

Head Quarters 7th Ind Vol  
Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn  
Feb 10th 1863

Mrs Mary Ann McGraw

Dear Wife

I sit down to address  
a few lines to let you know that I am well  
and hearty and I sincerely hope that they  
may find you all enjoying the same blessing  
I have not heard from you for some time  
Now the last letter that I received from you  
was written on the 28th of last month and  
that seems like a long time ago to me I  
have waited very anxiously to hear from you  
but letters do not come there is plenty of others  
come but none from you the last letters recd  
from you you were sick and it seems at  
such times that I get less letters than any  
other time there is nothing new transpiring  
here at the present time we are laying here  
on our cars building fortifications these they  
are fortifying here very strong  
I have not seen Frank for  
some time now but I suppose that he  
is well or we should have heard of it  
I seen Sam Lovell yesterday and  
Judge Smith Mrs Hamptons brother Henry

both looked very well George Graves is  
serving on Gold Grass Staff Now I under  
stand

Give My Love to the Children  
and Miss Ann for me give My Love also  
to Mother and Mary

That Pistol that was in  
my trunk Peitzell's is loaded tell  
John Morrison to take it out and fire  
it off

Remember Me to all My  
Friends No More at present  
from your Loving Husband  
John S. McLean

I wish that you would get me a good gold  
Pen and send it to me in a letter you  
need not send any Holder for I have one  
that will do I want one of Medium  
Stiffness I will send this letter by Monroe  
McMinn he expects to go Home to Morrow Morning  
I have just discharged him

J. S. McLean  
Monroe has not gone yet so I thought that  
I would enclose this in the letter and send  
by mail.

2-11-1863  
Head Quarters 5th Ind Vols  
Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife

I this day recd your Welcome letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> of the present month and am rejoiced to hear that you are all getting well once more I have been very uneasy about you since I heard you were sick this is a satisfactory letter to me it has more news in it than usual you say that Col Wagner gives me a puff in his report and that it has been published in the Richmond papers you do not tell me what he said nor what the people there say you ought to tell me I have not received those things nor letter sent by Mr. Payne but I hope that I shall soon do so for I am anxious to see what Col Wag says about me

I am glad you wrote to me about Craig and Will Hughes I am very glad to hear from them indeed, We have been of foraging to day and returned late but I concluded that I must write to you a few lines it is now eleven o'clock so Good Night all of you kiss the children for me

John S. McGraw

Mrs M A McGraw  
Richmond Ind

Probably you had better get Coleman  
to buy and send that pen  
he sent a good one before  
it just suited me but use your judgment about it

2-16-1863

Camp Near Purvesboro Tenn  
Monday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Mrs Mary Ann McGraw

Dear Wife and Children

I have not heard from you for some time the last was written on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month those letters and things that you sent by Albert Payne I have not received yet

I received a package last Saturday and thought that I had some late news but it turned out to be one Broadaxe of the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sept there was a verse pasted on the top of it I am glad you sent it and to hear that you think of me at Morning Noon and Eve but I can tell you that you are on my mind very near all of the time and I never go to bed without thinking of you all and the first thing I do on going to bed is to ask a blessing on those at home

I am well and hearty with the exception of a large bile on my knee which pains me considerable this two or three days past it has not broke yet but I think that it will before many days

There is not much news of importance here at present there is a

here this morning that the rebels were  
advancing on us in force and consequently  
we were out in line this morning at 5 o'clock  
and stood till long after daylight to be prepared  
for them. Should they presume to visit us, the  
men are wearing their accoutrements and have  
their arms stacked in line yet awaiting  
further orders, but I do not think the enemy  
will disturb us here while we are as strong  
as we are at the present time

I got hold of the 1st Journal that  
had Col. Wagner's report in it (I think that  
it was the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month) on Saturday  
it was the first time that I had seen it  
I see that it makes very honorable mention  
of me and that I am the only one he  
makes special mention of in his report for  
merit, I seen him yesterday and told him  
that I felt gratified to see the honorable  
mention he had made of me, and he said  
that I owed him no thanks at all, that he  
said nothing more than I deserved.

we had a review yesterday by Gen. Wood  
he complimented me on the numbers and  
appearance of the 57<sup>th</sup>. we have about an  
average Negro man here and their health is rather  
better than the average I think.

2-16-1863

Mathew barker has come up on yesterday  
there is a No of Men coming up now  
that have been back at different places

I would like to see some of those pieces  
that you spoke of having been in the papers  
about Me I have not seen any of them  
except the report that I spoke of

I wish that you would hurry  
up that pen as I have nothing that I can  
write with to do any good

My Love to all of you I will  
keep those verses to look at when I get  
lonesome it will be company for Me

Give My Love to Mother and Mary  
and all Enquiring Friends you may  
meet with

I have received several letters from  
Ed Hines and he talks very much discourag  
about his wounds and talks strongly of  
resigning he writes to some of the best that  
he dose not think that Col Leonard will  
ever be able for duty again

No more at present  
I am your Loving Husband  
John V. McLean

I send Ida a picture of the Judana asitum  
about six Miles south east of Nashville

2-18-1863



Head Qrs 57<sup>th</sup> Ind Bols  
Camp Near Murreesboro Tenn  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife and Children

I recd you a letter the other day or rather Monday and before I got it in the Mail to send it of recd one from you of the date of the 12 which came through very quick and this evening I received another of the eight in which I am very glad to hear that you are all well once more and I feel very thankful that it is the case I see by your letter that John Sedells regt is on its way to the south somewhere I wish myself that it would be here as then we might see one another once and awhile, the last two letters which I have received from you were long ones the kind that I like to get you know that I like long ones I should like very much to see some of them Notices that you say was in the papers there about me I had not even any of them yet except the report of Col Wagner

Last Night and Night before it rained continually all of the time here and the streams are rising quite fast here it is a fine thing for us that we moved the camp out of that



Place where we were at the time I told you  
that my Uniform got wet and frozen or  
we should have been drowned out this  
Morning we started out of camp and went  
down to the fortifications with the expectation  
that we would move our camp there but we  
could not get across the river with the teams  
and consequently did not move camp we worked  
through the day on the river bank and to night  
returned to our old camp Jim seen Frank there  
to day but I did not see him myself he was  
well Finney is well and fat as pork and I  
am in the same condition I am very well  
with the exception of the bile that I spoke of  
in my last letter to you it has been quite  
sore right on the inside of my right knee  
it is still pretty painful but I continue to  
do my duty still, as usual as you know that  
I will have to be pretty sick if I should go  
of duty that they ride you spoke of must have been  
nice I should have enjoyed it so much  
to have been there with you I thought of it  
often when I seen the act of the snow in the  
papers Finney <sup>and I</sup> often spoke of the nice they  
rides that we would have if we could only be  
at home but that could not be

I could have had lots of fun sitting  
in one of them old sleys that you speak of

2-18-1863

Packed all around with winter but I do  
seldom see a woman that I shall forget  
soon I guess what they are I am afraid,  
but there is one that I shall not forget I know  
as long as the Lord permits me to have a son  
and have mind for her image is always  
uppermost in my mind the first thing in the  
morning and the last thing on going to bed  
I think of the Dear ones at home and of those  
that have gone home From whence no  
Traveler returns (They) Still Live in my Mem-  
ory as Fresh as Ever

There is nothing new transpiring  
here at present except that the paymasters are  
here and I expect that we shall be paid  
this week yet at least the paymaster told me  
that he would pay us he thought this week

Give my Love to Mother and Mary  
and all enquiring Friends and take a  
Large Share for you and the Children

Received them kisses that you sent  
me in your Letter but they had got pretty  
dry before I received them

I remain as Ever Your Loving  
Husband and Father

John V. McGraw

2-26-1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn  
February 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife and children

Capt Commons told me today that he had leave of absence for 20 days and was going home to Morristown and he promised me that he would call on you while at home, I wish that I was so fortunate as to have a leave of absence for a short time it would be a great pleasure to me I can assure you to visit you all, but the Lord only knows how soon that will be for I do not, I am well as usual and I swear by that now that I am right well for I am getting fat every day I think I have nothing to trouble me but a bite on my knee it has not got well yet but is better, I received a letter today which I suppose is the one you sent by Albert Payne it had two of those currency holders in it and a note for Capt Finney and your letter of Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and one from Sids there is not very much news stirring here and I have wrote you two letters this week so I will not have very much to write today to night, we are going foraging to morrow morning No Duber, at present but I ever remain your loving Husband and Father

John S. McGraw

M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Ann McGraw

Richmond Ind

2-22-1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn  
Sunday Evening Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

Dear Wife & Children

It is a great pleasure to me this evening that I am permitted to address those few lines to you this Sunday Evening and can tell you that I enjoy the best of health. I received your most welcome letter of Feb 17<sup>th</sup> last evening it came through very soon and was a great gratification to me.

Chit Kolor was here last Thursday to see us and took dinner with us but I did not get to see him as I was away at brigade. Had I been sitting on a court of enquiry, I would have liked very much to have seen him.

The ~~84~~ 84<sup>th</sup> Regt I understand was at Nashville last Wednesday and I presume is coming to his point. I should very much like to see John Redell.

Well to day is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb we had a national salute fired this evening at sundown by each Division of the army of the Cumberland in honor of the day, I have just finished the perusal of the Cin Commercial of the 20<sup>th</sup> the Louisville Journal of the 21<sup>st</sup> and the Nashville Union of the 21<sup>st</sup> and they were great treat to me.

I can assure you I went to town this afternoon on business and bought them they come through every day now the cars are running through regularly

I am very glad to hear that you are all well again it is a great gratification to me to know that those I love most dear are well and doing well. I received that letter sent by Albert Payne - on Friday and wrote to you about it on Friday evening and sent the letter by John Commons & I told you in it that we were going foraging yesterday well in the morning when we got up it looked very fair for a fine day but about ten o'clock it began to rain and rained continually all day so that the men had to wade in water up to their knees in a number of places on the road home and got back to camp at about 7 in the evening the men as wet as they could be and some of them their tents full of water my tent had a pond in front of it so that I had to wade to get to it but about three fourths of it was above water so you see that I was fortunate this time in not being drowned out we would

2-22-1863

ditch our camp but the ground is so stony  
that we cannot do so, you can see the pleasures  
and comforts of a soldiers life but it is  
changable. Now so that any other one day  
plenty the next nothing but Crackers and  
Pork and one day peace and quiet the  
next you are under a shower of lead &  
Iron, I see so many going home here  
of late that I think it hard that I cannot  
get to go home to but I do not know  
when it will be but god bless you  
all and keep you

My Love to all of you  
Remain as ever your Loving Husband  
and Father John W. Mc Graw

Mrs Mary Ann McGraw  
Richmond  
Indiana

If we have not been payed  
yet but the pay master told me to day that  
he was going to pay or commence paying  
the 2nd bety to another

of several  
 in England  
 kind of  
 that years  
 trees were  
 a perfect  
 this morning  
 that had grown  
 on the top of  
 a large tree the  
 men cut down  
 I had you a  
 few had out of  
 my whole  
 can see the  
 them. That is  
 evening the 27th  
 the bridge is  
 and there is  
 very many

Murreesboro Tenn  
 Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1868

Dear Wife

I again embrace the opportunity of addressing  
 a few lines to you in the hope they may find you  
 well I have not heard from you since I wrote  
 to you last but I have heard from you quite  
 often of late the letters have come through very  
 well I think better than they have ever done  
 before the paymaster has not payed us of yet  
 Nor I do not know when he will, he is here  
 at Murreesboro I heard from Col Hines to day  
 he is getting along slow he thinks and seems  
 a little discouraged, I hear that Capt Blanch  
 has been promoted to the Majorship of our Regt  
 Col Wagner spoke to me about it yesterday  
 and said he was a going to write to gov  
 Morton about me he said that Blanch  
 had no right to it but that I was the one  
 that ought to have it, and I think that  
 if he writes to gov Morton about me it will  
 do me some good but it is a most to late  
 for the Majorship as Blanch is already ap-  
 pointed but I think that it is an outrage  
 for he has no claim on it he has never  
 been in a fight yet always away  
 anything of that kind on hand

but he is a wealthy man and a smooth  
talker and honeyed around untill he  
got the votes but let it go it will all  
come right in the long run, as Col  
Wagner says he has no right to it and  
has never been in a fight and we dont  
know he says but what he will run  
like the devil and says if he has got  
it he will have a damn good time,

Col Wagner thinks that I am  
a great man and that there is nobody  
can count the 5<sup>th</sup> but Col Hines  
and Capt McGraw, but you must not  
say any thing about these things that  
I have told you for I have not told any one  
here and you are the only one that I  
have said any thing to about them and  
the only one that I want to know any  
thing about them

Jim has sent up his resignation &  
it has been accepted and he started to go  
home yesterday he was on picket a couple  
of weeks ago and some of the men made  
a fire there and was reported up and he  
was afraid that they would dismiss him  
was the cause of him sending up his resignat  
ion I was very sorry to see him go, I



2-25-1863

get the blues once and awhile to think that  
I can't get to come home for a short time  
to see those I love and have to stay and  
run the machine and then have somebody  
else stuck in where you ought to be  
and if things were done in our regt as  
they are in others I would be Col of this  
regt instead of acting it for others but you  
must not say any thing about those  
any of those things nor about Jim's being  
in any trouble about the picket

I have not seen Frank for  
some time Jim I believe went to see him  
yesterday before we started home

Jim went off without his pay and left  
word for me to pay his bills and he would  
pay the money to you, I am well and  
hope these few lines may find you all of  
you in the same condition, remember me  
to Mother and Mary and all enquiring  
friends good night this is too late for the  
mail to night so Mary if I have time  
I will write some more in it tomorrow if  
I can find any thing more to write about  
I wish you was here to sleep with me to  
night I have the Colonel's tent all to myself  
since he is gone and I have made  
me a bed out of clap boards that is just

3-26-1863

Large enough for us two but I send you  
each a Kiss

Thursday Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

It has been raining  
all night and is still raining yet the ground  
is all overflowed with water and <sup>the</sup> floor of  
some of our tents are covered with water

but fortunately we have a tent over our heads  
this time and that is better than we have  
sometimes, this is a dull kind of a gloomy  
day and I have nothing to do but to  
to think of home and those I love and it  
gives me the blues to think that there is so many

~~and I cannot get to go I think~~  
if there was some of those that get the honors  
of the positions were here to take their place  
I could get to come home for a short time

but Col Wagner says that I will have to  
continue in camp for some time yet it will  
probably be a month or so yet before any of  
them can take the camp and then it will be  
too late to get a leave of absence, I should like  
to be able to get home for a month it gives  
me the blues when I think about it

my love to all of you and may the Lord  
bless you

Mrs. Margaret M. Grant

John M. Grant Capt.

Comdg. Co. 1st Regt.

3-2-1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 63

Dear Wife and Children

I did not get to write you on Sunday as usual for the season that we were ordered at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning to be ready to march at daylight in the morning. So at that time we left camp on an expedition into the enemys country after a reconnoissance and forage and had a very successfull trip. We just returned to camp this evening after chasing a fewrebs Cavalry and exchanging a few shots with them doing no damage excepting wounding one or two of their horses capturing 700 seven hundred loads of Corn and forage and returned this evening after being gone three days on Sunday morning. All we were starting I recd a letter from you of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb and was glad to hear you were all well.

I am very glad to hear from our Friends in Philadelphia you should have got some of the papers that spoke of me and sent to them and let them see what I am doing they probably do not hear what I am doing.

I am very glad to hear the people of Richmond have so good an opinion of me.

now there was a long time they thought me  
a perfect idiot I suppose,

you speak of my piles well I  
believe that I have got well of them as  
there is no more of them coming that  
I know of just now I am in first  
rate health and hope you are the same,

This has been a cold blustery day  
here a regular March day blowing and  
snowing all day and we found it pretty  
cold out I can assure you yesterday and  
day before were beautiful weather warm  
and sunshiny the yellow flowers in gardens  
and some kind of trees in the woods  
in white bloom I did not go close enough  
to see what kind of trees they were.

we have got a splendid camp now  
the nicest one we have ever had I went  
out on last Saturday and selected the  
camp and moved and lay a fire  
irony camp and got a three square ditch  
cut on each side of each street and  
each end and cross ditches and cedar  
trees planted all through the camp  
regularly and in a day or two when  
we get all cleaned up properly we will

have the nicest camp in the army  
I think,

There is not much news  
here at present or if there is I have not  
heard it as I have been away

Give my best regards  
to all enquiring friends kiss my little ones  
for me and accept a large number and  
a great deal of love for your self

John S. Meade

I send you a piece of the old  
Flag of our regt that has been with us through  
the south in the battle of Shiloh Perryville &  
Stone River besides innumerable skirmishes the old  
Flag is getting pretty nearly worn out and  
ragged