

Nathaniel Reynolds Letters

Envelopes

[Note: The first 3 envelope fronts have an American flag waving in the breeze. The third one has a man holding the flag. The last envelope has a lady holding an olive branch and sitting with an eagle at her feet.]

Envelope 1

[illegible stamp]

Mrs. Mary S. Reynolds

Milford Kosciusko County

Ind

Soldiers [sic] Letter

Co. B 30th Regt

[illegible] V.M. [3 illegible words]

Envelope 2

[stamp: LOUISVILLE KY. Jan 24]

Mrs [sic] Mary S. Reynolds

Milford

Kosciusko Cou[cut off]

Indiana

Envelope 3

[stamp: DUE 3]

[stamp: CAIRO ILL JUN 7 1864]

Mary. S. Reynolds

Milford

Kosciusko Co.

Indiana

Soldiers [sic] Letter Co. B.

30th Reg Ind Vol

Envelope 4

Mrs. Mary S. Reynolds

Milford

Kosciusko County

Indiana

Soldiers [sic] Letter

Co. B. 30th Regt

Ind. Vols

Tuesday Morning Oct 1st 1861

Note. Explanatory

Mary, the preceding was written at my Suggestion and is a pretty Good Joke and if you have as much fun Reading it as I have you will have Some fun that is all I have to Say. I feel better Since I came back than I have at any time previous My Eyes are much better than they were last night. When I wrote a Short note in pencil and Sent it by Joseph Baker to Warsaw to be mailed So that you would Get it to day [sic]. I have not time to write mush So Good Bye till I write from Indianapolis

affectionately yours etc

Nathaniel

PS. Remember the Adress [sic]

Care Capt [sic] Stewart Co. B.

30th Reg. Ind. Volunteers

Camp Allen Ft. Wayne Indiana

Monday evening Sept 30th 1861

Mrs. Reynolds No. 1

Under present circumstances I felt it my duty to drop a line to you. My husband Mr. Reynolds has got back to me at last for which I am very thankful, he is well and infact [sic] the family is as well as common, I declare, although Mr. Reynolds made very fair promises to me before I consented to become Mrs. Reynolds No 2, I think I have sufficient grounds to become [3 illegible words] Reynolds No. 1 he seems to have enjoyed his visit very well, for which I feel very bad for I do every thing in my power to make him comfortable, but I fear I have failed in my efforts, I am going to take him further away before soon we are going to Indianapolis on Wednesday morning. then I hope he will be more constant to me.

Well Mrs. Reynolds No 1, I hope you will excuse me for writing in such a foolish manner as I have done, but I feel that there is a kind of mormen [sic] relationship existing

between us therefore I have taken more liberty than I would otherwise have done, [illegible] enough of this, we are all well and making a "big noise" the boys are all in good spirits in expectation of going to Indianapolis where we expect to be uniformed and equipped, we are having a good old time out here, we live just as we please we have every thing that is nice. we have chicken about twice or three times a week, when we call around on the chicken roosts for volunteers, if they refuse to go we draft a few of them, say six or eight. the most of the boys have been writing home about the misterious [sic] way in which we have been supplied with poultry but the mystery is easily explained, any one that wishes information concerning the poultry business can have full satisfaction by address myself or any of the Milford boys that will tell the truth. I was in hopes I would get home before [illegible] went any further for I have some [illegible] old [illegible] laid up to tell on the boys [illegible words] where I can, but I gues [sic] I will have to be disappointed for I will not get home till my leave, but I think we will get to come home from Indianapolis, Mrs. Reynolds when you see our folks tell them that I am well, and in good heart, Give my love to all the folks of Milford, the girls in particular, tell that sister of Yours that I think she might have the time to drop a line to a "soldier" [illegible] it would afford me great pleasure to have the honor of reading a letter addressed to me by one so capable of writing an interesting sheet, Well as it is getting late I will bring my letter to a close hoping that it will be with pleasure that you receive a note from me

Your friend W.E.F. Frughling

Out on Picket one mile from Camp Nevin Hardin Co. Ky

Sunday 11 and ½ oclock [sic] A.M. Nov 29th [cut off]

Dear Mary, We are having very cold weather here Just now which begun 3 or 4 days ago and I awake this morning from a comfortable Sleep to find the cold Increased in Severity and a very Little Snow flying which kept on until about 9 oclock [sic] When our Entire Regt was called upon without previous Notice to Start out on Picket. Whereas we had Escpected [sic] not to Go until to morrow [sic] But out we Rolled and had Just Got into Ranks when the letters were brought round and I Recd [sic] yours of last Sunday and one from Charley, But Could not Read them until we Got out here I am Really much pleased to note the Great improvement in the tone of your Letters this one is first Right God help you for it. it adds a Great deal to my happiness and comfort. I Recd [sic] a Helen the other day that Spake [sic] the Right feeling She Said it was hard to believe that She had a brother in the army. Still She was proud to Say it and that if She was a man She would be here bag and baggage 3 cheers for Sister Helen. Say I, I answered it and told her to be Sure to write to you. Though it is very Cold yet with the abundance of warm Clothing I have. I am quite comfortable in any place, Still an Esctra [sic] Blanket would be very acceptable to all of us and I am in hopes we Shall Soon Get them for they are promised to us. I think I never felt as well in my life as I have for the last 10 day and how Grateful I feel to God that he Just Exactly adapts my Strength, health and all Else to the trails, Temptations and Labours [sic], I have to pass through, I fully Realize that Providence interposes in my favour [sic] in this Matter. Tell all my friends how I am

and urge them to not wait for me to write, But to write forth with and be assured I will answer. perhaps you would like to know how I write here in the mud and cold. Well, I will tell you I made me a paper case of Pasteboard Just large Enough to hold my Paper, Envelopes and Pencil and I carry my Case in my Haversack at my Side Suspended over my Right [sic] Shoulder by means of a Strap for that purpose. This I always have with me and can write whenever I have he I where I may to write. I Generally get down on my Right knee and place my Case on the other knee and Go ahead I want you tell me if my Pencil Letters are Legible When you Get them have you Got that Letter Sent by Express [sic] Containing the \$27.00 in money and dated the 16th Just write at once my fingers are cold and I must close Good Bye your affectionate Husband

Nathaniel

PS

I have written to Indianapolis to the Express [sic] Depot making Inquiries about that Box and will Let you know the Result of my Inquiries

Camp Wood, Hart Co. Ky

Tuesday Evening 7 and ½ oclock [sic] Feb 12th/62

Well Mollie I feel first rate to night [sic] and have nothing to do So I conclude to write for your amusement Our Regiment went out on Picket yesterday But I did not Go being on duty in Camp during the night a Snow Storm came up and this Morning the Ground was covered with Snow and the wind blowing very cold and continued to blow So all day Notwithstanding which the Sun Shone warm enough to [illegible] the Snow all off by noon and then the mud O the mud here language fails me So I quit the Subject in the deepest disgust not being able to do the Subject Justice. Just before Sundown the Boys came in Tired and hungry and very low Spirited having Suffered from the cold and wet and mud and a long march by reason of our Picket lines having been thrown further out Since the Encampment of a large body of our troops on the other Side of the River. It was a Great blessing that I did not have to Scout this time, for I have not felt very well for a day or So and the Exposure would have been anything but beneficial to me Especially as I should have lost my nights [sic] Sleep altogether and that hurts me worse than anything Else There is no further talk of marching, Orders, unless I may perhaps mention a Gosipping [sic] Report that we are Soon to March back to where the troops that Crossed [sic] the River yesterday came from. But I have no confidence in anything I hear This is the worst place for Gosipping [sic] I Ever Saw it throws Widow Bedott in the Shade entirely. I am more than Ever Confident that this Contest will Soon End Two of our men that have been home on Sick Furloughs came back to day [sic] from Warsaw and they Say that the Several opinion there is that the Rebels must Give up Entirely in less than Two months. So Cheer up my Mary God has not forsaken our Country yet and he will not suffer it to be ruined by this Enormous Escpense [sic] and he has thus far Crowned our army with Success and Clearly Shown by his Providences in our favour [sic] that we are in the Right. There was a man of our Company by the name of Sutton died yesterday in the Hospital here he was a middle aged man and has been

ailing for 2 months but not down all the time He is the first married man we have lost he was a fine man one that I liked very much his remains will be started home to [illegible] in the morning Our Captain is first rate about trying to send the Remains home in Such Cases, using his own money freely, he must have gave out 7 or 8 dollars in this Case in order to Send the Corpse home Respectably. This is another case, wherin [sic] Homesickness kills men when they are not dangerous from anything Else This man was one of our best Soldiers and always Got along finely until quite lately When he finally Got discouraged and wanted to Go home and then he began to Go down hill very fast until Exhausted nature Gave way and this is the Result Therefore by all means it behooves Every Soldier to Guard against homesickness I discovered this fact long ago and by the blessing of God I have been enabled to act upon it and the result is most favourable [sic], Thank God [end of letter]

Camp Johnson Nashville Tenn.

Saturday morning March 8th [cut off]

Dear Mollie

I feel much better this Clear, Cool, beautiful morning I feel very much like communing with you through the only available medium we Soldiers have at hand I have been anxious all the time to move Southward in order to find warmer weather but right here 500 miles South of you I have Escperiened [sic] Colder Weather than at any other point South of the Ohio. But this Cold [illegible] is Severally [sic] regarded as the [illegible] up of a reasonably mild winter and we will very Soon have warm Spring weather I fear too warm we have most Cheering news from the [illegible] of the war in other parts I [illegible] is all true. But I have been near the [illegible] from our Regt as [illegible] on the other day before yesterday one half of the Regt went out on Picket among which was Bro. Johnsons [sic] Company [illegible] while they were on their Post yesterday morning, on Rush Fort 20 mounted Rebels came dashing up to the Post on which Bro. Johnson and 3 others were Standing and Surrounded them So Suddenly that they could not help themselves and they were Captured and carried off prisoners before the company could Rally to their Releif [sic]. This is a hard Stroke on our Regt and on Company C. and Particularly [sic] on Bro. Johnson, O how I pity him yet in reality he is perfectly Safe from bodily harm, but the Idea of being made Prisoner by those Infernal Rebels [illegible cut-off words] I could bear. They will be kept no doubt until there is a fair Chance for an Exchange of prisoners It seems to have been the Result of Carelessness on the Part of the Boys yet that does not alter the severity of the affliction But Enough of this I Confidently looked for a Letter from you yesterday but was disappointed I Guess I will Get one to day [sic] however [rest of letter is too faint to transcribe]

May 18th 1862

My own; my darling brother

Your picture and the note with it lays before me [illegible] rec'd and many are the warm kisses I have pressed upon it – with all the depth and kindness of a sister's love you [2 illegible words] Oh my brother how I love you. how my heart yearns for you with what deep solicitude I wish for your welfare How often do I pray for you, one for my precious brother saved and trusting in Jesus Oh I think I hear you say I am Bless the Lord. this morning I prayed that God would preserve your life and guide you safely through this [illegible] war And I heard a still small voice say "I will" Oh Bless the Lord Dear brother your [illegible] is so dear to me it is so natural, As to [illegible] have no fear I would sooner paid 2 dollars than not have it I will send Mary 1 dollar and that will a little over pay the price what a long lonely time it has been since I heard from you before I have [illegible] and prayed for some tidings and at last it comes how glad I was to get it I am sorry to that your health is not good I fear you will not be able to stand it long in that eliminate could you not get a furlough and go home and rest I am very glad you have the position you speak of its paying more I am glad of that too I wrote to Mary last winter but do not hear from her father is usually well Sarah is in [illegible] teaching Helen is at Belfort Ettie is in Wayne Co all are well I believe Sarah intends to go to Indiana in the fall but Oh my darling brother how I pray that peace will be [illegible] to our now distracted country and you return to your family by that time on the 10th of April father enlisted in the army and went into rendervous [sic] at Harrisburg Pa. but was rejected on account of his age Our Cousin Wm Millett is married a second time his wife is from Oswego Potter Co Pa her name is Lamberton our friends at Rockville are well John Mills was at Yorktown at the time of his last letter about three weeks since now Nathaniel I am going to send you an envelope and fortey [sic] stamps and I want you to write immediately dont [sic] put it off a day unless you are obliged to I dont [sic] really understand how to direct but shall trust to providence in you getting the letter after I send it dont [sic] have any fears of a bad disposal of your hard earnings in getting that picture for I will surely send the money to Mary how I would like to be with her I am not doing any thing this season my health is very poor the heat overcomes me so easily that I cannot hope to be of much service to my self or any body else I am at present staying at Mr [sic] Wilsons and am some times at Fathers He says he will write to you as soon as he can he was glad to get your likeness but does not think it looks very natural now my dear brother may I hope that your trust is in the Lord that he is your staff and support that he is round about you as a wall of fire and [illegible] dangers encompass thee he will make a way for your escape Oh blessed assurance what should I do without it and you have assured me that a soldiers [sic] life is hard his temptations to sin are very many and great "he" can be a christian [sic] Oh how gladly would I take your place assume your position and let my fear ease [illegible] was brother [illegible] but Nathaniel can you not get a furlough and go home until you are better Oh how my heart [illegible] for your safety but I will trust God concerning thee now I hope you will write soon you hear from your family much oftener than I do tell me does Mary have her mother brother and sister with her and if so does it not prove a detriment to her in her family expenses but perhaps I am to [sic] imaginative in regard it but when I think of you burning in the blaze of a summer sun in that warm climate and think that perhaps

you dont [sic] have all the comforts which you need my heart aches the tears will fall but I can only say Oh God he is in thy hand Thou canst guard and guide him I entrust him to thy keeping And dear brother we will meet in heaven where a [illegible] was [illegible] come cannot separate a brother from sister nor a father and his children Oh how I love you with all the depth and tenderness of my whole heart now brother please write to me again imediately [sic] I am very very anxious to hear from you But I do fear for your health let me know just how and where both [illegible] and spiritually I presume I have changed more in the last long weary six years than you have you would hardly know the homely little girl your sister Jennie in the old looking plain looking plain obsessed woman of 20 but space fails me good bye May God bless, and keep and save you evermore is the prayer of your loving sister [illegible] good love

Iuka Springs Miss June 12th 1862

Thursday afternoon 4 O'clock [sic]

Well Dear Mollie by the above reading you will perceive we have moved Since I last wrote Day before yesterday in the afternoon we Suddenly Recd [sic] Marching order and here we are after 2 days of Tedious toiling though the Clouds of Dust and the broiling hot Sun Temporarily Encamped in the Suburbs of the pretty little Town of Iuka. On the Memphis and Charleston R.R. 25 miles East of Corinth where we are Going I can no more tell than the man in the moon though it is Generally thought that we will Go to the River at Eastport 8 miles from here and there take the Boats one way or the other. This may be so yet I Should not be Surprised if we kept right on by land till we Set into Eastern Tennessee or Western Virginia it will be very Tedious work But by the blessing of God I can Stand it my health is very Good I have Sent you \$5.00 in a letter and I want you to be Sure and answer instantly when you Get it So that I can Send more I will risk \$10.00 next time if this Goes safe. Direct your letters all the time to Louisville Ky. till I Give you other Directions, But I will Close for a while till I can think of Something more to write Till then adieu

Nathaniel

[written on the same paper:]

15 miles East of Iuka Springs in the State of Alabama Friday Evening 6 O'clock [sic] June 13th/62

Well Mollie Dear

after another days Sailing through the Scorching Sun and Choking Dust I am in Camp and Seated on my knapsack Scribbling Something to Send to you when I Get a chance though God only knows when that will be. We have passed some very large Plantations ad Splendid Residences to day [sic] which is the first Real Signs of Civilization I have Seen for the last 2½ months I have Seen feilds [sic] of Cotton and Corn to day [sic] Covering from one to two hundred acres Each. I Stand the Marching first rate as I have nothing to carry I feel Better than When I am lying Idle in camp But I pity the poor

Soldier that has to Carry his Gun and knapsack, But I must now bid you Good Bye till I
Get a Chance to write more your affectionate husband

Nathaniel

[written on same paper:]

Sunday Evening 6 O'clock [sic]

June 15th 1865

again My Mollie I have an opportunity of writing a few lines Which I Gladly [illegible] 2
days more of hard marching is done [illegible line] a dense Thicket of Oak Trees on the
Bank of the Tennessee River at [illegible] [illegible] having arrived here at noon to day
[sic]. making 64 miles in 5 days my health continues to [illegible words] come to the
conclusion that I Stand marching Better than Idleness in Camp When we started I had a
[rest is too faint to transcribe accurately]

In camp 7 miles west of [cut off] Ala[cut off]

Thursday afternoon July 3rd 18[cut off]

Well my Mollie I know not what to do to pass away the time I am So completely tired of
Everything in Camp that life is almost a burden. Indeed were it not for the hope of
getting home to Enjoy the Society [sic] of family and friends. I would not Give a fig to
live as the Saying is I am dying of Ennuj thats [sic] whats [sic] the matter its [sic] not a
dangerous complaint but its [sic] a tedious one although there is noise and confusion
and Excitement and Changes in Camp yet to me it is all Tedious monotony from which
there is no releif [sic] for me Except in writing to you and that only affords Releif [sic]
thus Engaged and then after all when I begin to write I find [illegible] my composing
faculties are so dull that Even this Employment becomes Tedious and Irksome not
because I do not from the very depths of my heart love you and love to keep you posted
on all matters. Touching my welfare. But simply for the reasons above Stated. Could I
know what is Going on in the world or if there was Great Events occurring around me I
could perhaps do better, But, this is not the Case. So I must be content to do the best I
can. But as I want to make this Cover the space of 2 or 3 days So as to Give you a Sort
of a Journal of my life I will now Close Sincerely wishing my wife my faithful and true
wife Everything that is Good I will now Say adieu for the present as Ever yours etc. etc.

Nathaniel

[written on same paper:]

8 O'clock [sic] Evening July 3rd

Well the mail came to night [sic] But brought me nothing So I am much disappointed
Nevertheless I will wind up this Sheet as Doty Says he is Surely Going in the morning
and I want him to Carry it as he will be pretty apt to Get hone I am Sorry he is Going
before Pay day for I would like to Send Some money by him. But I cant [sic] as it is I
Send by him the Diary I hope a perusal of its pages may afford you much comfort and

diversion I have no news to write So I will abruptly terminate this dry thing and hope to be able to do better next time Meanwhile I am as Ever your most affectionate and faithful Husband for time and Eternity

Nathaniel

a Kiss for you and all the Children Good night

My Mary Dear

Letter too Faint to Transcribe

Find a Grave Information

[image: 3 photos of Nathaniel Reynolds' headstone]

Pvt. Nathaniel M. Reynolds

BIRTH 23 oct 1828 Allegany, Cattaraugus County, New York, USA

DEATH 31 Dec 1862 (aged 34) Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee, USA

BURIAL Stones River National Cemetery Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee, USA

PLOT Grave Number G-2712

MEMORIAL ID 88164079 – View Source

He died a Private in Indiana's 30th Infantry, Company B.

Family Members

Parents

Asa Reynolds 1803-1885

Electa Sumner Reynolds unknown-1851

Siblings

Lucretia E. Reynolds unknown-1829

Cooley Sumner Reynolds 1830-1901

Charles C Reynolds 1833-1903

Jennie M Reynolds Plumb 1842-1905