

hold our position. That day there was a cracking of Musketry kept up by our skirmishers on both sides. They would talk & laugh and yell all kinds of Way's at each other that day but nothing transpired of importance some few skirmishers wounded none in our Regt.

On 27th we commenced rather a retrograde moove by going back to the Manchester pike and coming into the rear of the main part of the Army. But we did not begin this untill we found that the rebels had all disappeared in our front during the night. We arrived at Beachs Grove about sun down & went into camp Dis marched 15 miles On 28th we started off again early and arrived at Manchester at 12 O clock at night Distance 12 miles. I must stop now and say that we had rain ever day since we left Murfreesboro & the ground was as soft as it is in the spring after the frost first leaves the fields, & as we had considerable train we had very hard times getting them through, & perhaps you imagine we felt any ways nice after being thoughorly drenched ever day & very short rations & the broad canopy of the heavens for our roof at night & hard marches with heavy loads occasionally out a wagon that was mired in mud, but as I happen to be assisting our Lt Col in command of the Regt I have a fine sorrell horse which carries me over the mud very lightly But the rprivates they have the hard times but I heard no complaints.

29th & 30th we remained in bivouac near Manchester. On 1st of July we started for the rebel string hold Tullahoma not knowing that it had been evacuated untill we got nearly there. We came in on the road that was commanded by one of their strongest forts & slashed timber for mile in front & each side all around the town almost. They had the town Fortified on all sides & some very strong forts but for some cause they evacuated without giving us fight which I can assure you pleased us very much. I suppose the reason they evacuated the place was fearing we would surround them & capture the whole Army by regular approaches the same as Grant had Vicksburg. Dis from Manchester to Tullahoma 12 miles. On 2ond we marched on in pursuit of rebels our Brigade was in rear of the train Sheridans Division was in advance

& had some considerable skirmishing at Elk River, where the rebels burned the RR bridge. We have the cars running now to Elk River & the bridge will be completed by Sunday & the cars come to here. We bivouaced on night of 20nd at Elk River Dis 10 miles next morning we marched in here and have been here ever since. Dis 4 miles. During all this time we have had rain ever day. On account of rain our trains did not do as expected & we were very short of rations & have not got any too plenty yet. At Tullahoma we captured all the rebels tents 4 siege guns & some corn meal & what else I am not able to say. On account Bad weather we run over & burned rails so much that we destroyed all the crops & stole all chickens & robbed all smoke houses & I suppose the citizens now are nearly starving. We are now situated in a valley in sight of Cumberland Mts in a nice little village of 3000 inhabitants before the war now about 1000. I hope this letter will meet with better success than my last I wrote. So for the present I will close give my love to all the family
yours respectfully J Roe Stookey

XI.

Dear Brother & Family

Headquarters 59th Ills Vols
Camp Blue Springs Tenn
April 20th 1864

It is just one month ago to day since I received notification that the Regt would be at St. Louis and that I left on morning train for St Louis without even haveing time to bid any of my Friends "Good Bye" except our own Family that was at home. When I arrived at St. Louis I found tha Regt had got there that night about midnight and were all waiting then to get aboard the steamer Jennie Deans that was going to take us to Nashville I went aboard found the Officers all that were not on duty enjoying the comforts of a huge hot stove in the cabin. I gave all a hearty shake of the hand introduced them to Jack, and we soon enlarged the circle by two. Col Post soon came up to me and introduced me to his Sister Miss Bunce & Miss Disbrow ladies he had with him taking as far as he could comfortably. I had several gay times with

them before they left the Regt. On the 20th of March by noon the Jeannie Deans was carrying the 59th smoothly down the father of Waters bound for Dixie all with rather a sad heart as ever moment the distance between us and our home friends increased. All passed off very smoothly landed at Cairo Paducah & Ft Donnelson each place either to load or unload some freight. Jack left us at Cairo and started for home. He arrived at Clarksville Tenn on the night of the 22nd and next morning was informed by the Capt of the boat that he could proceed no farther as his boat was too large to cross the shoals and we were then sixty miles from Nashville. So we disembarked there and found comfortable barracks for the men in an old Tobbacco warehouse, and the Officers the majority found lodgings at Moores Hotel. Clarksville has been a place of 3000 inhabitants in times of peace.

We remained at Clarksville untill noon on the 25th when we embarked on the Emperor a very light draft boat, at about 11 that night we reached the foot of the shoals and agreeable to Contract the man had to get off and March around the shoals which by the way fell to me to be the Commander, I sent out a detachment of boys under command of a Sergeant to bring me in a guide, the first one they found, They soon returned with two boys mounted on a mule. And we were again started on the march this part the boys did not admire much as they could not think their weight would make much difference to the load of the boat. We arrived at the landing above the shoals where the boat was to take us on by 3 A M and had to bivouac there untill 1 P M when the boat arrived. They had some trouble in coming over the shoals but suffered no damage.

We arrived at Nashville that evening the 26th of March, and put the men in Soldiers home and the Officers put up at City Hotel part of them. We remained there untill the 31st of March at noon when we started off on foot for this place only one wagon to the Regt haveing sent most of our baggage by R.R. And on the 15th of this month we arrived safe here which is five miles from Cleavland & 25 from Chattanooga and on Knoxville & Chattanooga RR. We marched ever day with the excep-

tion we laid over in Chattanooga. The ladies left for the north the same day we left Nashville. Since our arrival here we have been busy fixing camps and making returns we had behind from the time we started home on Furlough but if we have a few weeks quiet in camp we will soon be all right. I read to day Genrl U S Grants report of his succession of victories around Chattanooga which I consider very good and truthful. He rubs Genrl Granger very hard and he is now relieved of his command and I suppose will undergo a trial and I am in hopes they will use him rough It is late & I must close give my love to all the family & Friends
 Roe Direct 59th Ills Vols
 3 Brig 1st Division 4th A C
 Dept Cumberland

XII.

Dear Brother & Family Headquarters 80th Ills Vols
 Inftry Bivouac on Chattahoochee
 River Ga July 7" 1864

I have had your letter for some time bearing date May 15th, 1864 but as you I suppose know we have been marching fighting and building earthworks. On the 3rd of May we left Blue Springs Tenn that is the whole Army. And marched the 3 & 4 the front skirmished some but we were not engaged. (The 5 & 6 in bivouac at Catoosa Springs Ga Southern watering place and has been a gay place eighteen different kinds of water. On 7 on march fought all day took Tunnell hill our Brigade done no fighting but laid at night near or in front of Buzzard roost S Rockyface Mountain which the rebels held an impregnable position. The skirmished around there with our Corps (the 4") and showed as bold a front as possible the 8 9 10 11 12 while the army flanked the position to our right passing through Snaky creek gap and threatening Resacca Ga & rebel rear and communication. And on the morning of the 13 we found they had gone and left their strong position in our possession we pushed through the gap after them meeting their rear guard and skirmished immediately after passing through Dalton Ga driving them until night capturing some prisoners made 15 miles & bivouaced for the night. On 14 marched up and fought our

way into a position in front Resacca Ga under heavy artillery fire Two Brogades of our Division driven back by rebs. But Genrl Hooker fell on to the advancing fox and soon hurled them back with severe loss to rebs. On 15 the whole Army in line around Resacca right resting on Oustanala River and left on acrofs the RR cannonading heavy all day in afternoon Genrl Hookers corps made a charge taking four guns riffle pits some prisoner and small arms that ended the day. On 16" first orders we received was to march out as the rebs had gone from Pasacca which we found true they burned RR bridge acrofs the Oustanala River. I suppose seventy five long but our train came in by 10 AM and the bridge corps said they would have the bridge done in 48 hours but I believe it took them 144 hours we mad eight miles with some skirmishing and bivouaced for the night. On 17" 18 & 19 fought our way along the RR through Calhoun, Adairsville Kingston & on the evening of the 19" took Cafsville distance made in the three days 28 miles our lofs in our Regt very light the rebs built rail works ever few miles to resist our advance but these we would charge and take with little lofs. 20" 21 & 21" Army laid still near Cafsville Ga On 23" the Army started with twenty days rations and left the RR to our left with the intention of flanking the rebs out of the Altoona hills. the 23" 24" 25 made 35 miles over hills and skirmished nearly all the time in eve of the 25" came up on the rebel works and Army their left resting on Dallas Ga and their right in direction of RR. We got our Army into line and cannoaded skirmished and built works until June the 5" when in morning we found the rebs had gone rained most ever day laid still the 5" of June On march the 6" made nine miles & bivouaced for the night laid there the 7" 8" & 9" within three miles of Seworth(?) Ga where our trains came ever day.

On the 7" I was assigned to the command of the 80th Ills Inftry in our Brigade there. Field officers are all in Libby prison Richmond Va but since I have seen an account of their being sent to Charleston ScC to be put under our own fire. On 10" of June we started on march again. My Regt in advance of Brigade met the rebs ibn four miles and found them on Lost Mountain and in be-

hind works. Skirmished there 10th 11th 12th 13th & 14th and occasion cannonading this is the place one of the Batteries of our Division killed Lt Genl Polk. On 15th found the rebs had left during the previous night but by skirmishing through the woods we found they had only gone about a mile behind the works and we got up in front of their works again and went to work fighting and making works laid there the 16th on 17th found the rebs gone again and we on pursuit found them within a mile's skirmishing & cannonading behind works built works and fought there the 18th. On 19th in morning find the rebel ditches evacuated again and Yanks in pursuit drove them to the Kennesaw Mt. there found them in force strongly fortified their lines oo in rear of their lines is Marietta Ga here fought charged and cannonaded until the morning of the 3rd of July when we found that the rebels had gone and we started on pursuit & skirmishing all day through Marietta Ga and made six miles and found the rebs again in position behind works. On morning of the 4th of July all seemed very quiet untill noon then we were ordered to make a charge all along the line to take the rebels first works The 80th was on the left of the Brigade and in front line of our Brigade and we had to charge over a cornfield where the corn was two feet high nearly a half mile this we did under heavy fire of Artillery and Infantry and carried the rebs first works capturing some rebs and killing some the 59th was in this charge on the right of the Brigade four Regts in front line. Genl Sherman watched our Brigade charge and complimented it highly lofs on the 4th in 80th 16 killed and wounded Henry James Kelley among the dead and 21 wounded out of 232 taken into the fight in 59th 3 killed among the wounded was Lt David F Rorhammër that used to be my Orderly Sergt that is all I suppose you know Dabid not dangerous in side but gone to hospital. On 5th found the rebs gone and came to this position our corps on left of line and on Chattahoochee River no rebs in our front to disturb us our right is on the river also and the rebs also form their line inside of our on North side of the river I suppose when we get rested up we will start and cros the river and flank them out of this position we are now 8 miles from Atlanta Ga. The lofs from the Army since the 3rd day of May 1864

and Macon RR which I suppose the rebs can not run their trains on now as we are within canon shot range therefore they have no RR to get out on, and only an open space from Macon and Atlanta Road to the Atlanta and Decatur Road the distance you can measure on you map. We have very good earth works all around our front and I suppose Sherman's intention is to keep lapping around them and if they will stay long enough finally to get them surrounded but that is only a vain hope we have as it is a very difficult matter to surround an army but if we succeed we will make a big haul when they surrender. This campaign has been a series of skirmishes and battles the rebs would halt and form a line of works then we would have to skirmish up within musket range of their works and build works under heavy fire of Artillery and small arms. The losses of the armies both of rebel and ours have been very large since this campaign begun but I know the rebel loss is the greatest. Genl McPherson was killed on the 22nd of July when his three corps the 15" 16" & 17" had a very hard fight here getting into position. Total union loss in wounded killed and missing three thousand five hundred (3500) and ten (10) pieces of Artillery Rebel loss prisoner's captures 3200 known dead of the enemy in front of the 15" 16" and one Division of the 17 Corps 2142 The other division of the 17 Corps repulsed six assaults of the enemy before it fell back which will swell the loss in killed to at least 3000 after the fight we held the field then figures are official also captures (18) stands of colors and (5000) stand of Arms. On the 20" of July the 20" Corps One Division of the 4" Corps and part of the 14" Corps was engaged. Total union loss in killed wounded and missing 1733. In front of the 20" Corps there were put out of the fight (6000) rebels. 563 were buried by our own men rebs permitted to bury 250 additional themselves. 2 Division 4" Corps reported seven assaults of the enemy and slight loss to themselves which must swell the rebel loss beyond 6000. Prisoners captures 300 and seven stands of colors. No report has been received from the part taken by the 14" AC this is all Official Today finishes my first three years, when I went into the services I had no idea that I would be in service in /64. You say wheat crop is good Oats excellent and

corn looks promising. What is the price of Wheat Oats and corn and what do you suppose corn will be worth this winter. I have some young horses at home I don't like to sell and they tell me they have been offered \$200 for my two year old and think I had better sell as corn is going to be very dear this winter what say you. Money is no object I got more than I know what to do with and U S owes me \$900.00. Jack dont write to me. I was assigned to command of 80 Ills on the 7th of June they had Lt Col out of the 75th Comdg them at that time but the Brig Commander and Lt Col had some words and Brig Commander relieved him and put me in command and I have been with them ever since they are in smae Brigade with 59th Their Field Officers and most of the line Officers were captured on the raid with Col Streight in spring of /63 and are still in prison. Our fourth was celebrated with a fight Our Brigade charged and carried rebel Riffle pits and built works there charged over an open cornfield 80th 59th Ills 3rd Ind and 77 (?) were in fro line I lost in 80th 15 wounded and two killed and 59th lost 3 killed and fifteen wounded Henry James Kelley of Ev E was killed Lt David Korhammer was slightly wounded and is getting well. Capt Knight is back sick Lt Wagner has not come up since he got his leg broke in Centreville Lt Gooding is hearty and Comdg Company. Company is all OK. I must refuse your invitation to the melons Washington news is old but good it assists the recruiting We are all getting along hugely although occasionally aroused by a rebel shell write soon love to family Roe

XV.

Dear Brother & Family

Headquarters 80th Ills
Camp Near Atlanta Ga
August 25 1864

I received your letter bearing date Aug 16th on the 24th was very glad to hear to you as I had heard from home and they said you was sick. I suppose you will have a letter before this reaches you answering all your questions. But I will answer some again for fear you don't receive my last. Land to speculate on is the kind I want, or money invested in bonds which ever you think best. Uncle Sam

had one thousand Dollars (1000.00) of mine when I left home from Furlough. Perhaps he has it invested for me if so all right if not I suppose he can furnish it to you without any inconvenience But if he should need it let him keep it. As for being a stranger in 80" and wavy from home you are slightly mistaken as it was made up in our district and I knew a great many of the boys at home. The Adj't and I are old Shurtleff schoolmates. The 59th Ills has been transferred to the 2ond Brigade 3 Division 4th C so Col Post can take command of that Brigade. When they left both the Col & Lt Col tried to get me relieved and the officers of the 80th tried to keep me so did Genrl Grose commanding our Brigade The Col's of the 59th applied to Genrl Stanley comndg 4th AC to have me and all the men of the 59th send back to our Regt. Genrl Grode heard of it and wished to keep me, therefore he went to Genr Stanley and had the order made out relieving all the 59th in this Brigade except me who (Genrl Stanley said) should remain in command of 80th untill their Field Officers were exchanged and returned to the Regt. The Lt Col and Maj is all they have and are exchanged and at home, but I inderstand are both sick and perhaps some time before they arrive here. Your discouraging news is all a hoax the day's that you mention there was no fughting that I know of more than usual. But one thing certain Beauregard is not here. And Hood is still in command and we have whippd him severly every fight since he has taken command. His lofs is treble our's since he took command. we know this as we have buried nearlt treble their dead that we have of our own. Rebel reinforcements are very scarce. Kilpatrick our Cavalry Genrl has made once round Atlanta he says we only lack about four mile having Genrl Hood surrounded. Our lines are supposed to be twelve miles long We are all very confident of capturing him if he stays long enough and he cant now get out without giving us a fight in open field or where we will have the advantage, and then we will give him a good threshing. We could take care of him and 20,000 reinforcements should he receive them. You speak of State fair and sanitary fair at Decatur I would like to attend both, but I think I shall defer it. You speak of soldiers living well from proceeds of sanitary

Fair. they do in hospitals but the boy's in ditches never get our rotten teeth filled. Our position here is same as when I last wrote excepting our position on the right has been extended to the right some distance we have been very quiet in our 4th AC but we have good prospects of a move now which I suppose will come of tonight. George Goodner I have not seen. I must close love to family and friends as ever

Your Brother Roe

XVI.

Dear Brother & Family
Headquarters 80th Ill Vol Camp near Atlanta Ga Sept
18th 1864

I received your letter of Sept 5 on yesterday evening. It finds me camped quietly with the remainder of Gen'l Shermans grand army around the captured city of Atlanta. My last was written on the 25th and on that night Gen'l Shermans army marched from their ditches swinging around the west side of Atlanta, all excepting the 20th AC which fell back to the river, there to guard our cracker line. We marched till two o'clock that night, then bivouaced for the night. Next morning the 26th, the rebels found the Yankees gone and immediately reported to Rebeldom that the Yankees had been compelled to raise the siege of Atlanta and fall back for grub and to protect our communication which Gen'l Forrest was then making grand havoc with. And also, we had detached one corps to threaten their communication which Gen'l Hood had sent two corps to gobble it in. Upon the strength of all this good news, all the rebel ladies south came upon their trains with their baskets of sanitary to give food and army a picnic. Now I shall return to the Yankee army and show you what they were doing.

Marched 10 miles, skirmished a little in our rear during the day. On the 27th marched five miles, had plenty of green corn and sheep meat to eat. My regt was on picket duty that night but found very little opposition to our advance. On the 28th made the Montgomery railroad five miles below Rough & Ready and ten below Atlanta. This we destroyed by tearing it up and making two piles of ties

far enough apart to lay the ends of railing on their make a big fire under the center of the railing of Rails and pile some ties on the top. Then when the railing got red hot, they would bend almost double, in that way rendering them entirely uselefs and burning the most of the ties.

On the 29th still destroying RR all day

On the 30th made amrch of five miles in direction Macon RR Met no opposition. On the 31st skirmished with enemy, some lofs. None in 80th. Marched 6 miles, struck the Macon RR and bivouaced for the night. On 1st Sept we begun to destroy RR in the same manner as we did the Montgomery. Destroyed 10 miles. In the evening came on one corps of Rebels. Our 14th AC commanded by Genr'l Jeff C. Davis charged them, capturing ten pieces artillery & 1700 prisoners. The Brogade the 80th belongs to was in the charge but too far to the left to reap any benefits or suffer any lofs. That night rebels skedadled and we marched into Jonesboro. On the 2d at 10 Genr'l Slocum with 20th AC marched into Atlanta finding they had destroyed 8 locomotives, 80 carloads of ammunition and shell. We followed them to Lovejoys made a charge but found a heavy force there. I lost two killed and four wounded in the charge. Laid ther after building works until the 5th when we withdrew after dark and marched back to Atlanta, which place we arrived on the 8th. Have been here ever since. I find I have become very lengthy and now must turn to your letters and asnwer all inquiries. As for the land investment I suppose you buy for the best, we expect to be paid soon, then perhaps I may have a few hundred surplus again and will send to you by way of Belleville. I see St Clair is crowding you with visits. I have heard nothing of Angie & Ma moving to Alton. What is J .B G. going to do since he has been mustered out? Tell me, how is your fair also all about the investment. Love to you and family and all enquiring friends, I remain as ever your most affectionate Bro. Roe
P.S. Direct 59 Ill VV Inftry "" Brig 3 Div 4th AC Dept Cumberland. Our Regt has been changed into that Brig as Col Post has command of Brig. The Lt. Col and Maj of 80th have been exchanged and I expect them back every day. Then I will return to 59th. All OK. fat and saucy. Roe

XVII.

Dear Bro and Family

Headquarters 59th Ill VV Inf. Camp near Huntsville Ala
March 13th 1865

I received your letter of Feb 19th a few dyas since. We are quietly camped around Huntsville yet but expect to move this week. The 4th corps ids going to Knoxville, Tenn, I think to watch Lee if he should leave Richmond and strike for east Tennessee. We are having fine weather excepting the rain occasionally. Rivers are very high here, carrying away all our temporary bridges and therefore have our RR communications cut off for some time. But it is in running order now. We will go thru to Knoxville on the cars, all excepting our wagons which will be guarded through by some brigade. I understand that will be a brigade from the 1st Division.

Your 149 Ills is now in our Department and we expect to see it soon. I say hurrah for your assisting in filling tyour quotas but not in favor of the big bounties. I say draft first every time. You tax by making bounties. us soldiers that have been in the field ever since the war begun to save some men that have never done anything. Also our mothers and fathers that have all their sons in service have to help pay the tax. And when we come out who have stood the hard knocks, we received nothing. And now to pay us, we have to be taxed to pay men for one year that come in on the eleventh hour. *Grofs injustice.*

Jack and I have good health. Do with my money just as you please. I will be satisfied. I remember the baby but I had forgotten its name if it had any when I was home. Jack is very well satisfied with his new position.

I can recommend the country around Otterville, Sedalia, Tinton, Syracuse Mo. as being splendid and about such climate as St Clair Co. Ills. It is only about 25 miles from Booneville, Mo. Also Springfield and between Springfield and Otterville Mo. The mail is being made up so I will close. Love to all the children and yourself and Caroline. Jack sends his love to all.

J. Roe Stookey
Major 59th Ill VV Inftry

it the ranking Capt is Capt Hale 2nd is Paine 3rd Stookey 4th Snyder there are the candidates and if it is left to a vote of the officers of the Regt I think the 3rd stands as good a chance as any but if it goes by promotion the 1st will get it according to rank. but as this is all mere speculation & we may all gwt killed off in next fight and never have any promotion but we shall all hope for the best. I suppose you are all attending church to night while I am engaged in writing. Our Chaplain has left us he resigned & we have no church now sometimes I go to hear others in other regiments As I have nothing much to write I will close give my love to all the Family I hope Caroline is well by this time. Sergt Charles Wagner has returned from home he has been recruiting since August but only got three recruits. Serg Joe Beaver has been detached witha pioneer core and is now Commissary Sergt My Sts are both enjoying good health as well as my self and all my company so good night J M Stookey

VIII.

Dear Brother & Family Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
Jan 24th 1863

I am once more seated for the purpose of penning you a few lines in answer to yours written Jan 2nd 1863 which I received a few days ago. Well I have been in one more hard fight & come out safe. We laid in camp near Nashville until the 26th day of Dec 1863 when the whole army began the advance toward Murfreesboro. The right wing which we are in commanded by Maj Genrl McCook moved out on the Nolinsville pike Genrl Davis Division in advance Col Post Brigade in advance of the division & the 29th in advance of the Brigade our Regt was soon throwed out as skirmishes on both sides of the road and discovered the enemy after we had gone about 5 miles from camp & drove them with our skirmishes until drove them into Nolinsville where they were heavily reinforced & secreted themselves in the houses & Col Post then brought up the 5th Wisconsin Battery commanded by Capt Pinney & he opened on them with shell & cannister

which was soon answered by a rebel battery then Col Post formed his Brigade in line with the 59th on the left & Col Carlin threwed his Brigade into line on our right & we then moved and soon drove them from the town capturing one gun & several prisoners our loss was some six or eight killed & wounded their loss I know not how much it was. That morn we sent all our wagons tents & camp equipage to Nashville & had nothing with us except what we carried and that was a shelter tent each two & haversack with three days rations, and as the day was rainy day & night we had rather a hard time. Next morn the 27th the 59th was detailed as rear guard for the Division train rained all day some skirmishing in advance division arrived at Triune distance about 5 miles from camp & 20 miles from Nashville. Next morn 28th was a beautiful sabbath day & we laid still in bivouac all day drew three days more rations.

On 29th started on the march again our Bri gade in advance excepting some Cavalry we took the dirt road leading from Triune across to the Murfreesboro pike which we reached by night distance 10 miles. Cavalry in our advance had very hard fighting our lines were all formed that evening in connection with the Army which we that evening formed a junction with. Next day 30th we commencing advancing in line of battle our Brigade was formed on the extreme right of the army the 74th & 75th Illinois in advance & 22ond & 59th as reserve. Our Regt was detailed to guard our Battery 9th Wis, & we therefore followed its movements all day.

The fighting become tolerable general all along the lines bu 2 O Clock PM excepting in our front & we was not engaged untill late in eve & then our Battery opened on them but with veru little effect as we were in a very thick cedar forest & could see nothing. Our Regt was lying down on the right of the Battery, about this time a rebel Battery opened on to us giving us rather a cross fire but Genl Johnson moved up his Division & formed on our right & opened his Batteries on the rebels and soon silenced their Battery, but by this time came on to us and we laid on our arms in line of Battle all night. next morn the 31st as soon as it was light enough they

begun firing on our skirmishers & made a heavy attack on our right driving Genl Johnson before them before he had his Batteries in readiness. then that caused us to throw our whole line into position on the advance so then we had no reserve & we had hardly got our lines formed in an open field before we could plainly see the rebels moving up on us. We then formed on the left of the Battery & 22 2nd on the right of the Battery & opened on to them and as soon as they come within range we opened on to them but their lines were too strong for us & our fire only checked them momentarily & they still kept advancing & we received the order to fall back the battery lost all the horses from one gun & all but two from another the gun that had no horses was left on the field & our Regt helped to pull the others off of the field we was driven back about two miles forming several times and firing into the enemy untill we were relieved by other regiments & we left the field for that day untill late in the eve we was again formed into lines and laid on our arms all night. That day's fight was terrible all along the lines all day was one continuous roar of canon & musketry the hardest days fight of the war I suppose. Next day the 1st we laid along on the lines canon could be heard at intervals all day. On 2ond about two hours before dark they made a heavy attack on our center & left & drove the first lines but when the boys that were in reserve saw them coming they raised with a yell & hurled them like chaff in the wind but darkness stoped our pursuing them much that day. next 3rd we laid on our arms with some skirmishing. On 4th learned of the evacuation and moved back into camp where we laid several days & then moved into this camp where we have remained ever since. The casualties of our Regt was about 80 killed wounded & prisoners seven killed in all. My Company lost none killed two prisoners & some six only slightly wounded. I had been acting as Maj ever since the 25th untill a few days ago. My horse was twicw shot & I was compelled to let him go he has since died None of the boys were touched that you knew I must close this for the mail soon starts give my love to all & write soon

Capt James M Stookey
E Co 59th Ills Inftry

The baggage & company bank(?) of all the Officers was started up to us on the 30th & rebel Genl Wheeler's Cavalry got into it & burned the whole train of 200 wagons & so all the officers of our division lost all their clothing except what they had on

IX.

Dear Brother & Family Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
April 17th 1863

I received your letter bearing date of April 12th 1863 on the 15th which had made a very quick trip & I now embrace the present opportunity of answering it although I am sorry to say I have nothing of importance to write. We have done nothing lately but drill & do pickett duty. We have been lying around Murfreesboro ever since the fight except a few scouts we have been on. This is the longest we have ever laid in one place since we have been in the service. We have eat very little idle raions for Uncle Sam. We have the Pay Masters now they are paying in our Division for the months of January & February but have not got to our Regt yet, but I suppose will begin next week that seems to be the report now. We have very pleasant weather now it is beginning to become in the midle of the day rather uncomfortably hot.

Ever one that writes to me lately wants to know how I am or how Jack suceded in having me appointed as Provo Marshall. I can say that Jack sent a recommend forward for me strongly endorsed by Belleville men & also by State Officers at Springfield to Hon Lyman Trumbull & he endorsed it & forwarded it to President Lincoln & wrote to Uncle Sam of his proceedings & further stated that he thought that would receive the appointment. But further than that I have heard nothing. I think it rather doubtful whether I will receive that appointment or not & further I am not very particular as I have a very good position here and very well satisfied with it, & understand my business perfectly & if I should receive the other appointment I should have to learn the duties appertaining to

that Office. Which I suppose are rather laborious. But I think I would soon make the Copper heads think they had a Picayune Butler No 2 to deal with. I will assure you that I would not have very much Sympathy for them. I have fought Rebels too long to be very Sympathetic.

My Orderly D F Korhammer has received a comission as Second Lt of Co 2 of the 59th which I was very glad to see him get as he has been a faithful & good soldier since he has been in the service. He is rather a good scholar & a beautiful pensman & has always done all of my company writing. You will let Jo Benson Goodner know of this next time you write as he and D F Korhammer was particular friends Charles Wagner is now Orderly Sergeant of the Company & makes a very good Orderly. I supposed you was in Decatur by this time but I see by your letter that you have not moved yet. Do you think you will like to live in Decatur as well as in Bloomington? Or are you changing because it is more convenient to your farm and you can do better financially? I think the the latter is the case. I saw a D M a few days ago from Decatur who belongs to the 21st Illinois he had been home on a leave and saw Uncle Sam in Decatur & he told him to be sure and call on me and tell me that he had swa Uncle Sam his name was Jones. He stated that ever thing was advancing in prices and that money was plenty. And that all the houses were filled with Families & he said were he had known most ever one he was now most an entire Stranger. I see you give some prices that seem to be very exhorbitant. I am very sorry to hear of the ill health of the Eyman Family, & of Jin Eyman's misfortune You seem to think that Genrl Bragg will try Rosey again if he does try him at this place, he will be the worst whipped man he ever was & his Army will be of the same fix we want no better fun than to whip Bragg here with Rosey as commander. The capture of Charleston is among the thing that is to be & I see that our Ironclads have concluded that they cannot take it with what Fleet they have. Vicksburg seems to be too hard for Genrl Grant & I fear will neve be taken. You have given me a list of prices I will furnish you a list of prices here Potatoes 5 Dollar per bushel Eggs 50 ctc per Dozen

Butter 75 cts per lb can peaches in quart cans \$1.50 cts per can other can fruit the same applies small four for a quarter Whiskey done up in bottles \$1.50 cts per pint Lager Beer 10 cts per glass & scarce at that every thing else in proportion I have a pr boots I gave 12 Dollars for pr pants 15 Dollars for coat 33 Dollars for Shoulder Straps not extravagant 8 Dollars that's the way the money goes pop goes the Weasel I must close good night

Roe Stookey

X.

Dear Brother & Family

Headquarters 59th Ills
Camp Near Winchester Tenn
July 14th/ 63

I received your welcome letter a few days ago and am now seated for the purpose of answering it. I had supposed that I had answered it & am very certain yet that I did and the letter was lost some place. I will now give you a short account of our trip here as you will see from the heading of this that we have changed our home. We left Murfreesboro on the morning of the 24th of June & marched out on Shelbyville pike. Johnson's Division in advance of us and Sheridans in front of them that constitutes the whole of McCook's Corpse on Shelbyville pike. But when we got six miles out, Johnson's Division & Davis Division took a road to the left leaving the road to Sheridan. We did not find any Enemy untill we came into Liberty Gap & there Johnson's Division had some very hard skirmishing, but drove the rebels without Davis' assistance. On 25th we did not moove forward very fast but Johnson held the advance untill late in the evening when the rebels made an attack on him & Our Division went up to their assistance. Our Brigade was deployed in line in a open wheat field but was not engaged although some rebel shell and solid shot went whizzing over close enough to warn us that we were in Danger, but Luckily enough for us none of our Brigade was hurt. That night we advanced in line about half mile and occupied a hill which Carlin's Brigade had driven the rebels from. first day's march 13 miles second 3 miles On the 26th we had orders not to advance but

hold our position. That day there was a cracking of Musketry kept up by our skirmishers on both sides. They would talk & laugh and yell all kinds of Way's at each other that day but nothing transpired of importance some few skirmishers wounded none in our Regt.

On 27th we commenced rather a retrograde moove by going back to the Manchester pike and comeing into the rear of the main part of the Army. But we did not begin this untill we found that the rebels had all disappeared in our front during the night. We arrived at Beachs Grove about sun down & went into camp Dis marched 15 miles On 28th we started off again early and arrived at Manchester at 12 O clock at night Distance 12 miles. I must stop now and say that we had rain ever day since we left Murfreesboro & the ground was as soft as it is in the spring after the frost first leaves the fields, & as we had considerable train we had very hard times getting them through, & perhaps you imagine we felt any ways nice after being thoughorly drenched ever day & very short rations & the broad canopy of the heavens for our roof at night & hard marches with heavy loads occasionally out a wagon that was mired in mud, but as I happen to be assisting our Lt Col in command of the Regt I have a fine sorrell horse which carries me over the mud very lightly But the rprivates they have the hard times but I heard no complaints.

29th & 30th we remained in bivouac near Manchester. On 1st of July we started for the rebel string hold Tullahoma not knowing that it had been evacuated untill we got nearly there. We came in on the road that was commanded by one of their strongest forts & slashed timber for mile in front & each side all around the town almost. They had the town Fortified on all sides & some very strong forts but for some cause they evacuated without giving us fight which I can assure you pleased us very much. I suppose the reason they evacuated the place was fearing we would surround them & capture the whole Army by regular approaches the same as Grant had Vicksburg. Dis from Manchester to Tullahoma 12 miles. On 2ond we marched on in pursuit of rebels our Brigade was in rear of the train Sheridans Division was in advance

& had some considerable skirmishing at Elk River, where the rebels burned the RR bridge. We have the cars running now to Elk River & the bridge will be completed by Sunday & the cars come to here. We bivouaced on night of 20nd at Elk River Dis 10 miles next morning we marched in here and have been here ever since. Dis 4 miles. During all this time we have had rain ever day. On account of rain our trains did not do as expected & we were very short of rations & have not got any too plenty yet. At Tullahoma we captured all the rebels tents 4 siege-guns & some corn meal & what else I am not able to say. On account Bad weather we run over & burned rails so much that we destroyed all the crops & stole all chickens & robbed all smoke houses & I suppose the citizens now are nearly starving. We are now situated in a valley in sight of Cumberland Mts in a nice little village of 3000 inhabitants before the war now about 1000. I hope this letter will meet with better success than my last I wrote. So for the present I will close give my love to all the family
yours respectfully J Roe Stookey

XI.

Dear Brother & Family

Headquarters 59th Ills Vols
Camp Blue Springs Tenn
April 20th 1864

It is just one month ago to day since I received notification that the Regt would be at St. Louis and that I left on morning train for St Louis without even haveing time to bid any of my Friends "Good Bye" except our own Family that was at home. When I arrived at St. Louis I found tha Regt had got there that night about midnight and were all waiting then to get aboard the steamer Jennie Deans that was going to take us to Nashville I went aboard found the Officers all that were not on duty enjoying the comforts of a huge hot stove in the cabin. I gave all a hearty shake of the hand introduced them to Jack, and we soon enlarged the circle by two. Col Post soon came up to me and introduced me to his Sister Miss Bunce & Miss Disbrow ladies he had with him taking as far as he could comfortably. I had several gay times with