

Nashville Tenn Dec the 19th /62

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am well
and hope these few lines
will find you injoying the
Same Blessings this makes
the third letter that I have
riten to you since I have
received any But I dont
think it is any falt of yours
I expect I have got 2 or 3 letters
at the regiment and i suppose
the hant had any chance to
Send them to me John Allman
rote to hamen to to day to
mail his and my letters to us
I have Just eat my diner what
do you think I had for diner
[page 2]

I had Mush and Huney
the were both a rarity to
me I am still with the Engineer
and Mechanic Brigaid we have
got our tents and have moved
two milds from town the wether
is cool and cloudy but we
hant had any rain yet to
amount to much there is
some talk that the are going
to send our Brigaid to
Louisville Ky to build a
fort I hope the will but
I gues there is no such
good luck the had a little
battle about 10 miles from her
the other day the rebles got
thrashed our army took 150 prisners
one canen one Sesesh flag and
a lot of horses and wagons and
provisions we dont hear much
news now days <but?>
[page 3]

Peace being Declared and we
will all be home this spring

but I am afraid the news is
to good to put to much dependance
in it but i hope it is so
you must excuse my righting
this time for i have got a
hard way to right I want
you to right evry week the
letters will come after a while
our adress is changed now
and after this our letters wont
stop at the regiment I will
give you the Directions on the
next page kiss the children
for me tell them that I oten
think of them and all the rest
of you give my respects to all
So good by for this time
yours truly

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

[page 4]

Direct your letters
William Culbertson
1st Battalion
Pioneer Brigade
army of the Cumberland
Care of Lieut E Gleason

Nashville Tenn Dec the 20th /62

Dear wife

I take this opportunity of
writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well and
I hope these few lines will find
you the same I received 3 letters
from you last wednesday and
was glad to hear from you
our regiment has moved to nash
ville the are camped 2 miles from
here I was over to the regiment
day before yesterday I saw John
Parker there he got to the regiment
2 weeks ago he expected to find me
there two brewbecker and Henry
Anspaw is there to I am going
Back to the regiment tomorrow
to Stay with it you may Direct
your letters to the regiment after this
the General opinion is at present
[written upside down across top of page]
Oh you tell the children that there
Paw loves them and would like to see them
[page 2]

that peace soon will be declared
and if it is i want to be with
the regiment so that I will get
my discharge when it does this
Mechanick busines hant agoing to
amount to much you have herd
Smiths and Rockwells folks tell a
great deal about Preacher P<??>
not being with the regiment and
only Preaching but 2 or 3 times
I will tell you how it is I
herd our Colonel and Adjident
talking about him the other day
about a year ago he was taken
Sick and Sent here to the hospitle
when he got so as to be able to
be out the set him to nursing
in the hospitle well the liked him
so well that the made him post
Stuerd of all the hospitles in this
City which Numbers 25 or 30 and he

Spends all of his time going from
one hospitle to the other day and
[page 3]

most of the night seeing to the wants
of the Soldiers and talking to them
chearing them up and getting Books
and papers for them to read and little
nourishments that he can get holt
of for them to eat the colonel
Said he had dun more good and
was doing more good and was the
best man in Nashville besids I
have herd a great many others say
the same thing since I have ben here
It is verry plesent wether here at
present with the exceptions of nights
the are pretty cold it is Just like
dry plesent spring wether in ohio
you stated in your last letter that
you felt most sick I was sorry to hear
that you must be careful and not over do
your Self you said you was going
to move the next day i think you
had better waited til you felt better
you wanted to no of me what you
had better do about the hogs I hardly
[written upside down across top of pages two and three]
tell Sarah Elen that I hant got any room
to right to her in this letter I will right to
her in the next

[page 4]

what to tell you but i think
if the pigs are pretty good now
you had better not kill the old sow
it wont pay to turn hogs that
are fated out and put up a lean
one if the pigs are pretty well
fatted kill them til towards
spring and let the old sow <????>
and have pigs this spring it
wont cost any more to keep hur over
than it will one of the pigs at
least that is my opinion you must
use your one Judgement partly about
the matter I am glad that mother will
Soon be with you it wont be so lonesome

for you about the recording of that
deed you nedent be in a hurry about it
pay the taxes if you have money enough
I will send you some money as soon
as I draw some I hant drawed a sent
since the first that i drawed
I get letters from fathers folks evry week
or to the was all well the las that i herd
I will have to stop for this time So good by
right soon from your affectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to Julina Culbertson

Nashville Tenn January 7th /63

Dear wife

I take the opportunity
of writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am still enjoying
the Blessings of life and health and
I hope you all do the same it has been
some time since I have heard from
you I am very anxious to hear
from you but our mail connection
has been cut off again for two weeks
but the Bots has got to running
to Nashville I don't think Morgan can
burn burn the river up if he
can the railroad I suppose you
are anxious to hear from me and
this is the first opportunity that I
have had for two weeks as we
have had a very busy time here
for about that length of time
we have had a very hard battle to
[page 2]

fight at Murfreesboro it ended last
Saturday night after six hard days fighting
I was there last Tuesday after noon and
Wednesday morning I didn't have a hand
in the fight but I did the duty
assigned to me I was cooking for our
detachment and the wagon train
with provisions and baggage was ordered
back to Nashville and I am here yet
we had to fight our way back part
of the time old Rosy was too much for
Bragg this time but I expect he will
follow him up and thrash him
again I saw Linas Stevens that day
we went on the field also I saw John
Lepper I tell you that there was some
hard fighting done there that morning
I <??> the balls fell like hail around
all around where I was one six pound
ball came so close to my head that
I felt the wind of it very plainly
there was 4 or 5 hundred wagons in
the squad and the rebels threw
[page 3]

Canon balls and shells in amongst
us so as to cripple the teams so that
they could capture the provisions but
they slipped up on it there was an
awful Slaughter of men but the amount
is not ascertained yet I have seen
John Parker for two weeks although
I passed within 50 yards of the regiment
the day we left the Battle field but
I did not know it at the time
I think he is all right yet as
near as I can find out that
Brigade was not engaged in the
fight I don't know how long
I will stay here I will write
to you soon and you must do
the same when you write to me
Direct to 1st Battalion Pioneer Brigade
Army of the Cumberland in care of
Lt E Gleason Give my respects to
all inquiring friends and kiss the
children for me So good by for
this time your affectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to Juliana Culbertson

Murfreesboro Tenn Jan the 19th /63
Dear wife

I take this opportunity
of writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well
and happy and I hope you all
enjoy the same Blessing I
received two letters from you
yesterday and was glad to hear from
you it being 3 or 4 weeks since
I got a letter from you it seems
strange that the mail is so irregular
but it is the same way with
other folks letters So I dont complain
it wouldnt do me any good if I did
we will have to put up with it I
Suppose I will try and write to
you every week and you do the same
to me and we will get them some time
I got back here to the Battalion

[page 2]

yesterday I was employed in the
hospital a few days taking care of
the Sick I dont know but I will
go back to the hospital in a few
days the doctor says he wants me
as soon as there is a chance for me
it is the easiest place I have had
yet you said that you did not get
any answer from anything that you
asked me I have tried to answer
everything I think at least I intend
to I am glad to hear that mother
is with you I expect you see a
great many lonesome hours at least
I do I would give anything in
the world if I was at home with
my family again But Julia that
thing is impossible at present So
we will have to wait for future
events and trust in the Lord when
the time comes that I can get to

[page 3]

my family again ~~there~~ I will
go to them with all possible speed

there is no chance to get a furlow
now and to get dis charged I Can
not if I could get either i would
come I guess you had beter not
Sell any corn to pay the taxes yet
let it go a Spell I think I will
get Some money before long it has ben
four months Since any of the men have
got any pay they are making out pay
roles now that looks Some like it
if you can you had better keep the corn
to feed the hogs next Summer wait
a Spell any how tell the children that
I think of the all of the time I would
like to See them as well as all of the
rest of you you want me to tell you
what kind of company I have well
I have all kinds of company a man
Cant pick his company here we
[page 4]

we have to go where we are Sent
and Stay where we are put and come
when we are caled there is all kinds
of people here but Sosiety is demorilized
I have herd but one Sermond preached
Since I left home but I dont
forget to pray and I allways think
of you all in my prairs I read
my testament evry oportunity I get
tell mother I send her my respects I would
like to See her verry much I would
like to have you Send me 50 Cents
worth of postag Stamps I am intierly out
and cant get any in this Country
get them all in one peace and you
Can Send them in a letter you
can buy them at the post office I would
like to be there to eat Some of your
pies and potatoes and cabage and
pig meant you must cooked up
[page 5]

the fifth Page 5

I rote the other Sheat so fool that
I didnt have room to finish so i
will finish on this ~~Sheat~~ Strip
I would like to heare the next

time i heare from you that
you are keeping house and have
got your buckwheat thrashed and
potatoes Dug and corn taken care
of I will Stop righting for this tim
I must right a little to henry
right Soon and right a long letter
tell william walles I want him to
be a good boy and hurry and
learn to right So that he can
right to me I hant heard any
thing from him Since I left right
about him and what he is doing
Give my respects to all So good
by for this time yours in love
from Wm Culbertson Sen
to Julina Culbertson

[page 6]

well Henry you may be
thankful it hant you that is
in the army you would not find
Mam here evry night to go to bed
with I Stand it first rait
here this far but i would like
it better if i Could be at home
rights we have plenty of hard
Bread and Coffy and Shugar
and pork and fresh beef we have
a drove of cattle with us all
the time Henry i tell you that
I am hungry for potatoes and i
want you to eat about ten good
Sised ones for me as Soon as you
get this and this winter when
you are eating pankekes think
of me tell Betsy i send her
my best respects and i would
like to see her verry much give
my respects to all inquiring
friends right to me Soon So good by
for this time your truly
Wm Culbertson Sen
to Henry and Betsy Oneal

Murfreesburrow Feb the 5th /63

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am
well at present and I hope
these few lines will find
you the same I cant think
of much to right this time
the hant any news of imp
ortance at present and I have
riten to you once Since I
got a letter from you I am
on gard to day and
I hant got much to do so
I thought I would right
it is verry disagreeable
wether here at present it is
verry muddy and cold Snowey
wether it Snowed last night

[page 2]

and the Snow lays on the
ground yet I have not got
that box yet you Said in
your last letter that you guessed
I rote to So many that I
dident get time to right
to you i right to you evry
week and fathers folks evry
two or three weeks that is all
the righting that i do John
Parker is well <??>y Williams
Died last week it is one of
the williams that lives down
towards Montpelier he was one
of the new recruits the rest
of the boys has tolerable good
health at present I have not
got any money yet it is
Strange that we dont get
any I dont know but it
is as well that is if you

[page 3]

hant Suffering for money
for it is dangerous Sending

money at present and when
I draw my money I want
to send it home for it is
not safe to carry much
money in this Country when
I do get it I will send it
to you the talk as though we
will draw about the 12 or 15th of
this month I rote to you last
week and told you what
to call that boy of mine
if the name dont suit you
you must Say so i want you
to take good care of him as
well as the rest of the Children
and your Self right Soon
and let me know how you
get along Keep up a good hart
I will come home the first
[page 4]

oportunity that i get I
think we will all have a
chance to go home this Spring
yet at least i hope so I
keep a good hart and you
must do the same
I think of you all evry
night and morning in my
praires and you must do
the Same by me give my
respects to all and tell
them that I would like
to See them right soon
So good by for this time
from your afectionate husband
Wm Culbertson to
Julina Culbertson

Murfreesburo Tenn March the 5th /63

Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
to inform you that I am stil
alive and well and I hope these
few lines will find you all
the Same I would have riten
to you Sooner in the week
but I was waiting to see
if I wouldent get a letter
from you I hant got any
yet this week from you so
I will right a little any
way there hant much news
ot importance to right this
time I am not a pioneer
any more at present our Company
is detailed as Pontooners my
first trial at Pontooning
[page 2]

Dident set verry well
with me we was orderd out
a week ago to night just as
we was getting reddy to go to
bed to go and put in a
Pontton Bridge then it was
huraw Boys lead up the Botes
and go seven milds that night
and put in a Bridge well off
we went and put the Bridge
in and got it dun by three
oclock that night I laid down
on the wet ground to rest
til morning and caught an
afful cold and hant got farely
over it yet I think though
when the wether gets warm
I will like it verry well
the Captin Says that I have
to Drive Eight Mules on one
of the Pontoon wagons what do
[page 3]

you think of that wouldent
you like to See me stradle of
a mule with a single line

driving Eight we drew
part of our money the other
day and I dont know hardly
what to do about Sending
you some it is verry <Scaly?>
Business sending money from
here now there is a report that
the express train was robed
between here and nashville
the other day I think i will
wait a few days and see if
i wont get a chance to send
it by some one that is going
there there is talk now that
Rosencrance has issued orders
to Captains of Companies to
furlow five out of evry hundred
for thirty days to go home

[page 4]

if that is the Case there
will some of the boys get
a chance to go home before
long probily in a week or ten
days you needent look for any
tel you hear from me again
there is lots of the Ruggles
Boys camped within a hundred
rods of here I was over to there
camp the other day but the
was all gon foraging but
Joseph Crow I saw him I Cant
think of any thing more at
present so good by for this
time my respects to you all

from Wm to Julina
Culbertson

Tenn

Murfreesburow March the 15th /63
Dear wife

I take the oportunity
of wrighting to you once more to
inform you that I am well and
harty at present and I hope these
few lines will find you injoying
the Same blessing you must Excuse
me for not righting to you last
week we went away one week
ago yesterday to put in a bridge
and didnt get back til about
two hours ago so you see I hadent
a chance to right although I got
a letter from you and was glad
to hear from you you stated in
your letter that you had ben over
to henryes to eat warm shugar
well I would like to have ben
there to but that is all the good
[page 2]

it does me you wanted to know
if I had rather be where i am than
be at home making Shugar I ashure
you I had rather be at home than
be here you wanted to know if
i Could Come home this spring
I think the chance is slim without
the war closes tell della i would
like to have ben home on her burth
day I have got your letters verry
regular for a few weeks I intend
to right to you evry week and
you must do the same I had bad
luck I left my knapsack here
with a fellow and him or some one
els Stole my postage Stamps and
invelops I hant mist any thing
els yet my righting material was
the first thing i looked for after
i got some thing to eat I am
driving teem now i like the business
[page 3]

verry well I hant seen John
parker for two weeks but I presume

he is well I hant got that Box
yet that father sent and I presume
I never will oh how I wish I was
at home but that is all the good
it does me I Still keep up good
hart and hope that the time will
not be long til i can go home
and you must do the same I sent
you some coten seeds in a letter
when you right again tell me whether
you got them or not tell the children
that I would like to see them the must be
good children til i come home give
my respects to mother and all the
rest of the friends I cant think of
any thing more at present I hant sent
you any money yet if i dont get a
chance this week to send it by some
body I will express it to you
[page 4]

right as soon as you get this
and let me know how times
is there I got a letter from
Sammy Barnes last week he was
well also I got one from fathers
folks and the were all well and
one from Elias Brandeberry and he
was well no more at present
So good by for this time
From your affectionate Husband

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Tryune Tenn March the 26th /63

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of writing you a few lines once
more to inform you that I am
well and I hope these few lines
will find you the Same I received
your letter date March the 8th and
was glad to hear from you
I notified you in a letter last
week that I had returned to
the regiment I have ben back
about a week for two or three
days it has been cold and disagree
able but it has cleard of now
and looks verry pleasant I was
out on picket and have just
returned to camp we went out
yesterday morning when we started
it was raining mixt a little with
[page 2]

snow and hail but it soon
broke away and we had a verry
good time with the exceptions it
was rather Cold last night I would
have riten to you sooner in the
week but I hant had time this
week we have ben to work
day and night all most for a
few days building fortifycations
we have got the top of a mountain
nearly fortifyed now so that we
are in purfect safety as long as
in them we are ourly expecting
an atact we are marched out
2 or 3 milds evry day to meat
the rebs but we hant Seen any
thing of them yet although there
is heavy firing a few milds
from here towards Nashville the
Say there is a large force of them
that has got in back of us

[page 3]

So it is uncertain whether this
letter will go through or not
but I thought i would not

wait any longer for it may
be Sevrel days before this raid
will be over although I dont
aprehend any thing verry serious
I hant injoyed better health
Since I have ben in the service
that I have for 3 or four weeks I
Sent you my likeness and ten
dollars in it last week right as
soon as you get it and I will
send you some more I sent
William Walles a Bilet of war songs
tell him to lern some of them so
he can sing them for me when I
get home you wanted to know
how I got along for clothing, I have
Clothing enough of all kinds but
Socks I hant got any but army
[page 4]

socks and the are poor things
I expect Elizabeth was married last
tuesday March the 24th to Horace Heath
Sarah rote to John to that afect
is all that I know about it
Perhaps you know all about it
though you must keep a stif uper
lip for I ashure you I do the
Beat of the Drum nor the crack of
the musket nor the Boom of the
canon dont make me loos a
minutes sleep I have plenty to
eat such as it is and feel first
rait although I would like to be at
home with my family as well as
any body give my respects to
Mother and all inquiring friends tell
the children that I love them all
and would like to see them right
soon from your affectionate husband Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

In Camp Near
tryune Sabath
afternoon April 19 / 63
Dear wife

I now
take this oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines
once more to inform you
that I am on the gain
I feel a great deal better
than I did when I last
roat to you yesterday was the
first that I walked out
to day I had a nother
walk I feel firs rait only
I am weak Julina I got
that Box that father Sent a
day or two ago the things
were pretty Badly Spoild <?>
it there was a can of Aple

[page 2]

Butter and a can of Peach
Sauce that cept first rait
there was a can of cow
Butter that perhaps would way
5 or 6 pounds that is Badly
Spoild although we saved 3 or 4
pounds that is a good as any
we would have to pay the
Suttlers .60.cts for no better the Boots
was fild with apples and the
were all mush there was
Sweet cakes an onions and
all kinds of trash that was
all Spoilt what is good I tell
you it coms good to me now
there was two pare of Socks
that wasent Spoilt a bit the
came good to me for I was
intierly out the let me
eat of the Sauce John
parker hant ben well for

[page 3]

a few days he had got this
Jandice but he is better now

Julina I hardly dare
to hope to get a Discharge
But I am going to try
for one a man never will
get one with out he trys I
shal begin to figer in a
day or two the health of
the regiment is verry good now
I rote to you last week
I Sent you a <??>ler in the
letter that I rote to yo and as
soon as I get some more
I will send it to you
I hope you will get that
likeness for that will be
a considerable of a l<??> tell
the Children that I think
of them every day

[page 4]

tell william Walles he will
to excuse me for not
wrighting to him for I hant
got a great deal of strength
yet give my love to mother
and tell her that I sould
see her my love to you
all right soon and I will
do the Same

Wm Culbertson
to his affectionate Wife
Julina Culbertson

Camp Triune Tenn June the 12th /63
Dear wife

I take this opportunity of
writing you a few lines to
inform you that I am well this
morning and I hope these few lines
will find you the same I received
your kind letter of last week and
was glad to hear from you yesterday
was my day to right to you
but we had to stand in line
of battle so I didnt get a
chance to right the rebles maid
a dash in yesterday the
bulldogs began to howl and we
had to Sholder our muskets we
didnt get to see them though
the are wonderful fraid of us
I dont think it will amount
to much the only wanted to see
our Strength and try our courage
[page 2]

I will enclose a ring in
this letter for you and when
you get it right and let me know
how you like it and how it fits
It is the first one I ever maid
you musent put it in warm water
or the sets will come out I suppose
John parker will Start for ohio the
27th of this month I Suppose you
will not get them things that I
boxt up and sent away we herd
that the were taken to the hospital
at nashville for the benefit of the sick
I got a letter from Ben and Mary
this week the were all well also I
got a letter from Ezra the are all
well there hant any posible
chance for me to get a discharge
without I Should happen to get to
a jeneral hospital that is the way
the most of them gets discharges
once in a while if the think
a man is going to dye the will

[page 3]

give them a discharge at the
regiment it is only 14 months
more til we all get a discharge
that is if the war lasts that
long I am in hopes it wont
last that long though I was in
hopes you would go to Ashland
Co and Stay til towards fall
I am sorry to hear of Henryes
and Betsyes bad luck in loosing
there babe we expect to get our
pay again in a few days
I will have to stop righting
for this time to go to camp
Poleaceing I have no knews of
importance to right give my
respects to all kiss the children
for me and tell them I think of
them evry day no more at this
time from your affectionate
Husband

[policing, i.e., cleaning up around camp]

William Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Louisville Aug the 31st / 63

Dear wife

I take my pen
in hand once more to
inform you that I am stil
alive and feel tolerabel well
I am at Louisville in the
hosptial I am gaining a
little evry day Julina It
has a great while since I have
herd from you the last letter
that I have got from you you
rote while you was at John
Baileys and that Seems like a good
while to me I got two letters from
Ruggles last week the are all
well John Parker has got home
Elias Culbertson as much as told
me that he was going to get
married this fall if he wasent
drafted I have forgotten the girls name

[page 2]

I have riten to you evry
week yet and mean to til
I get an answer from you
this last week has ben verry
Cool and plesent we had some verry
hot wether while I was at
Nashville I was there 2 weeks
I hant any news only war
news and I suppose you get
as much of that as we do
I am so that I
hoble about the room on cruches
i hope these few lines will find
you all well give my respects to
all and Kiss the Children for
me I Cant think of any thing
more to right at present so good
bu for this time Direct to me hospital
No 8 ward 8 Louisville Ky from your
affectionate husband william Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson