

3-29-1863

Camp Murfreesboro Tenn
March 29th 63

Dear Wife

I again resume the pleasant task of writing to you for that is a great blessing that the Lord has granted us if we cannot see love another and enjoy one another socially we still have the pleasure of corresponding with each other which is the greatest pleasure that I have

I have tried to get a leave of absence to come home and see My Dear ones but failed to procure it which was a great disappointment to me, Oh how do I long now I would love to come and see you all at home and press My Loved ones to My bosom it would be one of gods Blessings Decidedly, but it is not his will in the present instance so we will have to look forward to some future time for our pleasures and trust in him but I am going to come home and see you as soon as I can get permission, so will keep trying whenever I see a favourable opportunity,

Yesterday it was brigade Officer of the day the night before had been very dark and very heavy more looked cloudy and threatening but cleared off warm & clear night was quite warm but about the clock of 11 P.M. it changed the wind raised & blew quite cool and continued to get cooler all day's day, I spent the night in riding around the picket lines in front in the dark riding through cedar swamps and

almost impenetrable place in day light
let alone at night, I received your letter
of the 20th day before yesterday and was
very much pleased to hear from you and
that you were all enjoying such good
health, you acknowledge the receipt of the
Money, the piece of Old flag, whiskers, but I
did not find yours that you were speaking
about but found some postage stamps,
I had heard of the tearing up of the Jefferson
office a day or two after it happened, I seen
it in the papers they are brought through
by express regularly since we have been here
we get the Nashville papers of the same
day they are published by Noon and the
Louisville papers of the day before and Cincinnati
papers of two days old,

I have just had my supper it is
now a quarter of six and I will finish your
letter, I recd a letter from Jim the day
of the date of the 22nd I was pleased to hear
from him and other friends which he wrote
about, Frank I have not heard from
for some time I am glad you wrote about
him and John Fredell I did not know
where he was I have never recd a letter from
him, you write that Nat and Annie
have gone to house keeping and that you
have been helping them to live up but
you do not say where they are keeping
house at or anything about it.

I received a package the Quaker City

Telegram of 20 papers to day of the date
of the 2nd March I suppose sent by
the editor I have distributed them around
through camp, this is the coldest
and blustery ~~any~~ day that I have seen
for a long time but I have lain in
my tent all day since about nine o'clock
this morning,

My Love to you and the
children Mother Mary and Charra
and the Lords blessing attend you
all

Your Loving Husband
John S. McGraw

Mrs Mary Ann McGraw
Richmond
Indiana

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
April 2nd 1863

Dear Wife

The Weather is beautiful. The sun has been shining beautiful here to day. The blustery weather has passed away and Aerial, with her many flowers is here upon us but the air and clouds this evening looks ominous of rain and aerial showers, I am well and hearty. The regt generally are in the same condition the health of the troops were never so good as they are now there is not one man in the Regimental Hospital. Duff is not very well he has been troubled very much with the rheumatism for some time and is quite poorly now.

There is some moving about of troops and scouting around through the country, last night at twelve o'clock I heard the horns of Farmers Div calling the troops up to start out I do not know where they have gone to there has been a number of troops passed out to day there is scouting and skirmishing going on the greater portion of the time.

We are still in camp yet we have not been on a scout for three or four weeks now but I do not know how soon our turn will come again. We have been fortifying this place ever since we have been here and have got the place pretty strongly fortified. We feel very little alarm of the rebels here we do not think they can take the place with all the men that

They can save if they would come here to fight us but I do not apprehend they will do that, I think if we fight at all we will have to go to Haver and I cannot say how soon that may be.

If you see Finley or his Wife tell them that Sam was over to see me yesterday he is well and Mollie is well, I recd a letter yesterday from Mrs Crabb she says they were all well. Bettie is taking Music Lessons Dave Taylor is here she says

She also says that she had received a letter from her Dear Friend, Mrs McLean

Dated on the 22nd of last month which gave her great pleasure, Well I do not suppose that gives her so much pleasure as it does

Your Humble Servant, My Dear you do not know how bad I have wanted to come home to see you all, It would be a great and good time to me if I could come it seems that the longer I remain away the greater is my love for my dear ones at home

Yet we did not know how dear we were to each other until we were separated for so long a time, I often think of the old times that we have had together the Lord has blessed us in numerous ways and we have seen some heavy afflictions but they might have been worse than they have, I recd the Richmond paladium of the 13th of March, they are very slow sometimes coming through but they are welcome when they do come.

I have not heard any thing from Frank
since writing to you. Nor have I heard any
thing from John Sedell. Remember
me to all enquiring friends. My Love to
Mother Mary. Help the children for me
and my never dying love to my Pet
I will send you some flowers
that I have lying in the Dabk
I will now bid you good
bye for a day or two write soon
and believe me ever yours
John Sedell

Mrs Mary Ann McEwan
Richmond
Indiana

24-6-1963

Camp Near Murreboro Tenn
April 6th 1963

Dear Wife

I rec'd your Welcome letter of the 2nd and was very much pleased to hear from you that you were so well. I also received your letter enclosing Dick Wises. I was very much pleased to hear from him, I should have loved to have been there while he was there with his family we could have had such a pleasant time there together but if I should get a leave at any time and all have our health we will enjoy ourselves any how. I was surprised very much last week by a lady calling on me in camp John Manzik and his wife called to see me and took dinner with us and it fortunately happened that we could give them a good dinner it did me so much good to see any body from home it was a great pleasure to me.

to see her, I sent a present of a
cracker to you by her for a keepsake

We were paid again for two months
on yesterday, I have not sent my money
home yet there is not any way to
send it except by Mail or express

Mr Goodwin is not here this time
to take money home

I took a nice ride yesterday through
the fortifications here they are very extensive
it would be a very difficult matter
for an enemy to take this point after
they are finished and mounted

I don't think that an army of
half million of men could take the
place except by slow approaches
with such an army as there is
near for to defend it,

We are all well here at present
I am happy to inform you and
hope these lines may find you the
all the same

I suppose that Jimmie is having a fine
time at home there and living on the
fat of the land Well I am very glad
of it for he has always been a

Dear Children

I had some spare paper in this letter so I thought that I would address a few lines to you. I recd your letter of a couple of weeks ago and gave me great pleasure to receive a letter from you. I am very glad to hear that you are all so well and hearty now and I hope you may keep so. Write often to me if you take pains in your writing and spelling you would learn as much that way as any. I suppose you will had fine times while Mr. Wise and his wife and child was there. I should have enjoyed a visit home at that time very much. Give my love to all my friends there and do not forget grandmother aunt Mary or Clara.

I send you each a kiss and one for Mother. No more at present from your loving father, John S. McGraw

4-12-1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
April 12th 1863

Dear Wife and children

This is Sunday Morning
and a very beautiful one, we had a
nice shower last night just enough to
lay the dust. The country is full of spring
flowers in places where they are not
destroyed by the hands of the soldier,
the birds are singing sweetly as they
go on their way rejoicing and everything
appears to enjoy this pleasant weather
except myself and I am too homesick
to enjoy any thing very much, I have
been very anxious to get home this
spring but cannot succeed yet and
the Lord only knows when I shall.

We look for the Col back to day
he was in Louisville a couple of days
ago on his way to the Regt, we look
for Finney back to day or tomorrow
Duff has been very poorly for some
time and on Friday he got a leave
of absence for 20 days and started
home and on the road between

here and Nashville the Train was captured and I suppose Duff is a prisoner in the rebels hands, I sent a Hundred and Fifty Dollars \$150.00 by him to you and I am afraid that is gone up, for I expect they have looted all of them that is the report here, but if it is gone it is gone and there is no use of grieving after spilled milk, there was a number of officers on the train when it was captured there was Col Woods of the 16th and and Col Duell of the 8th and Duff and quite a number of others, the road was scattered along with letters where the rebels had taken out the valuables and thrown away the letters and I understood they had robbed every one.

I received your letter of last Sunday on Thursday and answered it by Duff in a short letter and enclosed that money but I suppose you will never get those lines there is nothing now transpiring here at present I am well as usual and hope these lines

4-12-1863

May Find you all the same, I
 am Flesteyer now I think that I
 have been since I have been in
 the army and feel first rate and
 I think if I could only get to
 come home to see those I love that
 I should be happy, ~~and~~ accept my
 Love for your selves and also give
 my Love to Mother and Mary and
 remember me to all engineering friends
 No more at present from your Loving
 Husband Father etc

John S McGraw

Mary Ann McGraw }
 Richmond Ind }

Sunday afternoon, since Writing this
morning the col has come up he limps
a great deal yet I do not know whether
- or he will be able for Duty or not yet
he looks Well other ways

Clint was here to see Me
this morning and took dinner with
Me he is Well and hearty, sends
his Love to all.

J. J. M.

5-3-1863
Camp at Murfreesboro Tenn
Sunday Evening May 3rd 1863

Dear Wife and Children

The Weather has been quite warm here for the last three days so much so that it makes us sweat quite freely the Woods look very beautiful and green and things look about as they did when I left for home other ways I was over to see Clint yesterday he was very well with the exception of sore eyes Frank was here on Friday to see me, I went over to see him to day but he had gone to Nashville I forgot to say that Finney and Hamilton Todd were with me, we went from there over to the 6th ind to see Sam Finney he was well and hearty, we remained to dinner and left all of our baggage through town stopped to see Dr. Marden hall and found him well then came on home, Col. Hines sent up his resignation while I was gone but Gen. Rodmans would not accept it and requested that he would withdraw the resignation and accept a leave of absence for 20 days with a guaranty of renewal for sixty days and if he was not able for the field then to send word by letter and he would see him on home by his duty and also stated that it was a guaranty in office to be permissible to leave

The Ladies, they say the Col. was
very proud of the communication which
last night he, he left here for home
on the 27 or 28, as Leonard
is here he is not able for duty & it
but is improving very fast and soon
will be at home, I arrived here

on Friday Morning Missed the train in
Nashville Thursday Morning seen Manyc
Thilson and Ed. Pickers (there, they were
all well, Manyc has bought out the other
pasture, every thing is quiet here at present
and seems likely to be for some time to

come, our Regiment were out on that
expedition to McMinnville while I was
gone and did not sleep in camp but
the night while I was absent they say

I am in first rate health since my
return and hope that this may hold
good all the same My love to all of
you also to Mother and Maria with
many kisses and may the Lord Watch
over all of us and protect us,

Your Loving Husband and Father
John D. McLean

Monday Morning all well

I have had my table set with
very nice one I also got my table all right
with down I want to get

to Covington on Friday, I have my coffee
and sugar it is very nice I have not had it

5-6-1863

My dear Mother
May 6th 63

My dear Mother
I take this opportunity to
write a few lines to let you know
I am enjoying excellent health & received
your letter since I came back that was written before
I went home I also received your letter written
on Sunday at Louisville and was very much
pleased to hear from you it is one of the great
pleasures that I have in my life

I am glad to hear that you have
had such a pleasant time and I hope
you will should have been down glad to
have been with you on your visit to your
sister's, I am glad to hear
Mr. Crabbe has recovered from his
illness, I wrote a letter to her yesterday
after receiving your letter, I will
write you on Friday the letter I gave did not
get off from here until Saturday probably
the weather here on Saturday and Sunday
was very hot you could not reach
stand any clothes on your back
it is cool enough to let by a fire

I wrote to your mother
Directed my letter home since
you have died by this time
I wish it nothing interesting here
interest at home I am well
I am here in my usual health

not been out since I came back to camp.
The regt was only in camp three nights
before I was away they arrived in camp
on Thursday. The men are all in good
health and I am happy to say that I am
enjoying the same business, I went on
Friday to see Sam Finney and parted
by Frank's yes but he is gone to a while
The war here to see him on Friday afternoon
he was well, the news from the east
is rather more favorable than usual from
that side. I am very much in hopes
that they may be successful there. This
is all I want to do. This War brought
to a close so that we can all come
home and remain with our families.
My love to all of you and may the
god bless you and protect you from all
harm, remember the health of my friends
is and about there. Write soon
I am most at present to your Loving
husband and father John A. M. Gray

5-10-1863
5-11-1863
I am at Murfreesboro Tenn
May 10th 1863

Dear and beloved Wife

It is with the greatest of
pleasure I now take up my pen to write a
few lines to you I would have wrote to you
earlier but I was over to see Frank to day,
(it is now ten o'clock) he is very well
I also seen Clint to day he looked well
The weather is beautiful, the flowers are in
bloom the trees covered with foliage and every
thing looks like spring here, I reced a
letter from you written on May 5th 1863
from Covington and was glad to hear that
you was well, I heard by Clint that they
were all well at home on the 2nd and
were going to the show, I believe I will
not close for the night and finish this tomorrow
good night and Gody the Lord watch over
us all

Monday Morning May 11th 1863

I again resume my letter this morning
to try and interest you if possible I was
going to say but I do not mean that
and would not hurt your feelings by
saying it for I know better than any
one can tell me that you will be in-
terested in any thing that I can write,

My pet I think that I have got
the most affectionate and loving wife
in the world, My mind is continually
on my family thinking of them day and
night My pet if we could only be together
we would be so happy, but we have

given up all of the comforts and pleasures
of this world for the time for the benefit
of our Country, which I pray may be
benefited very much by it, it would
be hard if we should have so much suffering
in the country for no good, My self
do feel at lone some sometimes weep by
myself and many a time I set for hours
with tears in my eyes thinking of
those dear ones far away, but I am
very much in hopes the time may soon
come that we may all be together and
enjoy each others company and be happy,

The News from Hookers army is not
very encouraging to a speedy conclusion of
this War but I hope that things may
take a change for the better soon.

I recd your letter dated May the 3rd from
Covington also one from Louisville which I
thought was the same date, it dose me so
much good to hear from you at any time
and to hear that you are all well is the
greatest satisfaction of all to me.

My Love to you and the children,
Mother and Mary and all regarding
friends May the Lord protect you

John V. Plaw

5-13-1863

Wednesday 4 P M
Camp of 7th Ind Vol
Murfreesboro Tenn May 13th 1863

Dear Wife

This is my regular ~~idea~~ of writing to you and I take up my pen to have a short talk with you. My greatest pleasure is to write to you. Now I am away from you. It seems an age already since I have seen you. And the children Frank was here for a few minutes yesterday he was well and hearty.

The weather is quite warm here this few days we have been drilling for a short time now. Our new Division Commander is drilling us in Division Drill, I do not know how I shall like him I have not seen enough of him yet to talk about that. He is sent for all of the officers of the Div to come to brigade Head

Quarters and have an introduction, he is a fine looking man and was very sociable the time we met him, I suppose you will recollect his name it is Pearson.

The weather is very warm here now for drilling it is as much as one wants to do to lay in the shade some times.

Some of the troops are moving out to the front. Farmers Division are all gone to readyville. I believe Reynolds Div is advanced a couple of miles I believe but we are still in the old place yet.

and there appears to be nothing going on of importance here at present, you find that what I said about a move from here when I was at home has turned out to be the truth you find

The health of the army here is excellent the men are fat and healthy and in good spirits, I am in good health and flesh about as I was when I left you

Finney is well but not quite so fleshy as when at home. Albert Prescott is well and fat as ever I have seen him look. Albertson is also well

We have got a very pretty camp now I believe I told you that they had taken away the billy tents from the men while I was away, but they have got their shelter tents up which are very comfortable this time of year then we have planted a perfect grove of cedars all through the camp trees are number of them twenty five ft high and have today made a round house (with a high center pole with a flag on it) for a church, the house is made of cedar posts put up and poles on them lining up to the center pole then covered with cedar it looks very fine

Well the hour has blown for drill soul must come to a close good night a kiss for each of you

John D. McGarr

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
Thursday Morning May 21st/63

Dear Wife

It is a great pleasure to me this morning to be able to write to you and inform you that I am enjoying good health, I received your letter of the 14th a few days ago and was very much pleased to hear that you had arrived home safe and sound and that you were all well at home and that you had enjoyed yourself while in Covington and Cincinnati, there was a man belonging to the 19th Ind battery called to see me this week stating that he had called to see you and Callie and that you were all well, I seen Clint on Sunday he was well and hearty, I also seen Frank yesterday he is well he has been promoted to Capt of his Co he recd his commission last week, I have not received my box yet. it is a long time on the way if there was anything in it that would spoil by laying it would not be worth much when it arrived here, you want to know how I like my pants and shirt.

Well I like them first rate I am wearing the shirt now and am well pleased with them, I am glad to hear that Duff is at home safe and that he had saved so much of his money, tell him that I would like to hear from him whether he was recharged or not and tell him to write to me.

There is not much news here at present of importance, I see they have been fighting

5-21-1863

Some down the Mississippi river, I see in the paper
that the 8th 11th and 69th were engaged at
Fort Gibson, I am pressing more flowers for you
I was officer of the day day before yesterday and
in going around the picket lines I culled a few
wild flowers to press, but my mind is always
on you and every thing that I see that I think
would please you I think of you and wish
that you were here to enjoy it, Gen Wood
has got back and taken command of our
Division again yesterday and Gen Beaumont
has left us, there is no more news that
I can think of at present, give my best
regards to all of my friends and my love
to Mother and Mary and Callie and
except the same for yourself and the children
with lots of kisses and believe me yours
Forever
John D. McLean

Mrs Mary A. McLean }
Richmond Ind } 3

Thursday afternoon May 21st 1863
Since writing the above I have recd your letter and dated
of the 17th of the month and was glad to hear that
you were so well all of you I also recd a package
of Richmond telegrams of last Saturday
Peaches here are as large as pigeon eggs and
every thing is forward that is in the ground
but the farmers are raising no grain here that
I see, My Love to all
J. D. McLean

Camp at Murfreesboro Tenn
Sunday Evening May 17th 63

My Dear Loving Wife
It is now Sunday
Evening & about 8 o'clock I take up my pen to
address a few lines to you in the sincere
hope they may find you enjoying the
best of health, as I can assure you
that they leave me in that condition
I believe that I am more fleshy than
I was while at home if any change.

I recd week before last a letter from
you mailed from Covington Dated
the 3rd of May which you are aware
was a great pleasure to me but that
is the last one that I have recd
I was kind of surprised to receive two
of the same date and one from Louisville
and one from Covington there must have
been some mistake in one or the other of
them for they were both dated the 3rd
I have been anxiously looking for a letter
from you since but so it has not come

I was glad to hear that you had spent
a pleasant time while in Louisville for I am
glad to hear of you being comfortable and
happy, you want to know about those
things that you sent by Finney the cans
were all a soaking but the pickles were still
good the peaches were spoiled, My box
I have not recd yet but Clint was
here to see me today and he said that
he heard that it was at the Express office.

yesterday I will send down tomorrow and
get it if it is there I am in hopes the
things are all in good order, I heard from
Frank to day he is well

I told you in my other letters of
my brandy I got it all right and it
was very fine

There is not much news of importance
here at present in fact I do not know of any thing
that would interest you without it is that

I love you as strong as ever but we have
to be separated for some time to know how
we do love one another kiss the children
for me and tell them to write to me

Clint says he got a letter from Callie
written on Sunday saying you had
not got home yett, I have been expecting
a letter from you all this week,

you did not get to fix the sleeve linings
in my coat for me while we were together
but they will have to go without Now
give my love to Mother Mary and all
my relatives and friends and except the
same for your self I ever remain your
Devoted Husband

J. M. Chan

Send me a few one cent stamps
and I will send you a paper once and a
while I wish you would send me
a good pair of suspenders to for these I
have are about worn out

J. M.



Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
May 23 1863

Dear and Beloved Wife

It is now Saturday Night
and I now take up my pen to write a few lines
to you I have thought of you all day to day
well that is nothing new as that is the case every
day of my life in the army here, you do not
know how you would rejoice me by your
presence Oh I would give so much to see you
I was home so short a time that it seems that
I have scarcely seen you, This is Saturday
Evening and I thought that I would write you
a few lines to night and finish up tomorrow
the weather is very fine here this week Dey and
Dusty but fine growing weather if there was any
thing to grow but as there is nothing to grow
it don't make much difference

Sunday Evening May 24 1863

This has been a beautiful day here although
has been quite warm here. I went to church
this morning and believe I told you in my
former letter about some things that I
it is now about 9 o'clock in the evening
I commenced this letter last evening and laid
it by until to day to finish. I wrote to you
in the middle of the week I have written
two letters a week since I have been back
it is a great pleasure some a wife
I have not sufficient but I am sure I like you
always anxious to hear, well I do not feel
but I have not my pen, I have not my pen
but I will not let the ink dry

I trust I have very many of you
from the army of the north it only prove
that the report were to day in that count had
possession of Vicksburg and the bluffs and
has captured a large number of them and
near sixty pieces of artillerie it is glorious
news if should prove true, there was quite
as brilliant little dark made by gen Stanley
near Vidicton last week we ran into a
cable camp and captured about seventy
prisoners they had having the alarm
there was among them I see the prisoners
in Mississippi there is not much else of
importance here at this time, if Duff
has not left there before his marches you
tell him to get us a nice light
chest with table lid something like Jordans
and get some dishes in it and
ring it right along with him as baggage
there is no use to express it as there is
certainty of it coming through,
I have not got my box yet how do you
get along with my pictures have you tried
yet them taken yet or not and if you
have not have you succeeded

had a part of my whiskers shaved of
today it makes quite a difference in my
look the officers in the regt say that I
am quite a good looking fellow when I
am shaved y. p. by the way I have not
time the whiskers you promised me I hope
at camp house, Col Wood has arrived

that went through dicey with Duff he says
they had a fine time in going through
Duff says that Duff had gone to Illinois
to see his dad well I hope he had a nice
time while there, Frank was here yesterday
to see Me. he is well Finney is well as usual
I told him about what you wrote about
him getting sick he had a good laugh
about it Col Hires is still at Indianapolis
Col Lennard is here in command of the
regt and is pretty well Col Goff was here
yesterday he says that Capt Wiggins and
Graves are both in good health

I receive a package of the greater city
Telegrams every week now which is very
acceptable to the Richmond Men here in
the regt How is cally and the children has
she succeeded in getting a house yet or
not My Love to them and Mother and
Mary and all of my friends and relatives
here and except the same only in
larger amount for yourself and the children
My pet I want to see you all as bad as
ever since I came back good night
and Mary kissed to all of you from
your Loving Husband

John D. McGan

Mrs Mary Ann McGan
Richmond Va