

Murfreesboro Tennessee
January the Eighth 1863
57th regt ind vol

JAMES JONES

father and Mother

i feel thankful that i have the privilege of once more informing you that i am alive and well tho i feel Some what worried down wee have been in line of battle almost day and knight ever Since christmas you have nodout heard of the battle at this place by this time i come out Safe but i dont pretend to Say that i am better than hundreds that fell wee had a Serious time wee was in from beginning to end wee done our hardest fiting the day before new years our regiment lost Seventy men killed and wounded our colonel and lieutenant colonel and adjutant was all Shot from there horses but neither of them was killed the adjutant was Shot threw the breast and Shoulder it is uncertain about him getting well the colonel was wounded in the thigh and the lieutenant colonel in the knee one of our captaintd took command of the regiment the colonel commanded us threw the bigger part of the engagement he took it afoot the most of the time wee done our fiting in a big cotton field along the river bank the 15th ind was on our left they lost Something over too hundred the rebels made a charge on us once they come rushing up double quick yelling like indians they come up within a few rods of us wee give them Such heavy voleys of musketry and our batteries Just mowed them with grape and canister they turned t there course and went back about as fast as they come wee done our fiting mostly laying down wee would rase and fire and drop down if wee had of Stood up i dont believe there would been a dozen men left in the regiment i think our colonel Seved a great many of our lives by manging us as he did i hated it very mutch when i looked around and Seen him laying by the Side of his hors i thought he was killed and didnt know any better for Sometime the Smoke was So thick Sometimes wee couldnt Shoot to mutch certainty wee run out of ammunition and had a Supply brought to us i Shot one hundred and too rounds that was more than the most of them Shot i didnt loose much time when i had a chance parker truit was wounded in the back of the head Charlez thornburg was wounded in the thigh whites Sun was wounded in the arm and one of the banz boys from Smithfield was Shot threw the lage Surlses boy had a hole Shot threw his cantine I had a cannon ball to hit me on the Shoulder the Second bounce but the power was So near gone it didnt hurt mutch i Seen the 36 boys after the first days fite they was badly cutup Jim wood was missing either killed or taken prisoner

January Ninth

i will finish my letter this morning fowler had his belt partly Shot of and a hole threw his cap groves was badly wounded in the

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face our company and company eye was throwed out as Skirmishers
a new years morning the rebels fierd on us tolerable heavy wee
got behind trees and rocks it was every man for him Self wee had
too boys wounded that morning out of our company the rebels made
a desperate effort the evening after new years it was just
a cross the river from us our men give back Something like a half
mile by this time there was four batteries come up on the Side
where wee was which made thirty too guns the rebels was rushing
up one rank after another these guns then commensed firing across
the river into the rebels this Soon turned them the artillery
fierd in Such voleys it apperaed like the hole earth was Shaking
our men Shelled them until they was all gone and continued
Shelling a good while after dark it would be a Site for you to
See canonading after nite it makes the fier fly i helped to bury
the dead after the battle it was a disagreeable Job i helped to
bury Some that was tore in pieces and throwed in every direction
one leg here and another there wee Just had to gather up the
pieces and fix them away the best wee could wee caried a hundred
and fifty together and dug a big ditch wide enough to lay a man
crossways and layed them in Side by Side there was a board to each
ons head and the name and reg. i never want to See another battle
field i didnt feel any fear a part of the time when wee was fiting
but when the cannon balls would drive there way threw the ranks
on each Side of me i didnt know but one would hit me next wee
are three miles from the battle field now wee are in our tents
a half mile South of town wee have drawed plenty of rations i
think wee will Stay here Some time tho i may be mistaken i
would have rote Sooner but i have had no chance at al wee have
had no male Since wee left nashville i Seen bil truit this morning
he Said wee would get the male this evening in changing our
positions wee had to wade the river three times at nite wee would
lay down rite among the dead and wounded i will finish on an other
sheet our male has come i got a letter from you and Nathan i am
always anxious to hear from home i want you to rite as Soon as
you get this i will rite often if i have a chance i have time
enough to rite but the difficulty is i cant have the materal to
rite with all the time Sometimes our napSacks are in the waggon
and wee have nothing to rite with wee drawed big gun blankets
this morning that will keep us dry in any rain there is no
scarcity of clothing wee can draw all wee want when wee got in
the battle wee throwed of our blankets and let them go wee
gathered up others after the battle the ground was covered with
them i must quit for the present dinner will Soon be ready wee
have taters beens rice coffee Shugar beef and pork and crackers
(this leaves me well and i hope will finde you all well i am
Still looking forward for a better day

So good by for the present

James H. Jones

to all inquiring friends

Murfreesboro tennessee
January the twelfth 1863
57th ind.

Dear brother and Sister

it is with pleasure that i Seat my Self this morning to inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i received your letter the other day and was glad to hear from you you Said you was ready to Start to Nashville and give it out i dont Suppose you would have found us there wee left there the day after christmas it is a common thing to hear Shooting about christmas and new years maby you think wee didnt hear any if you do you are a little ~~big~~ bit mistaken wee heard the Sound of artillery for eleven days Strate along well nate wee had a hard battle but i was one of the lucky ons that come out Safe but i am not bragging on it the men fell all around me i didnt know how Soon it would come my turn i had a cannon ball to bounce up after it had tore too big holes in the ground and hit me a tap on the Shoulder but it didnt hurt mutch i was very busy about that time and didnt pay much attention to it the bullets was whizzing around us all the time but i didnt mind the little bullets as much as the cannon balls i Seen men with there legs and arms tore of by cannonballs and and Some tore all to pieces i helped to bury the dead after the battle it was a desperate looking Site tho i had Seen the like before at pittsburg landing perysville ~~ans~~ and greenriver bridge i have Seen as many battle fields as i wanto i never craved the Site you Spoke about coming down as Soon as the battle was over i would like to See you tho i hardly know what to Say about it there is Some cases of Smallpox here in town you wouldnt like to get it and take it to indiana i cant tell how long wee will Stay here Some Say that wee will move on after the rebels before long i dont know where they have gone Som Say they have gone to chattenuga rite as Soon as you get this and tell me what the people think about this battle give me the news in Jeneral So good by for the present i will lok for a letter from you Soon

James H Jones to
Nathan and Cerena Jones

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Murfreesboro tennessee
January twenty Second - 1863

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this Morning to inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines Will finde you all well it has been over a month Since i have had any letters from home the last i got was dated December 21st i have rote Several Since the battle i Suppose the male has been Stopped Some way i am always at a loss to know what to rite unles i can get letters. John truit and thornburg was here they can tell you more than i can rite wee had hard times while he was with us he can tell you Some thing about it truit give me too dollars that Some of you give him wee moved camp yesterday wee are one mile east of town in a nice grove this town is about the Size of ~~ma~~ muncie but it has a great many more inhabitants at the present Every place is filled with Soldiers wee was out foraging day before yesterday with too hundred waggons wee was out ten miles which made a tramp of twenty miles wee dont mind marching 20 miles now and then but when it coms to 25 and 30 everyday wee would Just as Soon lay in camp and do nothing thirty five of our waggons was captured by the rebels cavelry yesterday 8 miles from here it was bad management in our officers the rebels can hide here in the red cedar thicketts and make a dash when ever they See a good chance thee army is Stripping this country of every thing things are going quite different Since Rosecrans has been commanding us he takes every thing before him he is around among us every few days he pays as mutch attention to the Soldiers as the officers during the battle wee could See him every little while riding along the lines he always went in a lope he had on a big oald citizen over coat and hat of the Same which covered his uniform the other day when wee past threw town he was out on the Side walk bare headed Smoking a cigar the talk was that the Smallpox was in town but i hear nothin more of it the last letter i got from home Nathe was talking of coming down i Suppose he has give it out before this time it is well enough as i have had the good luck to get threw the battle and Still keep well i am getting along very well if i Should get Sick and hafto go to the hospittle or get wounded then i would want Some of you to come down as long as i keep well i can get along where any body els can i have been among Strangers So mutch i can make my Self at home any where you that are at home had better Stay there until further orders i am not home Sick or any thing of the kind i am as well Satesfied as when i come in to the army but it is Sweeping our best men daily a battle is considered a Small matter with a great many but they no nothing about it as for clothing wee have plenty the

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weather is not cold here like Indiana you spoke about having
a pair of boots made I suppose you did not know that truit was
coming or you could have sent them by him about half the boys
in our company have had boots sent to them by mail perhaps you
can send mine in that way they are rapped up in a close package
the postage on those that have been sent has been sixty and
sixty five cts I think they will come to me as well as any body
else I am not suffering for them but if they can be sent I would
like very well to have them if you sent them I want an extra
half sole put on and two rows of tacks around the heels and tacks
around the toes it is tolerable hard on soles marching on the
pikes and there is no chance of getting them mended Just direct
them the same as a letter boots sell here from ten to fifteen
dollars right as soon as you get this send me a half dozen stamps
tell me if you have heard any thing from the boys that are gone
and tell me what the people think of this battle we cant tell
where the rebel army is some say they have gone across the
tennessee river I suppose we will follow them up tho I dont
know how soon the boys are not as anxious for fight now as when
we left Nashville captain Magraw is commanding the regiment
captain Blanch will take command as soon he comes from Indiana
we have had some as heavy rains as I ever seen but the last 2
days is pleasant this is a nice day we are setting around our
stove doing nothing our stove keeps our tent comfortable we
have plenty of rations we always have plenty unless something
happens the supply train and it dont get to us
I will close for this time I am looking for a letter everyday
every day right soon and I will answer if I have a chance

James H Jones of the
Fifty Seventh Regiment
Indiana Volunteers
Company E

Murreesboro Tennessee
Sunday January

as i have nothing to do this morning i will inform you that i am well and getting along as well as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee went out on picket day before yesterday and come in last evening wee ~~didnot~~ didnot See any of the butternuts Some of the boys fierd a few Shots about midnight they thought they Seen cavelry but it finally turnd out to be nothing but Some loos horses

tom kent of the 36 was killed he was wounded in the Shoulder and then finished with the bayonet i have heard nothing from Jim and Wo-----is only a helf mile from here i think i will go over there to morrow * captain dun is Sick he talks of resigning every thing is quiet to day i cant tell when wee will leave here the cars will hafta run threth first So wee can get provision a trane of Seven hundred waggons come in from Nashville last evening loaded with provision it takes no Small amount to do this army the talk is that Rosecrans is gone to Washington i dont know how tru it is i have but little to rite i have no word from any of you yet you cant expect me to rite mutch i guess there is Some difficulty in the male i have rote Several letters i dont know whether you have got then or not

i will close for this time Send me some Stamps this letter takes the last one i have i Sill have plenty of money i guess wee will be payed of be fore very long of you get any of the letters that i have been riting rite and let me know how you are all getting along

James H Jones

Fifty Seventh Indiana company E

*There were holes in the letter. That is why in the above letter you see -----.

jdt

[Thomas Kent, 36th Regiment, was killed at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862. Terrell's Report,

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Murfreesboro Tennessee
February Sixth 1863
57th reg.ind.vol. co E

Dear brother and Sister

i will drop you a few lines to inform you that i am well and Stout and hope that these lines will finde you all well well John this is the coldestday that wee have had this winter but it is nothing like as coald as indiana i have not Sufered any with coald this winter only the nites that wee layed on the battle field
i was over at the 36 reg yesterday i got the things you Sent me the boots is about the rite Size and Soots me very well there was 3 pare of Socks in the package too of them was directed to the 36 boys and the pare that was in the boots belonged too me each one got his Socks all rite the appels you Sent is the only appels that i have Seen Since wee left nashville William wood come to Nashville an could not get any further the 36 boys Said they was a going to take Jim wood up and take him to Nashville no citizens are allowed to come in to our lines on any occasion you Said you had Some notion of coming down it would be no use to try it they wouldnt let you threw and the measles are here you would be Shure to get them i would like very well to See any of you but while i am getting along as well as i am at the present you had better Stay at home if i Should get wounded or any thing happen me then i would want Some of you to come down
our regiment have been doing considerable of work on the fortifications there is Some very Strong works here wee have one forte here prettinear dun that is bum proof Some think the rebels will attact us here but i have no idea they will they cant whip us out of these forts i think there will bee another big battle near here before many weeks wee hear canonading almost every day our men go out foraging and they Generally find Some rebel cavelry but a few Shell Soon Start them
i was sorrow to hear that pap was taken down with his oald complaint from what i could hear i was in hopes he would get entirely well

parker truit come up to the regiment 3 or 4 days Since his wound is about well you Said you had Started a letter but it hasent come up yet i will close for this time rite often and Send me Some Stamps

James H Jones

to J A and Marthy Jones

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Murfreesboro Tennessee
February tenth 1863
57th reg

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this morning to inform you that i am well and getting along as well as common this morning looks like Shugar making wether i come in from picket yesterday i was on over forty eight hours on the out post the orders are very Strict on out post picket i am wareing the boots you Sent i got the Socks tho i am not needing them at the present you Said you Sent a couple of cans they never come up they was Sent from Nashville by the 36 waggons the boots come Safe but the cans i Suppose was taken by Someone it wont do to trust any thing of that kind in a Soldiers hands you Spoke about the roads being very muddy if you was here at the river where the wagon trains are all the time crossing and See Some of the mules that are miedr down and cut loose from the waggons and left there to dye in the mud you would think that was a hard way of doing i gues the bridge is about dun now the waggons can cross then quite handy i got Six letters yesterday and day before too from Sam Simmons one from Mr banghan i was glad to hear from home once more i had begin to think i wasent a going to get any letters but the male is getting more regular the letter that Sam Simmons rote come threw in Six days the health of the troops i think is getting Some better than it was 2 or 3 weeks ago perhaps you will think i am Scarce of paper i have plenty one of the boys got a big book at head quarters wee Just rite on a leaf and cut it out

alot of the 57th was drunk last nite both officers and men if Colonel hinds had of been here he would have Stratend them out in a hurry he rote back to the reg the other day and Said his wound was mending very Slow i guess captain Blanch is appointed Major for the 57th but he is Sick at the present time he is one of the best men in the regiment according to my Judgement i guess William can tell you Something about him he Seen him at pittsburg landing there is Some few cases of measles here but nun in our regiment yet i guess they all had it last winter Some of the new recruits will be very aft to get it

you Said you had been doing Some fencing i am not uneasy about you getting along at home the rails and fencing in this part of the country is all burnt the Sunday after the battle our bregade moved down the river about a half mile and Stacked our guns a long on the flat rocks wee was all wet and coald and the rails had all been burnt that was any where ~~the~~ close but there was a big log barn and too houses and 4 or five stabels that Stood near and Some ~~a~~ other Small buildings oald waggoner our brigadier tole us to tare them down the buildings Soon disappeard and wee all had a big hot fire where ever an army goes distruction follows as i have this Sheet about filled i will close for the present rite often you Said you had been unwell fore Sometime past i hope these lines well finde you all well Still Send me Some Stamps there is no chance of getting them here

James H Jones

i will rite a few lines to Mr bond

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57th - reg - ind - vol - co - E
Murfresboro Tennessee
Monday February Sixteenth 1863

father and Mother

as i have no employment this evening i will inform you that i am well and fairing as well as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well

PAR - the wether has been pleasant for the last few days it begins to look like Spring here

PAR - wee was called out in line of battle this morning before day and Stood until daylite our guns are Still in Stack and wee hafto keep our catridge boxes on - the troops are all held in readiness the batteries have taken there positions ready for operation but i dont think wee will have any fiting here wee was inspected by General wood yesterday but i was not here i went down in town yesterday morning and helped to load a waggon train with rations i come back by the 36 reg. the boys Said that William Wood had been there i didnt know it at the time or i would have went over and Seen him if he gets home rite and let me know how he got along

PAR - Sam Manifolde come here last evening and left this fore noon he had been at Nashville 3 weeks trying to get threw he finally Slipt threw as a Setler his ~~brother-in-law~~ was brotherinlaw was badly wounded but was getting better the mail comes in every day but i have had no litters for Several days ~~but-i-have-had~~ i will quit riting for the present and finish in the morning

tuesday february 17th

PAR - Every thing is quiet this Morning wee had quite a rain last nite but looks like clearing of this Morning

PAR - Sam Manifolde come back last nite he will not leave before tomorrow

PAR - Our captain is very Sick i think it is uncertain about him ever getting any better

i have but little to rite So i will close

James H Jones

you will finde some cotton Seed in this i cant tell whether it will grow in indiana or not i guess the ground hasto get tolerable warm to make it Sprout

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Warriors. Tennessee 37th Reg.
Sunday, February twenty Second 1863

father and mother

i will inform you this morning that i am well and getting along as well as common and hope that these lines will finde you well i have been driving our team the last three days our teamster is unwell able to drive it wee went out fifteen miles yesterday foraging east from here our bregade went as gard and about too hundred wagons it turned out to bee the wetes job i ever Seen it commensed ~~*****~~ raining about eleven o clock and rained hard all day every place was covered with water the regiments had to wade threw lots of places that was belly deep to the mules i was driving our teem and had my oil blanket So i got threw dry the waggons cut in the rode So that the hubs roaled threw the mud

i went don day before yesterday to town after rations the mules run of with me the waggon was loaded with poark barls and Started up threw town and the mules got Sceard at Something i dident know what and ~~##~~ if every mules run it was then i tried to holde them but it is useless for one man to try to holde ~~##~~ Six mules So on they went the further the faster threw town and up the pike i finally come to a leavel piece of ground and i pulled the leaders of the pike and run them in a field where the ground was so soft that thay had to Stop So nothing was hurt

our captain is Still Sick not any better

the river has been very high our bregade was down at the railroad bridge last Wednesday pulling out logs and trees as they come down the river to Save the bridge they had Several boats and tied long roaps to them as they come down then wee would hall them out

i will close for the present i have been getting Several letters lately the male coms regular now

i have no idea when wee will leave here
rite often

James H Jones

this is Washingtons birthday a battery from each division have just now been firing each battery fired thirty three Shots it begin to Sound a little like it did down on the battlefield

this evening is alittle cooler and Snowing Some little

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Thursday March 20th 1863
Murfreesboro Tennessee

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this Evening to inform you that i am Still alive and Well and hoping that these lines will finde you all Well i received a letter from you Several Since but have neglected to answer wee have been Moving Our camp wee are camped now Just at the edge of town on a nice piece of ground the 36th boys are camped between a quarter and a half mile from here i See Some of them prettinear every day i got all the things that you Sent by Richard Leavell he was here yesterday the things he brought was quite a treat butter here is worth Sixty cts per pound Eggs a half dollar a dozen the Setters have what thay call apple butter to Sell here but i call it stewed appels

Dunn this is a pleasant Evening the boys are out playing ball Colonel captains and all wee have had tolerable Easy times Since wee quit foraging there Was considerable fiting the other day Some twelve Miles from here in a Southeast Direction near a town by the name of Milton Wee could hear the canonading very plain wee had to get out in line of battle as usual but after a little while the canonading ceased and all was quiet wee hafto get out in line of battle here evry morning a little before day our men are building breast work here all the time it will bee my turn to work on the breast work or go on picket to Morrow wee work very moderate on the fortifications Colonel Hinds is Still at Indianapolis i gues he mends very Slow Major blanch is riding about Some i guess he will bee able to tak command in a few days Capt Dunn is now commanding our company he is tolerable Stout i was down in town the other day every thing is Moving lively i Seen oald Rosecrans riding threw town you ought to See his horse and Saddle it is little the finest i ever Saw his horse looks like he might have come out of a band for oald rosy has a lot of brass about him but he is like the boy Said by General Washington he is nothing but a man

i guess the rebels are tolerable close here Some think they will fite us here but i hardly think they will tho i may bee mistaken if they ever come here they will have a harder job than Stones river Richard Leavell could tell me a little about every thing it is ^agreat Satisfaction to See Some one from home i got a letter from Sam Williams and Wil Leavell Several days Since the peach trees here are in full bloom but the horses and mules have nawed the bark of them and the limbs to as high as they can reach one of our boys come from Nashville day before yesterday that was Shot threw the Side of the face he is well but it leaves a tremendous Scar he Says he is a going to make Some rebels headache if he gets in another battle i Seen him get wounded it was on new years morning he was a little in the advance behind a tree when ever he Seen a rebel he would drop him ~~he~~ peaped around the tree and was drawing Site when Some one brought him over he fell on his back and layed a little bit then cralled of out of the waw So good by

James H Jones

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Saturday March 28th - 1863

i have Just come in from pcket wee had a heavy rain lasy
knight wee was one and a half miles from camp posted in a
barn wee Stood one at a time Some 30 or forty rods from the
barn it is a tolerable lonesome place on picket when a fellow
is posted in the cedar thickets that are here by him Self
but i have done So mutch of it i dont mind it mutch I Just
now received your letterdated 20th Stating the death of
Grandfather haymond you need not Send any more Stamps for a
while i have some thing over 30 you may Send me 2 or 3 pen
points i can get them here but they are a poor article our
men are building breast work every day i gues they are looking
for an attact all the time rite often and let me know how
you are getting along this leaves me well and hoping that it
will finde you all well the health of the troops here is good

James H Jones

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Fother and Mother

I will once more inform you that i am alive and well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have had dry winds wether here for the last three days wee are fairing tolerable well now wee have done no drilling for Several days wee hafto Stand picket about once a week wee have been doing Some work on the breast works in the last few days this is a clear day and Some what cool for this part of the country Every thing is quiet here now wee are Still called out in line every morning Just at the brake of day and Stack our guns on the cullerline then return to our quarters Richerd Leavell was here yesterday Evening he had Just received a letter from Mr Leavell of March 24th i received a letter from you Stating the death of Coleman Haymond it appears that the folks at home are Subject to Death as well as the Soldiers the health of the troops here is good but where there is Somany men there is always Some one dying there was a man Died in our regt night before last he belonged to the drafted company i guess he was a Substitute the Substitutes got from too to three hundrd dollars would not turn me a hairs bredth in a case of this kind if i was not willing to Join the army money would not hiermeto Join it

and if i wanted to Join the army no man could keep me from it

our men are Still fortifing this place i got a pass from Major blanch Monday last and Spent the bigger part of the day in town and down about the river and different forts it would Supprise you if you was here and See the amount of work that has been done by this army iseen heavy fortification at forte dolelson and bowling green but they are Small works by the forts that are bum proof they have twenty four and Sixty four pounders in these works ready for fite any time

i dont think the rebels will ever fite us here

i hear no talk of leaving here i Spent the bigger part of last Sunday at bregade head quarters with bil truit i got a letter from William dated March 22 Stating that he was going to Start to illinois the next day i Sent him a day book Stating Some few of the items which has taken place Since i left indiana but reading and imagination is different from experience

James H Jones

i will hafto go on picket or camp gard tomorrow it would bee customary to Say if nothings happens but wee go here happens or no hapens rane or Shine

Wednesday April first / 63
Murfreesboro tennessee

as i have no employemny this Evening i Will Endeavor to give you Some little idea of the great change that has taken place here within the last Six or eight Months. i passed threwh here last august Murfreesboro and vicinity was then a Splendid part of the country She compaired with other towns and portions of tennessee as the red bird among the Most common fowls of the air. but the red bird has now lost her fethers the adjoining plantations that was once a Scene of beauty and wealth is now occupied by troops and camps artillery & all its Splendor has disappeared

Dist. the Streets that was occupied by the ladies and Jentleman in days gone by in riding back and forth in there vehicles of Splendid qualities Are now crowded with goverment Waggons the horseman and cavelry making there way threwh where ever they can finde a Space or vacancy Everything Moves with a rush. the Side walks in many places are blockaded with boxes barrels and Military Stores of every description

Dist. the Splendid gardens and yards of Shrubbery and flowers now resemble that of a brick yard. the fruit and Shade trees that formed there lines along the walks have long Since been throwed out to the commons and the bark and Smaller limbs have been consumed by the horses and Mules. they resemble the oald Stubs and Shrubs that May be seen in Some oald dedding. the fine dwellings hotells Store rooms ware houses and other buildings are occupied by Military affairs in various ways. Some turned into hospitals a large portion of them filled with provisions bakeries doctor Shops & But very few citizens remain in the town. i Suppose the thundering of the cannons on Stones river Started them out. there is nodout numbers of families in this region of country that are almost entirely destitute of every thing Starvation is almost Stairing them in the face

Dist. the court house in this place Stands on a high piece of ground whitch can be seen for many miles around. on top of it the Signal flag and lite is to be seen Manovering both day and knight. the bigger part of the court house yard is filled up with artillery of different kinds and qualities from ten to twenty four pounders there is fortifications on evry hill and Shore near this place within them are placed the twenty four and Sixty four pounders ready at all times to make the earth tremble if the Enemy Should Make his apparance at any point the groves of timber that was Waving in the breze at the arrival of Rosecranses army is now in Stockades and ashes Nothing left but the Stumps and brush perhaps you are tierd of reading Such as this. i must close and prepare for Dressperade

James H Jones

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Saturday April Eleventh 1863
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

I have Just come in from picket wee have very pleasant wether here now things are quiet. i received your letter of april fifth this Morning i am always anxious to hear from home my health is as good as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well

(par) there was a man Shot here in town this week he was found out to be a Spy for the rebels he has been going about threw the regiments for a good while Singing UNION Songs he calls him Self the army poet his name is lock i have Seen him lots of times he is quite an oald man he was Searched and he had all of our fortifications drawed of and the number of men in the different regiments he was placed under a gard and he under took to brake away from the gard and he Shot him threw the lage with his Musket but that dident Stop him the gard then drawed out his Six Shooter and Sent the oald fellow to his long home

parker truit got wounded last Wednesday knight while on picket it was rather a Singular circumstance i will try to give you Some idea how it was done in the first place wee have Six men and a Sargeon on a poste too Stands at a time Some 50 rods out in front and close enough to See each other the Sargeon Sometimes goes out to See how they are getting along So parker went out to See how the boys was getting along the boys was a Short distance apart and parker walked on threw the line to See if the boys would discover him he done this with out considering the danger he was in the boys discovered him esra Surls was on the post and as Soon as Surls Seen him he Shot him threw the arm above the elbow the ball grazed him a cross the back cutting threw both his coats it was a very narrow risk the bone in his arm was not injured i was looking at it this morning it is a tolerable Sore arm but not dangerous i Seen Richard Leavell day before yesterday he keeps well the report is now that the trane was captured last evening between here and Nashville i have learned no particulars yet i will close and finish tomorrow

James H Jones

Monday night April 13th 63

this has been a pleasant day wee had brigade drill this evening i Suppose you have heard before this time that the trane was captured between here and Nashville it was entirely distroyed the rebels got a large pile of money and all the male i Started a letter to John that went on that trane i dident care for the letter but it had ten dollars in it i Suppose it is in the hands of the rebels now but i am willing to Square of with them if they never injure me here after i have Something over forty dolars by me i guess that will do me until i draw agan there has been Some fiting at franklin i have learned no particulars

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wee could hear the canonading wee get the cincinnati and
lewisville papers here evry day igot a letter from Sam
Williams the other day i Seen about 75 prisoners the other
evening that our men captured out towards Mcminville i guess
i will quit riting for to night my health Still keeps good
the health of the troops i think is generally good rite often
James H Jones

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Sunday night Aprile 19th 1863
Murfreesboro. Tennessee

I will once more inform you that i am Still alive and well hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have been in line of battle for the last three days about too miles from camp wee come in last evening about Sun Set thursday friday and Saturday clear and pleasant wee had a Small Shower of rain to day the talk has been for the last 3 or 4 days that wee would bee attached here Shure but nothing of the kind has taken place yet

wee have orders to Start on a Six days Scout in the morning perhaps wee will have Some fiting to do before wee get back

I have received no letters this week i Seen Richerd Leeavell this evening he Still keeps well parker truit Started home the other day if you could See him he could tell you all about how things are going on here i rote a letter to you last Sunday night i dont know whether you get all the letters write or not

Curt pucket of the 36th got his discharge on account of his week eyes he Started home this evening

The boys have all gone to bed and as i have nothing Strange to rite i will do the Same

Colonel kinks keeps quite lame he is not able to ride a horse back Major blanch is commanding the regiment

Eggs Sell here as high as Seventy five cts a dozen appels from 5 to 15 cts each butter has entirely played out

rite often give me the news in Jenerel

James H Jones

Monday morning aprile 20th

wee have not Started on the Scout yet the order is to be ready at any call wee may Start in ten minutes and maby not before tomorrow this is a clear morning

James H Jones

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June the Ninth -- 63
Murfreesboro tennessee

Dear brother and Sister

i Will once more let you know how i am getting along i# am getting tolerable Stout agan i have been considerably under the wether for Some days bill truit has been Sick but is now about well i Seen him last evening, hatfield is at Nashville in the hospittle this is a very cool morning wee have had 3 or 4 very cool days and accompanied with considerable of rain i Suppose you are busy now in your corn i have not Seen a hill of corn this Seizin wee are inder Marching orders but there is no telling when wee will leave i think it depends alltogether on the movements at other points for my part i am not caring how Soon wee leave here wee have been fairing better here than any place that wee have ever been yet i have but little to rite this time rite as Soon as you recisieve this and give me the news in Jenerel tell me all about the youngsters excuse my Short letter and i will try and do better the next time you must charge my pen with this bad riting Sogood by rite Soon

James H Jones to
Nathan and Cerena Jones

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Saturday July Eighteenth 1863
Murfreesboro Tennessee

father and mother

i Seat myself this Evening for the purpose of once more informing you that i am Still alive and Well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i was glad to hear from home once more i received yours of the 9th of July this forenoon it has been a month Since i recved a letter from home there is nodoubt letters for me at the regt i have rote to the captain to Send them to me i am looking for them every day perhaps i have neglected riting too long i have been wating Still thinking every day that i would get a letter from Some one Wee have been fairing very well Since wee have been here wee get up about Sunrise and drill an hour then eat breakfast and from that wee have nothing to do until near Sunset wee then go out and drill an other hour that is all wee haf to do i like it Much better than infantry drill our guns are forty pounders wee have 25 men to each gun wee are getting drilled So that wee can throw them around tolerable brisk When wee heard of the capture of vicksburg wee had the privilege of trying our guns wee fierd 34 Shots it almost deafens a man when they are fierd wee have our powder in Sacks wee Just ram in a Sackfull at atime wee wet coffey Sacks and roled them in tite roles and tied cords around them for to ram on the powder when wee fierd it jarred Some leaves from Some brush that had been throwed up on Some forks for a shade which Stood about a hundred yards off our guns are rifle parrots Eleven feet long the captain Said wee would Soon have 2 more 64 pdr wee only come on gard once in 10 days and then wee can Set down in the Shade when it is raining wee can Set in the Stockade where it is as dry as any house our Stockade is bumproof it is covered over the top with heavy lumber hewed timber and gravel in all it is 3 feet thick wee are but a few yards from the railroad and Some 30 rods from the river there is very heavy freight running on this road all the time every train has a car hitched on that is wetherboarded with 5 inch lumber and filled with Soldiers they have port holes to Shoot out and a cannon ready for action at any time i will try and lay of the Shape of our forte and Stockade Some of these days So you can form Some little idea how it Stands i told you last winter i would Mark of the battle field where wee fought So i tried it but i couldent do it So you could under Stand it it was more of a Job than i thought for Well for Something els wee have been feasting on blackburies for the last 2 weeks all of the Surrounding country here is covered with buries they are twice as large as i ever Saw before Some of us are out every day wee can pick a bucket full in a little time wee go in Squads and take our guns along So as to bee ready for the rebels if wee Should find any wee generally go down the river on the battle field the briers and weeds are hier than a

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mans head it is a pleasant Job to pick buries to what it was running threw the briers last winter in line of battle wee can See the rebels hands and feet Sticking out of the ground where they was buried Just on top the ground last winter i was picking buries day before yesterday where the weeds and briers was very thick along a little holler i come to a man that was partly washed out by the big rains that has lately fell he was pretty much decayed away there was no Shape of a man about him he was a rebble i could tell by his clothes it looks hard to See a man laying on the ground rotting like a dead horse or mule i was Supprised to hear of the death of William H. Jones especially in the way it happened i suppose his folks would take it very hard there is men dying here all the time in the hospittels. our regiment are down on the cumberland mountain they are in high Spirits and living fat. there is Springs down there that would almost make a Sick man well I suppose the folks in indiana and ohio in Some parts will get a Slight interdution to this rebellion Since morgan has been visiting them i wish all the trators or copperheads or what you please to call them would Join him and come down here and attact us i think a few 40 pound doces of grape Shot would clean him out i have rote to all the boys and leavell and Mr Caughan and have got no answer from any of them yet i never feel like riting unless i can get answers I must close and go to the river a swimming Rite often as you can and i will try and do better here after

James H. Jones

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this is a pleasant day Wee have had Some warm wether here. the last 4 days has been cooler tolerable pleasant i believe i have Seen as warm wether in Ind. is i ever did here you spoke about having dry wether up north i never Saw more big rains then wee have had here this Seizin i dont know whether you can understand any of the marks on the other Side our fort is the center of all the forts every hill here is fortified if i ever get home i can tell you more about it. the inside circle is the Stockade which is coverd and under that is the Magazine our camp is in front of the door on the north Side wee have drawed new tents Seven of us occupy one tent all 57th boys but one he belongs to the 49th. ind. i will give you the names Ira Bunker from wayn county Phillip hunt from Ways. Co. frank Zeek from ~~Wayn~~ Wayn, David Duglas, from henry Co. James Smith from Wabash Co. Daniel fulton from Layfaett wee have platforms of plank to Sleep on Some 3 feet of the ground wee get plenty of rations beef 2 days out of aweek fresh bakers bread every morning i will close rite Soon Direct as before this leavs me well and hoping it will finde you well

James H Jones

(See picture on reverse side)

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Friday August 21st 70
Murfreesboro Tenn

Father and Mother

I will drop you a few lines this evening to let you know that i am well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i recieved yours of the 13th and one to day from Mr leavell of the 15th wee was called up last knight after wee went to bed the report was that wee would bee attached before morning the next order was to lay down holding our Selvs in readines at any call the report dident bother me from Sleep as much as the Musketnes did the next call was mad this morning a little before daylight wee took our position at our guns until breakfast Since that every thing has been quiet

a drunk irishman come in our tent kight before last after wee had gone to bed wee couldnt coax him out So wee all bounsed him and drug him out then he would fite us and try every way to get back in the tent the capt told us to tie him So wee got Some ropes and tied him to a gun carriage wee tied both hands and feet flat of his back the boys had him cut loose next morning before i got up he has never bothered Since

there is nothing i hate wors than a drunk man they are to beseen here every day for something els the air is cool to day quite pleasant

I Suppose the army in front are advansing there has been Several trains of cars loaded with pontoons pased here to day for the front there is droves of horses and cattle pasing here daily for the army in front they braught a drove of cattle threw the other day that filled the pike pretinear a mild the most of them was good cattle wee had considerable of canonading yesterday they was trying Some new guns that had been braught in

wee have plenty ofs appels and peaches * here the citizens bring them in from the country wee have been getting peaches for a dollar a bushel appels about the Same it is prettinear gard time i am on gard today i will quit and finish tomorrow

Saturday morning Aug 22th

i have Just come of gard the men was all called out this morning before daylight i dont think there is many rebels close here tho i may bee Mistaken the talk is that wee are to take our guns to Chattanooga i dont know whether there is any truth in it or not i dont believe any thing i hear i think there is more Siege guns here than necessary if there is any call for Siege guns at Chattanooga perhaps wee will bee moved there if Such Should bee the case i will rite agan i have but little to rite this time rite often and give me all the news tell me what the boys are driving at tell me whether you ever Seteled with yates and how you Seteled tell me what the opinion is about military affairs and whether there is going to bee any draft this leaves me well and hoping it will finde you all well

James H Jones

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Friday August 20th 705
Murfreesboro Tenn

Fother and Mother

I Seat Myself this Morning to answer yours of the 22 which i relieved yesterday i was glad to hear that you was all well all that i have to rite is that i am well and fairing as well as common wee Still drill a little Morning and evening Every thing here is quiet at present

Wee had a very heavy rain here last Monday Since that the river is tolerable full about five hundred head of cattle passed yesterday for the army in front and about the Same number of horses there was Eight hundred rundown horses drove out towards Nashville one day this week i Suppose they was taking them north

I Suppose they are battering away at Charlston these times wee have the papers here Every day

Wee get plenty of peaches and appels 75 cts a bushel

I have nothing to rite this time Still rite and let me know how you are all getting along

■ this leaves me well and hoping it will finde you all well -----

J H Jones

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Redoubt Johnson, Sunday evening
September 27th /63

Father and Mother

I recieved yours of the 20th and 21st yesterday and was glad to hear that you was all well My health is good and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have very nice wether here the nites and mornings are cool wee have fire in our Stove Every Morning you have nodoubt had a full account of the battle near chattanooga before this time it was- has been a hard one Every train from the South this week have been loaded from end to end with the wounded they always Stop here to water i have been at the road to See prettinear Every train Some of the wounded die before before they get this far tho the worst cases are left down nearer the battle field they left Some too hundred wounded here yesterday they are pretty badly used up the 57th have not been in this fite they are gards at Chattenooga i am anxious to hear from the boys of other regiments as Soon as you hear let me know how they come out i listen for nothing Els only that Some of them are killed or wounded I often wonder how many more big battels there will bee before this war is over wee have on a double gard here for Some days past that brings us on Every fourth day but that is nothing to what the boys have infront they are held in line of battle day and knight and perhaps without rations many times wee dont drill much any more our gard is all wee hafto do the wether here is drier than Common i hear ~~nothin~~ nothing favorable to us leaving here i will Close hoping to hear from you Soon give me all the news Soo good by for this time

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October 11th /63

Well Olliver i will answer yours of the first whictch i recieved a day or too since this is sunday evening i am riting by candle light the boys are pretti near all up in town at meting i got a letter from sam simmons to day tell him that i will make it all rite in a few days

Our men braught in 4 pieces of artillery last Evening whitch they had taken from the rebels

Well bub i seen a boy not much bigger than you get both his legs cut of by the cars the other day

i got a letter from Jim Wils the other day he had a long Story to tell a bout Shooting Woodcocks

Well bub i Suppose you are about as big as any body by this time but i think i could take you down with one hand yet

Well bub if you was here i could show you a great many thines that you never seen but you are better of where you are

you must rite as soon as you get this and tell me all about Every thing and i will rite a longer one the next time

tell Sam to rite and tell me all about them home gards and what kind of a set they are

tell me who that couple was that John married

So good by for this time

James. H. Jones
to Oliver Jones

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Redoubt Johnson

October 13 /63

father and Mother

I recieved yours of the 8 yesterday I am as well as common and hoping these lines will finde you all well It has been raining here Ever Since yesterday noon an Still raining things are quite here now our men brought in near four hundred rebel prisoners yesterday they Sent them on down to nashvill they was the Same oald yellow briches tribe you ought to See what a Shabby looking Set they are but Still a gun will Shoot as well for them as any body all of the ohio men are gone up to headquarters to vote

Wednesday Morning

Oct 14

i am on gard to day wee had Some rain last knight it looks a little like clearing of this Morning wee have had a gard to each gun for Some days past but now one man gards 2 guns a trane of four hundred waggons passed here last evening and 2 bateries they belong to the potomac army our men brought in 50 or 75 prisoners last evening Valandingham got one vote out of 240 as for Clothing i have plenty of Every thing i have 2 pair of Socks that you Sent me last winter i have never wore them any yet i am Still wareing the boots you Sent by biley wood they dont leek any yet i have not had a pair of Socks on Since the army left i have 2 overcoats and a blouse and an artillery coat wee can draw boots when ever • wee want them you need not be uneasy about me as long as i have my ■ health i can get along any place wee have a good Stove in our tent and plenty of dry Cedar wood when you rite i wanto know if there is to bee any draft in indiana and the opinion of the people about this war business i am of the opinion that the bigger part of the able bodied men in the north will Smell powder before this war is over i think there will bee a good chance to volunteer after our time it out there is one fellow in the tent with me by the name of frank Zeek that has Six brothers in the army and he is the Seventh one 4 of them belong to the 57th and 2 in the easte and the other one got killed at Vicksburg

this leaves me well and hoping it will finde you the Same it is Still raining

J H Jones

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Murreesboro Tenn

October 28 /63

yours of the 17th is at hand I am as well as common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well wee have had a great deal of rain here Since i rote last I was out in the Country 5 miles yesterday i went out with a detailed Company to gard a trane of wagons that was halling Sollogs they had about 40 niggers along to cut and lode the logs wee Scouted about threw the woods and Shot at Every bird and Squirl wee could See wee killed Several Squirls Myself and 3 other fellows left the balence of the croud and went to a house about a mile of and got our dinners they Said they was union and i guess they was they was very Clever folks this was near the Nolens ville pike on the Edge of the battle field the batle field is all growed over with weeds and briers hier than a mans head the Mail has been very unregular for the last 10 days the rebels have been tareing up the track i guess the rade is in running order now I hear nothing favorable to us leaving here the last i heard of the regt they was garding in Chattanooga oald Waggoner has Command of the post at that place wee drill a little once in 2 or 3 days the potomac troops have all gone on South

you didnt Say whether Sam Williams had got any better or what had went with him when you rite let me know if there is going to bee any draft in Ind. if wee Ever whip the rebels wee will hafto have more men and i dont See why they dont bring them out It is now raining and looks like it might Continue there was aman took the Smallpox here in the camp Some ten days Since i dont know whether any one will take it from him or not no one has taken it so far

wee have bakers bread regular Everyday I believe i have nothing more worth riting this time Still rite and give me all the news

James H Jones

If you know any thing about hatfield let me know where he is

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Redoubt Johnson
Murfreesboro Tenn
Monday Morning
November 16 / 63

father and Mother

I Seat my Self this Morning to let you know that i am Still alive and well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well the last letter i got from you was dated Nov 2 i have nothing new to rite wee Stand gard about Every fifth day that is all wee hafto do

the troops here are tolerable healthy With the Exception of the Smallpox they have been taking them to a hospittle to themselvs all Summer whitch is 2 Miles down the river but now they have it Every place i have had all Chances to catchit i dont know whether i will take it or not -----in town yesterday to Sunday School and Meeting they have a white flag out at Every ~~##~~ house where they have the Smallpox i noticed they had it prety much all over town there has been three Cases of it in our Company they are getting about over it Wee have very nice wether here the Mornings are frosty the last i heard from the Regt they was at Chattanooga Our adjutant Eliot is promoted to lieutenant Colonel of Some new Regt i never knew what one

Wee have a new Commander now they make a Change here about Every Newmoon Capt Jones was Called to Chattanooga During the battle at Chicamoga to help ta care of the wounded and he has been there Ever Since they Say he is a number on doctor ~~##~~

Since he left wee have been

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Redoubt Johnson
Murfreesboro Tenn
November 27 /63

~~Redoubt~~

Father and Mother

I recieved a letter from you a few days Since and have neglected answerin until now My health is good and hoping that these lines Will finde you all well Capt nut Started this Morning for Chattanooga to his Regt Lieutenant pool is commanding our company now the Mail trane has not come threw to day the word is now that wee have had another hard fight near Chattanooga I seen fifteen hundred Rebel prisoners to day Just from the battle field the cars halted here a few minutes to wood and water they are the Ragidest looking Set you ever Saw they are gone on to nashville i Suppose there will bee More of them threw from all accounts Wee have not learned any of the particulars yet Concerning the fight there was a Nigro Regiment passed here this forenoon going on to the front I Suppose Some folks are opposed to arming them but i think it is only by those that are too big a Cowards to fight them Selvs If any man would rather Soldier than to See a negro at it down here is the place for him Cowards are the greatest men to talk that wee have and know Just about as little for my part i Say Make use of any and Every Measure that will crush the rebellion let any man bee Jamed about ~~our~~ over the Country as i and thousands of others have and he will Say the Same that is my notion about things there is families pasing here all the time going north they are the poorest people you Ever Saw Some of them are going with a one hore waggon and Some in ox carts and Some a foot they Say they have nothing more to live on here I seen a man to day that had Come from Short Mountain that is up South East of here near Mc mimille he Said he was Just Starved out and Couldnt get away from here and he Said there was any amount of families where he come from Suffering for Something to Eat and couldnt get away the Men are in the Reble army and they are left to do the best they can Wee have had no new cases of Smallpox in the company the ones that had it are weell agan it is now about Sunset and Supper is about Ready So i will quit for the present

Saturday Evening Nov 28 /63

Yours of the 22 is before me now I recieved 4 letters to day one from John one from Sam Williams he was at Washington when he rote and the other one was from Virginia Mary Haymond but i didnt know there was such a person living Wee had a very heavy rain here last knight ~~and~~ and this Morning it has turned very Cool and Still drizling the river is tolerable high i have not Seen any paper to day i dont know what the news is you wanted to know if i had been vaxinated i was vaxinated last Spring My arm was Sore all Summer and then it only left a blew Spot the doctor Said it wasent the rite kind of Stuff there is agood many in the Company now that are vaxinated i believe i will try it agan and See what it will do one of our boys Come back from the hospittle to day he has Just got over the Smallpox it has left a good many marks on him

Wee are fairing well enough here i am not Suffering for any thing i have a much Clothing as i want if i was to leave here i would hafto ~~to~~ throw over half of it away it dont pay for a Soldier to lode himself down with things that he Can do without

I think if i was in Si Meekses place i would quit I think he has Soldierd long Enough I dont think his Discharge will give him credit for fiting many

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Redoubt Johnson
Murfreesboro Tenn
November 27 /63

Page 2

(Letter to Fother and Mother)

battels

I dont believe i have any thing more Worth Riting you Said they was Recruiting for the 19th let me know in your next if they are Just going in for the time that the 19 has to Stay or going in for 3 years

you Said the Morristown boys had Volteered but didnt Say what Regiment thy Went in

I will Close for this time

J H Jones

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Redoubt Johnson
Murfreesboro Tenn
December 11 1863

Well oliver i Recieved your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you i will now try it by candle light i have but little to rite this time the rats are ratting around in the tent as bad as Ever you wanted to know about waring my Shall i am not caring how Soon you ware it out you Can have it for your own i dont know that i will Ever kneed it well oliver if you was here you could See a great Many things that you never Saw they are getting up a nigger Regt here you aught to See them play the fiddle and dance as Soon as a nigger is knee high they can dance a streak it is role Call now and i am getting Sleepy i cant think of any thing f'ney now to rite i will do better the next time wee have one fellow in our tent by the name of phill hunt he keeps a pair of shoes under his bed with the heals noct of Just to dans he Just makes things rattle

Dont forget to rite and tell me all about Every thing all about the youngsters tell Sam to not rite i can do with out as long as he can

i will quit for to nite look over my scribling i dont try to rite a good hand any more

James H Jones to

Oliver Jones

Bub Jones all Stones

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Murfreesboro Tenn

Jan 2 /64

If i Stay here until winter brakes i think i will Send you Some Cedar Sprouts if you want them i was down on the battlefield the other day cutting wood i can get Just any Size that i want if i Send any * i will get them that are 15 or 18 inches long i can Send 25 in a box that will not cost over a dollar and a half I think they will grow if you will Just pile down a lot of rock and Set them on top of them they grow in places where it is So rocky that nothing Els Can live i Suppose you know the nature of them better than i do when you rite tell me whether you think they will grow or not if you think they will i will Send you Some nice ones

J. H. Jones

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Murfreesboro Tenn
Sunday January, 24, /64

Fother and Mother

I Seat Myself to let you know that i am well I recieved a letter from John yesterday Stating that you was Sick i hope these lines will finde you on the mend there has been Some Excitement here for the last 3 days the report has been that the rebeel Cavalry was making another rade threw here but i think it is nothing but Some bush wackers i am in an other Company now i was detailed yesterday morning the regulars was all Called to the front and the battery that i am now in was prettinear all regulars and when they left they detailed other men to fill there places the battery that i am in now is Called battery Mitchie wee have Six guns 2,10,pdr, and 2,6 pdr and 2,64,pdr i belond to one of the 64 pounders i Cant tell how long i will stay in this Company the talk is that they are going to bring men from Nashville to fill the vacancy here the Supposition is that wee will all bee Sent front Shortly but there is no telling any thing about it i am not Caring i would as Soon bee one place as another there is 4 boys in the tent with me 2 of them are from Illinoe Illinois one from ohio one from Ind. i would a little rather Stayed where i was but it dont make but little difference to me where i am the Wether here is very pleasant now wee have not been allowed to leave our quarters yesterday nor to day

the letter that i got from John is the only letter that i have recieved in the last 2 weeks i Jenerally rite about 2 letters where i get one the last i heard from the regiment they was 30 miles from knoxville they had prettinear all reenlisted oald Jeneral Waggoner passed here this week going north the oald troops are passing threw here Every day on there way Some they have reenlisted i will not reenlist unless they will raise a Company to go threw the north and hang trators or Secesh or what you please to Call them if i Could get in a Company of that king i wouldent want a better Job i think it would bee Striking the rebellion Just where it needs it worst

Myself and 2 other fellows got a pass on the 20 of this month and went out in the Country 7 or 8 miles one of the boys had a brother killed on Stone river last winter and wee knew where he was buried and went to Sho him where it was wee ~~foul~~ found it by hunting a while wee Strck up a Small board to it with his name on but the weeds had almost Covered it up they are building a monument on the oald battle ~~field~~ it will bee Some time before they get it done I have nothing more worth riting now i got a letter from Jake Shroyer the other day he Said that Richard leavell had Stayed with him the nit before they was boath well

If you are able to rite when this Comes to Sand rite ~~when~~ and let me know how you are getting along

James H Jones

to all inquiring friends

Direct your letters Just the Same as heretofore

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Murfreesboro Tennessee

Monday January 28 /64

25

Dear brother and Sister

yours of the 19 is before Me i was Sorrow to hear of the Situation of things at home but hearing it is all that i Can do i would like very much to Come home a few days but that would bee imposible under the present Circumstances all that i Can do is to hope for the better i rote to fother last Evening the best news i have is that i am well and hoping that these lines will finde you all in a better Condition then when you last rote this is a very pleasant day it is almost warm Enough for ~~the~~ Cornplating i am now in an other battery i was detailed last Saturday morning (Some of the troops was Called from the fortress and at the Same time or Shortly after there was a rumor that the rebel cavelry was in this part of the Country So i was Called to battery Michel and Still remain here i belong to a 64 pounder wee was drilling a little this forenoon i Cant tell whether i will Stay here or go back to Redoubt Johnson the talk is that wee will all go to the front Shortly i am not caring how Soon the Company that i am in now are men from diferent States and Regiments i never Seen them before but that makes but little difference with me in your next inform me whether J Williams and G Shruyer Reenlisted or not i rote to you Some 7 or 8 months Since i think you have been a little inclined to bee Slow about answering but i will Set a new example by riting immediately

Rite often i will bee very anxious to hear from home agan as i have but littl to rite i will add nomore

Still Remaining your Brother

J H Jones

Direct as before Redoubt Johnson is Some 50 rods from here

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Well oliver

your letter Come to hand his morning whitch found me well

i am Still here Soldiering a little in Spots i have nothing worth riting
if Sam Williams is at home tell him i want him to rite i have rote to him since
he rote to me i dont know whether he got it or not tell frank to Come down Some
knight and fetch oald drive i will go a hunting with him tell Jim level to rite
or i will twist his oald neck tell me all about tae youngsters and give me all
the news

dont forget to rite as Soon as you get this i will do better the next time

James H Jones

to Oliver Jones

tell Sam i am going to Mark him of if he dont rite

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Redoubt Johnson,
Fortress Rosecrans,
Murfreesboro, Tenn., feb. 28 1864
Sunday Evening

father and Mother

Yours of feb 20 Come to hand a day or too since

My health is good and hoping that there lines will finde you all well
i have nothing new to rite the wether here is quite warm and dry the folks
in town have been making grden pretty Extensive during the last week i dont
Suppose your garden is thawed out yet

Wee have been looking for the 57 threw for Several days but they have
not Come yet they are at Chattanooga wating for trans portation the 15 and 40
gnds witch belongs to our bregad passed here on friday last i think the 57
will Come threw this week there is oald regiments going home Every day and
Some are going back one oald regt passed this forenoon for the front i didnt
go down to the depot to See what one it was but it looked like it was a bout
filled up with recruits i guess there is about as many going front as there
is home one bregad from Nashville passed here on friday for Chattanooga they
was Marching it threw

there is deserters from the rebel army and Refugees wimmen and Children
going north onprettinear Every trane they are the poorest folks i Ever Saw
they have no money and allmost no Clothing i guess the government is Kalling
them of to keep them from Starvation it looks reasonable that the rebels
would desert when there families are suffering as they are in this country
the folks in the north knows nothing about wor

I was a little Supprised to hear of Jim banghan Joining the army i
fear he was not aware of all the Crooks and turns he will meet with in the
army i Cant tell when wee will leave here i rather think wee will stay here
until the regiment Conaes back from Ind. that is only my opinion. I am not
in a very good bix for riting i got my hand slitely bruised by a wilde mule
whitch i and 2 other fellows hitched it up to a cart one day this week it
was one that had never been worked after tiing it to a Stump and got it in
the Shalvs and the lines on the boys rather insisted that i Should take the
first tûrn of driving i got in the cart and it run of the first motion and
among the balence it run over a pile of hewed timber and throwed me aganst
the side of the bed and hurt my hand but i hung on till i got him stopped

Rite and give me all the news this leaves me well

James H Jones

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Fortress Rosecrans

Murfreesboro, Tenn., March 24 1864

yours of March 14 Come to hand yesterday i am well and hoping that these lines will finde you all well I am still working on the fortress i was working on Redoubt Branam yesterday and to day i have been helping to burn drift wood wp the river to keep it from floting down ~~at~~ aganst the bridge the wether here is dry and pleasant the peech trees are in full bloom Six of us are in the tent together now Sargeon Bunker of the 57 and 2 illinois boys one of them has been at home on a 20 day furlow and Just returned last knight he braught a lot of home made Shugar with him and this evening wee made a lot of wax and had a regular feast I suppose there has been a great many volunteering lately up north i think they will all have a Chance to try there hands in Severel battels yet i would like to know if Sam or oliver Ever talks of going in the army if they do Just tell them that i Say for them to Stay at home Soldiering will pass of very nice up in indiana but Just wate untill it Comes to going in the field) it is no place for boys the Recruiting officers will make it appear very nice but it is all talk any one will Soon finde that out

i Cant tell when wee will leave here Some of the boys thinks wee will leave when the Regt Comes back from Ind but there is no telling any thing about it i am not caring when or where wee go

It will bee very warm down in georgia this Summer but i would rather Soldier in the Summer than the winter

i am riting by Candle lite i have nothing more this time this leaves laves

Me well James H. Jones

the 42 Ind and the 70 ohio Regiments passed here this Eveing for the front

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Liennette Rousseau
Murfreesboro Tenn
Sunday Evening April 10 /64

Fother and Mother

I seat myself to inform you that i am well as Common and hoping that these lines will finde you all well this ~~was~~ has been rather a lonesome day with me it has been Raining a little but looks like Clearing of this Evening Wee was all Examined by the doctor ~~last~~ last week as wee thought to go front but the Erder is countermanded wee will remain here until they bring men from Nashville to fill our places wee may stay here a month or 2 yet (i rote to John yesterday and told him to not rite any more but you can still rite as you have been doing if i should leave i will have some one to forward my letters the 124 and 130 ^{and} with Several other ~~Ind~~ Regiments Come in here on last thirsday about noon and let friday Morning frank Williams Stayed with me over ~~the~~ knight i Saw tom Deagoo and all the Morrystown boys ~~Charley~~ Charley long and Charley larence (al fowler Jes May and alot of the boys that i knew they was all well and looked harty they was marching threw to Chattanooga I have not been doing any thing this week i guess i will work on the fortress tomorrow if nothing happens

I started a little box to John by Express
rite and tell me if it ~~comes~~ comes threw i will quit and
finish in the Morning

Monday Morning Apr 11 --1964

this is a very pleasant Morning Wee are not going to work on the fortress any more now i quess i will Come on gard tomorrow i got a letter from Sam Williams this morning Ritten Apr 3 he was well and in Camp Near Culppeper Va

i have nothing new to rite you can still rite i guess there is no more hopes of us leaving than there was 2 months ago

Direct thus

Lunette Rousseau

Murfreesboro Tenn

this leaves me well and hoping it will finde you all well

James H Jones

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Lunette Rousseau
Murfreesboro Tenn
Wednesday Eveing April 20

father and Mother

I seat myself to let you know that my health is good and hoping that these lines will finde you all well i went out on picket yesterday Morning and Come in this forenoon it is the first time i have been on picket for 10 months wee was out on the Woodburg pike 2 miles from here wee had a lieut with us from the 115 ohio the orders on picket are strict wee are not allowed to sit down while on post the bushwhackers fiers on the pickets Every few nites wee had 2 men wounded last week while on picket they have the advantage of us they Can Slip up threw the Cedars and fier and then dodge of and hide

April 21

I am on gard agan this Morning here at our guns wee Come on now Every otherday it is ~~the~~ heavy gard

the 57 Regt Come in here from Nashville on the 18 and ~~the~~ left on the 19th the Regt looked as well as i Ever seen them John hatfield ~~and~~ and Some more of the boys Stayed with us over nite Major Blanch was Marching the Regt threw a lot of Recruits Cap. Dunn and lieut Calaway is till with Co. E

i hear no talk of us leaving here at present

the 25 gnd and 22 wisconsin are passing here now going South the boys in the Company give me Some money whitch i had loaned to them before the army left here last June i solde a watch yesterday that i traded for sometime ago i got 3 dollars more than i give i have Sixty five Dollars by me now i Jenerally keep a little spending money on ~~my~~ hand

i am going to Enclose a few Cotton seed in this i want you to try it and see if it will grow in gnd let the ground get warm before you plant it and pick a dry spot

the least bit of frost will kill it they have been planting it here for Some time past

I have nothing more to rite

James H Jones

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Murfreesboro Tenn July 13 /64

father and Mother

I will drop you a few lines to let you know that i am well and hoping these lines will finde you all well i am now riting by Candle light i was detailed this Evening to go with a drove of Cattle to tullahoma there was 20 detailed out of our Company wee will Start in the morning at 4 the talk is that wee will bee gone about a week perhaps longer

i was on picket last knight and didnt Sleep much and i will hafto get up Early in the morning so i will quit for the present

James H Jones

tullahoma is 40 miles South of here on the Chattanooga RR

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Fortress Rosecrans
Murfreesboro. Tenn
Monday July 18 ---64

father and mother

my health Still Continues good and hoping these lines will finde you all well i have had no letter from you for Sometime I got back from tullahoma yesterday 20 men from our Co garded 800 head of Cattle threw wee was 4 days gone marched threw and Come back on the Cars

20 men from our Co are going to Start with another drove in the morning i am one of the number wee will bee gone Some 4 or 5 days wee only gard them they have darkeys and Citizens to drive

there is a good many bush whackery threw the Country the 5 Tenn Cavelry killed Six yesterday on the wood bury pike 6 miles from here they kill all the bush whackers they Catch and they Can catch them prettinear Every time they know Every Crook and turn in Tenn you will understand the 5 Tenn are uncl Sams Cavelry Commanded by Col Stokes

I have nothing more this time rite when you can i am riting by Candle lite i didnt know that wee was going away until dark wee will Start about daylight

i rote a letter the other day and forgot to take it to the ofice i will Start them together in the morning if one fails the other may go threw the boys are gone to bed

i will Close look over mistakes i am taking no pains this leaves me well

James H Jones

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