

## John Truex Letters

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 6th 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 [sic] 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 6th 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

6th Regiment

Indiana Volunteers

In care of

Capt. Prather

Jesse Ault to John Truex and family

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 [sic] 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, 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 and 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] paper brings us good news. We've the best war news we have had in a long time. Have 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 [sic] 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 and 22 Regiments are both here. I saw Aults boys and James Foreman last evening and Robert Palmer and 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 and the 6 and 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 little of our time since we left Louisville. We started after Old Brag [sic]. We marched there in Bullitt Coe, Nelson Coe, 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 [sic] 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 [sic] Brag [sic]. 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 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 [sic] 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 with a husbands [sic] and fathers [sic] love

John Truex

Miss (Mrs.) Drusilla Plumme

Dear Wife,

After my love to you I can say that I am well though very much woren [sic] 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 John Pender was left back at Bowling Green. We was camped here last night about a half mile of the sixth reg and last night Wille Bright came over and stayed with us till bed time. He said that he saw you and you was all well which was very gratifying to me. It is very likely you have heard that there is some hopes of peace that is all the talk here now. You do not know how well I would like to see home once more but I must leave the matter with God who rules over all creation. I want this unholy rebellion put down that is what I left you and my home and children and layed [sic] my life upon the altar for was to restore the union. By this I may loose [sic] my life but God in His love I hope will carry me through. You wrote in one of your letters that Shoemaker said they wanted to discharge me and I would not have it but it is a mistake. He ask me how long my eyes had been the way they was. I told him as long as I could recollect. He told me to stand to one side. The next day he examined me again and somebody told him that I said I could beat anybody in the state a shooting which was not so and he told me that I could go after the second examination and that is all about It. Now Drusilla as I will soon have to close let me tell you at the last to never give up living religious. Keep them children in

the way that they should go for they may forget their Pa before I can see them. If John and White gets their discharge I will send you another and if they stay till we draw I will send you some money.

So I must close by saying good by my love for this time hoping to see you again.

R. E. Plummer

Nov. 8, 1862

Mitchellsville ,Tennessee

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. My health is tolerable. I'm a good deal lame in my right foot and have been ever since we left Crab Orchard but I am now getting better. We have marched one hundred and 25 miles since we left that place and almost 90 miles of that I was not able to march with the regiment. I received your very welcome letter last Wednesday and was very glad to hear from you that you was all well but would be a good deal glader [sic] to see you. It grieved me to hear that you had not received any letters from me for so long. I wrote four or five in that time to you. I have never missed but one week since I've been in the service to the best of my knowledge and sometimes wrote two a week. But I hope the time will not be long till we will be permitted to see each other again and enjoy each others [sic] society and when the wanted peace will be restored to our government again and when the boys may all joyfully return to their homes. O that God may speed the day when right and righteousness will prevail and when righteousness may cover the earth as the waters cover the channel of the deep. I hope these few lines may come to hand and find you all well. The health of our regiment is only tolerable. The measles, mumps, typhoid and camp fever is the chief complaints of our regiment. We are ordered to march Nov. 9. We have marched about 20 miles yesterday and today. I still remain well except my feet are both sore but I marched with the regiment. We are now camped near the railroad, ordered to move immediately.

Nov. 11, 1862

Gallatin, Tenn.

I again seat myself to conclude my letter. We have moved six miles and are camped again. I am still well and I hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have wrote this a good deal by the patch and must conclude. Do not think hard If you do not get letters often. Know we are now where we are hard put to it to get paper and may not get to write as often as usual. I have a great many more things I would like to write but have not time or room. So I must bid you fairwell [sic]. Take care of yourself. Write soon and often. Let me know how you all are. Give my love to all, reserve a good share for yourself. Tell them to write and let me know how they all are and what the news is for we don't get much here.

Respectfully yours,

John Truex

Nov. 24, 1862 A. D.

Mrs. Catharine Truex

Dear Wife,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present with the exception of my left foot its [sic] quite lame, but hope these few lines will come to hand and find you in good health. I have not heard from you for a long time. I want to hear from you very bad and would like much better to see you but must content myself by writing and will not repine. I am doing very well. We have got our tents and our coats and am looking every day for our blankets. We are pretty well fixed for winter. Don't be uneasy about me. I am doing very well about as well as if I was at home except family and religious privileges. We've had a fine spree of taking seashaish [sic] property. Last Saturday Cos D and G took 5 or 7 hundred dollars worth provisions and other things valuable to us. We have been in fine spirits

thinking the war would soon be ended. The rebels is very tired of it and was quite much discouraged when we first came to Tennessee but since the election has went off and the strife of the north has got scattered abroad I think I can see hope spring up in their countenance. They seem sasyer [sic] and many of our soldiers have been somewhat discouraged One thing I feel safe in saying the strife thats [sic] been and yet is manifest in the north has and will cause more deaths than all the south. I thought it before I came here and now it is confirmed more fully in my mind from what I've seen and heard. Tell the people for me if they won't help us to not kill us. I think if they knew what I know, they would persue [sic] a different course for I do know that every word spoken against our government or administration, if known in the south, causes the war longer and hoter [sic] and but little said but what they know and the story gets more favorable to them against it reaches them. I am sorry there is so much strife and division in the north for if they had been united the war would have been ended before this time I think, but I think if not too much opposed, we will conquer and close the war against spring. I hope the God of battles will be with us and guide us to His home and glory. I still say that I am traveling toward the better land. We still remain near Gallatin, guarding the R.R. I have many things to write if I had room but I hope the time will not be long till I'll be permitted to come home and tell you all about it. No more at present but remain your affectionate husband until death.

John Truex

Nov. 24, 1862 A. D.

Gallatin, Tenn.

Mr. Thomas Truex

Son, I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines will find you and all of the family well. I want you to be a good boy and obey your mother. Stay at home. Tend the farm. The support of the family lies mostly on you and your mother and above all things live religious, lay up your treasures in heaven, that If you see me no more on earth you may meet

me in heaven. Son, remember that without holiness of heart none can reach that happy shore. I would be glad to see you all but must content myself for awhile by writing. Hoping the time not far distant when we may enjoy each others [sic] society again around the fireside. I have not heard from Joseph Skinner for a long time and would be glad to hear from him. I want you to let me know whether you have or not and how he is if you know. Children, obey your mother, be kind one to another. I say to you all live religious. I must close my short letter by saying children remember your affectionate father. Meet me in the heavenly world.

Give my best respects to all inquiring friends.

Yours affectionately,

John Truex

Dec. 1, 1862

Camped near Gallatin, Tenn.

My Love,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines in answer to your two letters of the 20th and 22 to let you know how I am getting along. I am not very well today. I have been troubled with my old complaint disease for about 4 days but not severe. I have been able to knock around all the time and I'm a little better this evening. You must not be uneasy about me. I have had my health better since I've been in the service than I've had for 2 years past. Well, I suppose you've heard that John Pender is dead. He died a faithful servant [sic] of God and his country. The health of our regiment is rather poor. James and Elzy Wever is sick. I think James is not long for this world. He took cold and settled on his lungs. We think they've both taking the measles. Well, you said Nathen Huffman would clear that field for one crop if you would board him. You wanted to know what I think about it. Well, if he will clear it and take off his crop in proper time and not be lying round boarding off you and

doing nothing. I think it would best be the thing you could do but bind him to do it in a certain time and not give him more than one year to do it in, not 2 or 3 or 4 or when he pleases. You know how we have been bit by others on similar occasions but I suppose he will be honorable. Well, you said Bro. Elledge was trying to get the 2 classes together again. Well it would be very consoling to me to hear of them coming together again except John R. Wilson. I would advise ell the brothern [sic] for Gods [sic] sake keep him out while you are rid of trouble. So he was the cause of nearly ruining the class once, don't let him have another opportunity of doing so again. For if it had not have been for the trouble that he caused me to have I would not have been In the army today, for I thought perhaps it might relieve me of the trouble that was caused by the partiality that was showed toward him that caused the dissolution of our class, Well, we have no direct war news to tell you although I could give you a sack full of camp news and camp lies Is flying around here thicker than cow flies in Indiana. Yes, I had almost forgotten to tell you that Richard Plummer is well and hearty and tell old Father Aults [sic] folks that Martin is well and well satisfied and all the rest of the boys from salt creek is well except Wevers [sic] two boys, for Elza has got the measles and James is taking them too. So no more but still remain your husband until death. Give my best respects to all but reserve a good share for yourselves. Write soon. Yes, send me all the thread in your next lrtter [sic].

J Truex

Dec. 7, 1862 A. D.

Camp near Gallatin Sumner Co., Tenn.

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. I received 2 letters from you a few days past, of the 20 and 27th.

The first for 3 weeks. Now I've just received one of the 13th of Nov. and one from A. Foreman. I was glad to hear from you that you was all well. I was not well when I received the 20th and 27th but now enjoy good health. I have not been bad sick since I've been in service. The health of the regiment is very poor. There has been several deaths in our regiment this week. The boys are dying off very fast. I think its [sic] caused by our hard marching and exposure. Don't be uneasy about me, If I get sick I'll let you know. We have but little war news here except camp news, which is of no account. It would be a great satisfaction to me to see you all once more. But I must content myself by writing. You can not imagine the satisfaction it gives me to hear from you nor how I want to see you but if I never enjoy that privilege again, I hope you will forgive my many follies that has so often disturbed your peace. The time will not be long at fartherest [sic] if faithful, till God will say: its [sic] enough, come up here. It may be my lot to fall in the army but I feel that all is right if I do. But I'm not afraid of being shot by a rebel. I believe the God of battles, in whom I trust, will protect me. I have no fears of the enemy. I believe our cause is a good one and as long as I have praying friends I, with full faith, believe I'll not be slain by the enemy. Sickness may take me home to rest from labors to reward. But fall where I may I feel that all is well. Brother J. M. Wevers [sic] sons are both sick and in the hospital. I think James will never recover. Joseph Cauver is sick, was left at Bowling Green, Ky., have not heard from him since. I just came down from the hospital and James is very low and must die if left there. Elzy is bad off. Please send word to Brother Cauver and Wever. We have no special war news reliable. We've plenty of camp news. R. E. Plummer is well and I believe well satisfied as most of the soldiers. I say most of the soldiers for I believe most of them would rather be at home if they could, with our union restored and government again enjoying peace. May God speed the time when peace may again be restored. Will you pray for it and for me and all the soldiers? The Lord in His word says the prayer of faith shell save the sick. And will prayer prevail in behalf of our government. Give

my best respects to all inquiring friends especially Brothers Elledge and Plummer and family, Spaldings and family, P. Moore and family and I can't tell who all. Father Carmichael and all of the brothern [sic] and all the M. E. Brothern. [sic] Tell Brother Carmichael that Amos Is well. Please send me a little thread in your letters. A few thread in each, only a few in each, they will not make much bulk. No more at present.

Yours with a husbands [sic] love

John Truex to Catharine Truex

Excuse my scribbling and mistakes.

Dec, 22, 1862

Nashville, Tenn.

Davidson County

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present for which I have every reason to thank God. Hoping these few lines may find you ell enjoying the same blessing. We are now camped near the place above said, Nashville. Well now I will say to you I received a letter that Marion Plummer fetched and was very thankful to the Lord to hear from you and to hear that you all was well. I am truly glad end thankful for this blessing which the Lord gave me and it found me in reasonable health and for which I will ever give Him praise. His mercies has no end to them that love Him. We left Gallatin the 16, the same day that Marion Plummer left for home. We left about 1 o'clock and landed about dawn the. next morning. We camped about one mile from the town, Nashville. This is the finest and the nicest town I have seen and the best country, the best land, all looks mighty well. Some of the finest buildings I ever seen. If this war was over I would like to talk to the citizens here about this country but as this thing called rebel is in the way for I don't like them and they don't like us but they have to like us now because they can't help themselves. There is a good many of rebels around here but they have to keep still. We went on Grand Parade today for Grand Inspection.

It was a grand scene. All of our brigade was present only those that was sick. Our brigade is the first composed of 5 regiments and 4 present and passed the scene all right on the roar. The General's Staff inspected us I received that money that you sent to me by Plummer. I received 5 dollars and it didn't come amiss for I wanted it very bad for we all was out of money. We think we will draw before long. The health of the regiment is not very good at this time. Some is a quitting, better we can't muster now about 350 able for duty. The regiment took or got the measles in it and our company got them in it and we can't muster only about 30 for duty and when we left we could muster 75 all the time until we got to the Crab Orchard then our company began to fail. We had to march so hard and the dust was so awful bad. This was the worst but I think it is at the worst. Some of the boys is at Gallatin in the hospital. I think they will be up in a few days. We are looking for a grand battle in a few weeks. I was in hopes it was all done but I can't tell when this war will end. I sometimes think it is done but then I begin to think it will last till the 3 years but I hope it won't. I want you to write if the Weavers [sic] boys has got home or not. I heard they had but not certain. I can't tell hardly what to write to interest you more than I have. I still aim, by the blessing of God, to meet you in heaven, this is all that buoyes [sic] me up in all the travels and troubles and hardships that I have to go through while I am here in this lonesome state or unpleasant life for a christian [sic] man, but I think it is better for me than the ungodly or the unrighteous for I am prepared to die when the Lord calls me hence. Now my dear wife and children and friends and brethren in Lord and His church, I want all of you to pray for me while I am far away from you that I may be able to come home the Lord be willing and through His mercy I hope to meet you on earth again. I long to meet you and shake hands once more for this we must pray earnestly. The time passes by swiftly. Now I will tell you something of a soldiers [sic] life. The first is when we are wakened by the drum and fife, five o'clock in the morning, fall in line of battle in the time of five minutes or less time. We must lay with our clutterment [sic] by us nor mustn't mix them with anyone else's so we can fall in line quick, then to stack arms and then to quarters and keep on our rigging

until ordered here then we spend an hour In telling tails [sic] or talk about home or something else to pass off the time then all at once the drum will beat then in the line the colonel will holler double quick time, then to quarters get breakfast, then guard mount, then drill two hours in the forenoon, then dinner, then after eating drill again, this making 4 hours per day besides other duties. So this is all right enough for our health and to make us better soldiers and to be better able to fight when needed and to fight with some skill. So drilling is all right. I write it to let you know what there is to do and what must be done. Now this is a hard life in some cases then we see some good times with the bad, A soldier, he must keep jovial not down hearted nor grieve after loved ones at home. He must bannish [sic] this or as much as he can but this is hard for me to do for I love you dearly and this is a hard trial and a hard place but while it is hard I will make it easy in all cases I will bear it and try to lead others along in the right way. I will say something about Plummer. He is about like common as far as health is concerned. We all have a fine time here a talking. Plummer, he has his way. This keeps us alive when we would be dead or down hearted. If he wouldn't nor couldn't be here then we would be lost If he was gone. This is the times here. Plummer is well and wishes you all well, give his love to all. I have filled this nearly up and now I am at a loss what to write. Our brave has gone a foraging today. We aim to live off of them as much as we can. I believe we ought to take more than we do but we will make good our time more than we have done and I hope that we will take all from them. This I think would bring the war to a close quicker than anything else. We guard them too close. This is my opinion. I hope that our men will quit that way of doing but take all and more too if we can get it and that would be my way but I can't have my way in this matter but I give my opinion and I wish how quick this war will end I will do all I can to bring it to a close. I will fight when needed and take all I can get prisoners or any way else to do honor to my country and my God if necessary I will pray and do all that is in my power for my beloved country and to my friends that I have left behind to mourn over my absence. Now don't grieve after me, if the Lord be willing we will meet again in this world, if not we will meet I trust in heaven where we will

meet to part no more, So I want you to hold out faithful unto the end for at the end of the raise is the promise: life eternal. This is a great blessing the Lord has promised to them that does his will while here below. So I will say to you and all serve the Lord while you live. So I will bring this to a close requesting you to write when this you receive, Give my love to all inquiring friends So no more at this time. But still remain

Your loving husband until death

John Truex

Dec, 22, 1862

Camp near  
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Son,

I embrace the present opportunity of informing you that I am well at present. Hoping these few lines may come to hand and find you all well and doing well. I would like to see you all once more very well but don't know when I can. Duty seems to demand my service here and God only knows whether I ever will be permitted to return home again or not but I hope I shall return safe and sound. I received a letter from your mother and was glad to hear from you but would rejoice more to see you but I must content myself till my time comes. I want you to be good to your mother and the family and attend to the affairs of the farm well and try to lay up something for yourself so that if we get back near Louisville you can come and see us and spend a few days with us and of a few dry jokes to cheer us up. Now Thomas I will tell you we have had pretty hard times since we've been in the service. The 82nd has been trotted through. You was anxious to come in army but you may be glad you did not for you could not stand it. Our regiment has gone down a great deal since we left Louisville. Our company numbered 87 when we left and now we can only muster about 30 and balance of companies about in proportion. I have stood the trip about as well as any of the boys. I will tell you it takes the stoutest of men to stand the service, for the young can not stand it though they are ever so hearty. There was Elza Weaver, he took

sick and was started home but I do not know whether he got farther than Louisville or not. It would do you good to see this country for it is so beautiful. If I had a farm here and my family with me and the negroes was all on the other side of Jordan, I would like to live here the best kind. Thomas, I am sorry that George will not let you go a sparking. You had better wait till he gets big enough to go along with you then there will be no trouble about it. Now Thomas, as my time is growing short to write for we are ordered to be ready to march at daylight and it is now that time of the day I am looking to have to start every moment so I will give you some advice before I close. I want you to always respect and honor your mother so that If I never get back you may be a help to her in her old age and above all things remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Oh, how I would like to hear of you joining the church and devoting your time to the service of God that if I never see you on earth again may I have prospect of embracing you as my son in the Lord on the other shore. Remember these as if they were my last words. So no more at this time but ever remembering you in my prayers.

Your father,

John Truex

Dec. 27, 1862

Tenn.

Dear Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well, I can say that I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I received yours of the 12th on the 22nd and was glad to hear from you that you was all well. I am glad to hear that you are getting along so well and your industry in getting the corn gathered, but sorrow to hear that Brother Shoemaker has acted so inconsistent in letting the pigs destroy that at his house. He ought to have more respect for a brother than that, especially one that sacrificed his life for his interest as well as theirs, and the bargain was closed in the buckwheat trade for that was about the last he said was about that. But let him have it and only try the harder to get him to live religious for I had rather give it all to him than for him not to live religious, I may never see him again. And I may not see him any more on earth. Tell him for me to be prepared to meet me again in the better land. I am indeed both sorrow and vext [sic] to hear of the

degraded hate of that Tlafferd class, it is a pity that they would go so far. They ought to think that it is not only a scandle [sic] to them but it is a disgrace to the cause of God, and shame to a neighborhood for people to profess to be religious, to go to such a low called place as a dance. Why it is a place destitute of good morals let alone religion. But think He has truly said a bad tree bareth [sic] very sorrow fruit. And I can say further that the devil would have no better religion than that. You have truly said the old fellow has a great deal of influence not only there, but also in the army. While we are trying to put down this rebellion our officers is engaged in drunkenness and every other wickedness that could be immagined [sic] or some of them at least. And about your battle you had there on the ridge, I say let them fight it out. Its [sic] a pity they are any kind. Well enough this for the present, I would like to see you, dear, mighty well, but circumstances will not admit. You must wait patiently and prayerful and trust in God for the future. I trust through the mercy of God that I will get to see you again. But continue faithful the will of the Lord must be done. I must tell you that our govener [sic] gave us a splendid Christmas gift, he has sent us all an oil blanket apiece, which came at a very good time, for it has been rainy here since and they keep us as dry as kittens. I will send you a song ballad in this letter if it does not get too late to write it.

Though I am listening for orders to go to roll call. So I must close by saying: Fare well my love.

Write as often as you can.

Once a week if not oftener.

Write as soon as you get this.

Your affectionate husband,

John Truex

January 9, 1863

Friday

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Please hand this to Mrs. Catharine Truex

Dear Companion,

I, this day, take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and in tolerable health. I have a bad cold which makes me feel bad but except that, I am well and have stood it extra well. I received two letters last night and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was all well. These letters is the first I have received from you in one month. The mall has been stopped for sometime and that is the reason I

suppose but it is open now and will be from this on as long as we stay here. We started from Nashville the 2 of last month and marched about 5 miles and camped. The next day we marched 8 miles. The 4 day we came upon a bridge that had been burnt and the advance of our army made the first attack on the enemy. They run to Nolensville. There the 22 and the 3 regiments fought them for an hour and drove them from the town with no loss on our side. Now I will tell of our trip from this place, the bridge, here we stayed at the bridge and rebuilt it so we could cross it. The 28 we started at night and we marched all night and then for 4 nights and days we was on our feet and no sleep. The 28 of last month was the first skirmishing the enemy and we was firing for 3 days before a general attack was made. On New Years [sic] Day we took our place on or in the center of our line. The evening of the 31 we was ordered to join our brigade and we started on the field and while we was looking our horsemen made a charge on the enemy, they made a heavy charge on the right wing. We was on a ridge and could see them here. We was to stay to support the horsemen. They made a heavy charge just before sun down, it was a mighty pretty sight. They made them give back and while we was looking on, the rebels fired a cannon and the ball went over our heads with no damage to any one. Then there was several balls pass over but no damage done. Then we marched to camp for the night. The next morning, at one o'clock, we went to our place, all was calm until about 8 o'clock, then firing on both sides. This was on New Years [sic] Day and if I must say a new world to many of brave boys. Here fighting commenced until Saturday night it ended. Friday was the hardest in the afternoon on the left wing for about 4 hours a continual firing of cannon and muskets was heard, then yells of our men and the rebels A desperate struggle was made to brake [sic] our lines but all in vain. At sun down the firing ceased for a while then we in the center was ordered up. We had a small breast works. By this time it was dark but we were ordered to mount breast works, this was done then in line of battle for some distance then ordered to fire. Them in front of us fired and fell down on the ground, then we fired and did the same and while in this place the bullets came like hail over our heads but none killed on our side or our regiment nor brigade and only 5 wounded and them in our regiment, Company I. One get his finger shot off, Company C two wounded not dangerous, two others, I don't know what company they belong to, but one was very bad wounded, he was shot in the thigh and it was broke and the enemy say that we at that time ruined them, we more than mowed them down. This was all our regiment done. Now I will say the losses on the enemy side is 23 thousand and our is supposed to be 10 thousand killed and wounded. I never will forget this New Years [sic] Day. We gave them a mighty bad licking. It was the blessing of God that gave the victory. I give it all to Him and thank Him for His love and protection to us. So now I must close with saying, pray without ceasing, in all things give thanks, so if we meet no more on earth we will meet in heaven. I can't tell how long we will stay here or when I will be at home. So be contented and do the best you can and write often and I will do the same. I have wrote all the items. The health of the regiment is getting better. So I will close for this time.

I still remain

Your beloved husband until death

John Truex

January 20, 1863

Rutherford Co,

Camp near

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Wife,

With much pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am sick and in a private house that is taken for a hospital, close to the regiment. It is a very comfortable place to stay at. I have taken cold and it has settled on my lungs. I am getting better now and have not been dangerous. Have been here five days I yet feel to thank God that I am as well as I am and I do hope these few lines may find you enjoying the precious blessing of good health. I have wrote one or two letters to you since I have received any from you. I have wrote to you concerning the battle that was fought here. So I will tell you in this for fear you will not get it. I was in a battle that lasted for six or eight days and all this time with but very little to eat and exposed to the rain which was prevelant [sic] and no blankets to cover us of a night and then had to wade a river, this I think was the cause of my sickness. The health of our regiment is very delicate. I do not think there could be over 300 men found in the regiment able for duty at this time. The news has come lto us here that the pluguglies [sic] has begun to rebell [sic] in the north which has caused some excitement here in the army. Some swears they are going back to help them while others does not approve of their course of procedure. For my part I do not understand it all together. I want peace to be made and I want it made honorable and in accordance with our constitution but any other way would not suit me at all. I want you to write as soon as you can and let me know the opinion of some of your best neighbors concerning this thing that has taken place here. For it is a query to my mind. Now before I conclude, I will say to you grieve not because I am sick for the Lord will take cere of me in sickness as well as health and I am looking forward to that day when I shall be regaled within the land of Song. I want you to be faithful, and don't forget to pray for me. For want of room I must close. So no more but ever remain your affectionate husband until death. Be sure and write.

John Truex

Jan. 23, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Companion,

With pleasure I embrace the present of writing a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along. Hoping these few lines may find you enjoying good health. Well I can say that I am smartly on the mend. I feel tolerable well at present except weakness. I am in camp again but not able for duty. I expect to go to the hospital to sleep a few nights yet. Well it has been a long time since I've received any intelligence from you at all so I find it a little embarrassing to write not having anything strange. Well I can still say the health of our regiment is poor. This is the third or fourth I have wrote to you since I've received any from you but lest you may not have got them I will tell you in this that we have been in one battle that lasted near 8 days from first to last and we gave the rebels a tremendous [sic] flogging [sic]. Well I would like very much to see you again but expect it will be some time before I will enjoy that privilege for I can not tell how long this war will last. Well I have learned a little of late that is the south carries a badge of despoils on even the crown then fine buntings instead of having the eagle has the engraving of a bird that seeks the lonely desert thus representing their desire to be alone. So the negro question being the cause of this war is all a humbug. They make it a pretense but I am satisfied that it is only through pretense. The rebels want a government to themselves and a monarchical one at that. Well now I will tell you short but strange and foolish dream I had last night. Well I dreamed that I was traveling along a very pleasant but lonely road amusing myself with the works of God, As I slowly passed along by myself enjoying myself all alone free from war, all at once I was surrounded by a host of rebels and was taken [sic] prisoner. I made a tremendous effort to free myself from them. I made a tremendous bound exerting every nerve. I instantly found myself one hundred and forty four thousand geographical miles in another world inhabited thinly but with very pleasant people who looked on me pleasantly but with astonishment knowing that I was a foreigner while I was here gazing on the works of God joyfully amusing myself. Presently the thought of home came rushing in my mind. I sought to send them an address but finding no mail grieved with the thought thinking myself so far from home that it would be difficult to ever return and take a life time to do it. I awoke grieving about my family so I awoke and behold it was a dream. Now I can say I am glad that I am as well as I am and I do hope that the time may not be far distant when this war shall come to a close. That I may again return home to your embrace. Grieve not for me but look up to God and muster all the faith you can and pray for peace and protection. Will not God avenge his elect that cry unto Him day and night. Pray for me that God may preserve my life and keep my soul unspotted [sic] from the world that I may return home safe and sound for I know the prayer of faith will prevail

God will answer.

So no more at present but remain

Your Affectionate husband until death

Write goon and often as you can

John Truex

January 27, 1863

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

My Beloved Wife,

With pleasure I take this opportunity to let you know that I am increasing in health for which I have every reason to praise God. Hoping also that through His mercy you may be found, when these lines reach you, enjoying good health. I have not got any letters from you for some three weeks or more. I have wrote you four or five letters since I have got any from you. Our reg. is not in very good health at this time. We can't muster more than two hundred men out of the nine hundred that we started with. Now you can see that we have been run through the flint mill end foremost. The weather here has been some warmer than it usually was back in old Ind. It is wet, rainy and mud in abundance. The frogs has been, for the last week, singing their songs the welcome spring is coming. Snow is seldom. It snowed a little last night and this morning and the air is tolerable cold. Our officers has got up a petition to have our reg. sent back to Indiana for the purpose of recruting [sic] for 60 days but I do not know whether it will be done or not. If we do, I will probably get to come home. The news has also come that the people in the north has come to the conclusion that pease [sic] shall be made irrespective of the war department and the war department is endeavoring to free the negroes calling on the north to help them in so doing. Now I fear that this will leave us in a bad predicament not knowing where to center our hopes, I wish they could, just for the sake of government, lay aside their views on the subject and unite on the constitution and its laws then we may have some hopes of peace, that Is what I desire above all things. We have some fun here but if we happen to get out side of our picket lines it is not so much fun without we have a sufficient force to withstand the rebels for they are hanging around and when they think they can accomplish any thing they will make a dash. I want you when you write to let me know how you are getting along in the world for it has been a long time since you have wrote. I want you to write all you know and much as you anticipate I want to know how much you got for your pork that is if you have sold it and all other such things that you think would interest me and especially concerning your prospects of a better world. I want to say that I do not see you again on earth I expect to see you on the banks of Canaan where all our pleasures will be blest. So I will close for the present or I will say further that I have not got any letters stating your condition since the one you wrote about the wagon being broke some more

Yours truly

John Truex

Tell Miss (Mrs.) Prusilla Plummer that I am fully able to write but not able to get any word from her.

R.E.P.

Jan. 30, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Wife,

With pleasure I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well my health is quite delicate today but I am slowly on the mend. I have wrote several letters since I've been sick. I have not been unable to help myself but two days. But have been donsie [sic] about one month. I received one letter from you the 28 dated Jan. 13. It gave me much satisfaction to hear from you that you was all well and doing well. It was the first that gave me any intelligence, how you was getting along, for a long time. It is a great satisfaction to me to hear how you are getting along. Well, Catharine, don't be uneasy about me. Though I am unwell, I believe the Lord will do all things well. Though sometimes the way seems a little dark through this world, nevertheless God's word stands firm. All things shall work together for good to them that love God. True, sometimes I get a little impatient and sometimes feel tired of the service while unwell, but when I reflect on the promises of God, I feel content myself and again, with renewed energy, press my march onward. I have wrote so often about the battle and have received so few from you that I feel a little at a loss what to write. Well I will say that we've been in one battle, the battle of Murfreesboro, it lasted 7 or 8 days. The balls whistled pretty thick round us. I felt the wind of one burn pass my left ear. It felt tolerable warm. But not one of our company hurt and only five of our regiment wounded, one proved fatal. Company H also escaped with out getting any wounded. Well I can tell you the health of our regiment is very poor. We can only muster one hundred and forty men able for duty out of the nine hundred that started from Madison. The measles, mumps and yellow jaundice got among us at Gallatin. Our regiment has been going down ever since. We have the typhoid fever with us now, so we have been annoyed and are still annoyed. I will be glad to see you all once more and enjoy your society comfortably at our own fireside. But I desire peace above all other things that is on honorable terms and I hope the time not far distant when God will work out peace for us. But I must content myself for a season by writing to you. I must close by saying pray for me when it goes well with you at a throne of grace. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends, asking an interest in their prayers for me. Tell father Ault that Marten Is not very well. Amos Carmichael has got about well again. R. E. Plummer Is quite hearty. Fair you well my love for this time.

John Truex

Write soon, write often, write as much as you can for you can not tell the satisfaction it gives me to see the lines that you have penned. In one of mine I sent you few graines [sic] of millet and I send you a little more in this

Feb. 5, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Loving Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. Well, I am slowly on the mend and I do fondly hope these few lines may come to hand and find you all well and doing well. I received yours of the 3rd and the 4th of Jan. and was glad to hear from you that you was all well and doing well. I have wrote several letters to you since we've been here. We've been here one month tomorrow. We've had fine rest after the battle. We had pretty hard times while on the battle field but I didn't mind that, we had such a glorious [sic] battle, It far overpaid me for all. I am interested but I would rather have peace as anything else. You can not imagine the desire I have to see you, but I suppose I will have to wait till my time is out or peace made, for furloughs is plain out and taking fence furlough and desert is not my name, except I was very close home I might step over a few moments. I must confess that I never knew how to prize peace nor family society till now. Nevertheless, I shall not repine but trudge along through the wearisome journey, still endeavoring [sic] to trust God for grace and protection. Nor do I want you to grieve about me. Well, you said it has been a long time since you received any letters from me. Well, I believe this is six I've wrote to you within one month. And have only received two from you in 5 or 6 weeks. I think that there is something wrong with the mail or postmasters, but I hope the time may not be long till peace may again prevail and we be permitted to return home again. Well, I will tell you the seashash [sic] is deserting the enemy ranks daily and joining our forces. We've a new regiment partly made up of them, about four hundred of them in it. I think that we get as much help from them as deserts our army and if the rebs [sic] at home will just hold their peace I think the war will not last long. Well, we have not drawn any pay since we left Madison and the boys don't like it much. But we expect to draw soon but may be disapointed [sic] as we've been hitherto. Well, the health of our regiment is quite poor, we can only muster about one hundred and fifty able for duty now out of nine hundred that started from Madison. Our company can only muster 20 able for duty out of 87 and still going down. Joshua Younger, of our company is not expected to live more than one or two days. You can tell D. M. Plummer, he was acquainted with him. Well I would like to know what you and Drusilla Plummer has fell out about. If you are not too mad at each other, you can tell her that Brother Plummer is well and hearty. Well, I want to see you all very bad but I do hope it may not be long till peace will be made. I do not know that I could write anything more that would be interesting to you. So I will close by saying pray for me and write soon and often as you can. You can not tell what satisfaction it gives me to hear from you. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. Fair well for this time.

John Truex to Catharine and family

Feb. 11, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Loving Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along, fondly hoping these few lines may come to hand and find you all enjoying the blessing of good health. Well I have a pretty severe cold and some pain In my breast, back and head and my eyes is not well yet and I don't feel very well myself and my throat thinks its [sic] not very well and I have to cough considerably. Well with all this, if you would see me you would think I was happy as a jaybird. I am with the Co. but not able for duty but you need not be uneasy about me, I have worked when I've been worse than I am now. I received yours last evening of the 29 of Jan and was glad to hear that you was all well but grieved that you can not get my letters no oftener than you do. I have wrote from one to two every week since I've been out except in time of battle or on a force march when we had no mail. We have not yet any pay since we left Madison but expect to shortly for so long the boys has got quite much discouraged. Well our reg is gone down till it only numbers 140 able for duty and still going down. Several is gone to the spirit land, some have been discharged, some deserted while lie sick at the hospitals. Those things constoran [sic] me to groan within myself continually saying Lord pitty [sic] our doalful [sic] condition. I would like to see you ell once more very much but can not tell when but I hope the time may not be long. I do want peace above all things, may the God of heaven speed on the day of peace Oh that He would remove corruption. From authority I fear it in the hearts of men that holds the reigns of government I see but little else here in men of authority would to God they were changed from nature to grace and the power of sin and Satan unto God. Well I do not know what to think about peace being made soon there ls so much division in the north and the south knows it and it encourages them. We thought when we whipped so bad here that we would soon get through with the job but this bow-wowling around against the administration ruins almost everything, It encourages the rebels, discourages some of our men, kindles wrath In others while some are pleased with it. For my part I'm not in for fighting to free the blacks neither do I feel like grumbling so hard at the administration for from what I've seen I am quite certain if their slaves were taken from them they could not carry on the war long. The conscript has taken all but the infirm and squipt [sic]. They can oversee very well while the darkey [sic] does the work and thus the farming goes on as well as if they were at home and thus through the negro the rebels are fed. Now I would think it wisdom to deprive them of that food if possible. Though it might be wrong but McDonel thought anything fair in war and if fair I would guess it not far wrong now. Well when you write again I want you to let me know what has become of seashace [sic] Class. It does me a great deal of good to know how things are going in old Brown especially to hear from the church and to hear from you and how you are getting along both spiritual and temperal [sic]. I hope the Lord will grant you prosperity in your meetings again. Well I must close. Write soon and often as you can.

Yours with a husbands [sic] love.

Give my best respects to all.

John Truex

I send pretty in this to one of the little girls. Give to one the bucket, to another the eagle, and this to the other.

Feb. 13, 1863

Camp near

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear and Affectionate Wife,

With pleasure I take my pen to write you a few lines in answer to yours under a date of first which I received last night and was glad to hear from you though would rather have heard that you was in a good state of health. My health is not good yet though smartly better than it was when I wrote you the others. I do hope these lines may find you enjoying good health. You wanted to know whether I was able to be up or not. I have been going about all the time with the exception of two days, that was on the account of a dizziness in my head. I was so light headed that I could scarcely walk. The health is some better here though not good yet by any means. There has been some two or three died in our regiment since we came here and several that ought to be discharged for they will not be able to march any more. I do not know whether I will get able to travel any more or not. I am pleased to hear that the prospects of religion are beginning to be promising. I think that it was only going under a chastisement for the weeds that was growing among it. But now they are rooted up again. I think you will soon begin to flourish again with increase to your little stock if you will only keep an eye singled to the glory of God. O that I could enjoy again once more a happy meeting such as I have in days gone by. I am also glad to hear that I have been wrongly informed about the Plugs rebeling [sic] for I was quite uneasy about it awhile. There was so much talk about it here and some took a delight in harping over it. If their acts will run parallel to this oath, I bid them God speed and wish them success in their undertakings. That is one thing desirable, the constitution obeyed and the union restored in accordance to it. I think as much of a traitor to the constitution on one side as I do the other, God save me from either. You left off telling me the result of the research class, whether the dancers was burned out or not, please let me know in your next. I was glad to hear of the neighbors being well and, in all, you wrote me a good letter. I want you to write as often as you can, live faithful, trust In God to take care of you and the children. I hope He will permit me to return home to you again, if not we have the promise to meet in a better land. So I must close.

Yours truly

J Truex

John Truex to Catharine Truex, his wife, his love, his friend, his better half.

Feb. 19, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Loving Wife,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting. Well, I have been rather worse a few days back but once more find myself on the mend again. Why it is that we can't get letters regular from each other I can not tell. The Bellsville mail came in today, but no letter from you. I received one from Wm Lemley that he said you was well. I was glad to hear that you was all well but I would like to see you far better, But my hopes of seeing you soon is very small for I see no prospect of peace at all. I do not think the officers at the head of government is trying or has ever tried to make peace. The sesesh [sic] prisoners that we take say that they are fighting for the constitution and the citizens invariable declare they want peace and the old constitution. I have talked with several of them myself and I've heard others say they told them the same. Now if this is their motto which they declare most earnestly it is, and we claim the old constitution I can not tell for the life of me what we're all fighting for or why our rulers can't make peace. But I think I smells a mice. I see the darkey [sic] taken from his owner and sit upon a horse and placed a little higher than the private soldier. And if we refer to our law making department we hear negro negro negro argue to make peace. Thus my honest convictions are that the fear of God is not before their eyes. Neither the good of our country at heart as it should be. But enough of this, but oh the wickedness that is carried on in the army is enough to singe the world. A few days past our regiment went a foraging with some other regiments and Bro. Plummer and others say they broke open a poor woman's house that had one child and her man conscripted and took everything she had. Took her bed cut up the cord, burnt her trunk, burnt her bureau of drawers, carried off all her meat, in a word they left her nothing. I want you to do the best you can and above all endeavor to keep an eye singled to the glory of God. Pray for me when it goes well with you at the throne of grace. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends.

But ever remain

Your affectionate husband until death,

John Truex

Feb. 28, 1863

Camp near

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

My Dear and Much Respected Wife,

I once more take my pen to drop you few lines to let you know that I am not well. I think I am just about like I was when I wrote you the other. I hope these few lines, through the mercy of God, will find you enjoying the blessing of good health. I received three letters today from you, and one from Mr. Peter Moore and Sister Moore, and a few lines from Sister Martha Worly. I was glad to hear that you was all well with the exception of bad colds. You said that you was thankful to God for His preservative care. Indeed I feel that through His love and mercy He has thus far lead me on, and I am willing to trust Him for His protection in the future. Though I do not think that I will ever be able for duty anymore in the service. Yet I thank God that I am even what I am. And if I am permitted to return home He shall have the praise. If not, He has given me the privilege to prepare for any change that He will choose to make. I see that you have taken the hint, that I intended you to take, in reference to being mad at Drusilla, for it is sometimes the case that when one gets letter from home the others do not then we would like to hear from both in one. But I think that we have got started right now if you will just keep on. Now today I got three letters from you and Brother Plummer got none from his woman, but you must do the best you can. I trust that old Jack and old Dick will get home before long. If any of the children get sick you must not fail to write to me. Let me know where the soldiers were from, that stayed there with the measles. I hope that by some means there will be peace made yet. Them run aways told something near the truth, for the country here looks like desolation. Sure you said that you would be so glad to hear of peace, so would I. I could jump as high as a colts [sic] back, if I was not too old. The weather has been exceedingly wet here and very warm. Tell George that he must be a good boy to his mother till I get home. I would like to see him with the rest of the children. You wanted to know what to do with that millet seed, just treat it the same as oats or flax. It is for horse feed. I was sorrow to hear that Brother Night was sick. I do hope that he will be permitted to come to your meeting. If he comes tell him not to forget me. I fear that John R. Wilson will yet lose all of his property, his character cannot be hurt under any circumstances, for that has been sold for one cent. Well, will have to bring letter to a close by saying write soon. So no more for the present but ever remain

Your husband until death,

John Truex

March 7, 1863

Camp near

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

My Dear and Much Respected Wife,

With pleasure I take my pen to write you a few lines to Inform you of my health. I have to say that my health is rather worse than it was a while back though I trust that God will yet preserve unto a return home to my family. I have not got any letters from you for sometime better than a week. I have wrote you some two or three since and I do hope

that this one will reach you in due time and find you enjoying the great blessing of good health. As I have wrote you some two or three letters with out receiving any I haven't any thing very interesting to write to you at this time. The health here is but very little better than it has been. I believe if our Cap. was any account I could have a discharge. The Col. advised him to apply for me a discharge but he has as yet done nothing and I do not know that he will soon. There has also been orders issued to give furloughs and some troops has got them but I don't know that the 82nd will get any. It would be too much honor to get a furlough. We have drawed [sic] our pay for three months and a halves [sic] pay and more. I am waiting to see if I do then I can send it all together. I will send it in two or three weeks anyhow. Now, my dear wife do not give yourself any uneasiness about me. You know who to look to for help and for comfort, knowing that God is able to deliver me from all sorrow and pain and He is able with these light afflictions to work out for me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. I am a little in hope that I will get to come and bring my money home with me but you need not look for me till you see me coming. I may get to come and I may not. I want you to do the best you can. I hope to see you again but God only knows. His will must be done. Now I will close by saying do the best you can. Ever look to God for His blessing. O may He grant us a happy meeting one day soon or late as it may be. Well our regiment has just received orders to move forward. What for or where to I know not. They are ordered to be ready to march at a moments [sic] warning. But I can not go with them. Write as soon as you get this.

So no more.

As ever yours,

John Truex

March 8, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

My Dear Wife,

I thought of not sending any money home but our regiment is ordered to move and I have concluded to send you twenty five dollars. I am poorly yet and I will keep some to buy some little things that I can eat as soon as we draw some more I will send you some more. As I am in some hurry I will close for the present by subscribing myself

Your husband as ever

John Truex to Catharine Truex

[written on back of letter]

Mr. Peter Moore

Dear Sir,

I send you this money which you can give to my wife and satisfy yourself for your trouble out of it.

Your respectfully

John Truex

March 13, 1863

Camp near

Murfreesboro, Tenn

Sister Truex,

Respected Mistress, according to Brother Truex's request I tonight lift my pen to address you a few lines to inform you that I am well and to let you know that Brother Truex is still poorly. He has been taken away to the General Hospital some two miles from here. The reason he was taken we got orders to march and he was not able to march so he went to the hospital. Sister, I was loathe to part with him but know that here an friends must part. I think that he likely get a discharge before long. He left last Tuesday. I have not seen him. The Lieutenant was over today. He told him to get me to write a letter for him which I have readily tried to do. You must write as often as you can though I can not give you the instructions how to write to him. I will tell you that Robert Parmer is here tonight with me. He says to tell you that he got that letter that you sent to him stating that John was sick. He came over to see him but he was not here. He sends his respects to you all requesting you all to write to him as often as you can. He is well and looks very hearty and portly. I believe that I have wrote all that is necessary to write. Give my respects to all my friends. Tell them to write particularly Brother Elledge. So no more but remain as ever

Your Brother in Christ

R. E. Plummer

Remember me in your prayers.

March 18, 1863

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Dear Companion,

It is through the mercy of our Lord and Saviour [sic] that I am still spared and have the opportunity of addressing you with a few lines to let you know that my health is not very good yet. Though I am not dangerous nor have not been. Though I felt better this morning than I have for gone time, well I get better and then worse again. I hope these few lines may reach you and find you all well and doing well. I received two letters from

you about 4 days ago. But I thought I would not write to you until I could tell you how to direct to me. I am not with the regiment now. I am at the General Field Hospital about two miles west of town and we are very well fixed here, we have cots with good straw-ticks to sleep on, and plenty of blankets to cover with, and plenty to eat such as it is. Though I think that we will have better after a while. They are so crowded here now that they can't get things fixed yet like they will have them. Well, I am better fixed here than I was with the regiment. And our regiment has gone but I don't know where it is now. There is a good many of our men in this camp now. Well, I don't know what to write to you that will be of interest to you. I would like to see you all once more in this world though I don't know when that will be. But I will put my trust in the all mighty God for He alone can spare me and bid me home. Dear wife, if we are not permitted the happy privilege of meeting in this world I trust that you will continue to live so that when we come to die that we will meet in a better world where there will be no wars nor any more separation. Though it is a hard place to serve the Lord in the army yet I will do the best I can and I want you to hold out faithful to the end and I will do the same. Well, I want you to write to me again. And when you write don't direct to the regiment but direct to Murfreesboro General Field Hospital, Ward 2 or Ward no. 4, this is the way for you to direct your letters to me. Well you wrote that you thought you would have some ground grubbed for tobacco, well you can do just as you think best about that. Though I think you had better raise a little peas if you don't raise quite as much as me. I think that I would put in about one acre if no more.

I will now close.

Write soon.

From

John Truex

April 2, 1863

Murfreesboro General Field

Hospital

Ward D

Tennessee

Mr. R. E. Plummer

Dear Sir,

It is with a heavy heart and trembling hand that I attempt to drop you a few lines today to let you know that our old friend, John Truex, has at last departed this world of trouble. He is dead and gone to rest where more of us will soon have to go. Well I done all I could for him to the last, he was very troublesome.

Well Richard you can tell his folks about his death. I wrote a letter to his wife just before I received them that you sent to him. I read the one that came from his wife but he was out of the presents [sic] of mind the most of the time while I was a reading it to him. Well I will send this letter back to you and you can answer it or send it back home and tell them that it was the last that he heard from home.

Well Richard I would like to see you and have a talk with you though I doubt that I ever shall see you again or not though I wish you would send me a list of our travels as soon as you can.

So I will close for this time. Give my respects to all of the boys and Capt. and Lieutenant Calven.

Write as soon as you get this. No more.

But ever remain

Your friend,

Siman Garrison

April 19,

Rome, Iowa

Well Mary, I will write you a few lines. We are all well but Isaac, he is not well. Mary, I wag glad to hear from you. You said you had wrote so often and did not get any answer. I answered most all I have got and would write more than I do but times is so hard that half of the time I am out of paper and stamps. I have nothing but scrap to write on now. If a man works away from home he must take just what they please to give him, an order on someone else, and sometimes not that much and we have just the hardest work to get anything we ever had. But we have worked along till we have got right smart of pretty good furniture when we could get nothing else and we have plenty to eat that we raised. But as for money it is as scarce as hens[sic] teeth. We can't buy nothing. But as for you folks I can imagine how you are fixed and you might write nearly every week. And don't think yourselves so much above me because we have got so poor. I don't always expect to be so poor if we keep our health. Mary, I wish I could go to meetings with you. I think of you all every day and would like to see you. But never expect to unless you come to see me. Mary, I can't write for crying. I have wet this scrap of paper with tears while I have been writing. If I knew the folks at home thought of me as I do of them it would cheer me.

No more at present.

Write soon.

This from

Rebecca J. Fleming to Mary Truex

Promissory Note November 1844

Copy of a promissory note

November 8, 1844

Twelve months after date I promise to pay to J. B. Rush the interest and full sum of fifteen dollars on orders the just and full sum. It being for railing received of him.

As witness:

My hand and Seal

William Truex

Attest:

Richard Rush

Benjamin Pittman

The full amount, principal and interest, being \$16.35.

\$15.00 principal

\$ 1.35 interest