

42nd Ind. Stuckey

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn.

1-8-1863

Jan. the 8th 1863

Dear wife I again have the pleasure of sending you a few lines to let you no that we are yet alive and well through many _____ and hope these may find you and viola ar^{enjoying} ~~enforcing~~ good health the great battle of Murfreesboro was fought and we won an inpersible Victory we was in the fight on Wensday, Fryday and ~~on Fryday~~ ~~Snight~~ we was ordered out and pickets and on a Saturday we was atacked only in the morning there was three batteries playing on us and a large force of infantry and cavalry the Batterys was within one hundred yards we could here the rebles commandere cursing the gunners telling them to aim low the dam yankeys is laying down we was laying behind a breastworks of Stone on the burnes bursted all around us 2 and the solid shot ploud the earth for rods round the loss was non killed but several wounded we was _____ to rally on the railroad by Franklin as we did so but the enemy had gained the ground _____ we had N _____ retreat the last we could. Franklin surendered himself Lt. Teammahan and the privates the loss of our regt. was seventeen killed sixty three wounded _____ in all one hundred and htirty over thekilled, in Co. K. Warrick H. Clifford and Kinaldo Edwards poor boys fell early in the action when firing like men wounded Jasper M. Martin Alvis Ashley Franklin H. Ross George Thompson John Colman T. M. Neves and Lieut. E. M. Knowles there is several returned to duty Wills Brown run and only fired his gun but twict he was seen the next day about to miles 3 from the battle groun and never have been seen since I will write again soon and give you t the detail of.

Lost a good pen that I give two dollars fifty cents and found a revolver that is worth twenty five dollars I will send it to you by Killpatrick when I he goes home the loss of our men was heavy we now occupy the town the enemy has retreated it is supose they will make a stand at Taler House thirty miles distance tell father I came out safe never was hurt neither was _____ I send my best respects to all hoping to here from yo soon I received two letters from you to day

Yours forever

W. R. Stuckey

W No 1

William

Dear Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn.

January the 20th

My Darling WIFE _____ of writing a few lines to
let you know that I am in Tolerable good health and hope these may find you and viola



18-1863

Stuckey
42nd Ind

Camp Near Harper's Row Tenn
Jan the 8th 1863

Dear Wife I again have the
pleasure of sending you a few lines
to let you see that we are yet a
live and well through many
of you are here the army of
you and Meade are enjoying good
health the great battle of
Monter's Cross was fought and we
won an imperishable victory we
was in the fight on Monday
Tuesday and on Friday night
we was ordered out our pickets
and on Saturday we was attacked
only in the morning there was
a battle of position our line
along foot of mountains and cavalry
the Battery was within one hundred
yards we could hear the rebel
commanders cursing the gunners telling
them to stop how the damn
rebels was laying down we
was laying behind a breast work
of stone with bombs burst all

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we round us and the solid
Shot plowd the earth for
rads round the loss was now killed
but several wounded we was oried
to rally on the railrode by
Franklin as we did so but the
enemy fire caused the ground
to be so hot that the light
of Franklins surrounded himself
the Seaman and the
privats the loss of our regt
was seven killed sixty
wounded missen in all
one hundred and thirty and
the killed in Co K Harick H
Clifford and Rinaldo Edwards
poor boys fell early in the
action of many private like men
wounded Jasper M. Martin
Davis Ashley Franklin H
Rods George Thompson John
Colman J. M. Knowles and
Jimmie E. M. Knowles these
in several returned to duty
Wells Brown run and
only fired his gun but twist

he was
about to
battle grown
from Silver I
soon and give
Last a good
give two Dolla
found a real
twenty five do
it to you by
when I had
of our men we
occupy the T.
had retreated
will make a
Honor thirty
the father
never was here
I send my
to all hoping
you soon I
from you to
Yours

Wm. H. Miller

1-20-1863
St. Louis

Dear Cousin

of writing at all times to let you know
that I am in tolerable good health and hope
these may find you and Viola and all our friends
at home enjoying the best of health we have had
a very hard time since you I wrote you the last letter
we went on a scout on the 13th and arrived here
back on the 16th the hardships we saw is indescribable
we went to a place called Little Town nine miles from here
and there was a ~~thick~~ ~~mass~~ of ~~men~~ ~~and~~ ~~horses~~ ~~and~~ ~~artillery~~
was supposed that it was only a Brigade of Cavalry
our Regt only consisted of one hundred and twenty
seven then we lay on our arms all night and the
next morning we fell back to Salem five miles
from this place where we lay for two days in
the rain and mud and since that time I have
been very poorly having a very bad cold I received
your letter of the 4th and was glad to hear from
you and would have wrote to you sooner but my
head hurt so that I was almost blind
So you must excuse me for not writing sooner
I suppose you have heard more about the Battle
than I can inform you of if the Dead is
Buried it is of late there was success on the

field last Saturday for I saw them I
 went to see Franklin Ross and Jasper
 M. Martin and to carry their knapsacks
 to them I was glad to see them as well as
~~they were~~ they are tolerably well wounded the most
 dangerously I was sorry to see Frank leave
 the field as he is my old favorite friend
 and feel as nigh to each other as brothers he is
 wounded in the shoulder and Martin in the
 bowels and arm both no doubt will recover
 but never will be fit for duty there is fore
 of missen but these we have never heard from
 J. S. Tyner Wm. A. Keith and James Barker
 all goh well and it is ~~supposed~~ they are
 taken prisoners while Willie Brown is absent
 he was seen run of the field and was seen
 the next day and seen at Nashville he is
 but little though of in Company K. I tell
 you he is the damnest coward I ever seen damn
 the fresh they fight like hell we didn't a
 make any thing of them in the long run
 for they whiped us like hell the first
 day or wednesday to me made them smell
 thunder after that we didn't give as big
 a victory as you will here our loss is great
 and no one is able to give a correct account
 the sufferings of the boys is to bad to
 describe we lay for three days on our

No 3

big belly on the mud and rain
 without any things to eat our suffer
 was great you would hardly believe
 me if I would tell you that I eat with
 at ~~the~~ ~~of~~ a horse tho I wasnt ~~the~~ ~~only~~
 one the thousand beside me eat of it I thought
 It was as good meat as ever I eat but I
 often shudder when I think about it there
 was three horses killed in a few rods of
 our Regt they was hardly down kicked
 where the boys commenced skinning and eating
 we was sent out on picket on Saturday
 after the battle of Wednesday we run the Rebels
 out of a strip of woods we was attacked early in
 the morning with a heavy force of Rebels they open
 opened the attack with three batteries on in front
 and two was plugging on us at a crossfire the
 all of Cannons was so close to us we could hear
 the Rebels Commanders cursing the gunners
 and telling them to aim low for the our
 junkys is laying down frequently they
 would say give them hell we was laying
 behind cliffs of rocks I almost wished
 I was a mole and if I was I would have
 crawled in the ground we was ordered to retreat
 when we was raised up the draw Dunks
 was within a few rods of us we run like
 hell for a while the cannon balls flying around

1-20-1863

N. 4

us like hail and there was three Regts
of Rebels firing as fast as they could
and who will you say was the cause of
me getting out safe I think I can safely
it was by good running that got out
of that mornings flight me I lobber
Several good men that morning besides a
good many wounded I donot believe
that there has ever been such a battle
flight in a merica as the battle of
Sharpsboro. as for you writing to
Levi and Eli is now of my own
body also business I would like
you to write how Levi likes
soldaring you said that you had
the maid keeping her it was the first
I new that Susanah had give her
up. She said in her last letter that
she wanted to keep her all winter and
I wrote to her that she might and if
she needs the maid I want her to
have the maid you write to me who you
pleas I'll not cry I would be glad to
- here from Eli and Levi myself we will
be paid off in a few days I will send
you the money in the place of Father
if your father wishes to com to see us
they can com with all ease and if they
com send me a hat and pair of boots I wrote
to father to send me a pair of boots and he has
not

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1-8-1863

in
for
now killed
was carried
by
but the
ground
himself
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our regt
Sixty
in all
ty and
rich to
Edwards
in the
men
W. Martin
Klin H
John
and
these
to duty
and
but twist

he was seen the next day
about 10 miles from the
battle ground and never have been
seen since I will write again
soon and give you the detail of
Last a good pen that I
give two Dollars fifty cents an
found a revolver that is worth
twenty five dollars I will send
it to you by Killpatrick
when he goes home the loss
of our men was heavy we now
occupy the town the enemy
had retreated it is supose they
will make a stand at Tala
Homa thirty Miles distance
I father I come out safe
never was hurt mother was shot
I send my best respects
to all hoping to hear from
you soon I received two letters
from you to day
Yours forever
W. R. Stucky

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1-26-1863

Stuckey

Merfessboro Tenn. Jan. the 26th 1863

My Darling! I have the pleasure of writing a few lines to inform you that I am well and hope you and all there are enjoying good health. I have not received any letter from you for some time tho' hope to here from you soon. our mails is very unregular we get no letters and it is uncertain when we will get any Mail I expected to write yesterday but we had to go out on a forrigh expedition we left there at 11 AM and went twelve miles towards the enemy we had a large train with us and as it rained hard the day previous the roads was halter-able had we got in camp at nine o'clock at night I feel very sad this morning I was the tenderest yesterday evening I ever was in my life I tell you that I wished the war would come to a speedy close and didn't care how they fixed it so they will let me go home and if I ever get back home with you again it will take something more than a canal for volunteers to get me to leave home I hope you will be satisfied until I return and I hope

that may be soon for I am getting
 tired of the war and would rather
 be at home with you and Viola the hardships
 of our soldiering is great and I will
 be glad when this war will cease and
 I don't care how it is settle the great
 mass of the soldiering is tired over this war
 there was a vote taken on some resolution
 this morning asking the Legislature of Ind.
 to support the president and the Governor
 in all there measures and to vote money
 for the support of the Government and to
 force a vigorous prosecution of the war
 I am a compromiser man and all
 ways have been and I think that if
 all the big men at Washington had been
 as when I was at Perryville and this last
 battle they would have been keen to
 compromise this damn war I don't believe
 that there will be another battle fought
 by this army I am strong in the belief
 that there be a compromise before spring
 I think that we will be paid off
 in a few days tho the way they are
 going to pay for our clothes we will not
 have as much money as I thought I
 would tho if I pay for my clothing
 I know this time I will not have.

to pay into the next next payday
 we have mustered for pay last
 week I will send you the money
 and you can do what you think best
 with it has been raining for some time
 and the Frogs is singing sweetly
 and all natural looks like Spring and
 it makes me feel like I ought to be
 at home and I am in ~~good~~ hope I
 soon will be if suppos you have heard
 all about the fight as Miles Brown
 has returned home from the Battle
 field he nos nothing about it so he
 run after getting his gun but twice
 you I need not be take any thing he
 says for he dont no a thing about it
 if your Father wants to see a Battle
 Field he can see one by coming here
 I would like to go over the field
 with him it would pay him for
 all his trouble and the site of a battle
 is not everywhere to be found not
 such as this one is large trees cut
 down by the cannons I would be
 glad to have him come and see this
 us and to see the amount of troops
 here I send all my best respects
 hoping to here from you soon

1-26-1863

when you write write to the
first Division ~~1st~~ Brigade
42nd Regt Ind vol Company
in care of Captain James H
Masters

I will conclude by saying
I remain yours parent & yours
father to write to me

William R Stuckey
To Helen T. Stuckey

Mr William R Stuckey

Nashville Tenn Louis

1 Division 2 Brigade

42 Reg Ind vol Louisiana & Beal's

Co K

In care of Capt Las Masters

Mr William R Stuckey

Louisa, A. Beeson

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2-1-1863

Newcastle Tennessee Feb the 1 1863

Dear You again I
 take up my pen to send you a few
 words by the way of letter I wrote
 you a few lines last night and as
 I got another letter since I must
 write again I need not tell you that
 I was glad to hear from you for
 just now is your opinion I was
 glad to hear that all was
 well but very sorry to hear that
 Cornwall and that the how many
 the same as I see your health is
 very bad in the regiment George
 Thompson is sick but is getting
 better I hope he will soon be well
 you said you was sending a pair of
 pants and socks and a comfort the
 letter will be of no use to me I have
 plenty of socks and of the pants
 as for the Blue they will not
 let me wear them I sent to
 Father to send me a pair of Boots
 but he has not sent it and I dont
 care a damn if he does or not

now for him coming here I
 we he will not I have never looked
 for him I want to you often
 and if you don't get the letters
 it is not the cause that they are
 not wanted for I want often you
 whether I said that Mary said
 about two hundred I think if
 she had a man with her like
 myself she would weigh full
 three hundred tell Mary Slack
 when I get home she may hear
 the first boy who I will have
 to tend on another girl seriously
 there is plenty of girls in Tennessee
 now pretty little they are of
 some my best respects to all
 tell the children I would like to
 see them I got acquainted with
 a young man and the little fish
 but miss it like Morris anable
 hunted before long with soap and
 after I have not had paper for
 some time past time Mrs R. Stuckey

2-1-1863

Stuckey

Murfreesboro Tenn Feb the first 63

Dear Lady Hellen

I have the pleasure on writing a few lines to inform you that I am yet alive and well hoping you are enjoying the same I received your letter of the seventh and was glad to hear from you also that you was well I am looking for a letter Every Day I hope to hear from you soon there is no danger of an attack here tho we are throwing up breast works here there is some talk of us going back to Nashville to garrison that place I hope we may Rouben Rouben is left us and General Granger is in command of our Division there is a great difference between those two men we will take General Rouben in our all Day he is the man I was glad to hear that the main was fire and looked fine but can you tell me if she caught fire or not when I was a Boy boy she was all my pride I would give a heap to see her when I think how oft she has carried me by sparking and how good she has been to me I think that I couldnt live too good and if ever I get home

I will trust her all right and I hope
 how soon I may be there I see in the
 papers that the black ones out in
 Washington is playing hell a mazing I
 will never go into another battle under the
 present administration as long as they are
 determining to free the slaves the broods of
 other men that is the reason that we
 haven't conquered the south long since I
 have conversed with able and smart rebel
 officers they are all willing to be governed
 by the constitution but they are not willing
 to be governed by such abolitionist as
 is in the north as is now the new England
 States I will bring my letter to a close
 and hope to hear from you soon yours
 forever

William R. Sturkey

William
 William
 William
 William
 Mr William
 Mrs
 Mrs

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Correspondence of William Roberts Stuckey

William Roberts Stuckey (ca.1838-1864) was born in Indiana, son of John Stuckey, a blacksmith and a farmer. By 1850, John Stuckey had moved from Pennsylvania and Ohio into Indiana, and was living outside of Lynnville, Warrick county, near the Ohio River. (1850 Census, Warrick county, Hart twp., p. 381) William Stuckey married Helen Beeson between July 1860 when he was still listed as living with his father (1860 Census, Warrick co., Hart twp., p. 81), and October 1861 when he wrote his first letter to his wife. Their daughter Viola was born no later than June 1862. In September 1861, William Stuckey, along with his older brothers John and Alexander, enrolled in "K" company, 42nd Indiana Volunteers. For the next three years, until his death in August 1864, he wrote to his wife almost weekly. These letters make up almost all of this collection, the exceptions being a few letters Stuckey wrote to his parents and Stuckey's brothers wrote to Helen.

In the first months of his enlistment, Stuckey pronounced himself "well contented" with army life (11-14-61) and boasted that "we are the best drilled regiment in the brigade and have the largist likliest and cleanest men of all" (12-6-61). But army life quickly lost its attraction. In November, the 42nd moved into Kentucky where it stayed until mid-February. Stuckey saw no action during this time, but he noticed the civilian hostility to the Union troops (11-13-61) and became aware of the danger from guerrilla attack (12-29-61). In December, the first epidemic swept into the camp, striking down much of the regiment and claiming three lives a day (12-18-61). In early January, the soldiers

began to complain of the lack of pay, and many talked of desertion. Stuckey admitted he had been a fool to volunteer (1-3-62). A month later, still unpaid, he had the last of his money stolen. At the same time, he spent a day in the guardhouse for talking back to an officer (2-3-62). Loneliness also began to appear. Although Stuckey claimed he was "not a home sick a tol" (2-3-62), he described his brother as "very home sick I think if he gets home and sleep with his wife a wek or two he would get well I am not so home sick as that" (2-7-62).

At the end of February, the 42nd moved south to Nashville, Tennessee where the soldiers were promptly struck by typhoid fever: "our regiment is all sick and in the hospitle there is not but one hundred men fit for Duty" (3-6-62). Stuckey was one of the hardest hit by the fever: "I have had the Typoid feaver and when the fever broke I took down in the back I have been billious every since and have had bad Diare" (3-26-62). Because of his weakened condition, he was sent to a hospital in Louisville. The trip was a difficult one:

we had a hard time on the boat we had to sleep on the flore and there wasent any thing sent with us to eat but som hard crackers and som old rusty meat and grean coffee and no way of cooking it . . . we had nothing for fore days but what we bought and paid our on money for (3-31-62).

Stuckey apparently spent much of the next two months on furlough at home trying to recover his health. At the end of June he rejoined the 42nd in Huntsville, Alabama, and was immediately assigned to the hospital because of his still debilitated condition (6-28-62). A week later he was on duty, although still weak, and he expected his regiment to be discharged from the army before the end of the year (7-7, 7-17-62). In Alabama, Stuckey had a close look at slavery for the first time.

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He approved.

we have two Negros a cooking for our company and if we can get home this fall I intend to fetch two for to wait on you and two for to help me to work (8-15-62).

At the end of August, the 42nd moved north to Tennessee and Kentucky with Buell's army to cut off the Confederate invasion under Braxton Bragg. By mid-September, the long marches had taken their toll:

we have travailed till we have worn out our cloth out half of our Company is now without shouse and almost naked for other cloths (9-13-62).

A month later, at Perrysville, Kentucky, Stuckey fought in his first engagement (10-19-62), and at the end of the year, found himself in the Battle of Murfreesboro:

they opened the atact with three batterys one in front and two was playing on us at a crossfire the cannons was so close to us we could here the Rebels Commanders cursing the gunners and telling them to aim Low for the d d yankys is laying Down . . . we was laying behind cliffs of rocks I almost wished I was a mole and if I was I would have crauled in the ground we was ordered to retreat when we raised up the dam Deviles was within a few rods of us we run like Hell for a while the cannon balles flying around us like hail and there was three Regt of Rebels firing as fast as they could and who will you say was the cause of me getting out safe I think I can safely [say] it was by good running that [I] got out (1-20-63)

As the 42nd Indiana was preparing its winter camp near Murfreesboro, Stuckey was quickly losing interest in the Union cause (1-26-63), particularly now that he was fighting to free the slaves (2-1-63). In fact, he was to do little fighting at all for the next six months as the regiment remained encamped until June. Stuckey spent most of his time building fortifications and occasionally serving on guard duty.

In his spare time he read many novels (4-15-63) and tried to get his wife to send him apples which could be sold for a large profit in camp. (3-25-63). But hard labor and novels did not keep Stuckey from longing for home:

I wish I was at home with you to pass away in
 pleasure those beautiful bamy morning of Spring
 I hope that before the Elaps of Summer I will
 Enjoy the Sweet confort of my loving Wife when
 I look over the past 18 months it looks blank
 I have sackrifised all that was near and Dear to
 me and what have I Ganed (3-22-63)

Stuckey expected to be home in the coming months because of the frequent rumors that the men would all receive furloughs. But by April, he began to suspect that the promised furlough was a ruse by the high command:

we hear no more talk about geting furlous I think
 it was only to keep the boys in good cheer a Little
 Longer it stoped the Deserting a great Deal (4-7-63)

While encamped at Murfreesboro, Stuckey began to learn of problems at home. In mid-May he wrote that he had heard reports that solders' "Women was playing on them by Leting preechers Doctors and dam Cowards fool around them" (5-15-63). A month later, he became more specific, telling her that he had received word that she had frequently been seen riding with a preacher (6-21-63). Helen Stuckey apparently denied the charge, and began to pressure William to find a way home. In reply, he told her of the impossibility of a furlough now that the regiment was on the march, and in retaliation to her rumored past conduct, added:

As for geting home for Twenty or Thirty dollars
 just to sleep with a woman is plaid out I can get
 to sleep with them without going two miles from
 camp and with less than half the money and I never
 miss an opportunity (8-20-63).

By July, 1863 the 42nd Indiana was on the march again, moving into northern Alabama in August, and engaging in the Battle of Chickamauga

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in late September (9-25; 10-3-63). After Chickamauga, the Union army was penned into Chattanooga, living on short rations. Here Stuckey met his first Confederate soldiers:

we was on picket on fryday last and I stood in ten steps of a rebel picket I swaped coffee for corn bread with him the officers give us strict orders not to speak to Each other but we watched and when the officers wasent about then we had a good time telling the hardships we had endured while we have been in the Service (10-27-63).

The Union army broke out of Chattanooga at the Battle of Lookout Mountain (11-26, 12-1-63). Immediately afterward, the men of the 42nd began to be pressured to re-enlist as a veteran regiment. Through November and December, Stuckey repeatedly assured his wife that he would not re-enlist under any circumstances. As late as January 3, 1864, he wrote:

all the boys is going in the service for three years longer but I will assure you that will never point my gun at another Rebel while I am in the Service . . . I have no doubt you would like to see me but not so bad as to have me to re-enlis for three years longer no I love you to well to stay five years from you (1-3-[64]).

Stuckey re-enlisted the same month. He told his wife that he would almost certainly not have to spend any more time in the army than he would have without re-enlisting, that the regiment would probably spend the next year in Indiana, and that by re-enlisting he would receive a long furlough (1-22-64). He was right only on the last point.

Stuckey's visit home seemed to strengthen his marriage, and in the process, to make army life even more unbearable. Shortly after returning to his regiment, he wrote:

I would give all I am worth and you know thats mutch if I was at home to stay with you for Ever I have an ashurance that I can get out of the Service and I intend get out if I can (3-14-64).

By the time he reached Nashville, he had devised his plan for getting a discharge:

I will inshur you that I will be at home in fore months I have the ashurance that I will have the assistance of Liut. Johnson in getting out of the service I have pro-cured medicine sificient to reduce me to almost nothing in a few days I also have the good will of doctor M^CGines (3-19-64).

By the end of April, Stuckey was too sick to be on duty, and expected to be discharged shortly (4-28-64). But when the regiment moved out of camp early in May as part of Sherman's advance into Georgia, Stuckey was sent to a Nashville hospital where, without his medicine, he began to recover his health. While there, he was offered a job as a hospital orderly which he could keep for the rest of the war, but his desire to return home was so strong that he preferred to return to his regiment where, he believed, he could receive an early discharge (5-12-64).

Stuckey rejoined the 42nd Indiana by mid-May, and in the following weeks repeatedly vowed that he would not place himself in danger. Even after returning from six days on the skirmish line, he wrote "I am confident I will not go in a battle I have not so far got in danger and I dont indend to" (6-3-64). As it became increasingly clear that a discharge was not imminent, Stuckey began to consider getting a commission in a black regiment (6-28, 7-4-64).

there is a great many felows that has got commitions in the colored Regiments as has sent for ther Wiyes and will have a fine Time . . . I could go back to Chattanooga rent a house or move in some Empty one get my hundred and Thirty Dollars live at home with you and have a general good Time (7-4-64)

A few days later, he wrote that he had given up the idea of applying for a commission, as he expected to be home soon. (7-7-64). On July 23,

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Stuckey wrote his wife that he had been slightly wounded in a skirmish near Atlanta, the first time he had been injured in battle. On August 7 he was killed.

In the last letters in the collection, two of Stuckey's relatives in the army wrote to Helen to express their regrets at William's death (8-20, 11-10-64). They spoke bitterly of their family and neighbors in Warrick county who had preferred the Confederate cause to the Union, and had constantly denied the value of the soldiers' sacrifices. Alexander Stuckey also of the 42nd, Indiana contrasted their behavior to that of his brother:

they wrote letters to me abusing the principles for which I have staked my life so often & for which Brother lost his. Could those who preaches treason have been by his side to have heard him say (I die, happy, I lay my life down for my country, and in a good cause). (8-20-64).

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19 Oct 1862

Camp on the March Oct the 19th

My Dear love I have the pleasure of writing to you once more I am best of my health considering circumstances and I hope that these few lines may find you all enjoying good health I received from you a letter dated Sept 28 and one from your mother on the 2d I was glad to here from you once more it was the first time that I had heard from you for one month I have not wrote mutch as I would have liked to tho we have been marching for the last two month we have had a finght since we left Louisville it is called the battle of Perryville Alexander and I went threw the battle safe and unhurt the Loss of our Company in killed one Oliver Busenham Wounded 8 tho slitly we are 4 miles on the other side of Craborchert tho expect to leave here to day some thinks that we will go in camp I hope they may we are a hundred and five miles from Louisville our company is reduced to about twenty-five men we have not slept under tents for since we left Huntsville while we was is the fight I lost my blanket and haversack I captured a secesh haversack it don me till I draud one I have don without one ever since last out of the field I was in the hottest of the battle all the time Oliver was killed by my side as we retreated up a hill he was struck with a ball in the back he fell and ask me to help him but there was no place to stop and help wounded men the secesh was in all over that ground in few minutes the rebels treted him with respect our dead they stript of there shoes and blankets and other close I had you Portrait in my shot Pouch a bullet struck it severing it from one end to the other I never seen your likeness agan tho I feel lost without it I hope that it will not be long till I can see your lovly face once more never to part until Death Tell your mother that I was glad to here from and that I will answer her letter as soon as I get time I send my best respects to all Send your letters to Louisville Ky 42 reg Excuse me for the present Write Soon

William R. Stuckey

10-19-[1862]

Camp on the March 6th the 9th
My Dear Love I have the pleasure of
writing to you once more I can best of my
health considering circumstances and I hope that
these few lines may find you all enjoying
good health I received from you a letter dated
Sept 28 and one from your mother on the 2d
I was glad to hear from you once more it was
the first time that I had heard from you for
one month I have not wrote as much as I
would have liked to this we have been marching
for the last two month we have had a fight
since we left Louisville it is equal to the battle
of Perryville Alexander and I went through
the battle safe and unhurt the loss of our
company in killed one Clinch
Bushman Hunt and the rest of us are
4 miles on the other side of Crabs Creek
the report to leave here to day some think
that we will go in camp I hope they may
we are ~~about~~ hundred and five miles from Louisville
our company is reduced to about twenty five
men we have not slept under tents for since
we left Huntsville while we was in the fight

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I lost my blanket and haversack I
 captured a Scotch haversack it don me till
 I droned one I have don without one ever since
~~our requisit was first upon first was the~~
 last out of the field I was in the hottest
 of the battle all the time Oliver was killed by
 my side as we retreated up a hill he was
 struck with a ball in the back he fell and
 ask me to help him but there was no place
 to stop and help surrounded men the Scotch
 was in all over that ground in few minutes
~~the rebels treated him with respect our dead~~
 they strip of there shoes and blankets and
 other close I had your portrait in my shot
 pouch a bullet struck it severing it from one
 end to the other I never seen your likeness again
 tho I feel lost without it I hope that it
 will not be long till I can see your lovely face
 any more never to part until death
~~Tell you whether that I was glad to here from~~
 and that I will answer her letter as soon as I
 get time I send my best respects to all
 send your letters to Louisville Ky. H. J. 1862
 because me face the present ~~of the~~ Son
 William R. Dickey

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20 Dec. 1862

at Camp Gillet December the 20

Dear Wife I take pleasure in riting these few lined to inform you that i am well att the presant and I hope that you are enjoying the same. We left henderson on wedensday last and arrived here on sunday the first We had a cold time the nud was over our shoes for hundred yards at a time and some times the hills towering above the treetops - after we arrived here it snowed and got verry cold the snow is going of today slowly and the sun is shining I would like to hear from you and know whether you are well or not and to hear from Father and Mother and want you to tell them to write. Father can imagine what sort of a time we see now as he has been tried the Measles is in our regiment now and in the other regiments most all sort of disease is raging none of our boys has died yet there is one thing more I have to say to you let them that is contented at home stay there for the Soldiers life is a hard one ther is about 8 or 10 thousand men here now and we are looking for more here all the time

Wm. Stookey To Hellen Stookey

12-20-1862

Dear Wife I take pleasure in writing these few lines to inform you that I am ~~at~~ well at present and I hope that you are enjoying the same We left Henderson on Wednesday last and arrived here on Sunday the first. We had a cold time the mud was over our shoes for hundred yards at a time and some times the hills towering above the treetops - after we arrived here it snowed and got very cold the snow is going off today slowly and the sun is shining I would like to hear from you and know whether you are well or not and to hear from Father and Mother and want you to tell them to write. Father can imagine what sort of a time we see now as he has been tried the Measles is in our regiment now and in the other regiments most all sort of disease is raging none of our boys has died yet there is one thing more I have to say to you let them that is contented at home stay there for the Soldiers life is a hard one there is about 48 or 10 thousand men here now and we are looking for more here all the time
Yours truly
Wm. Shooky To Helen Shooky

Dear Friends it is a duty that all men should obey and observe that to write to friends now as you dont write to me i will to you and inform you that we are both well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the pleasure of life and living happy I would like to hear from all of the connection and from John and know what he is doing and whether he is sick or not I did not think he was verry dangerous when he left Henderson If you see Kit tell her that aloe is well and is getting fat and has not been sick since she was to see him there is a fight in contemplation now an attack on bowlinggreen is expected Buekner has about forty thousand troops there I have no more time to write so bid farewel
 John A. Stockey,
 Wm. Stockey,

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20 Jan 1863

Dear Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn Jan the 20th 63

My darling wife I have the _____ of writing a few lines to let you know that I am in Tolerable good health and hope these may find you and viola and all our friends at home enjoying the best of health we have had a very hard time since you I wrote you the last letter we went on a scout on the 13th and arived here back on the 16th the hardships we seen is indescribable we went to a Little Town nine miles from here and then was within three miles of the rebel camp it was suposed that i was only a Brigade of Cavalry our Regt only consisten of one hunderd and sixty seven then we lay on our armes all night and the next morning we fell back to Salem five miles from this place where we lay for two days in the rain and muc and since that time I have been very poorly having a very bad coal I received your letter of the 27th and was glad to here from you and would have wrote to you sooner but my head hurt so that I was almost blind so you must excuse me for not writing sooner I suppose you have heard more about the Battle than I can inform you of if the Dead is Buried it is of late there was secesh on the field last Saturscay for I seen them I went to see Franklin Ross and Jasper M. Martin and to carry there Knapsacks to them I was glad to see them as well as they was they are tolerable bad wounded tho not dangerously I was sorry to see Frank leave the Field as he is my old faverite friend and feel as nigh to each other as brothers he is wounded in the shoulder and Martin in the bowles and arm bouth no doubt will recover but never will be fit for duty there is fore missen but three we have never heard from S.T. Tyner Wm A Kith and Amos Barker all fought well and it is supposed they are taken prisioners. while Willis Brown is absence he was seen run of the field and was seen the next day and seen at Nashville he is but little though of in Company K. I till you he is the damnest coward I ever seen darn the secesh they fight like hell we Didnt make any thing of them in the long run for they whiped us like hell the first day wednesday to we made them smell thunder after that we didnt gain as big a victory as you will here our loss is great and no one is able to give a correct account the sufferings of the boys is to bad to discribe we lay for three days laying on our bellys in the mud and rain without any thing to eat our suffer was great you would hardly believe me if I would tell you that I eat the flesh of a horse tho I wasnt the only one tho thousand besides me eat of it I thought it was as good meat as ever I eat but I often shuder when I think about it there was three horses killed in a few rods of our Regt. they was hardly Don Kidken when the boys comenced Skinining and eating we was sent out on picket on saturday after the battle of wednesday we run the Rebles out of a strip of woods we was atacted early in the morning with a heavy force of Rebles they opened the atact with there batterys one in front and two was playing on us at acrossfire the Cannons was so close to us we could here the Rebles Commanders Cursing the gunners and telling them to aim low for the d----d Yankya is laying down frequently they would say give them Hell we was laying behind cliffs of rocks I almost wished I was a mole and if I was I would have crauled in the ground we was ordered to retreat when we raised up the dam Devils was within a few rods of us we run like Hell for a while the cannon balles flying around us like hail

and there was three Regts of Rebles fireing as fast as they could and who will you say was the cause of me getting out safe I think I can safely it was by good runing that got out of that mornings fight we lossed several good men that morning besides a good many wounded I donot beleaved that there has ever been such a battle fought in America as the battle of Merfeesboro. As to you writing to Levi and Eli is none of my or any body else buisness I would like you to wrote how Levi liked soldering you said that you had the mair keeping her it was the first I new that Susanah had give he up. She said in her Last Letter that She wanted to keep her all winter and I wrote to her that She might and if she kneeds the mair I want her to have the mair you write to who you pleas Ill not cry I would be glad to here from Eli and Levi mySelf we will be paid off in a few days I will send you the money in the place of Father if your father wishes to com to see us they can come with all ease and if them come send me a hat and pair of boots I wrote to father to send me a pair of boots and he has not

oppo
William

1-20-1863

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Dear General

My writing will sometimes let you know
that I am in tolerable good health and hope
these may find you and Viola and all our friends
at home enjoying the best of health we have had
a very hard time since you wrote you the last letter
we went on a scout on the 13th and arrived here
back on the 16th the hardships we seen is indescriba
le - we went 1 to a Little Town nine miles from here
and there was ~~with in three miles of a rebel camp~~
was supposed that it was only a Brigade of Cavalry
our Regt only consists of one hundred and sixty
seven then we lay on our arms all night and the
next morning we fell back to Salem five miles
from this place where we lay for two days in
the rain and mud and since that time I have
been very poorly having a very bad cold I receive
your letter of the 24th and was glad to hear from
you and would have wrote to you sooner but my
head hurt so that I was almost blind
So you must excuse me for not writing sooner
I suppose you have heard more about the Battle
than I can inform you of if the Dead is
Buried it is of late there was success on the

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field last Saturday for I saw them I
went to see Franklin Ross and Jasper
M. Martin and to carry their knapsacks
to them I was glad to see them as well as
~~they were~~ they are tolerable but wounded the most
dangerously I was sorry to see Frank Lane
the Field as he is my old favorite friend
and feel as nigh to each other as brothers he is
wounded in the shoulder and Martin in the
bowels and arm's both no doubt will recover
but never will be fit for duty there is fore
a mission but there we have never heard from
J. S. Taylor Wm. A. Keith and James Barker
~~all fought well~~ and it is supposed they are
taken prisoners while Willis Brown is absent
he was seen run of the field and was seen
the next day and seen at Nashville he is
but little though of in Campaign. I told
you he is the damnest coward I ever seen damn
the fresh they fight like hell we didn't
make any thing of them in the long run
for they whifed us like a ~~to~~ the first
day or Wednesday to me made them smell
thunder after that we didn't gain as big
a victory as you will here our loss is great
and no one is able to give a correct account
the sufferings of the boys is to bad to
describe we lay for three days sleeping on our

No 3

belly's in the mud and rain
 without any thing to eat our supper
 was great you would hardly believe
 me if I would tell you that I eat with
 the thousand besides we eat of it I thought
 it was as good meat as ever I eat but I
 often shudder when I think about it. There
 was three horses killed in a few rods of
 our Regt. they was hardly down killed
 when the boys commenced skinning and eating
 we was sent out on picket on Saturday
 after the battle of Wednesday we run the Rebels
 out of a strip of woods we was attacked early in
 the morning with a heavy force of Rebels they open
 opened the attack with three batteries one in front
 and two was plunging on us at a crossfire the
 cannons was so close to us we could hear
 the Rebels Commanders cursing the gunners
 and telling them to aim low for the our
 junkys is laying down frequently they
 would say give them hell we was laying
 behind cliffs of rocks I almost wished
 I was a mole and if I was I would have
 crawled in the ground we was ordered to retreat
 when we was up the draw Dunder
 was within a few rods of us we run like
 hell for a while the cannon balls flying around

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us like hail and there was three Regts
of Rebels firing as fast as they could
and who will you say was the cause of
me getting out safe I think I can safely
say it was by good running that got out
of that ~~smorning~~ flight me I lost
several good men that morning besides a
good many wounded I don't believe
that there has ever been such a battle
flight in America as the battle of
Sharpsboro. as for you writing to
Levi and Eli is now of my own
business I would like
you to write how Levi likes
soldering you said that you had
the maid keeping her it was the first
I new that Susannah had give her
up. She said in her last letter that
she wanted to keep her all winter and
I wrote to her that she might and if
she ~~keeps~~ the maid I want her to
have the maid you write to me who you
pleas I'll not cry I would be glad to
hear from Eli and Levi myself we will
be paid off in a few days I will send
you the money in the place of Father
if your father wishes to come to see us
they can come with all ease and if they
come send me a hat and pair of boots I wrote
to father to send me a pair of boots and he has
not

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