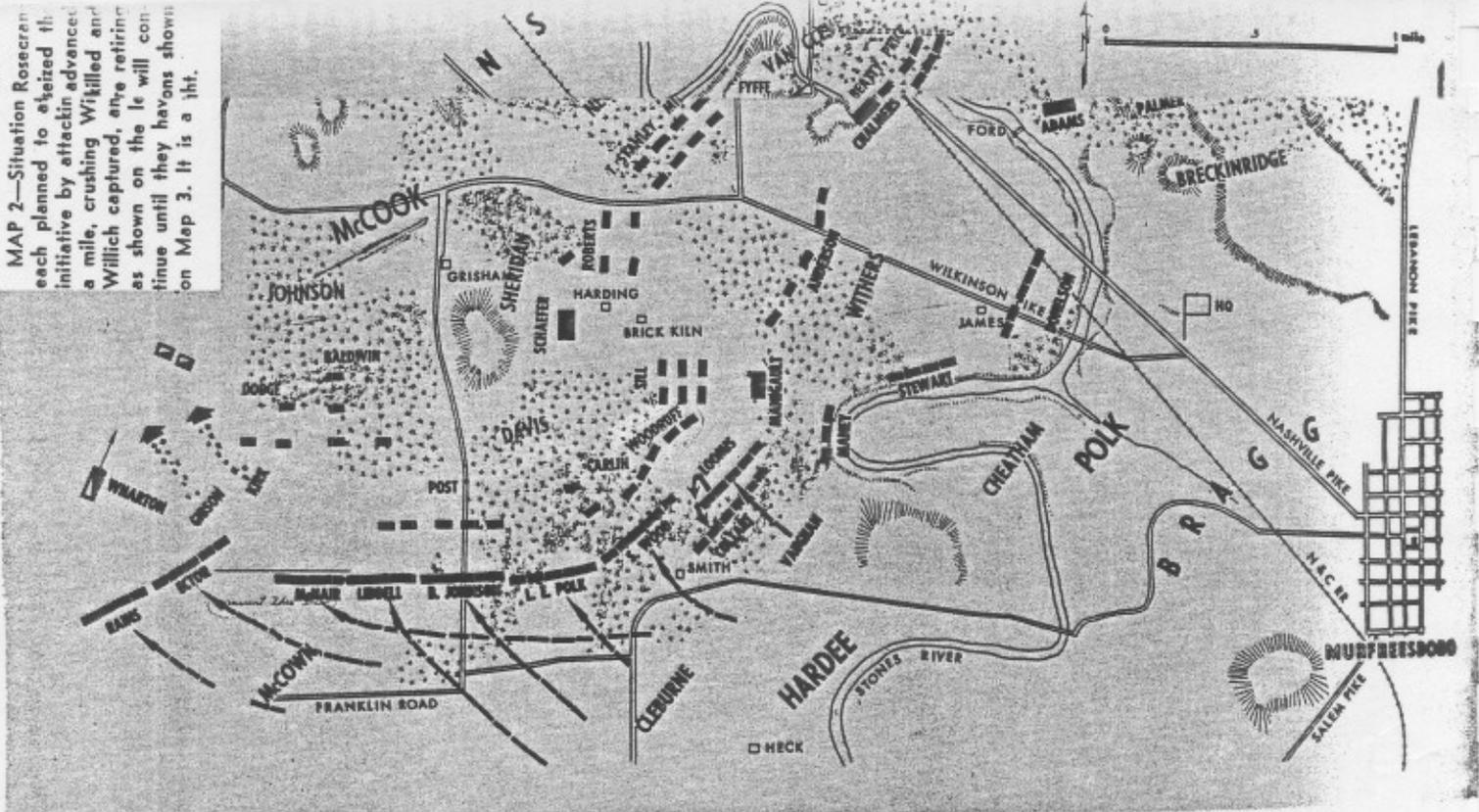
"We report to Springfield on the 20th to be mustered out. I am thankful that I have been permitted to get home again safe and will try to live as becomes my profession, bu I feel that I still need God's protection and hope to be remembered in your prayers at the throne of Grace."

September 9, 1864, East Bend, Illinois. "We were mustered out on the 5th and paid off on the 7th. I had \$155.80 coming to me for bounty, back pay, and clothing that I had not drawn. So now I am a free man and owe no man a dollar. . .I can only thank God for his watchcare and tender mercy over me and will try hereafter to live a better life. . .I would like very well to go home and see all the folks, but there is so much work here to be done before Christmas, that I shall stay till about that time as I can make it pay better here than there. . .The Copperheads did not make any fuss. . .they tried hard to make a big show, but there were several regiments there. . .they blowed pretty hard about the way the war was carried on and all sorts of peace mottoes posted and hung up about the State house, and had a cannon in the streets ratifying their nominations but the boys cheered for Old Abe and Andy everytime it was fired, so it didn't do the Chicanominy grave digger any good. I must now close.

Yours,

James G. Watson
Late of Co. "I", 25th Vol. Inf. Regiment
Army of the Cumberland
USA

MAP 2—Situation Rosecrans each planned to seize the initiative by attacking advanced a mile, crushing Wilkilled and Willich captured, are retiring as shown on the le will continue until they havens shown on Map 3. It is a lht.



Map 1. Theater of operations during the Chickamauga Campaign.

