

Copies of Letters

of

John Truex

written during

The Civil War

1861 to 1863

Company D

82 Regiment

Indiana Volunteers

Captain Browning

Nov. 20, 1861

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to drop a few lines to you to let you know where I am and how I am getting along. I am in the 6 th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers and am getting along very well. I am very well satisfied with soldiering. I have tried it about four weeks. I volunteered the day I left your house and was sworn in the same day. It is true I would like to come back and see you all once more but would not stay away from the army. We have the finest kind of times out here. There is sport of almost every kind going on and we have plenty to eat and a good tent to sleep in. We have the best drilled regiment in Kentucky. Although there is about forty thousand troops near this place we have not been in any battles yet but we don't know how soon we may get into one. I made the best shot of any in Company G. We were out trying our guns the other day and I beat them all. We have rifled muskets to shoot with. I have not much of importance to write at present, so I will have to close.

Good bye

Write to me 6 th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers
in care of Capt. Moffet

Robert Palmer

to

John Truex

Nov. 20, 1861

Dear Friend,

It is with pleasure I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well, hoping these few lines may reach you enjoying the same blessing. I am very well satisfied and am doing well. I would not stay at home in this time of our country's peril but not withstanding I would like to pay you all a visit and stay a week or two but I don't know when I can get to come home. Tell Levi Shoemakers that I send them my love and would like to hear from them. I will have to close for want of room.

So good bye. Write soon.

Direct to Jesse Ault
 Company B
 6 th Regiment
 Indiana Volunteers
 in care of
 Capt. Prather

Jesse Ault
to
John Truex
and family

Evening
Aug. 27, 1862
Camp Emerson

Dear Wife,

I embrace this opportunity to let you know that I am well and gaining every day. Hoping that you are enjoying good health. We have not drawn our clothes yet. We were inspected this morning and those that passed will draw this evening or in the morning. I do not know when we will have to leave here, maybe not before next week. We are enjoying ourselves very well, getting as much to eat as soldiers could ask. The health is very good generally. There is about a thousand in camp and very few sick. Shumaker is as happy as a pet pig in a bucket of slop. Our boys are very sociable. I do not know whether I will get to come home or not. I want you to be faithful and still keep up the family altar. Bring the children up in the fear of the Lord. Tell Brother Morris to be punctual and try to keep the class together. I think there is a great responsibility resting upon him. We are trying to keep up prayer every day in the camp and three times a day for the rest of you that is left behind. I heard three sermons last Sunday one from our expected chaplain. I think he is a fine man and a splendid preacher. I don't want you to grieve after me. I believe that the Lord will protect me through and bring me safe home again. Joseph M. Skinner is in the mess with us. He is well and seems to be satisfied.

Bro. Pender is with us and is well. Write when you receive this and let me know how you are getting along and whether Ruth is at home or not, if she is not, I want you to get her there and try to help each other along. So no more at this time.
Yours in the bonds of congenial love.

John Truex

Good by my love.

Send your address to the 82 reg., Ind Vol

In care of Capt. Browning

September 4, 1862

Dear Wife,

I take the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present hoping these few lines will find all enjoying the same blessing. We are five miles south east of Louisville with the 81 & 87 regiments. The health is generally good in camp. The boys are all in good spirits. We've plenty to eat, water is a little scarce, very dry here this season. Very uncertain how long we shall stay here or when we shall get back home. Some of the war news is very flattering and some not so good. I sent you thirty dollars by the hand of Mr. Parmerle to Captain Adams. He is to send it to you. Sent by order of Capt. Browning. If it does not come to hand soon get someone to call on Captain Adams and get it. We've not had opportunity to send our clothing home yet. No more particulars. Be contented. Live religious. Endeavor to train up the children in the way they should go. Children, I charge you obey your mother. Be kind by affectionately one to another. I leave you in the care of God. I solicit the praise of all the Saints. Give my best respects to all in grieving.

Friend

Yours affectionately,
John Truex to
Catharine

Direct yours to Co. D 82 Regiment in care of
Capt. Browning

Sept. 13, 1862

Dear Wife,

I take my pen to inform you that I am well at present and I hope these few lines may reach you and find you well. I sent you 30 dollars and I never heard whether you got it or not. I sent it by Mr. Parmerlee to Capt. Adams and you can get it by sending for it. I want you to tell me if you got it. I will tell we have been force marched ever since we left Madison and we have been in no fight yet. The troops is pouring in here day and night. There is certainly vigerous military movements. Tell me if you have got your wheat thrashed yet or not. You wanted me to get my Likeness taken and send it to you but there is no chance to get it now. We have been out in Ky. about 2 days travel and returned here night before last. We do not know how long we will stay here. I am very well satisfied. I would like to see you but can not. I shall have to content myself by writing to you. Do not be weary about me. I am doing very well and I thank God that a man can be a christian any where and under all circumstances. You wanted to know if I was satisfied, well it is rather rough but I am very well satisfied considering everything.

We have some religious friends here: Plummer, Pender, Joseph Skinner, myself and James Weaver messes together. We are all very well satisfied, friends one and all. I leave you in the hands I am in, the hands of God, and I put my trust in Him, knowing that He is able to bring me off more than conqueror.

The reason we do not pay the postage on our letters is we have no sutler in our regiment and we can't get stamps.

No more at present.

I remain

Yours affectionately,

John Truex

to Cathran Truex
with love

September 16, 1862
Camp Gilbert

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity to inform you that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines find you all enjoying the same blessing. I began to think the time long to hear from you. This is the fourth I have wrote you and never received any answer. I want you to write and let me know how you are getting along and whether you received the money I sent or not. I hereby inform you that I am fully as well or better satisfied than I expected. I find I can stand soldiering far better than I expected. Don't be uneasy about me. I'm doing very well. We notice this mornings paper brings us good news. We've the best war news we have had in a long time. H ave had great victory at Munfordville. Our loss was 8 killed and 30 wounded. The rebels lost 700. In standing sentinel, I overheard our officers on the war question. They said its the desire to call soldiers again and again until the South is completely over run. There is now four regiments in this camp. Said to be seventy five thousand union troops in five miles of this place. The

report is a little uncertain. I stood sentinel last evening and could hear the drums and guns all around me. I stood one day at the ferry and our troops were constantly crossing. They are gathering in very fast. I think there will be little or no fighting here or near here. I want you to answer this as soon as it comes to hand. I would like to say that our religious liberties are somewhat limited. Sunday still comes down to our guard lines but it never has the countersign and don't get in. Our officers drill us on Sundays as well as Mondays. But we will serve the God of battles. We have quite a number of praying people in our regiment. Tell all the saints to pray for us five faithfully. Drill time. Don't forget to write. I do want to hear from home once more. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends.

Yours affectionately,

John Truex

September 29, 1862

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity to inform you that I am well at present hoping these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. We was looking for a battle here at Louisville for some time but have given it out. As I wrote before I don't think there will be any here soon if ever. We are too well fixed for them. We have about 12 or 14 miles of breast work thrown up and two hundred and fifty thousand troops here. The 6 & 22 Regiments are both here. I saw Aults boys & James Foreman last evening and Robert Palmer & others this morning. They were well. Robert talks of sending some money to you to take care of. If he does, do the best you can for him. I have not much to write to you only the boys are generally well. Tell Plummers that Richard and John is well. One or two things more I like to forgot, don't be in a hurry selling your wheat and other things. I think produce will come up. There is no farming going on here & the 6 & 22 boys says there's nothing left where they've been not enough even for the women and children. We just returned yesterday of four days picket, had but one days rations. Our officers kept us under one day then it would have made you laugh to see how we pressed provision in to serve. We've lived fat ever

since. Our Chaplain's name is McNoten and I think he is pretty near right, but not all the time. I have not had the privilege of hearing him preach but once since we've been in the service. Have not heard of but two sermons from him.

No more at present. Give my love to all inquiring friends. Reserve a share for yourself.

Yours affectionately

John Truex

Oct. 11, 1862
Garrard Co., Ky.

Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well and I hope you are. I will tell you a little of our time since we left Louisville. We started after Old Brag. We marched there in Bullitt Co., Nelson Co., Washington Co., Boyle Co., Mercer Co., Lincoln Co., Garrard Co. and we have not got to fight the rebels yet. We laid within a mile of a hard battle, if it had lasted an hour longer we would have been called in to it but dark came on and the fighting stopped and we was detailed the next evening to bury the dead. We got no tools to woek with and we looked over the battle ground some. I will tell you it was a distressed sight though our men did not suffer half like the rebels did. We could stand in one place and count from 18 to 20 in sight of us and the rebels laid in piles and their loss is supposed to be 4 times as large as ours. A view of the battle ground is a sad and horrible one. I would say to all my friends that I stand the service better than I expected. I am gaining so fast that I think I will be a young man by the time I get home. Thomas, my dear boy, I would like to see you but I must content myself by writing to you. I want

you to be an industrious boy, stay at home and carry on the business the best you can. Thomas, I think you had better stay at home and never come in the army for you would wish yourself at home a thousand times and that is all the good it would do you. Thomas, pray take your dear father's advice and stay at home and take care of the family and the place. Tell Brother Elledge to pray for me and write me a letter. Tell the friends to pray for us all. Richard Plummer and Pender is well. Give my love to all inquiring friends after you reserve your shares.

John Truex

Marion Co.
October 23, 1862

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I take the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present, hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. We are camped near Lebanon. We have had some very hard marching after Oald Brag. Run him and fought him to Crab Orchard then fell back to where we are. Our division was not in the fight. Ours is the first bregade and first division and I am held in reserve and I don't expect we will ever be in battle except the war lasts long time. We are all very tired but generally in good health. Plummer and Pender is both a little unwell and quite run down. I have stood the trip quite well except my feet have got quite sore. I have not much to write, we get no reliable news here except from home. I am gaining health though the earth has been our bed and the heavens our covering since we left Louisville. You may think it a hard way to sleep but I can sleep quite well, time passes off lively. I am as well satisfied as can be expected. I find a dissatisfaction in absents of my family, and roughness of society is disagreeable and religious liberties

so limited that no religious man can enjoy himself as he would wish but withal I shall not repine but will trudge along through this campaign with cheerfulness through the assistance of Devine Grace serving God with diligence. I have set a firm resolution to serve God better than ever I did before seeing the wickedness of the world. I am fully convinced that this war is a judgment that God has sent on our nation on account of this wickedness for I learn by reading His word that the wicked shall not go unpunished. I want you to still stand up to the work of the Lord, never cease to pray that even while you are deprived of my association you will have a friend that never will forsake, and my dear children, a word to you, I want you to remember the example that I have tried to set you when I was at home with you for you know not the weight there is upon my mind concerning your welfare. Oh, if I am never permitted to greet you in this world, will you all try to meet me where we will never have to part any more. I want you all to pray for me. I tell all my friends not to forget to pray for me for I feel that I need the prayers of all God's people. I can say that I ever keep you all in remembrance in my prayers. Tell Brother Elledge that I want him to write us a letter and tell us how the church is prospering and if I fall I want him to preach my funeral and tell the people that I fell like a soldier, I died at my post.

I recon I will close. Direct your letters the same as before only say by the way of Louisville. Write soon and as often as you can. I just have to write as I can catch it. So no more at present but

Ever your husband
in love
John Truex

Please hand this to Drusilla

My Dear Wife,

It with the greatest of pleasure that I now undertake to fill up this vacancy. I have not been very well for four but I have kept up with the army. We have made another march back south for distant 50 miles. We made it in three days travel. As I don't feel very well I will not write much. I received your letter that you wrote the third and was glad to hear that you was all well. As quick as we get settled I will then write you two or three more. I want you to write as soon as you can and let me know how the neighborhood is getting along

and if you have to hire thing done Bro Morris said
he would do it and toward paying for that horse
and tell him that I will mark him out if he don't
write me an answer to that letter that I sent him
sometime ago. I will make it all right about
them clothes. I want you to keep the clothes that
I wore myself but I sent several other things that
he had better keep and he can give you something
else that would suit you better.

Well as I am making such a poor out a writing I
will close by saying

Fare you well,
R. E. Plummer

Tuesday
Nov. 4, 1862
Cave Springs
Near Bowling Green, Ky.

My Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am in tolerable health though not well but I do hope that when these lines come to hand they will find you enjoying good health. We have marched since I wrote you the last letter a distance of ninety five miles and my feet gave out and after the first days march I could not keep up with the reg nor pack my gun. It is the foot that I hurt with the plow once. I am fearful that it will trouble me a right smart about marching. The health of the reg is only tolerable. John Pender and Lark White will likely get a discharge soon. We are in the prettiest part of the state that I have seen since we left Louisville. We past in four miles of the Mammoth Cave and are now in a region of caves at this time. There is two where there is streams of water runs through them. One is called Lost River. I would like to see you all once more but I do not much expect I will get to come home if I keep able to travel till the war ends. But I trust through the assistance of Gods Grace I will be permitted to see you again, if not in this world we will try to meet in fairer world than this. Don't let my absence grieve you. Manage the farm to the best advantage and above everything else live religious. Train up the children in the fear of

the Lord with an eye single to His glory that you may there by leave unto them a bright inheritance with a prospect of seeing them again on the sun bright clime. Here is a hard place to live religious yet I feel that God is with me still in the midst of all this wickedness. I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know how things is moving along and if you have got ary letter from Joseph Skinner. Since we left him I have got six letters that has come here for him, one that Ruthy had wrote but had not directed it right. I remailed them and sent them on to him. When you write to him direct to Park Barrick, Louisville, Ky. You must not put the name of regiment on it at all. It is getting late and I must close. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Tell them to write or I will think hard. So no more at present but ever remain yours with a husbands and fathers love

John Truex

Miss (Mrs.) Drusilla Plummer

Dear Wife,

After my love to you I can say that I am well though very much woren out by this miserable marching. Since I last wrote to you we have come 95 miles and are still under marching orders to Nashville, Tennessee I think. I have nothing strange to write,