

John Witherspoon Letters

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tennessee

April the 13th 1863

Dear Cosen [sic] it is with plesure [sic] that I take this oppertunity [sic] to write you a few lines to let you no [sic] that I am well at present and I hope that these few lines may find you in joying [sic] the same blessing Well Boy we have Sume [sic] nice wether [sic] now our Camp is nice an [sic] dry an [sic] in A Bewitiful place we get plenty to eat an [sic] nothen [sic] to do onley [sic] to stand picket ever [sic] eight days an [sic] I am a geting [sic] So fat an [sic] lazy that i [sic] cant [sic] never work any mor [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] think i [sic] have got the Summer Grinu [sic] So bad [missing text]

Well press [sic] I would love to be at home a while this Spring to help you an [sic] Wm Bernard plant corn or look at you an [sic] William work that would Soote [sic] me the best [illegible] Boy I have no newes [sic] worth Writing to you hear [sic] is a Song [illegible] that i [sic] will Sen [sic] to you i [sic] want you to lurn [sic] to Sing it So you Can sing it for Me when i [sic] get home the Boyes [sic] are All well that you know Capt [sic] Davis got A letter from the hospital to day staten [sic] that george [sic] Burchfield [illegible line of text] he was wounded at Stone [sic] river the day that William H McGary was killed he died at evansville [sic] he was A member in Co A give my love to all the friends write Soon good by [sic] John Witherspoon

A few lines to Joseph McGary Well Jo how do you get a long i [sic] hope you are all right you Must take good care of the girles [sic] till we get home to help you well Jo I my time is was half out [crossed out: to day] the 9 this month an [sic] I would be glad if the uther [sic] half was out So i [sic] Could Come home to see you all one time more all tho the time passes off hear [sic] hear [sic] fine i [sic] have no newes [sic] worth writing to you we have been in this Camp for better than [illegible] months an [sic] the talk is [illegible line of text] that the Concripts [sic] comes in then we will gow [sic] down to [illegible] to See if we can [illegible] old Brag [sic] an [sic] his Bragers [sic] an i [sic] gess [sic] we will get a Spat at them down thare [sic]

i [sic] want you to write to me an [sic] give all the newes [sic] and write all you know an [sic] if you dont [sic] no [sic] any thing rite [sic] Something you dont [sic] no [sic] So i [sic] Can hear from home

i [sic] am fater [sic] than you ever seen My health iS [sic] [illegible] [illegible] no more this time

John L Witherspoon to Joseph McGary

i [sic] received your letter today

O look what i [sic] O

Camp near Murfreesboro Tn April 26 1863

Wm P Teel

Dear Nephew

I received your kind letter on yesterday and as this is Sunday morning when I was anxious to write you an answer to it, your letter found me in good health except my eyes are still verry [sic] weak but they got some better but the improvement is verry [sic] slow Andy and Riley are both well Wm and John Witherspoon are both well Andrew Jakes and Ned Gudgel are all well Abraham has never come to the Regiment yet since he was [illegible] at [illegible] but I believe he is well George Scott is well Joe Duncan Robert Parker and all the rest of your acquaintances in the regiment are well we are still in camp near Murfreesboro and it is likely that we will stay here some time most of the troops are out on a general scout just leaving enough here to defend this place from gurilurs [sic] should it be attacted [sic] the troops that went out took ten day provisions with them it is the intention of General Rosecrans to clear the gurrillers [sic] out of this section of the country if possible and I think he will do it we have the nicest camp that we have ever had since we have been out all of the streets are thrown up in the center and made as smoth [sic] as a floor and each side set thickly with cedar trees so that this camp looks like a cedar grove on one end of the camp is a place made [illegible] church [illegible] it is [illegible] out forty five feet by sixty feet around the out side is set cedar trees about six feet apart and between these trees is a hedge of cedar bushes four feet high then through the center of the square is set two rows of cedar trees about four feet apart at one end is a circle of bushes set thick for a fuel pit then around the square is made a row of seats [sic] just in side the out side hedge you see that we have a nice place for preaching and then we have as good a preacher as there is in the army the Rev J J [illegible]ight I believe I have told you all the news I have to write this time so I will bring my letter to a close write soon and let me know what you all are doing tell Mariah that I will write her a letter this week give my best respects to your father and mother and all enquiring friends.

Yours John L. Whittlesey

To Wm Preston Teel

March the 25th 1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro tennessee [sic]

Dear Cousan [sic] it is with pleasure that I tack [sic] this oppertunity [sic] to write you A few lines to let you know that I am well at present and I hope that these few lines ma [sic] fin [sic] you all in joying [sic] the Same blessing well Preston we haft [sic] to mourn the loss of Brother Isaac he died last Saturday nite [sic] A bout [sic] 7 oClock [sic] William was with him when he died he said that he died easey [sic] we thowt [sic] he was better in the eavening [sic] Andy an [sic] James B McCrary lade [sic] him out William an [sic] I had him taken to town i [sic] gess [sic] he is at home by this time

now Boy i [sic] would lik [sic] to no [sic] how you an [sic] uncle Nick are a geting [sic] a long [sic] at farming an [sic] how mutch [sic] Corene [sic] you an [sic] William Barnard are A going to tend an [sic] i [sic] would like to no [sic] how you an [sic] Bill are a geting [sic] A long [sic] with the girls if they Sack must you try an [sic] try them a gain [sic] that iS [sic] the way i [sic] am A going to do

Well Boy i [sic] received your kin [sic] letter of the 15 i [sic] waS glad to here [sic] that you waS [sic] all well an [sic] all So [sic] to hear that my money has got home Safe we are a fixing for A Big fite [sic] hear [sic] ay Murfreesboro we are A making brest [sic] Works from fifteen to twenty Miles they Say that the RebS [sic] are Crosing [sic] Duck if they come they will get whiped [sic] worse that they did at Stone [sic] River i [sic] have no Newes [sic] worth writing to you now Boy I i [sic] want you to write to me ever [sic] chance fore [sic] i [sic] love to hear from home i [sic] want [illegible] you the worSt kind [illegible] for a while yet good By for this time John Witherspoon to William P Tteel [sic]

Well Babe how do you get A long [sic] you muSt write to me an [sic] let me no [sic] how you are a geting [sic] a long [sic] those hard times you must be a good girl an [sic] gow [sic] to School an [sic] lurn [sic] to writ [sic] So you can write to me i [sic] would love to hear from you ever [sic] day I am a going to Come home Some of [illegible] times if ther [sic] ant [sic] no lies told you muSt [sic] Safe [sic] me Some Milk and Butter for i [sic] dont [sic] know How mutch [sic] i [sic] can eat you can Judg [sic] for your Self when i [sic] get A nuff [sic] Well Babe all the letter get out hear [sic] we haft [sic] to pay one dollar A pound for all we get So Good By fora [sic] time Write Soon

John Witherspoon

Mariah P. Teel

Nashville Tennessee [sic]

December the 4th 1862

Well Boy I have a few lesure [sic] moments I will drop you a few lines in ansurer [sic] to your leter [sic] you sent in Johns [sic] I would like to See you all the best kind I think I could injoy [sic] my self well for a while though I dont [sic] expect I will gete [sic] to come home soon at the present wee [sic] ar [sic] laying at Nashville and have been for the last week I do not know how long wee [sic] will stay here wee [sic] may leave [illegible] the Secess [sic] ar [sic] within thirty miles of here at Murforborough [sic] though when wee [sic] start i think they will have to fall back wee [sic] had a grand Review to day and General Rosecrans was out to see us I think he is a good General well bot I would like to see the girls the best kind I dont [sic] want you to let them all marry till I gete [sic] home and I dont [sic] want you to marry for I want to wate [sic] on you Give my love to all the girls and write soon yours as ever W H McGary to Wm P Teel

Well Babe one Kiss and then I will comence [sic] I would love to see you the best kind I know I will kiss you the first time I gete [sic] to see you Babe you must be a good girl and dont [sic] let them litel [sic] home gards [sic] kiss you to [sic] much I want you to save some of them for me Well Babe wee [aic] ar [sic] having a nice time here there is planty [sic] of Secess [sic] women in Nashville and I dont [sic] know but what [illegible word crossed out] I will gete [sic] to some of them for a wife tell Mother and Pa that I am well and harty and would like to see them the best Kind Tell Nack and Mary I am all rite [sic] and would like to spend a few more Sunday [sic] eavenings [sic] with them well Babe tell Bill Marnard not hug the girls to [sic] much for it will make him Sick I want you to Spark some of the pretty women you can find for me I have no newes [sic] to write so one more kiss and I will quit [rest is illegible]