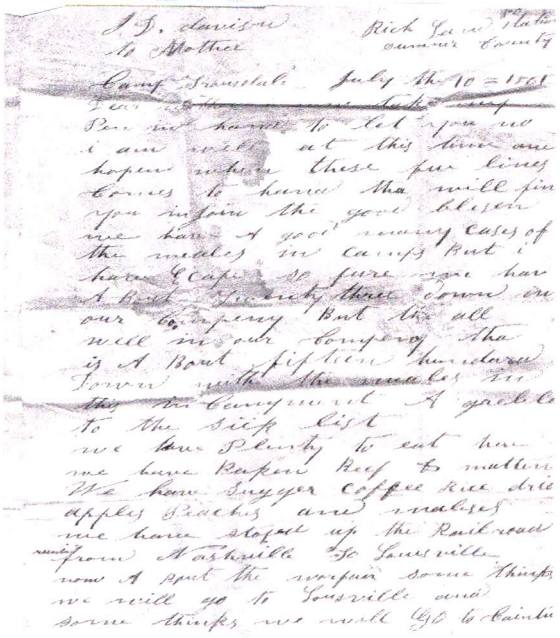
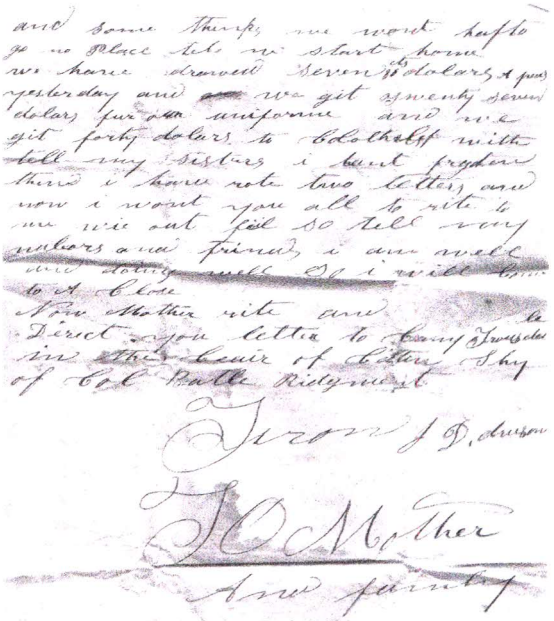
20th Infantry





J D Davidson Rich(k) Law Station
To Mother Sumner County
Camp Trousdale
Dear Mother July 10, 1861

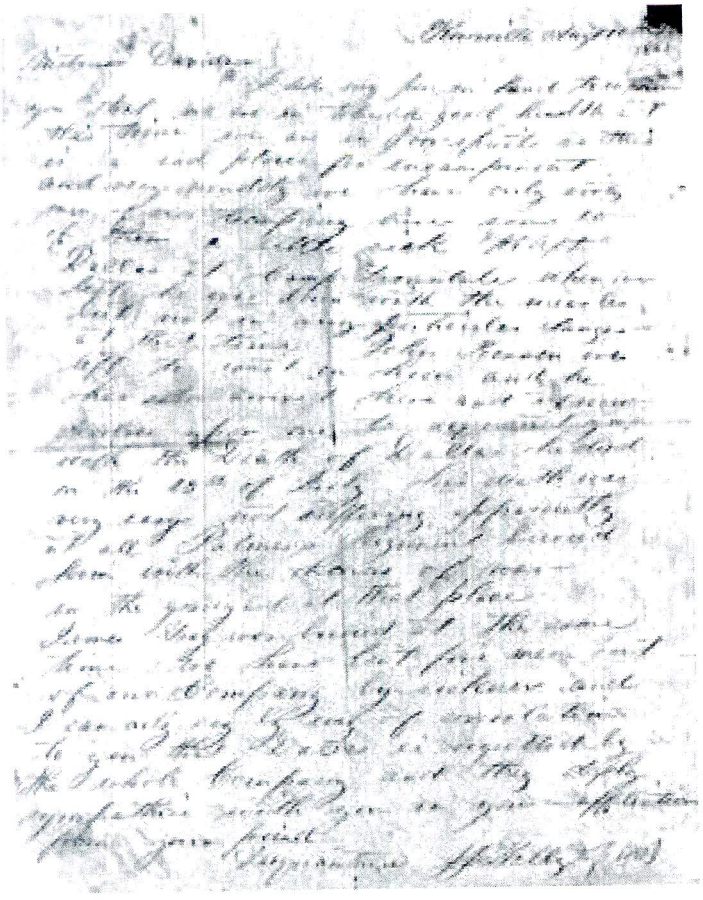
Pen in hand to let you know I am well at this time am in hopes when these few lines comes to home that will find you enjoying the good blessing. We have a good many cases of the measles in camp, but I have escaped so far we have about twenty three down in our company but that's all. Well in our company there is about fifteen hundred down with the measles in this encampment. A------- to the sick list.

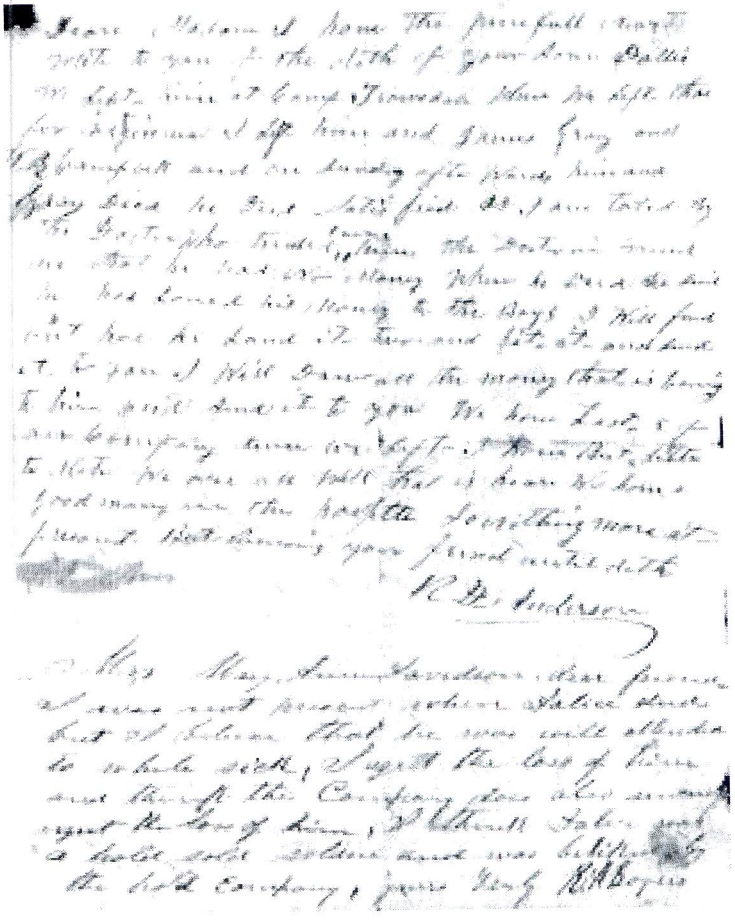
We have plenty to eat here, we have Bupen beef & mutton. We have sugar, coffee, rice, dried apples, peaches and molasses. We have stopped up the railroad running from Nashville to Louisville. Now about the war fair some thinks we will go to Louisville and some thinks we will go to Canton and some thinks we would have to go no place till we start home. We have drawn seven 36cts dollars a piece yesterday and we get twenty seven dollars for our uniforms and we get forty dollars to ---------- with. Tell my sisters I wrote two letters already now I want you all to write to me without fail so tell our neighbors and friends I am well and doing well so I will have to close.

Now Mother write and direct your letter to Camp Trousdale in the care of battery Shy of Col -atte Ridge wright.

From J D Davidson

To Mother and family





Knoxville Aug. 10th, 1861

Mistress Davidson,

I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are in tolerable good health at this time we are in poor-spirts as this is a bad place for encampment and very muddy we have only sixty men of out company here some 10 of them a little sick. We left Dallas at Camp Trousdale when we left he was down with the measles but not in any particular danger - at that time. John Rossen was left to wait on him and he has arrived here and it now devolves upon me to acquaint you with the death of Dallas he died on the 28th of July his death was very easy not suffering apparently at all Palmer's Regiment buried him with the honors of war - in the graveyard at that place James Gary was buried at the same time. We have lost five men out of out Company by sickness and I can only say by way of consolation to you that Dallas is regretted by the whole Company and they deeply sympathize with you in your affliction

from your friend & acquaintance

J. J. Kelly

Dear Madam

I have the painful news to write to you of the death of your son Dallas. We left him at Camp Trousdale. When we left there for Virginia I left him and James Gray and W. B. Campbell and on Sunday after wards him and Gray died. He died satisfied as I am told by the doctor who tended on him. The doctor informed me that he had no money when he died. he said he had loaned his money to the boys. I will find out who he loaned it to and get it and send it to you. I will draw all the money that is coming to him and send it to you tonight We are all well that is here We have a good many in the hospital so nothing more at present - but remaining your friend until death R D Anderson

Mrs. Mary Ann Davidson, Dear friend I was not present when Dallas died but I believe that he was well attended to while sick. I regret the loss of him and think the Company does also sincerely regret the loss of him. I think Dallas was a solid soldier and was beliked by the whole company, yours truly R.A. Boyers

Camp Trousdale was a building used in the training of soldiers during the Civil War. It was located in the Antoich community between Portland, TN and the KY boarder. The building itself was moved several years ago to the city park in Portland. There were several cemeteries in the area that were in use at this time.