

**Corpus of American Civil War Letters
NC1-02, John W. Reese**

**Source: (#4417) John W. Reese Papers
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John W. Reese (b. ca. 1829) was a miller from Buncombe County, NC and served as a private in Co. F, 60th NC Inf. He died of disease, Forsyth, Ga., August 1864. Several of the Reese letters appear in Christopher Watford's *The Civil War in North Carolina, Vol. I, The Mountains* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003). The transcriptions below were all made from photocopies of the originals.

**Transcribed by M. Ellis, January and September 2008
Proofed and corrected by M. Ellis, May, September, and October 2008**

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Greeville Camp morting [Camp Morton, Greenville, Tennessee]

Sep tember the 18 1862

dear wife its with pleasur that
I tak the opportunity of Riting
to you By James Black he has
Bin to the Cumbrlen gap and
is going to stay with us to nit
I am well onely I hav the hed
Ack this Eaving vary Bad
living on wheat Bread dont A
gree with mee tena I am in
hops when thase lins Cums to
you tha ma find you and
the Children well God Bless
thair little Sols I no tha want
to See mee and God nos that I
want to see you and them I
dont sleep mutch hear I am
up lat at nite and up soon and
as soon as my Eys is open my mind
is A pon you and the Children
I hav to quit for A while and go
on dress pur Rade its now over
[page 2]

I hav not got my money yet
the quarter master has not got Back
yet as soon as he Cums I will
Send you Sum money tena I
am A frad you hav dun bad

A Bau sum thin to Eat I want
you to Rit to mee and let mee no
how you hav mad out A Baut
Bread I Baut mee Sum Close
I got A pair of Blue m<it?> Jans
pants for three dollars and A
new Shirt for one dollar and
twtey fiv Cent if I dont git
A fur low I want you to Send
mee two pair of socks
you can send mee any thing
you pleas By takening it
in A pok sused up and send
it down to Elxanders and
tha will send it to mee
By sum Bod dey
tena I want you to git
the Rays to Biy that Corne from
Cooch and I will pay for it
[page 3]

my Capton Sed he intends
mee to go home if thair is
any chans But thair is no Boddey
out to Send mee after I am hear
with out any Blankit I want
you to send mee suthing to sleep
on if you can tell the Boys that if
tha doo hav to volenteer I want
them to Cum hear tha hav tuck
men out of all the copaneys and
mad A new one and goodson [Capt. Goodsson M. Roberts, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]
Rob Berds is Capton and he is one
that will doo tho I yet Belong

to stevens I under stand that [Capt. James M. Stevens, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]
the quarter master has got Back
the paymaster will Be in to day
or to morrow then I will Rite to
you A gane tena I got A letter
from John E Barreett he is well
James Black Sed that thair was
Sevril of the Boys was Bair footed
and not mutch close on thair
pourr Backs

[page 4]

I Send you Sum poerty in
this letter

John W Reese to
Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

Grenn vill tennessee

Camp morten September the
14- 1862 Dear Wife its with
pleasure that I take the
oppportunity of Riting to you
to let you no that I am well
and I am in hops When
thas fue lins Cums to hand tha
may find you and the Children
well I Recking you had
hearn A Baut us Being orderd
to this plase Before I got to them
with Sorrow did I hav to cross
the <pant?> mounting and hear waiting
my Awful doom I dont no whair
we will go to But I think we
will go to noxvill I hav
trid to git a fur low But
I cant git it yet my Capton
Sed that he wood not let mee
of un less thair was Sum Bodey
out tho hee mit Send mee after
them I think thair will Be A chance
[page 2]

fur mee to git home Be fore
long I dont want to Cum tell
I git my money the quarter
master is gon after money
now and I think as soon as hee
gits Back I will git to Cum
home tena I want you to Rite
to mee as Soon a you git this
leter I want to no how you
air dooing and if the Rays got
them hogs or not I want you
to hav that Corn Cut dow
and put up tena if you can
hav mee A pair of pants made I
wood Be glad this Companey
has not got thair Close yet
and I think I will git A diss
Carg after a while kiss Brug
for mee god Bless his sweet hart
tell the gall howdey and

tena I wood not hate to see you
this morning direct your letters
to greenville in Cear of Captn Steevens
John W Reese to Crist V Reese

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

Grenn vill teensee Camp 62
morten Sept tember the 29 18
Dear Wife it is with pleasure
that I thak the opop portunity
of Riting to you this good Sabbath
Eaving one more time to in form
you that I am weel with the ex
sepcion of my neck like it ust
to hurt mee I Recieved your kind
let ter that was Rote the 21 Sept
I Recieved it the 23 O how glad
was I and how I felt when I
hearn houdey from my littel Chil
dren God Bless them thair is Rite
Smart of Sick ness hear thair has
Binn 2 died hear sence wee hav
Binn hear our hed quarters is at
noxvill the Janeril horspittle
is thair and tha air di ing ten pur
day I dont no how long wee will
Stay hear I hav got my money at
last I Send you thirty 3.00 dollars By
thoms Weaver

[Lt. James Thomas Weaver, Co. A, 60th NC Inf.]

[page 2]

I want you to pay William manley
ten dollars that I Borred from him Be
I left home and pay William Edmo
nds 50 Cent he Sent to mee thee mornig
I left home I will keep the Balance
of my money tell I see if I gitt to
Cum home or not and if I dont
I will send you more you had
Bet ter git your thread as soon
as you can tena I want you to
Rit to mee as Soon as you git
this let ter let mee no how you
ar git ing A long tena I hav
Bin Away from you three wee
ks to morrow the longest three that
Ever Rold over my bed I wood
give ten dollars to Bee at home to
nite if I had to Star Back tomorrow
I want you to pay them folks
But dont pay them two mutch

you git this twenty dollr Bill
Changed off as you Can
[page 3]
thair no Chance to git Chang
hear I will Cum home as soon as
I Can if I dont Beefor I told my
Captian to day that if hee did
not giv mee A fur low to go
home and git my thing that I wood giv
my Self one and it is Sow tena
I Sent you A let ter By hand
to Elxander and I was wating to
git A answer from yu But
I stand A Cance to send to you one
By T weaver and your money
I hav to Clos for this tine will
I Rite mor the next tine may
God Bless you my Sweet
wife and if wee never meet
any mor an urth tena let
us So liv that we may meet
A Buv tell lyzabeth Edmo
nds houdy if you Can send
mee an thing doo it I need
A pair of gallisses and Socks
[page 4]

I wood Bee vary glad to see
any Boddey from home I must
Clos for weaver is going to
star this Eaving tena Kiss the
Children fur mee I wish I
Cood Kiss you god Bless you

John W Reese
to Cristena Reese

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

[missing first page, probably written in October 1862]

tena I did not put as mutch in
this lettr as I wanted to Rite when
you Rite to mee I want you to let mee
now hoo tuck your hogs to fatten and
what you hav dun with the Calvs
I wanted you to git Sum Boddey to
winter them I will pay for it and if
you got them t<?>ps from Cooch
and hoo you air giting your Bred
from and what tha air charging you
pur Buchel I Rote A letter to
hunsucker the other day I wanted him
to go and see you and See if he Cood git
A letter to mee to let mee no how you
was All dooing tena I hav suferd A
grat deel of un Easness ABout you all
I havent hearn A word from you
Sence I lef greenvill I must Cum
to A Clos may God Bless you all
tell margrett and Cis to Be good to
thair little Brothers tell Bru<g?> I will
Brin him A nife when I Cum home
that his pap has not for got his loocks
the morning he left home he Run when
I told him good By and tell tena that
I hant furgot how sweet She youst
to Kiss mee no I hant I wish I
Cood get a peepe at hur face to day
I intend to try to Cum home when we
draw ouer money I think maby I will
[last page]

Be detailed to Cum hom to tak thair
money home and to git Blankits for
Componey we hav But one Blankit A
peace we got our over Coats Suth things
as thair tha air tow Chane and fild
with dog hair or goats hair mine is A
little difernt from the Rest it is
tow Chane and fild with hemp tena
this is the truth if John did tell it
Vances Regmant is 22 mils blow nox
vill tha air on thair way hear thair

waiting for trans po tracion on the
Cars tena I Saw Sum of my kin
folks two of Jackson Reese Boys I did
not no that I had any Conneccian
tell now in this Contrey tha say tha
liv in Smith County Middle tenns
see A Bout 40 mils from hear tha
Belong to 28 tennessee Regment tena
I want you to Rite to mee as soon as you
find out that the letters is Cuming
to us you dont no how Bad I want
to hear from you I will Send you one
By ever one that gits to go home from
hear if you air lik mee it dus you A
good deel of <C?>ood to hear from mee tena
Remember mee and pray for mee that I
may doo Better than I Ever hav and that
my last days may Be the Best days tena
fair well for A while John W Reese
to Cristena V Rees

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

October the 29 1862 Mid dle tennisee
Rether ford County MurfreesBurro
Dear wife with grat pleasure I am pur mit
ted to rite to you one more time in forming
you that I am un well and has Bin vary
sick an yester day I was vary Bad But thank
god I am Bet ter this morning I am afflic
ted with Rumatis and cald I am still on
the sick list not Able for duty the doct
tor giv mee A <p?>uke yester day and I am
Rite smart Better this morning I am in
hope when thas lins cums to hand tha may
find you and the children well and dooing
well tho I no tena you hav A bad chance
to doo well I sent you A let tr By male
the day after we got hear and I hant got any
Answer yet I sup pose the let ters All
stops at Bridg poart ninty two mils Abuv
hear whair we Crost the tennessee River
I dont no what tha stop them fo un less
tha dont want any news to pass tell this
fit cums off at nashvill tena thair is
All sorts of folks But the Rite sort hear
and the warst locking folks you ever saw in
your life sum of them has Bin out A long
time in the un holy thing thair is lots of
Cane tuckens hear But I cant hear anything
from Will Reese thair is one thing
Shore Ganerril Brag Cam manding the suther
n Boys got A tree mends whiping over thair
the other day tena this is So no dout

[page 2]

you will see if this Rigment dont Cum
hom or not I dont like to taulk ABout
my officers But I hav hearn lots of
our men say that the Colonel
Cood not Re Elected fur dog <Pi?>lter
as to my Captan he may be A fine
man to them that like him he has past
my tent door lots of times Cinse I
hav Bin sck But he dont Cum in

he is Jest Jim Ray and no smarter than [Capt. James M. Ray, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]

he thinks he is this woar wont last
All ways I Jeust Request him to let
mee go home and see you whe you was
Cick and git my Close But no I was not
the man to go he detailed Jack marten [Pvt A. J. Martin, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]
to take sum money fur the Boys home and
to see his sick Child and he hant Cum in
yet I want you to Remember him you and
your friends he kep mee hear long on
the ground tell Rite latley Jess [Pvt. Jesse C. Black, Co. H, 60th NC Inf.]
Black was in the fite at fishing Creek
whair our Boys had to Run he asked mee
the other nite if nod what the damed yank
eys plade while tha was <h?>uning he sed
tha plad Run niger Run dam them
tena I must Close I want you to Rite to
mee onst ar twist A week doo me dear
you had Better not pay the letter you send
to me tha will Cum Better Kiss my boys for
mee may God Bless you all th<?>
I am A long way off from you my dear
Rite Rite Rite Rite tena to mee John W Reese to
Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

Midle tennessee Retherford
County murfrees BoRo
novemBer the 10 day 1862
dear wife with grat sats
faction I am purmit ted
to Rite to you onst more
in forming you that I am
well and hoping when those lins
Cus to hand tha may find you
and the Children Well an doo
ing well tho I no tena you
hav had A Bad Chance to doo
well tena this is the fifth
letter I hav sent to you cence
I hav Bin hear and I Cant hear
from you any more it gos
mity hard with mee not
to hear from you and my
dear lit tle Children God
Bless thair harts I wood giv
my intrust in this suthern
Confedercey to See you and
them this Eaving and Kiss you
All tena how Bad I want to See you
[page 2]

tena I hav Rot to you lots
and Cood Rite A week if I
Cood git A letter from you
I hav not Bin in A fite yet and
I dont want to Be if I Can keep
out on fair turms tho I was
in hearing of sum shooing
with the Canons the other day
our Boys went down to nash
vill and opend A fiar on them
and the yankey opend A fiar on
them and mad them git with
A los of two kild and ten woun
ded I hearn the fite tho I was
thirty mils off we hav A
heep of gard duty to doo and
I was on gard the other day over
in town and our Caverley Bro
ut in 8 yankeys and two ne

gros tha had caut them
near nash vill tha Brout
them Close to mee and hand
ed them I tuck A good
look at them

[page 3]

tha had on deep Blue B
roud Cloth Coats and pulleue
Cloth pants tha was nise looking
men loocked like tha had
Coffey to drink whair
tha Cum from I will tell
you how I felt when I Cum
home I Rote to you in my last
let ter that we was orderd to
Cooch Rashings we did not
mov But we air orderd to Coo
ck three mor this Eaving I thin
k we will go this time
But I dont no whair to But
I thin we will git one hundr
d and twntey six mils near
hom up to Chat Anuga
how glad I will Be tena
thair is A heep of Sickness
hear with the Brane feaver
we hav lost thirteen men
out of this Rigment Sence
we hav Bin hear mils snider [Pvt. Miles Snider, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]
is ded he died yesterday

[page 3]

Send word to his wife if
you Can he died with A Brest
Complant and ten Run A
way last nite out of this
Rigment and
tena thair is sum of
worst home Cick folks
hear you ever Saw the
vary ons that has Bin in
for this thing old Bueal is
in pur suit of us and no
dout But we will hav to
git from hear it is now
nine aClock in the nite and
I am on gard to nite I will

hav to Report Back at the gard
house in A fue minits tena
I will send you A letter
Ever Chance By hand I Can if
I Cant hear from you Shal hea<?>
mee as long as I liv I send you
ten dollars in this letter
I no you need it John W Reese
kiss my Boys to Crist V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Murfrees Boro 1862

ten see december the 27

Dear wife with pleasure

that I am pur mitted

to drope you A fu lins

to let you no that I am

Still on the mend I Rote

to you in my last let

ter how long I had Bin

Cick my dear I thout

I had saw you for the

last time I wanted to

see you and my dear Chil

dren O how Bad you dont

no you hav no idey you dont no

it has Bin fore weeks

to day sence I hav dun

Any dewtey I am still

mending and will Re<dy?>

for dewtey in A fue

more days the times

is s<qa??>ley hear at this

time tha air fiting

[page 2]

and has Bin fur two or

or three days and the news

was yester day that the

yankeys has druv our

troops Back seven mils

our loss up tell last

nite was one thousand

our Regmant is order to

Cooock 2 days Rashings and

Be Reddey to march at

A minnets warning I am not

Able to go withe them

tena I sent you A let

ter by male the other day

But I expect this will

Beet it home I Rote Sary

Edmants one and I think

I stated in hur let ter

that I wood send you

fiftey dollars But I will

onley send you thirty
dollars By frankling
Parris he is on detail
[page 3]
and I will send you more
By male or the nex one that
gos home from hear I
want you to send mee
two pair of socks and one
pair of sus penders and
A pair of glovs I hav
shirts Anuf unless I had
a yarn one I hav got pants
A nuf if I had A pair
of yarn slips I wood be glad
But I dont expect hee Can
Bring mutch for you
hee will hav A good deel
to Brin for his C<??> up the
River and if you hant
<got?> any thing Reddey he
<he?> Can tell you when
he will start Back and
you Can fix them and send
them down to Elxanders
hav my name put on
Each pair an paper and
[page 4]

sawed fast to Each
pair tena thair was fore
men shot and hung one
man by the name of gray
he had Bin A pilet for
the yankeys he was hung
or hung him self he jumpt
off of the gales Be fore tha
Cood nock him off and
William litterl was [Pvt. William Littrell, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]
shot for Runing A way
from us at greenvill
he was A Brother to tom [Pvt. Thomas Littrell of Co. F.]
litterl he was in my
mess I saw him neel down
By his coffen and tha was
putin A hankerchief on
his hed and I left thinking

I did not lern the other
mans name the Babey Rupert
<feels?> and Kiss the Boys and
tell the girls houdy

John W Reese
to Ct V Reese

send mee A letter
and A cak of shaving soap

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

January the 10 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I am permitted to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and on top of the ground I send that I would write to you as soon as the fight was over at Murfreesboro that has been a terrible time down here the fight commenced the day before new years a wondrous day and ended on Friday it was a great slaughter over loss in the Southern army is nine thousand wounded and killed this is over on statement over Regiment did not suffer like others that was about seventy wounded and killed not many killed Marion Pritchett and Bill Pritchett is missing that was in the same Company that I am in I was not in the fight at all on Sunday

[pages 2]

Before the fight commenced Goodson Robber was helping the doctor take the names of those who were not able to go in to the fight and he came to me and said John you have been sick a long time I don't think you ought to go I will take your name and send you off in the morning at five o'clock up to Chattanooga and I went and got to Chattanooga about sun down and stayed till next day about sun down and the doctor sent me to Dalton in Georgia and I stayed there till yesterday morning and I am now with my Regiment and it is at Tellico homey thirty miles this side of Murfreesboro that whipped the Yankees but had to retreat

[Pvt. Francis Marion Parham, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]

[Pvt. William Pritchett, Co. F, 60th NC Inf.]

[Capt. Goodson M. Roberts of Co. F]

as usual on wednesday the yankees
wanted to bury their dead But
But their Request was not granted
[page 3]

But the Boys tells me that A
heap of the dead yankees was striped
off and flat Rocks laid on their
bellies and on friday the yankees
held the Battle ground and our
dead fell in their hands and I Expect
they will Rot on top of the ground
I dont know what the next fit will
Be I sent you thirty dollars in <?>
<?> money By Frankling Parris
and A letter and for you to send me
two pair of socks and A pair of sus
penders tena I want you to Rite
to me as soon as you git this
letter and let me know how you
All air and how you air dooing
and if you hav got your hogs
killed and at home and if you hav
sault to save them and so on
tell harret Barrett that I hav
not saw John yet But I think
he is well and all Rite I think
[page 4]

we will make our next stand at Brig
port 73 miles A Buy Murfrees
Boro I saw a power of negras
going their yesterday to build Brest
works I think the yankees will
make us git A long out of
tennessee yes you hear me
tena I send you A hair Bresh
for the galls to keep slick
hair and they must let Brug hav
it to Bresh his Curls and you and
the children ten short peaces of
Candey sewed up in Ruperts
Aparn by halen frisbey to [unclear which Frisby in Co. F "Halen" is]
Elxanders tena I want you to
Eat sum of <this?> Candey and think
of me while you Eat it and
Pray for me that I may retur
ne home to you all tell All my

friends houdey for mee tell
mother Eller houdey for mee I want
to see hur vary bad J W Reese to
Ct V Reese
Kiss my Boys and Reserv one for mee

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

tullahoma January the
29 1863

Dear wife with pleasure that
I drop you A fue lins
to let you no that I am
onley tolerebil w
ell hoping thas fue lins
may find you and the Chil
dren well and dooing well
I Recieved your Kind letter
the other day whitch gav
mee grate Sats faction to
hear from you and hear that
you had Bout Cor A nuf
to doo you and the Chil
dren I dont Recken you
laid in any for mee But
I intend to Eat Bread in
old Bun Cumb Be fore [Buncombe County, NC]
feb uary is gon if

I liv loock out for mee
I A am going to Ask for
fur low first

[page 2]

the Colonel and Serril
Captians and lutenants
Can git off hom and I think
I am Just as good as any Body
tena I want you to Send mee
them things By Capten Ray
if Parris hant Started you [there were three soldiers named Parris in Co. F]
did not Say any thing ABout the
money I Sent By Parris I Sent
thirty dollars By him and
A hair Brush and ten Short
peaces of Candy and Rapt
up in Stuf to mak Rupurt
Aporn and A letter By
Geary Elxander and fifteen [unclear which Alexander in the 30th NC this is]
dollars in it to Be left
at Alford's Alanders
I want you to Rite to mee
if you Ever got it At All
tena I will hav to Close

I hav had A Bad spell
with my Eys Cold and Smok
[page 4]
tena I Sent you in All
one hundred dollars
tena I must Close you
hav never Rote mee what
sort of a Babey we had
what Sort of Eys he has or
hair I want to See power
ful Bad and all the Rest
of you well you dont no
how Bad yes I in tend to
See you All be for long
if we All liv this is so
tell All of my friends houdy
tell your mother to save mee
somthing good to Eat tena
I hav had to spend A good
deel of my money I hav Bin Cick
and Ever thing is so hy A py the
Cize of A smawel plate is worth
A dollar and to Bac Co A dollar
A Cake washing hy I saw A
Chicken Ruster Sold this mor
ning for three dollars Send
mee A <s??>ee <??> you can
Rite to mee John W Rees to
Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

[incomplete letter probably written from Tullahoma in early 1863]

Cris tena I must soon Bring
my letter to A Close I will
Send this By hand to Elxanders
and I want you to send word
to Mr Burnett to All ways
send your letters up to you
paps By the first one that passes
All of ouer officers is A Baut
to Rezine and go home Capton
Runnels and Capton duckit
and gus Pat ton ouer quarter
master And Captan fle
cher he was nocked out of
his office By taking his men
out of the fite at murfrees
Boro with out orders and soon
tha will All start home in the
morning and I will send this By
them tena I hav sub Cribed
for the henderson times and
the paper is cuming hear to mee
and I Am still well pleased
with it yet yes am I

[page 2]

I will send you money vary soon
the news has Cum in to camps
this Eaving that we will hav to
leave hear in A day or two sum
say to Cane tuckey or go south
if we go South we will land
at Charlston or Sur vaner
I hav no idey that we will
go to Cane tuckey the feds
is Advancing on us in three
superrate de part ments this is
so I Expect thair is Cumthing
on hand But I am not able to say
wat or when or how But I
think we will fite hear or fall
Bac to Brig poart and fite thair
But these things out of my cite
I am proud of my Close

you sent mee I had to sleep
with them under my head
the Balance of the nite But it
was not mutch sleeping I am
for them Close Braut you A
fresh in my mind So Cood not
slep for thinking A Baut you
you dont no how Bad I want to see you

John W. Reese to Cristena Reese

tul lahoma , tn , february the 27 1863
Dear wife with pleasure I Am pur mitted to
drop you A fue lins to let you no that
I Am tolebill well at presant with som
Exsepcian my Eys and knees pesters mee
vary Bad my eys is A little Better But
tha pester mee A good deel A Bout Riting
tha giv out So Bad it taks mee two or three
trials to Rite A letter I Am in hops thase
fue lins may find you and the Children
All well and dooing well tho I no it
is a Bad Chance for you to doo well
I hav not Recieved A let ter from any
of you in A long time not sence you
Sent one that James W Patton Rote for
you I Recieved one the Same time from
Sarh C Edmonds I answerd Both of them
and Set one to James W Patton and wood Be
glad to Reciev the same from you All as
it is so long Betwen <drame?> if you node
how mutch good it dus mee to git
A letter from old Buncomb you wood
keep one on the Rode to mee yes wood you
John G Chambers has got Back But he sed
that Mr Burnett sed he wood git
Capton Ray or Capton Robbrets to Bring
them to mee the times is hard hear
you cood sel A pie the cise of your
hand for fiftey cents or Beens at fiftey
Cents pur quart or any thing of the
Cas kind for Just as mutch as you
wood ask Chickens from three to five dollars

[page 2]

the helthe of this Regmant is Bad we
air losing A heep of men hear we air in
A vary un helthey place the land is low
marshy and I think the poorest part of
middle tennessee the land is thin But
level tena as for Real good helth I
hav lost it All I Cant Eat any thing
hardley the Corne Bread I Cant Eat it
to doo any good un less it is Raised well
I hav got mee A pone on to Rais then I
think I can Eat my supper tena you

dont no how Bad I want to see you and
the Children you may think you doo But
poor thing you dont you hav no idey
But if I liv I think I will See you All
if any of the Boys that hant volenteer and
had any idey of dooing so and wanted to
Cum to this Regmant and wood Rite to
mee tha wood let mee off to git Re
Cruits I wish sum of my old nabers was
hear it wood Bee A heep of Sats faction
to mee I want you to try to git sum of
the Boys to A gree to Cum if I was at
home now I think I Cood fix A Baut and
hav sum Corne mad tell Ab if he
dus hav to go I want him to Cum hear
and to Rite to mee as soon as he Can and I
will put him in A way to make A good
deel of money it is A grate time for Spec
ulatan and as man more as will Cum
to let Ab send mee thair names not
that I want to git them in to this
un holey woar I will <finsh?> on a Red pe<??>
[letter is incomplete]

and whoo you Bout your Corne of and
whoo is dooing you milling for you and
Cuting your wood and how you
air making out for Cow feed dont Be A
frad of Riting two mutch to mee for I
Cood Reed your letters if tha was as long
A gain as what tha air if tha was A lit
tle Better spelt the times is A Bout
as tha was when I Rote to you the other
day this is the third letter I hav started sence
James W Ray left Camps the yankeys has
has taken hunts vill in Alabam and Re
ports say that thirty thousan has Crost at
the Cumberlen gap in to East tennessee
the waters is All up for it Rains hear Everi
day nearley the feds has fixt up the Rail Rode
that run from luivill Cantuckey to nashvill
and from nashvill to murfrees Boro and
and Can Reinforce hear as mutch as tha pleas
tha air seling flouer at three dollars pur
hundred and shugar at ten Cents pur pound and
Coffey at fifty Cent pur pound We will
soo hav the yanks starv out it favers it
dont it this thing will hav to Close yes
doo your Best to git sum Boddy
to Agree to Cum to this Regmant
So I Can Cum After them Rite soon

John W Reese to
Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

tullahoma ten march 26 1863
dear wife with pleasure I am pur
mit ted to drop you A fue more lins
to let you no that I Am tollerbill
well at presant hoping thas lins
my find you and the children
All well and All of my old friends
I hav Rote to you so mutch latley
that I hav not got mutch strang
or new to Rite to you A Bout times is
hard hear and will gro wors no dout
thair is no fiting As yet I yet Beleav
if we fite it will Be at or near Brig
poart I think the feds will try to
Cut us off at that point By the way
of hut vill Alabam we air well
forte fide hear tha never Can take
this place with Aout A turbill los to them
and I think tha air two smart for that
un les thair was more at stak than
wat is hear the country is two level
and well none By the feds I think to
ever at tack this place tho thase
thing is un none to mee thair is A fue
things I doo no and one is I want to see
you and the Children power ful Bad yes
John never thout he wood Be away from
his Bossom friend and sweet ons to stay
six or seven months out of the in joyments
of his famley it is hard un Just for
I dont Beleav thair ever was A man on
urth that lovd his wife and Children
any Bet ter than I doo you air my urthley in Joyment

[page 2]

yet I am deprivd of All this and watt
for did I deziar this to take place my
words and acks at home dont prov this
and when A Change taks place I will
Rite to you and then I want you to
Rite to mee to stay A way till I re
pent that you Beleav that I hav forgot
my firs lov and I had as soon Be
ded A onst as to git A let ter of
this kind the tree is non By its fruit

But as mr Burntts letter deziard mee
to Be Shelterd from the Balls of the enmey and
from dezears and soon Return to my fam
ley god hasen that happye time I Can
think of you All and pray for you All and
hop and trust the time will soon Cum
when I can cum home and see you All
and stay with you All the Rest of my stay
Starvacian is A pon us All at hom and
A Broad we onely draw half pound of
Bacan pur day and one pound of meal pur
day or A pound of pickeld Beef pur day
and A fue molasses and A little Rice not A
nuf to doo any good and ouer meal is
so coarse that we make grits out of A
part of ouer Rashings what is one pound
of Beef to A hartey man pur day and it
part Bone at that and A little Bred
or A haf pound of Bacan pur day it part
Bon I never hav grumbled nor I hav
never had any Rite to till hear lattle
and I think it will gro wors in Stid
of Better thair in dications for worse
[page 3]

tena I Am still waiting for Ray to
to git Back and then I Am Acumming
home if tha giv mee A fur low must
I say I will cum any how or not
if you say for mee to cum I Shal
Cum But I hav studied it All over
long A go I hav got my pegs set
tha tha hav bin shooing severil hear latley
for Runing A way But I think when
the woods <fethers?> thair will Be A many
A man go home thair is A time to
All things hear is this mutch I want
to doo the Best I can for my famley and
my self to stay hear at A leven dollars
A month you cant liv on that while
stuf is so hy well to Run A way and
go home and hav to lay out I Cant
help you to any thing to liv on that
seem to mee lik that will not doo I wood
Bee A draw Back in stid of A help to
you and the children well if caut up in
this kind of A fix while under old

Bragg he wood hav mee put to deth
well to stay hear and liv as I hav
to liv and Resk the conciquinces of life
and deth that is A hard <pant?> for mee
But tena I wood giv my lif for
you in Any way if it Becums nessary I
hav thout I wood cum home any how
and I think I will Cum home any how
if you think we can meck out By
my doging A Baut to ceep out of
the way and ses so home I cum yes
[page 4]

I ant A frade But what I can git home
and then keep out of the way tell this
thing is setteld for it cant last
mutch longer this everri Bodey ort
to no that has got A spoon ful
of sence that is the Reasson that
I in Cisted so hard for Cum of the
Boys to Rite to mee that tha wanted
to Cum to this Reg mant so I
Cood git to Cum home after
them as Re Cruits I Cood git off
un der thas surcumstances and
A Braut Back stuf A nuf to make
A good deel of money and tha Cood
hav dun the sam I was in hops
this wood hav All turn out Rite
But I hav lost All hops on this
I send this By one mr mikel Stroup
to Elanders doctor Steevens has Rezind
and Starts home in the morning I sent you A
letter A fue day A go By Ed Claton
with ten dollars in it I mus Cum to
A close I Am vary Proud of my shirt
it tuck the pre <ums?> and my slips
in fact All you sent mee tha fit
mee the Best kind Jest like tena
fits mee for A wife may gods
Blessings Rest A pon hur and my
dear little Children and keep them
from All harme tena I want
you to Rite to mee as soon as you
git this letter with out fail no more
at presant and Reckon you
think it is A nuf without Better

John W Reese to
C T V Reese

[the following is written in the top margins of pages one and four]

tena I sed I wood send this By one mr stroups But I will send it By doctor Stevens it seems like that we will los all of ouer old officers well I dont Blame them I wood git out if I cood But I am A poor man and no Bodey to help mee out this is A Rich mans woar But the poor men has to doo the fiting tell the Boys if tha want to Cum hear and giv mee A Chance to cum home and tha dont like after tha git hear tha shal hav Company Back after A little stuf is sold I want you to not let long mouth folks no ever thing and keep my letters at home

[the following is written in the top margins of pages two and three]

But you sed thair was no Bodey thair to Cum But Ab and he thout he wood git off if he dont git off tollerbill Easy I think he wood doo well to git two or three in the nocian to Cum hear and Rite to mee and dont let any Bodey elce hav thair names if we was All to gether we Cood mak the thing work Jest Rite tha can git thair Bounty and what stuf we cood Bring with us to sell wood make us A nice pile of money then we Can doo as we pleas if we had druther Bee moutain Raingers as A hy Privet we can doo Jest as we like I must Close tell my frends if tha Rite to mee to direct letters in Cear of L. M. Ray in stid of Roberts

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

tulla homa ten April 2 1863
dear wife withe pleasure I Am pur mit
ted to drop you A fue lines to in forme
you that I Am in tolerbill helth
I was vary un well yesterday and nite Be
fore last withe the dire But I think
it is waring off I am in hopes thas fue
lines may find you and the Children all
well that is what All ways givs mee
grate sats faction to hear that you air
All well I was made vary proud yester
day Eaving when the male Cum in I
was liing on my chesnut poles and I hearn
J W Reese name called at hed quarters
tenas name was on my mind
next and when I Cum to find out
what I was Called for tena Rees
had Rote A letter to John W Reese A
way doun hear at tullahoma A
little over three hundred miles it
was Rote march the 16 and By William
Edmondes I think it giv mee grate satis
faction to hear from you when I
git A letter ever week from you the
time Rols off A heep faster to mee you
stated that you had moovd to whair
William Edmonds lived you did not
say how you was sates fide I want you
to Rite to mee and let mee no how you
air sates fide with your moov and
whoo is A going to doo your plowing for
you and how mutch you hav to giv
margrett Edmonds pur month and so on
[page 2]
tena I want you to plant a heep of
potaters and Beens and cabbeg and if you
can git A Buchel of sweet potaters doo
it and plant them in as good ground as you
hav got I no the worthe of thase things
and how good tha air I never new what
thas things was worthe tell now you
All think you see hard times and no
dout But what you doo to what you ust
to see tena Butter is worth two dollars

A cake A goos is Redy call at fiv dollars
Chickens the same Eggs one dollar pur
dozen Captan Ward that Belongs to
to this Regmant that lives in polk County
N C he has Bin home on fur low and got
Back the othe day and Braut with him A
Barrell of Crout to sell it went off
like hot cakes at fiftey Cents pur pou
nd and he Cood hav got A dollar as Eas
sey as to hav asket hit men is starved
out an Bred and meet so Bad that tha
will giv aney price for aney kind of
Case you stateded in your letter that [Case may mean "sass"]
you had Recieved the nap sack I sent you
and my old coat and pants and old shirt and
and that was All I sent the Coat and
pants and old Shirt and the shoos I wear
from home and the two Bras Belt stars one
had union on it and the other A Eagle

[the following is written in the top margin of page two]

tena I send Cis and margrett A peace of porety you must reed it to them it is Butiful I
think and I wood Be glad to no if you air Bound for that land tena I hav Rote three letters
one to you and one to Rebecky Ellar and margrtt Edmonds and one to William Edmonds
turne over

[the following is written in the top margin of page one]

tell Cis and margrett to Rais a heep of Chickens for mee tell Brug hee must hav the pigs
mar<k?>t and I will send him A cap and knife tena the news is that we will start to
Canetuckey in a fue days I think thair is A moov on hand tena I will hav to frank my
letters I cant git stamps if you can send mee a fue stampes in A letter doo it

[continued in left margin of page one]

my shirt you sent to mee takes the prais hear wash hardey had to loock at it yesterday I
had draud A pair of pants nerley like it I am well uniformd honey

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

tul homa ten A pril the 23 1863
dear wife with pleasure I am pur
mit ted to drop you A fue more
lins to day to let you no that I
am as well as Com an hoping thas
fue lins may find you and the Children
all well and dooing well thair is A
grait deel of Excite ment hear to
day we air under marching orders in
five minnets notice we air orderd to
keep on hand three days coockt
Rashings the feds is advancing on
us tha Capturd A trane of Cars
from us nite Be fore last and has taken
mcmmin vill Just 30 mils from hear dew
northe of tullohoma tha air you see
advancing on us By A flank moovment
A grate meney of ouer troops has left
hear sum has as I think gon down to war
trace and sum in the direction of Mc
min vill ouer Bre gade was orderd over
to town this morn ing to work on A
fort and then then we was or derd Back
to Camps what next I dont no But I
think it will Be to armes men fall in
hear take up A line of march whair
to meet the yankeys Just after that
to meet ouer god if in peace O what
A hapey Exchange no more to Be Roused
By the sound of the drum no more hav
to at tend to Role Call no mor gard dew
tey to doo all will Be well thank god
that thair is A Better place for the weary A Rest
[page 2]

ting at home tena I think I hav told
you A Baut the feelings that I in
Joyed onst near your paps while I was
in gaged in prair to my Saver under
A peeche tree as you go up in to the
Bottum Just A Round the ture of the Rode
from the shop Rite thair tena god
parden my Cins I felt hap pey and thank
god for Just sutch feelings not withe
standing I hav dun Bad and wcked sence

But thank god I hav not lost Cite
yet and tena I will tell you when I
made sum urnest promesess was was the
morning that little William og Burne
died I helt him By his Rite hand while
he was Exchanging worlds he seemd to
fix his Eys on mee and went off that way
I promest that sweet child that I wood
meet him in heaven tena I in tend to
make my thouts true I want to meet
all of my Children in A land of Rest
and you my Bosom friend if I never see
you in this world any more O my dear
try to meet your Children in A Bet ter
land than this tell all of my dear
little Children howdey and kiss them
for mee with A full Sole I Close this
letter I will Rite in a A fue days A gin I for
got to say in that letter yester day to
unkel feels that thair was A Regmant
in ouer Bregade that was mad up A
Round nashvill and in nash vill if he Cu
ms hear he Can see lots of his old ac
quaintces I will finish whair I commenced

[the following is written in the top and left margins of page two]

tena I want you to Rite to mee as soon as you git this letter I will Rite as offen as I Can
tell this Rip is over tena I saw you last nite vary plane a that it had Bin So this moring
tena I think if I live to git Back we will liv and in Joye ouer selves Better than Ever I will
Bee of more use to you than Before

[continued in the top and left margins of page one]

I am A splended Coock and nice A Baut it as any gall and I can wash first Rate tena I will
send my flanen shirt and drawers Back home the first good Chance I have the weth has
got two hot for them I wont send them By A <jesters?> tena I cut the Buttens off of that
old Cot I sent home I want you to let mee no if you Ever got them shoos and things or
not Be shur and Rite soon as you can tell all my frends houdey tell your mother houdey
for mee and that I want to see hur John W Reese to Cristena V Reese his loving wife

John W. Reese to Rebecca Eller

fair feeld Bedford Cunty ten may 17th /63
dear Cister I seat my self to answer
your vary Kind letter that you Rote the
27 of April witch gav mee mutch
pleasure to hear from you all and
to hear that you was all well But
sorey to hear that any Bodey had Bin
vax inated with the vax ina cian thats
in surklacian now for it is not the
Rite kind no dout thair has Bin A
time of sore armes hear A grate maney
had to go to the horse pittle and one of
ouer men died from it no dout in
my mind I had it put in my arme
But it did not take and gos in my arme
nun no more thas fue lines leaves mee
in as good helth as comon with the Ex
sepcian of A pane in my left Cide that
has Bin hurting mee Ever Cince I was
Cick at murfrees Boro I am in hopes
thas lines may find you all well and
dooing well I hav not mutch to Rite
onely A Baut hard times and I Expect
thair is janerril crop of this all over the
suthern Con federcey we air at fair feeld
in 4 miles of war trace in 18 or 20 of mur
frees Boro on one prong of duck River
this is A good Country hear grate land
and the powrfulst plac I Ever saw for
pasture the Blue grass is A Bout halfe
leg hy in the woods and feelds thats not
tended the Countrey Remind mee of old
Bun Comb <nab?> Bey I lov the mountans
[page 2]

I hate to hear of meanness Agoing
on in my natif Countrey for if thair
Ever was A time that peple wood
lay off meanness and Ceace to doo wicked
is not this the time O that I
Cood Rite my thouts and feelings to
you But time and the im possibility of
my feelings Causes mee to Ceace Riting
with a ful hart and A glad Sole I
Ceace Riting on the sujet we air

Expecting A Row hear ouer hevey
Baged is orderd to the Rear I Recon you
hav hear that Janerel Stone wall Jackson
died from feaver and Janeril vandorn
giting shot throu the head for sleeping
with A doctors wife I wood hav dun
Just as the doctor dun go it doctor
if All Reports is true that doctor ort
to hav A grate practice in Buncomb
I must Cum to A clos ReBeckey I
want you to Reed this letter to
tena and my dear little children
tell them that I think I will git
to Cum home Be fore vary long
to see them All tell Brug that
I hav got him A nife and will send
it to him By Captan RobBerds and
tell the galls I will send them sum
thing By RobBerds tell tena I will
Be A Blijh to sleep with hur when
I Cum home Bless hur hart how I doo
lov hur and got A poor way to help my self

[the following is written in top margin of page 2]

tell S<?> I want hur to sav mee A dram and Rase lots of Chickens for I will Be to see hur
when I Cum home tell Pattons folks all houdey tell Cris I wood like to git A letter from
him and any of my freds my Chance is Bad to Rite Rite to mee as soon as you can

[continued in top margin of page 1]

tell Ab to Be Shore to Rite to mee and he will ReCiev the same tell your mother and pap
houdey and that I want to See them Bad Anuf tel unkel feels houdey and that I am
loocking for him to cum hear to See mee no more But Remains yours tell deth

J W Reese to R E Eller

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Jackson mississippi June 7 1863
dear wife with pleasure I am pur
mit ted this good SabBath mor
ning to drop you A fue lines
to let you no that I am well
as Coman hoping thase fue lines
may find you and the Children
all well and dooing well tena
I am A long ways from home yes
I am and in A hot place it is as
hot hear now as I Ever Saw it
in Bun comb in August thair is
green Beenes pees is A Baut dun
Bairing and Cuw Cumbers and
Corne is silking and tasling
the water is power ful Bad tha
<??> air Blest at this time withe
with toler Bill watter I dont
no how long we will git to
stay hear ouer Regmant is out
on picket to day tha hav Bin
fiting Be low hear for tw or thr
days at A place Called Big Black
Brig tha air fiting to day dow thair
sum whair the canons is soundi
ng vary hevey

[page 2]

tha hav Bin fiting <??>et turBill
at Vickas Burg the news in Jack
son last nite was that the
feds had taken it and if
if it is so wee will hav to
git upup from hear tena van [Vance's]
cs old Regmant is Below
hear I Expect in the fite at Blac
k Brig it is A Baut 45 mils
from hear to vicks Burg
I hav saw wheat Cut and in the
Shock oats is turning tena
we left woair trace tennes
see on Sunday the 24 of may
and got hear the first day of
June we Cum By atlanter
and then to montgumery

then to the tensaw River
22 mils A Bov moBeal <???\>
down thair we got thair A
Baut A leven oClock in the
nite and staid thair tell 7 oCl
ock nex moring and went that
day to moreder 135 mils on the
Mobeal and ohio Rail Rode then
to this place tena I hav Saw
A heepe and sufered A Good
deel for water and sumthing I cood Eat

[page 3]

I think this fite will End the
Strife in the west if we
los vicks Burg we los All of
the west Countrey thats worthe
mutch to us tena I will Rite
in A fue days A gane when
this fiting is over and I will
Rite mor interresting news
if I liv to git throu Safe and if
not my frends will let you no
A Baut it I am still horsler for
Capton Ray I dont think tena that
I will hav to go in to A fite
with A gun I may hav to attend
to them in time of A fite he has
A fine animel and as fine as fiddle
I hav Bin telling him that sh is to
fine to wair out in this wair that
he had Better Send mee home
with hur to his wife and I think
if we was in Reach of home I
think I wood git to take it
home tena I dont think that we
will stay hear vary long I think
wee will go Back in to East
ten nes see I am in hopes so
tena good RobBerds hant got
his papers fixt yet

[page 4]

I wish he Cood for I want to send
you sum money I no you stand in
need of it tena you had Better
Borey twenty fiv dollars to doo
you tell I Can Send it to you

tell your nabers not to Be A frad
to lone it to you for if I die or
liv tha will Be shore to git it I
want you to Rite to mee as soon as
git this letter direc your letters
to Jacson mississippi Bracke
nRidg divsion Stove all Bregade
60 north CaRolina troops I must
Close tell all of frends houdey
and that I want you to kiss
my Boys for mee tell Brug that
I hav got him nife to send to
him whem RobBerds Cums home
and the girs I will send them Ring
A peace O how Bad I want to see
the Babey yes and tena and Cis and
margrett O Role one Sweet
moments and let the poor pilgrum
go hom go hom I hav not Rote
you out that porety But I will
Rite soon I pray gods Blessings
to Rest A pon you all
with A Clar hart I John W Reese
Close my lov to you to CT V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

[fragment of letter probably written from Jackson in June 1863]

we left fairfeeld tn
the 24 of may and got to
Chat A nugia the 25 A Baut
10 OClock left thair A Baut 2
and got to atlanter A Baut
10 OClock the 26 of may and
left thair A Baut 2 and got
to mont gumery the 27 of
may A Baut day lite and left
thair the 28 in the morn
ing and got supper Rated
By A Car Runnin off I got
to ten Saw River late
in the Eavning and left thair
at nine O Clock at nite
and got to mobiel at Alven
o Clock and left thair 29
at sevven a Clock on Sunday
Run north 135 mils on the
Mobeale and ohio R Rode
to mareders vill left thair
the 30 of may at 7 oClock
and got to Jackson on the same
day ABaut 5 oClock and
stade thair

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Jackson mis sis sippi June 28 1863
dear wife its withe pleasure this good
Sabbath morning that I am Blst withe the
op por tunity of Riting to you onst more to
let you no that I am well as comon
and I Bleav I feel Better than I hav in
A long time and O may thas fue lins find
you and my dear Children well tena I am
frade you wont git this letter this is the
third letter I hav Rote to you sence I hav
Bin hear O pane to mee I hav not got
the firs mark of A pen from your hand
in nearley two monthes the last one I got
was Rote the 10 of may tena the time seemes
O how long I dont want to scold you
A Baut it But I wood Be powerful glad
to git one from you O yes you dont no
how glad I wood feel tena it is A hard
pant I am hear and not any Con nection
in this Rig ment you hav sum hear
Ad shepperd Be longs to this Reg mant
But he has not Bin with us mutch he
has Bin on detail the most of his time
to work on Brigges and Sutch like
[page 2]

I hearn from you the other day By John
Jinkens I thout you mite hav sent mee
A letter By him he sed you was All
well So fair as hee node that gav mee Ease
tena <?????> I hav nuthing strang to
Rite this time thair is not mutch fiting
A going on now tho I hav hearn SevRil
Canons this morning I supose thair shell
ing Each other A little we air liabele to
git in to A fite at A most any time
the most I hear is from East ten nessee
A Baut noxvill the feds seems to Render
that part of the Con fedaircey un Easey
I Am in hopes we will Be orderd
Back to East tennessee I Just as soon
stay hear as to go Back to middle
tennessee I Bleav I wood hav my helth
Better hear than thair tena that sweet
name to mee hardey is now ouer Com

manding Colonel and Capt ton J M Ray
is ouer liutenant Colonel Ray I think he
will pleas the Regmant fine I
think A heep more of him that I did
while at home mee and him gits A
[page 3]

long fine I am still his horse ler Elick
wagner was in withe mee to at tend
to hardys stock But he is Cick and at
the hors pittle But is gitting Better ale<?>
Alen Fox is helping mee now goodson
RobBerds has A hard t<????> gitin
in he has sent up his Re<??> no<cian?>
several times But it Cums Back dis ap
proved all the while Colonel hardey has
hearn that his child was ded and he is
triing to git leav of Abcence for A
fue days to go home and if he duse I
will send you sum money And in A
letter to Elxanders and if he can git
off I am A going to Beg him vary hard
to go home with him tena I will send
Cum money to you Just as soo as I hav
the Chance I am A frade you and the
Children is sufering for it tell Rebeckey
and margrett Edmonds houdey and your dear
old mother houdey for mee tell hur that
we air A long ways A part By Rale Rode
the way we cum its A Baut Eight hundred
mils tell pats and Cabe and lizey and leakey
all houdey well in fact tell all of
[page 4]

of my frends houdey I am in hopes I hav
no Enemeys in old Bun Comb I feeld
like tha was all my frends tell my
dear little Children that I Eat A fue Ripe
peeches the other day o how it hurt my
<??>ings to think I was so fur A way
from home that I cood not hand you
or the Children one of them James Ramsey
is hardeys and Rays Cooock and he Coocts
sum for mee tell ab and Cris houdey and
tena tell or send word to Jo that I wood
like to hear from him and that I wish
him suck sess in all his undertakens
tena Be Shore to tell ant Jane penland

houdey and that I hav not forgot hur
yet and the <??> sh gav mee the last
time I Ever saw hur tell hur that I
in Joy my Self first Rate Concidering my
sit uation O I hav to Clos O the Babey
how Bad I want to see him yes and Brug
and Cis and margrett whoo Elce wy tena
Role one weet momments and let me go home
tena thair one more thing I want you to no
that I pray for you Evriday John W Reese to
that I Cood hear that good news Cristena v Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

July the 16 1863
Jackson mississippi
dear wife onst more with
pleasure I im Brace the
op por tunity of answuring
your vary kind letter
you Rote to mee the 28 of
June I was mitey glad
to hear from you all onst
more tena I am vary un
well at presant I Cum
vary nie having a Chill
last nite But I am Bet
ter this morning I hav had
my helth vary well
sence we hav Bin hear tell
now I think I will soon
Be well Agane hoping thas
fue lins may find you and
the Children all well
I hav A heep to Rite
But not mutch time to
Rite it to you at presant
[page 2]
we Started down to Big
Black we marcht two days
and parts of nits and we under
stood that vicks Burg
had went up and we got
orders to Return Back to
Jackson and we hav Bin
fiting 8 days the feds tride
to Charg ouer Battirys But
But poar men Cabes Battery
plad on them two fast
tha had to Re treat with
A Rit Smart los tena
the feds was throwing
shels in to Jackson last
Eaving and had sum of the
town on fiar tena I think
we will hav to giv it
up I think we will
Soon Be Clocer to home

I dont think this thing
will last mutch longer
hare Can it I dont See how
[page 3]

tena I send this letter By
Alen fox and A ten dollar
Bill in it and A fine Comb
and Brug A nife tena
Colonel hardey he is in
th Con velsling Camaps
an I hav thair horses
to attend to and I am
with the wagon trane A
Baut 5 mils from whair
thair fiting and I Cant
git to the Regmamant un
less I had A pass or I
wood hav sent you more
money But I will send
you more By the next
one that Cums hom thar
will Be lots that will
Cum home after this
fite Cums off I hate it
vary Bad that I had
[page 4]

no more money with mee
than I did But I had not
under stood that Alen
was A going to leav tell
this fite was over and I
hav Bin so un well Sence
I was not A Ble to Ride
to the Reg mant you may
look for more in A fue
days I hav got it But I
did not hav it withe mee
my thing is powerful
Scatterd I hav A Box at
montgomery in Alabam and
and them Clos you sent to
mee in it and sevril things
I wanted to send home Blanke
ts an so on I will Rite in
A fue days A gan and more
of it thair no cince in

trying to Rite now may god
Bless you and the Children Rite
to mee my lov wife good By
John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Oct. the 27 1863

Dear wife with pleasure I
tak my pen in hand to let
you no that I am well
hoping thase fue lins may
find you and the Children
all well and dooing well
I Recieved your Kind letter
the 22 of this month I was
powerful glad to hear from
you But was sory to hear
that things was as tha air
in old BunComb But I was not
mutch <dicieved?> I am in hopes
that the Boyes prop purty will
not Be Confist Cated for
this will onley ad fuel to
the fiar lying and stelling
and all the mean ness
that Can Be thout of is going
on out hear I am in the
Convlesting Campes I hav
Bin hear ever sence the 5 of
Oct tober But I shal start
to my Regment next monday
I was sorey to hear that
unkel Jo was ded But he
has paid that grate det
[page 2]

if he was pre paid for that
grate Chang he is Better off
than we hoo is left
in the midst of this un holy
war tena I Rot to you that
I was Cum ing home in this
month But I hav not Cum
plide with my word I hope
you will not think hard
of mee tena I want to git
what tha air owing mee
tha air owing mee A Bout
sixtey dollars and I want
you and my Children to
hav it yes and you shal

hav it yes and I expect to
Bring it to you in the Bar
gin Be Cause I hav not Com
plid with my word you
<x> need not think I will
all ways doo so I hav
Rote to you this makes
fiv letters sence I left
home has got onley one in all
tena I want you to Rite to
mee as soon as you git
this letter and let mee
no the times thair and if
[page 3]

the malisha is still at the
Camp ground yet or not and
if thair is any talk of the
yankeys A going to Cum
up thair or not david wag
ner tells mee that walter
cook is gon to the feds
I want you to Rite if you
got that hay or not I un
der stand that you had frost
thair A bout the middle of
September Rite if your Corn
or foder got bit or not and
how you managed your
fodder and if that man Braut
that leather or not tena I
am nearley Bar foot
ted and my old Britches is
to the patch and hant Bin
washt sence I left home
and the Each and lice keeps
mee Rite Bissey tena I
want you to git A nuf
of wheat if you can to
sow the ground on the
fur Cide of the Branch if
you can find the wheat
to sell anywhair

[page 4]
you shal hav the money
to pay for it git it from
J. R. Weaver if you can tell

him for mee that he shal
hav his money shore as I liv
and tena try to rent that
peace of land from him
that me and you taulket
A Bout tell him that I in
tend to make A Crop at
home next sumer I am talul
king with the Bark on yes
tena I want you to Rite
to mee as soon as you git this
let ter direct it to the
Regmant I was sory to hear
that Cris le<y?> was Cick Cis
told mee A power ful Bad
tale on you the other nit in
A dreame tell g<o??> that
that I cant hardley think
hur tale is true tell John
to feed his hog well that I
will Be at home in next month
and margrett to feed hur
chickens Be shure to rite
I am Cumming just as soon
as I git my money you may
lo<ck?> for mee as shore as life
[written in top margin across all four pages]
tena i want to see you all powerful Bad
may God Bless you <??> pra<?> for you <??> day
tena I want you to pray for mee and for
and for my children and for God to instruct
you how to liv that when you cum to di
that you may have nothing to doo but to di
tell m<????> houdy and that I want to see
him vary bad and tell all of my frends houdey
kiss my Boyes for mee you need not rite
any more after you anser this letter
fair well John W Reese to Cristena V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

november the 19 1863
dear wife with pleasure I
tak the opportunity of Riting
to you A few lines to let
you no that I am as well
as Comon hoping these
few lines [rest of line obscured by fold]
and my dear little Children
all well and dooing Better
than mee if you ant you
air dooing vary Bad tena
I am seeing the badest
time now I Ever saw in
my life we dont git mor
than half A nuf to Eat half
<??> time no meet and <??>
[line obscured by fold]
how <tha?> wood like to see
pap take A peace of Cold Corn
Bread for his Breckfirst and
vary Small at that its for
you and them that I am suf
ring if it was not for the
lov I hav for you and them
I wood not stay in this war
[page 2]
no longer than dark But I was not
musterd in to survis when
the Rest of the Regmant was
and I wont git my money
tell A Baut the first of Jan
uary un less I Can sell
<??> my Best to sell
<?> tha air owing mee 77 doll
ars for wagers and A Baut
60 dollars of Comppotishing
money that was A lowed
for my Clothing that I
never tuck up in All mak
ing one hundred and thirty
seven dollars tena this is A
lit tle two mutch for mee
<??> after mee sufering
as mutch as I hav for it tena

I shall sell the firs Chance I
hav and then I am cuming home
dont git out of hart you
no that it wood hav Bin A
Bad chance for mee to hav
stad at home in all of that
fus that has Bin in old Buncomb
[page 3]

tena I Rote to you By
david waggner for you
to Rite to mee as soon as
you got it and let me
no how you was giting
A long and if you Ever
got my Bl [rest of line obscured by fold]
<I?> lost going home or not
I got my Shirt and slips you
sent mee at tullahoma I hav
got them on now O how glad
I was when I got them Beca
use you sent them I hav got
you A pair of Shoose if I Can
send them to you levey in<??>
will take them to you tena we
air on the norwest Cide of
the mishnary Ridg in Cite of
Chat ta nooga tena it is
A Cite to Be hold from the
top of this Ridge you Can see
Chat A noogia and yankys
A plenty tena wee hav
[page 4]

A Baut seventy fiv thousan
men hear and the feds has
A Baut twist that A maunt
this is A awful Cit to loock
A pon our pickets lins is in
two hundrd yards of Eochotter
I was on picket the other nite
tha was whisiling at us all
nite trying to git us to go
over to them But my mind Run
Back to your Bossom and my sweet
little Children I Cood not go
But thair A maney one going
over and if tha dont fede us

Bet ter tha will All go and
git A Cup of Coff fey
my Best fred is at home
James M Ray he is mist po
werful Bad By the Boyes he is
All man send him wod that
I say so tena I hav Bin wait
ing for A let ter from you
But I Cant git no let ter
tell all of my friends houdey
kiss my Boyes fair well John W Reese
to CT V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

december the 6 1863

dear wife with pleasure I am permitted to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and in joying tolerably good health with the exception of a bad cold hoping these lines may find you and the children all well and doing better than me if you ain't you are doing powerful bad then I have thought and said that I would not write to you any more tell you that a number of me to write to me my feelings is hurt to think I have rote and rote and I can't get any letters from you I have rote 8 or ten letters to you since I left home and have only got one from you this is hard it cuts close considering this matter for your self I can speak for myself I have not forgotten you no I can say to you the great battle on mishary ridge has been fought and Bragg has received another complete whipping and we are now at Dalton in Georgia this fight commences

[page 2]

the 25 of november on Lookout mountain the yankees charged over breast works on the look out and took them from our men and on the 26 the next day the pickets ran in our pickets about ten o'clock we were lying in our breast works our cannons were planted in our rear on top of the mishary ridge and our breast works was at the foot of the ridge in front of Chattanooga our batteries could play on the yankees clean over us that was shining each other in the evening and the order came up for our officers to send us up to the top of the ridge just a few at a time to keep the yankees from discovering the retreat well I think

I was A Baut in the third squad that
started fur the top of the Ridg well
the yankeys disCoverd the game and hear
tha Cum By thousands it was A Baut
half A mile from the Brest works to
the top of the Ridg when I got ABaut
half way up the Ridg I loock Back
over the valey the yankeys was
A Baut A hundred yards of ouer works
[page 3]

and the Shels was flying as thick as hale
over mee Boath ways ouer men had to
Run up to the top of the Ridg whair the
in tended fite was to Cum off thair was
lots of ouer men never left the Brest
works at tall when the yankeys mounted
the Brest works tha pord A voley down
in ouer dches poor men tha intended
I Expect to Be taken prisners But I am
A frade tha lost thair livs By so dooing
then up the Ridg tha startted and
ouer men that had started for the top
was Caut Be twene the fiar of ouer men
that had gand the top and the yankeys
in the rear O what A turbill affair
ouer Bregad was in the gap of the Ridg
at Braggs hedquarters we helt the top
of the Ridg tell ouer men had giv
way on Boath Cides of ouer Bre gade
and the yankeys had gand the top of
the Ridg on Boath Cides of us and we
had to Run out from under A Croos
fiar tena the Balls flue as thick as
hale I Cood see the durt fly up all
A Round mee But thank god I
got out Safe and to him the prais Be long
[page 4]

tena that Sweet name to mee
I Can say with mutch Joy that
whil Riting this letter I ReCieved one
from you that was Rote the 29 of nov
ember I am so proud of it I Cant
hardley Rite tell John to keep them
Chickens for as soon as I git my
money I am Cuming home and I want
my little Cag ful of Brandey to work

the Cold out of mee the 58 and 60th
Rigmants is Con Solidated we lost 97
men out of the two Regmants frank
ling Black the Preecher was kild or
taken pris ner he was mong the last
that left the Brest works you did not
git that leather well I hav got you A
vary good pair in my nap sack for you
and I am going to Bring them to you as
soon as I git my money wee will draw
A Baut Cris mus tena we air A Bad
whp set of folks we lost all we had
thousands of dollars worth of property
went up Sutch A destroyed army
neve was Be fore no histerry ever
giv no sutch ACount it is A shame
But Just as I sed it wood Be and so it is

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

March 31 1864

Dear wife onst more I Am pur mited
to drop you A fue lins to let you no
that I Am still on top of the ground
and still im proving I think sloley as
to my janerril helth it is tolerbill
fairB ut my foot and leg trubBills
mee vary mutch yet it is stif in my
Anke Joint and tena I Am A frad it will
Remaine so it swells vary Bad of A day
and gose part tley A way of A nite I Am
un Easey A Baut my left Arme it
is Brok out on the El Bow Joint vary
Bad But I am in hopes it is not the
Eri ciples = hoping thas fue lines [erysipelas]
may find you and my dear little
Children All well and dooing well
But it dont loock lik I hope this [hope, "helped"]
from the way I hav treated you A Bout
Riting to you or sending you sum
money But tena I giv you my Reas
on for not Riting to you if you think
I hav dun Rong By not Riting to you
under thas surcum stances say <??>
in your next let ter to mee <????>
wood Be un Easy wurse than not to hear
at tall tena if I hav dun Rong parden mee
tena I Am draging out the most misre
Bill lif I Ever livd I Am hear and Cant
git A way tha won fur low mee tha say
I liv two near the yankeys lins if I had
livd any whair futher sout I Cood hav
got A fur low But I Am glad my home
is just whair it is and I wood Be mor if
I was at it whair I in tend to
Be when I git Able

[page 2]

you may not think so and you
hav A Rite to think so But I think you
ort to par den mee tena I Am A
frade you and the Children is sufering
for sum thing to Eat By my not send
ing you sum money But tena I
hav had no Chance But I will send

you A hundred dollars By the firs
one I see going home that I think
will Be safere to take it to you
But i am in hopes I will Be the first one
I see going I am going to try for A fur low
to go to see my folks in South Carolina
I think mabey I will git off to
go thair if I doo home I Cum and if tha
dont home I Cum just as soon as I git
Able to walk you may de pend on
this I wood hav Bin thair long A go if
it had not Bin Just as it is doo the Best
you Can plant All the potatoes you Can
and so All the seeds you Can I want you
to Be shore to git mee one Bushel of Buck
wheat to so or speek fur it if you Can
manage to plant A patch of Corne doo so
I Can work By moonshine A nuf to make
Bred for us tena dont for git to plant
my peeche seede plant them in the garden
A Baut 2 feet A part thair is a Bord of
dotors cuming from Richman hear to
Examan All Crippels and the doctors thats
hear two to see if thar ain sum of them fit
for survis and I think tha will doo sum
thing fur mee A Bord of sound men will
if tha cant I will Rite to you any how
this week A gane and let you no I will finish
on A small pece of paper

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

April the 3 1864 Sunday
dear wife with pleasure I Am pur
mitted to drop you A fue lins
informing you that my helth is A
Baut as it was when I Rote my leg
dont seem to mend vary fast the
joint is vary stif my left arme is A
Baut as it was when I Rote hoping
thas fue lins may find you and the
Children <all?> well and dooing well
if you air it is not Because I hav
sent you so mutch money But I am
in hopes you hav got sum from
sum Bodey tell I cood send you sum
this tena has giv mee more un Easness
than any thing that has Cum my Rode
senc I left home I Am A fraid you hav
All hav suferd if you hav I want you
to let mee no it in your let ter tena I
hav not tride for A fur low sence I Rote
But I shal try nex tuesday to go to green
vill south carolina if I fail in that I shal
ask this Bord no more But doo as I sed I wood
in my letter to you if I dont git A
fur low I will Rite soon as I can so you may
no what to depend on John is in urnest
thair is But 3 or 4 north Carolinaers in Atalanta
<and?> thas of th<??> <??> has tride fur lows was
<denide?> on the same grounds that I was Becaus
we were in western coroner most too near
the yankeys this ma<?> soot sum But not John John is
Just John yet in Regard of sum things
if north caronirs will stay A way from
[page 2]
famleys on this ac count Jus let them stay
I dont no whither tha air fur low ing any out
of the Rig mement or not I hant hearn from
it But onst or twist since I left it the 8
of fbRuary tha air fiting A lit tle Every fue
days tha will hav A tall time of it Before
vary long A Baut dalton But john wont Be thair
tena I want you to answer this letter
Just as soon as you git it dont tak time
to wash the dishes and let mee no how you

air All dooing I was at your paps last
nite in A dreem and talk withe AB lots
I Am at hom mos Evry nite O what
tru<b?> it giv mee when <I?> wake up I want
to hear from All fo the Boyes powerful Bad
and unkel feels tell him that I wood
Be glad for him to Cum to see mee he
Can find mee in the institute hors pittle
As fine A house as thair is in attalant
I stay in the second flor thair is over two
hundred Bunks in it this house it was Bilt for A
fee mail Coledg and darkeys to wait on mee
this is A larg plase Bacon is 4 dollars A
pound and Corne 16 dollars pur Buchel and
other stuf Acorden the wether is vary
un setteld hear But to day is fine and warme
tell Joseph that I hearn A fine surmet the
other day in A Rume nex to mee you can
find the tex in pauls letter to the hebr
ews the forth chapter ninth vers = thair
Remanth th<??> A Rest to the
people of god Reed the hole chapter
tell Boath of my mameys houdey for mee
tell Rebcky houdy And to go on and if I
should not never meet hur on urth any more
that I want hur to meet mee whair partng will
Be no more John W Reese to
Cris tena V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Attalanta ga may 1 1864

Dear wife withe grate
pleasure I tak the oppur
tunity of droping you
A fue lins in answer
to your vary kind letter
that Come to hand yesterday
it found mee well
as comon my leg is still
vary stif yet and pains
mee sum But I sit A cide
my Crutches this morning
I hope and trust thas fue
lins may find you and the
Children All well you
dont no how proud I
was to git your letter
I was as proud as A little
girle with red shoos on
But sorey to hear that
pap was ded I did want
to see him one time more
in this life But But deth
is A Broud in the land he
has paid the det that
we All hav to pay

[page 2]

you did not state what
was the mat ter withe
him and whair he died at
and if he sed any thing in
Re gard of meeting his god
tell leekey that I Can sim
pheythise with hur in
Regard of hur Brother I take
it to Be hur name and sta
cey tell them Both that
that can see them Both A
gan in peace if tha will
But try I wood like to say
more But paper wont ad
mit it this time your
let ter was dated April

the 21 and maild April 25
and I got it 29 it come
to mee in fore days from
the time it was maild
tena you did not say
whithe this was the first
letter you had Rote sence
I hav Bin hear or not pleas
number them All as you
Rite them this is the forth
one that I hav Rote to you

[page 3]

tena I want to see you
and the Childrn the worst
I Ever did in my life may
the god of heaven hav
mercey and proteck you
and help you and what
good news it wood Be
to mee to hear that you
was A Changd woman tena
this is my harts prair
Evry day o may that
Be answerd in peace I
want you to Rite to
mee as soon as you git
this and Rite lots of it
and let mee no how your
cows and yearlings is doo
ing and if you hav got
my gun at home if you
hav I want you to git
hur at home and keep hur
oild in cide tell mar
grett that sh need not
Cum after mee when
the yankeys Cums for I
intend to Cum then

[page 4]

tell your mother houdy
for mee tell hur that
I git A good Cup of
Coffey onse A while and
I think of hur while
drinking it tell All of
my friends houdey and to Rite

to mee tell margrett
to rais us sum to bacco
for I hav got to smoking
Reglear tena I hav saw
lots and learnt A good
deel tena if I was at
home I wood git vary
fleshey A gane my Chin
Begins to hang with fat
and Cheacks vary fair and
Red and my lipps needs
kissing pawrrful Bad
tell john to feed yard
well so he Can tree
sqirls Cis and Rupurt
to Rais lots of chickens
and mar grett the toBaco
the Big fite will soon <Cu?>
off

[written in top margin across all the pages]
at daltan tha air orderd to keep two days rashings
on hand constant I will rite to Peter Ball tomo
row or next day I am glad to hear that he is
vary kind to you I must cum to A close for the
want of paper to rite on Kiss the Boys for mee
I will Rite A gane this week tena be shore
to rite onst A week to mee fair well for A fue days
When the ci<xx> gits rite me <xx> I cum
John W Reese to C V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

May the 23 1864
Madison Stout hospittle
Dear wife onst more i Am
Blest with oppor tunity of Riting
to you onst more to in forme
you that I Am as well as Comon
hoping thas fue lins may find
you and my dear little ons All
well Bless thair little harts I
Cant git to hear from them and
you But it dont keep mee from
thinking of you All tena
I hav loock for A letter from
you till I hav lost All hops
what is the matter I hav no
ider I hav Recieved But one from
you since december tena that
is the l<of?>iest time that Ever Rold
over Johns hed it seems lik
that All that Can giv mee trubbel
has A fair shak at mee I no
that I will not liv all ways
and if I new I wood hav to spend
[page 2]
the Rest just as I hav Bin speding
my time for the last two years
I wood ask not to stay But I Can
hope for Better times tena as
for news I hav more than I cood
Rit in A week Johnson has fell
Back to Cass station five mils
this cide of Kingston whair
I suferd so mutc las febRuary
and the Enemy still pressing him
this thing is near at A Close
I think But how it will wind
up I Cant tell you in this
the yankeys has got Rome
18teen mils Below Kingston
the papers say that shurmans
Armey is mooving on Johnson
in three detach ments today
is sunday I will finish this letter
in the morning I will git the

news to nite and in the morning
from the front I will giv it
to you as it is giv to mee good By
[page 3]

tena I hav set down to finish
this letter as for news Buy the
trane this morning I got But
little But the yankeys has Burnt
Cass station thair is grat Excite
ment hear the malisha is all
orderd to Report at attalanta
as I hav Rot to you Be fore this
attalanta wood Be the mane
struggel thair will Be A maney
A man di Be for it will Be taken
we hav lost in this last Rout
from dalton to Cass A Baut
three thousan men A Baut six
hundred kild ded A pon the
feeld and A grate maney more
will di that is wonded so A doc
tor told mee this morning
Johnson hedquarters is at ma
rietter it is twenty mils
A Bov attalanta I Cant find out
whither he is still falling Back
or not I will Rite day after to
[page 4]

to mor row to you this is mon
day tena I will hav to go to
the frunt A Baut friday if no
sooner But I will Rit the last
thing I doo Befor I leav hear
I Rote to John W Edmonds the
other day and to peter Ball all<so?>
if you doo git the letter Rite
to mee direct your letter to
mad dison Stout hospittle
I must Cum to A Close
kiss the Boyes for mee Bless
thair little harts how Bad I
want to see them yes and gab
and may the Best of All tena
tena Be in good hart as you
Can I will Be at home Befor
vary mutch longer this is so

tell Beckey to hold out faith

ful tell all of my friends

houdey tena Rite to mee

may gods Blessing} John W Reese

Rest with you } C TV Reese

[written in yop margin of pages 2 and 3]

tha air running thair stuf to Agustia from attalanta whil Riting your nam the cars past
loded with stuf from attalanta as will Edmonds ust t say loock out for Brothers

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

Baldon County Georgia may the 31 1864

dear wife with pleasure I am permitted to drop you A few lines to let you no that I hav got to my regmamat I am still suffering sum with my ankel I had to walk ten or twelv mils after I got off the cars and that did not doo mee any good tena I hop and trust thas fue lins may find you and the children all well I found the regmant in fine helth as for news I cant giv mutch thats reliable tho I am hear in A line of Battle whair tha hav Bin fiting for sum time I got to the Regmant last sunday Eaving in A allful thicket I lay down and went to sleep and a bout a leven oclock I was wakend By that powerful noyes of canonading we had to fall in and march out in a old field and thair we lay tell day brak then wee moved a long the line a bout two mils whair wee air yet thar was no fiting last nit hardley but tha air dooing a little this morning the canons is roring how this thing will End I cant say not noing but we air a bout 12 mils dew west of maretter the fit comenst at dalton sixty mils from maretter we hav lost a heep of men and kild a heep of yankeys and hear we go you all dont no a thing
[page 2]

a bout hard times and de struc tion of pro perty if you cood see the corne feelds and wheat fields that is ful of stock all is de stroid thats the truth no one Escaps the hors of this thing whair we go we hav lost but vary fue out of this Regmant tha giv mee a gun to tote But this morning colonel weaver had it turned over so I hav no gun to tote I am helping Elic wagner at tend to the horses at my old trad a gane

tena dont be uneasy a bout mee I can say
to you that I recieved your letter yester
day tena you dont no how glad I was to
hear from you it was rot the 22 of may
I was sorry to hear that Peter Ball was gon
I am in hops to will find woman a
plenty in the country whair he has gon
tena I must cum to a clos I will rite
in a fue days a gan and mor<?> of it
the arme is fed vary well we git a
half pound of bacon pur day and plenty
of bred tena if my leg dont git well
by the time this fit cums off I will git
a fur low and cum home o how glad
pore john wood be tena cololnel weaver
told mee that you was a pattern for
all others to go by in trying to liv
I am glad to hear this but new you
wood doo your best ma gods bless
ings be with you and my sweet ons
[continued in top margin]
kiss the boys for mee
tell the children howdy for mee
tena I rot this in a hury
look over the bad riting
dir<?>ct you letters
as you did the last
JW Reese CTV Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

July the 9 1864

dear wife onst more I am
Blest with op protunity
of Riting you one mor let
ter in forming you that
I am as well as comon
hoping and trusing thas fue
lins may find you and
the Children all well as
for news I hav lots to
Rite if I had the time to
Rite it the yankeys Keeps
us two Bisley well the
last letter I Rote to you
we was near mariretter
we hav Crost the Chatta
hooch Rivdrer we air A<?>est
<Corse?> sum five miles of atta
lanta we hav had <nother?>
little <fit?> oure Regmant was
out on picket and the yankeys
Charg them and drov the<?>
in to thair Brest works we
lost sum in the Charg we
hav lost siverel men in
ma<??>Ches Either gon to the
[page 2]
yankeys or home I Cant say <?>
<??>ing and tha all nearly talk
<??> I for got to tell you
that thair was A compney out
of the 54 verginia Regmant
Belonging to ouer Bregad one nite
whil on picket the liutenant
in Command of the
Companey he went over an mad
airraingmet with the yankeys
pickets and Cum Back and tuck
the Companey over with him
and sum has went sence and
sevril has went out of the 58
N C Regmant the Boys Calls
this when on Runs A way or
is miss ing that the owls

has Cout him or them
well tena I hav Run sum
vary narrow Excaps By most
All kinds of Balls tena
thair has not Bin A day
senc I Com Back to the Reg
mamant Be what I hav hearn
Can ons or small armes and
most all the time in Reach of them

[page 3]

tena the last little fite ouer
Regmant was in the time tha
was Run in J J wevear got
A gun A Rifle thas A hed of
any thing I Ever saw in the
way of A gun in my life
it shoots sixteen times with [a Henry repeating rifle]
out loding if it was mine
I wood not take A thousand dollars
for it Weevr was in Charg of
of the picket that and after he
was Run in he was Repost
ing his pickets and this yankey
was tite he sed he was orderd
to advanc his post and he was
so drunk he did not no what
he was dooing and advanct
two fur and Cum throu
ouer lins I wood lik to hav
it for Rupert as John has one
he hated to giv it up vary Bad
he swor at firs he wood <??>
up tell he went and saw his
lieutenant But it was to lat then
tena I hearn from you the
othe day I got A letter from

[page 4]

Sarh Ball She stated that you
and my swee ons was all well and
your Corne loock well I was
glad to hear from you all tell
Sarh that I will Rit soon to hur
tena I Cant Rite just as I want
to --- we air air loosing A
heep of men as we fall Back
tena tak good Cear of your

lit tle stuf tell I Cum home
try and dont let an one tak off my
<??> and <??> it is nothing But
<??> any how I want my
Bodey to Rest in N C soil
I will Bring you a pair of sho
os when I Cum tell All of my
friends to Rite to mee and that I
send houdey to All of them and that
I wood Rite to them if I had
the time it is thout that
we will go on to west point
But I in tend to see tena Be fore
I see west point if I liv tell
Rebecky that I still air trying
to surv my god and how thak
<f?>ul I Am <?> that I Ever mad the start

[in top margins of pages 2 and 3]

tell mother tha I hav not forgot hur yet tell your mother and pap tena Be shor to tell them
if I never shall see them any more on urth tha I want them to meet mee whaer parting
will Be no more tena I want you to Rit to mee as soon as you git this and giv mee all the
news you hav I will Rite in a fue days A gan tena I doo the Best I Can A Baut Riting
I dont Expect

[in top margins of pages 1 and 4]

you git All the letters I start to you tena thos that livs to see 3 more months pass over will
see peac made this thing will I think soon Clos it cant hold out mutch longer thank
heaven <that?> I Bleav it will soon clos I must Close I pray that you may Still Be Blest
tena I must Cum to A close kiss the Boyes for mee tell Cis and margrett to Be good gals

[in left margin of page 1]

John W Reese to his loving wife C T V Reese

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

[letter missing the beginning, no date, but probably written from Georgia in the spring or early summer of 1864]

tena this is the 5 letter I
hav Rote to you from this
place and sum to John W
Edmonds and sum to Peter
Ball I hav got one from you
is All I Reckon that I hav
out livd all of my friends
I will Rite to John W Edmonds
in A fue days I Rote to Peter
Ball the other day I hear
that Johnson had
forteene men shot the other
day out of the 58 and 60
north Carolinars Regmants
But onley one or two out
of my Regmant I hav not
lernt any of thair names
for dezerting I understand
tena I saw one of my com
pany the other day on his Re
turne from home on furlow
he told mee that the yankeys
was at marshel and ouer men
at the mouth of Big ivey
and that tha was Bush
whacking A Baut Elxanders
[page 2]

and that the folks thout tha
wood soon Be up at Ashville
if this Be the Case mee and
you will soon Be dun git
ing litters from Each others
if this shoud Be the Case I
want you to git A letter
throu thair lins if you can
and hav it maild to mee
tena I wish you had this
pair of shoos I hav Bin tot
ing so long for you no you
stand in need of them tell
John to learn gard to tree Rab

Bits and squirls Susan and Ruprt
to Rais all the Chickens tha
Can and mar grett the toBac
Co and mee and hur will smok
and spit and gab and Rupert
I must Cum to A Close
I will Rite in A fue days A
gane you Be shore and Rite
to mee onst A week may
the Blessings of god Be with
you fair well to } John W Reese
A lvoinv wife I lov } C T V Reese
As dear as my life }

John W. Reese to Christena Reese

[incomplete letter, no date, but
probably written in February 1864]

But he cood not git off
But he has Rote to mee
twist lattlely tell barrett
that mee and John I Expect
will git furlows At the same
time and if we doo we will
Cum hom to gether in your
next letter I want to no
whoo the Boys volenteard
under and whair will Edm
nds is what L D ReeceRard
is dooing and the janerl news
I under stand that L D Reeceard
has out of woar if he has I
think he ort to Cum and take
my plase and let mee go home
and stay A fue days I got A letter
last Sunday from Mr Burnett
in answer to one I Rote to hun
sucker it giv mee grat pl
esure he sed he had hearn fro
m you the day Befor you was
all well kiss the Children for
mee John W Rees V T V Reese
tell All my frends houdey
[page 2]

A little more thair has
Bin severil left hear with
out fur lows and its not A going
stop tha will go lik sheep
over A fence Samuel hewey
and James Bolenger and tob hy
Att and samuel Barrett
and 8 others last Sunday nite
was ["two" crossed out] one weeks Ago and nite be
fore last thair was nine
more left All out of this
Rigment thair has A Baut
fifey I think Run A way
from this Rig ment and from
the way the Rest taulks I

dont think thair will Be
many left By the firs of march
RobBert vanc old Rignent
is on the Rite wing of this
armey twelv mils from hear
I hav saw sum of the Boys
I hav not saw John E Barrett
yet I Rot to him to Cum
and See mee when I was Cick