

DEED OF GIFT

NAME OF DONOR(S)

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Give Area Code)

Theodore A. Zimmerman

724-758-0628

ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State and Zip Code)

265 Kindak
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Whereas the National Park Service is dedicated to the preservation and protection of objects significant to the interpretation of National Parks throughout the United States,

I/We do hereby unconditionally donate to the National Park Service, for its unrestricted use, the item(s) listed below.

I/We also state that the subject donation is my/our personal property free and clear, to dispose of in any manner which I/we may determine.

I/We also acknowledge actual delivery of the item(s) listed below to the National Park Service.

DONOR(S) SIGNATURE (Please use ball point pen)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Theodore A. Zimmerman

10-13-98

SIGNATURE

DATE

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS

CONDITION

Transcripts of letters written by James S. McCarty from December 15, 1862 to December 26, 1863.

27th IL

The National Park Service hereby gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the item(s) listed above.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Gilbert J. Backlund

10/13/98

TITLE

Acting Superintendent

13 OCT 1998

PARK

Stones River NIS

ADDRESS

3501 Old Nashville Hwy, Murfreesboro TN 37129

GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER, IT IS THE DONOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE APPRAISALS TO SUPPORT DEDUCTIONS. (See IRS Pamphlet 561)

Camp Sheridan December 15th 1862

Dear Grandfather i now take my pen in to inform you that i am well at present & hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing we are Camp 5 or 6 miles from Nashville in the timber a half mile or more from the main road we have a very nice clean Camp we have been moved into the 11th division under General Sheridan they are all new troops in his division but our Brigade we are kept pretty Close to our quarters we are ordered to drill 3 or 4 times a day & have 3 or 4 roll calls a day it is a pretty lonesome place here our preacher has been ordered to a general hospital so we have no Chaplain at all in our regiment we have got a new lieutenant in our Company his name is Isac W Chatfield he got his commission yesterday we have not had any fighting lately but i dont know how soon us may be called into action us are in front now so i expect when the army gets ready to move we may not move far before we meet the enemy but the run so often that we dont get to fight them much it appears to be very quiet along the line at present the enemy are reported to be om strong force in front but they dont bother us much o grandfather how do you like was and how do you stand the times o wouldnt you like to see us out in lne of battle bayonets fixed and shining with heads up with a keen look and anxious to pitch right into the enemy i tell you grandfather we are the boys that can fight or drill or stand guard you ought to just see us when we come out on dress parade withe our new dress coats on and guns a shiny o they look so pretty i tell you it looks like was we have benn in service over 16 months our time will soon have half our time served we may get our discharge before our time is up but i dont expect to get my discharge much before unless the Rebels kill me or i die ther is not much news to write to you we have pretty hard living hard crackers and bacon the wether is tolerable warm down here We have not had much snow as yet how is the wether at west creek write to me grandfather and tell me how you are getting along direct you letter to James S McCarty Company E 27th Regiment illilnois Colonel F A Harrington Nashville tennessee the regiment is pretty healthy at present there is not a man in the regimental hospital our new tents came to our regiment but the Colonel would not take them for his regiment they where made of drilling they made light so we could carry them they are in two peices one tent for every two men each man is callculated to carry half of a tent besides his knapsack with a blanket and a shirt or two and a pair of drawers socks and overcoat Canteen haversack anf cartridge box with 20 rounds and gun besides so you see it is a big load to carry and march 15 or 20 miles a day o soldiers life is a hard life to lead but i hope it will be all for the good of our country give my love to grandmother and Aunt Ann and all the rest of the family my love to you write soon No more at present but still remains your loving grandson give my love and best respects to all inquiring friends James S. McCarty to George McKaig

Camp near Murfreesboro Tennessee January 13th 1862

Dear father I now sit down to Answer your kind good letter that I received this morning I am well at present & hope this letter may find you enjoying the same great blessing I have had some awful hard times since I last wrote you I am glad to hear that you have such splendid good times father I dont think you know much about soldiering in reality being most all the time in a big city where you have full & plenty & never been through a battle well I have been in I came out of the longest Battle ever fought in the west on Friday the 20th of December we where ordered to pack up & be ready to march early with three days rations in our haversack our march was towards Nashville 10 miles distant when we get within a few miles of Nashville our skirmishers came in contact with the enemy and a sharp skirmish ensued 4 Companies only of our Regiment where in it a but the enemy where soon repulsed and 2 pieces of artillery Captured and a few prisoners well when we put the enemy to flight we pushed in onto Nashville & marched on a few miles beyond the town we campt for the night through the day it rained & we where wet nearly through but we when marched on the picket line where not allowed any fire and ordered to lie Close by our guns well we lie down on the Cold wet ground to sleep the best we could I lie down without anything but the canopy of the heavens to Cover me Saturday we where in the march again Cold & wet in the afternnoon it rained awful hard & we where marched through cornfields and tinber and on the pike trough mud & water till we where nearly soaked through near night we went into camp when we had struck arms & ordered to Break ranks such another running I hardly ever did see nearly evry man running for rails to build fires Sunday we lay in camp resting drying our clothes blankets & cleaning up our guns Monday Morning we where up bright & early & ready to march we marched over the roughest road that I ever saw we where til after dark traveling about 12 or 13 miles when we have traveled 27 in nearly the same time we campt at night within 5 miles of Murfreesboro where the rebels where the rebels where reported to have a large force Tuesday Morning we where up & on hand to march on to the enemy & give them a few lin Compills we marched about 2 miles when the skirmishers Commenced & heavy Skirmishing where kept up all day the enemy holding there position 3 regiments of our Brigade where engaged that day 21st 42 & 22nd illinois Volenteers our Regiment laying in reserve drawn up in line in an old wet muddy cornfield all day one of my friends of the 21st Regt was wounded in the rist slightly his name was Thomas Mason John Masons Son well at night we lay down in the old cornfield close by the fires that where made along the line I lie down with a few corn stalks & a little straw under me to rest with a hungry belly our rations had about run out I had pretty near a handful of Crumbs of hard crackers and a piece of meat to eat fer my supper Wensday morning I had fresh Beef without any salt or anything else to eat with it I thought that was soldering in the first degree what do you think about it early in the morning we where drawn up in line of Battle & the fight commenced in earnest about 8 oClock we where Called into it as the enemy where coming around on our right flank & driving our men where on the right before them we where ordered in line & told to lie down and hold our fire until they got close to us so we let them come close when we just rehanyed away with our fuseses and such another roar of Musketry I never did hear before that was kept up for about a half hour or hour & the artillery on both sides putting on the best licks well we lay there under fire until the enemy had got us surrounded on three sides when we where ordered to change our position to change front to rear on First Company left half wheel when we lie down and commenced firing away the shells just flying in evry direction Cutting off limbs & trees and knocking mens brains and dealing out death & destruction in general one shell struck a tree just in front of me and cut it off throwing splinters all around one large splinter taking me on the head but did not hurt me well we lay there under fire holding the enemy in check about 5 hours when we where ordered up and retreated about a mile a pretty good order when we where formed in to a line again we where soon drawn up in line of Battle & ordered forward we had marched about 100 or 200 yards when the enemy let loose on us with heavy musketry we resisted a little while when we where ordered to retreat we went back formed in line of Battle again & where ordered forward again this was in a small Cedar grove along the edge of a large old field well forward we went with a determination of driving the rebels if possible some where mad & some a cursing th Rebels at a hard rte we soon let in to them a heavy fire soon the

As we began to fall them we went to a just keep them I tell you they did
skeddaddle the 1st in just a pouring it into them & charging and killing at a
signature we chased them away out into the fields leaving about 300 prisoners and
an immeasure of arms we were soon ordered to fall back to the grove & fire
line of battle & attack arms soon some where out a straying over the battle
field hunting for troops I tell you you ought to of seen the dead & wounded
soldiers that lay strewn over the ground I tell you we layed out a good many
out in the ground they just throwed away Blankets haversack knapsacks guns
and a great many of these things Some men in our Company went out over the
field and picked up load of haversacks with cornbread and a few buiscuit with out
any salt in it and bacon and fetchted them to the boys and then such another
grabbing time to get something to eat for we had had nothing to eat all day but
just beef with out any salt and this was late in the afternoon there was 6
wounded in Company E and 9 taken prisoner but none killed there was 8 killed
and 7 wounded and our acting Brigadier general was killed and worst of all our
Colonel F A Harrington was wounded he was shot through the mouth Cutting a
piece of his tongue of he has since died o it always almost brings tears to my
eyes to think we lost such a good Colonel at night we got a little provision
such as hard crackers and bacon Thursday morning we where Called up long
before daybreak and ordered to put out all the fires and be ready to fall in at
a line and was an awful frosty cold morning to after daylight awhile we where
ordered out to the edge of the grove & built Breastworks of Rocks logs sand so
forth rocks where plenty so we soon made a pretty good Breastwork and got
behind them and began to look for the secesh to come and attack us well some
us anyhow wished they would come and try our works well we kept looking for
them til about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we saw a regiment coming out of
the timber on our left in front well when they marches across the field we
laying low until they came within 2 or 3 hundred yards of us when the order was
right wing ready fire and I tell you we made them skeddaddle back to the timber
in a hurry laying out a few of them and taking 65 prisoners so they put back
and didnt come more to attack us old R P RoseCrans Complimented us very highly
for the good deed we done on Wednesday saying that we had saved the whole army
from being cut to pieces and taken our losses estimated at 1000 killed & 5,500
wounded Besides a great many priseners I would not of missed being in the
Battle fer Considerable since I have come out safe I think I have seen
soldiering and fighting in reality since I listed we have over 4 months pay
coming to us and have not mustered yet for we where fighting on muster day
well we settled down in camp once more where I have a big tent to live in and a
good Bed to sleep and plenty of Blankets to keep me warm and plenty to eat and
not much to do but I dont expect to stay here long give my love to Mary &
Martha I thank you for your kind advice the battle lasted 5 days when the
enemy evacuated leaving a great many of there wounded at Murfreesboro on our
possession well I belive I have written most of the important news about our
regiment so I wile bring my letter to a close Write soon No more at presant
but still remain you obedient SOn James Swain McCarty Company E 27th Regt 11th
volenteers to Samuel McCarty

January 10th 1863

Dear Mother i now sit down to answer your kind letter that i received today i am well at present and hope these few lines find you enjoying the same great blessing well dear

Mother i am very glad to hear that you are so well provided for thru winter i have went through an awful scene since i last wrote to you friday the 26th of december we where retired to March with 3 days rations in our haversacks and 2 in the wagon we marched to within 3 miles of Nolinsville when our skirmishers Came in Contact with the enemy there the feds had a little fight and routed the enemy and we went on and Marched on until afterdark Marching through mud and rain we where Marched up on a great high hill for pickets and it was Cold but we were not allowed any fire for fear the enemy would find out our positions so we lay down on the cold wet ground to sleep the Best we could it rained nearly all night hard o it was a long night to the next morning we where forwarded on our Journey towards murfreesboro that day we had Considerable rain towards night if Just poured down in torrents we where marched through Cornfields and up hill and down hill at night when we got into Camp and stacked arms and ordered to Break ranks you ought to of Just seen the Boys run for the fences such another rail Carring i never saw before to make fire with next day we laid in Camp trying to rest and get our clothes dry it was a right nice day Monday We had to march again over the roughest roads i ever saw we marched till agter dark and Camp within 5 or 6 miles of Murfreesboro Next morning we was marched about 2 miles and then the fight Commenced 3 regiments of our Brigade where in the fight that day but we did not get into it we laid in reserve that dy Thomas Mason of the 81st Regt got Wounded in the Wrist John Masons son Next day the old 27th had to try herself the enemy got us surrounded on the right on three sides then the work of destruction Commenced the bullets did Whiz and the shells did fly and burst i tell you the old 27th i thought surely was gone up but we where bound to fight our way out we had 2 as brave a Commander as need rver be so fight we must and fight we did our Acting Brigadier general was killed on the Battefield and ou Colomel G A Harrington where wounded in the mounth the ball passed through his mouth Cutting his tounge partly off he has since died well we laid under fire about 4 or 5 hours poking in a few licks with our rifles we had none killed in our Company but had 6 wounded there was 9 killed in the regiment and 67 wounded i got struck with a splinter from atree that was Cut off with a shell on the head but was not hurt about 2 oclock we changed our position and went further to the left about a mile and was drawn up in line Soon we where ordered to foreward March we went about over 2 yards when the balls begin to Come thick and fast towards us soon the order Came to retreat the enemy pushing us we retreated a few yards and where ordered to form a line of Battle and foreward March that made Some of of us mad so we went into it with a Charge the Bullets a Whistling in every direction but we went in a hooping and hollering pretty soon the rebs begin to run & then such another hollering and i scarcely ever see the man that was on my right in the ranks was wounded and the man behind me in the ranks where wouned so you see the bullets Came Close to me but thank the good providence i Came out saft and sound and well that night we lay on the Battlefield Close by our camp

Next morning we was up Bright and early Ready for the enemy if they should attack us the day that we run the rebs we went into the fight with nothing but fresh Beef without salt so we went into the fight like Ravenous wolves so it was life or death with us in the afternoon when the rebels run they Just threwed Blankets haversacks and nearly every thing else one of our men went over the field and brought in loads of haversacks nearly full of Cornbread BisCuits and Bacon o you ought to seen us a grabing for something to eat our faces black and hands to with powder we looked like fighters i assure you at night we lay down on the cold ground in good spirits next morning we were ordered to build a line of defence of stones rails and so forth well we got them built and laid behind them and Wishing for the enemy to Come in the Breast works where along the edge of a large field about 3 oclock we saw the rebels Coming out of the timber in front of us a little to our left one Regiment Came out only we let them Come within 2 Or 3 hundred yards of us then we poured fire on them and i tell you they did skedaddle for life o it was fun to see them run back where they Came from that is what was left of them

where the enemy where fixed and you ought to of just seen th secesh Come out of the holes Where they where hid they just run and throwed up there hats and seemed to be very glad to get to come over to the union there was near 75 of them some of them wer killed but none of our men where hurt o how we did rejoice and Wish the rebs would Come on we just believed we Could Whip to our one Next day friday we did not get to fight any but there was heavy fighting on the left in the afternoon so we lay close by our Breast works ready to fight them at any time but no fight for our regiment on that day we where ready but no fight for as on that day neither at night the enemy evacuated the Battle was a long one and a hard fought one it lasted 5 days we are in Camp at presant but i dont know how long we may stay here our head generals report is we had 1,000 killed and 5,500 wounded it was an awful sight to see the dead and wounded strewn over the Battlefield Some with there Brains shot out and scattered over the ground some of them with Broken legs and arms and so on we have not had much cold freezing wether yet but plenty of rain i am glad to hear that there is some friends at west Creek that think enough of me to inquire about me let grandpa and ma and all the rest of them that wants to read a war letter an old soldiers letter of the 27th Regt illinios volenteers and Just think of the hardships a soldier has to go through and what hard fighting to for our country but i think it is all for the Best O i hoped & pray the good lord may preserve my life that i may meet you all once more on earth again i dont want you to worry about me mother leave me in the Care of my heavenly father i still try to live a Christian kife and trust in my heavenly father he has preserved my life so far and he is able still to preserve my life although the shells and bullets may fly thick and fast around me i have my health first rate i have been in the service over 17 months and been through one of the longest battles that had been fought in the west the Comander in Chief Was old General W S RoseCrans Near Murfreesburo he is as food a general as there is in the West he never lost a battle as yet i believe i am ready for another Battle but i fear we cant get provisions enough to take us along fire along time give my love and best respects to all inquiring friends Write soon i am glad to get such long letters from you any to get so much nenws you must not think hard of me if i dont answer your letters right away for when i receive you letter i may be on a March ou in a fight i have not had a letter from father for a long time i dont know wether he has quit Writing to me or not our Major is in Command of our Regiment our Lieutenant Colonel being at home we have pretty shaby living but i am very hearty i have know doubt but the West Creek and East Creek boys was in a pretty hot place at fredricksburg but they was not in as long a battle as i was keep in good Cheer Mother i hope i shall get home safe when my 3 years are out and then i can laugh and talk about what funny times and what hard times i had whilst i was a soldier a fighting for my country i was in the town of Murgreesburro yesterday it is a small town and a desolate one to most of the stores and churches are taken for hospitals there is lots of rebel Wounded left there for the federals to take care of the Rebels have skedaddled for the south to make another stand i expect when we get provisions enough we will start after them again and catch then somewhere else and whip them again or they learn that old RoseCrans is a fighter he bears that name Colonel Bradley is Commanding our Brigade at the presant i had a very dull Christmas i had an oyster supper at night i would like to spend a week at home first rate but it is impossible whilst i an so far away i try to be contented with the service my love to all especially to you and my Brothers & sisters No more at presant but still remains your kind loving & affectionate Son until death James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Jan 10, 1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro February 9th 1863

Dear Mother i now sit down to answer your kind letter that i received yesterday i am well at present & i hope this letter may find you enjoying the same health & blessing O how glad i was to hear from you to hear that you where well & have not been in any fight since i last wrote to you but have been very close to one so close that the shells & balls come within 50 yards of our regiment one day when we where out foraging but our regiment did not get engaged in the fighting it was not a very heavy fight some artillery & infantry where engaged i am glad to hear that you are doing so well this winter well i am doing tolerable well i get plenty of hard Crackers Bacon Beef & once in awhile a little fish we have got over 5 months pay due us now but we have not much prospect of getting pay very soon we have pretty plenty of clothing except socks wuch is very scarce wekk i have served haf of my time out and 5 days on the other part o the time is passing off fast if i have my health as well as i have through the half that has fone i think i Can stand it 3 years first rate but a soldiers life is a hard life to live and a more wicked place i never saw in my life money is so scarce that there is not much gambling a going on but a tremendous site of Curssing & swaring but i trust hope pray i may not be lead astray although i have a great many trials troubles difficulties & wickedness to encounter i feel very thankful to you Mother fot your kind advise i am glad that i have praying friends & a praying Mother & father i got a letter from Anna the other day o how i would like to see you & all my brothers & sisters but i Cant sure that i will ever see you again on earth but i pray that the good lord may preserve my life health and strength & that i may meet you all again in providence i am glad to hear that she died happy poor girl she has fot out of a world of trouble o how i would like to be there to Well i have not much news to write to you i am glad that you always send me such a big letter o i am so glad that you always tell me what the Children are doing and something about the young folks to i like to hear from both old and young about west Creek edmund Tomlin is well and doing pretty well he likes to hear from the East ha is a pretty good fellow when you write me if you have any news Concerning him tell me & i will tell him well we have been put through for the last week i tell you feraging making breastworks & standing picket it is awful wet & muddy down here it rains very often so we every once in awhile a Cold spurt of weather too but it is not steady Cold we are still laying inCamp near Murfreesboro & no prospects as yet of moving on to the enemy i guess we are again to stay in Camp here this winter unless the enemy attack us which i dont think there is much danger of i was glad to hear that you dont worry about me providence will take Care of me i expect Mellie is getting to be a pretty big girl o how i would love to see her and have her Comb my hair with the conse comb dont be afraid to tell me about the young folks for i love to hear about them getting married and having such fine times well give my love & best regards to all inquiring friends i feel very glad that people thinks enough of me to inquire after me tell them i thank them very kindly for inquiring after my health well i feel so dull & lazy & not having a good chance to write not much news to write either i shant write you a very long letter this time give my love and best respects to grandpops folks direct to J S McCarty Company E 27th Regement illinois Volenteers Nashville Tennessee Write soon and tell me the news i expect things have changed considerable since i left here o i am sorry to hear that the church is so dead i hope it may come to life again i an glad to hear that the neckers so many of them are getting ConseCrated i hope they may hold out faithful until death well i believe i will bring my letter to a close you must excuse me for not writing any bigger letter for news is scarce at present but i may have plenty the next time if i am alive No more at present but still remains your kind loving and affectionate & obedient Son until death may the Lord keep us faithful J S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Camp Near Murfreesburro February 9 1863

Dear Brother i now sit down to write an Answer to thy letter that you sent me
u an glad to hear that you are well and foing so well i am well at presant the
must be agoing to make a small town up by Captain grades is gim godfrey at home
now or is he agoing to sea yet what is Thomas godfrey doing thses time is your
schoolmaster a young man he must be a queer fellow i think give my love to all
the Boys & girls that think worth while to inquire about me o how i would like
to see you the teacher must have a pretty small school i am glad to hear you
say that you like to go to school i hope you may learn pretty smart this winter
it is a good deal nicer agoing to school this Cold Weather than Soldiering for
we have so much hard Marching to do & have to stand gaurd so much in the wet
and Cold i am glad that half my time is Served when we are on a March it is
no difference if its pouring down araining or freezing everything solid we have
to lay down on the ground in the open air sometimes by a fire & sometimes no
fire at all when we are on picket on the outpost we have to stand 2 hours at a
time and we dare not have any fire and it is awful Cold some nights too and it
rains very often down here but we are fast so we growl a little and bare it for
that is the best i Can do without i runaway wich i never will do if i have to
stay 3 years in the service we see a good deal of fun since old Colonel
Roberts the man that was acting Brigadier general of our Brigade was killed we
have had the easiest times since we have been in service we have no Camp gaurd
to stand at all now and we hant hadto go a forageing but once in the last month
that is our whole regiment ner we hant had to work but one day on the
Brestworks but we miss our poor Colonel harington i tell you poor fellow i fear
he has gone to a worse world than this for he an awful wicked man but he was a
first rate Colonel the man that is acting Colonel now is a granny he is a poor
Conlern for a Colonel but i hant sure that he will get to be Colonel yet i would
like to know what that young fellows name is and what he is doing there i
excuse you for your Bad writing for i Can make it out very well i am glad to
get a letter anyhow from home i like to hear from you & all the rest of my
Brothers & sisters What is Charley pit adoing these times does he have any
notion of going to war yet or is he afraid he will get shot how old are you
now Corbit & how tall are you & how much do you Weigh how big is melly Can she
read ant yet o how i would like to have a round with the youngens i would tell
them some funny tales and jokes too well i hope i shall get to see you all some
day and if i live to get home again i will tell you of some of what Big times
when i was Chasing the rebels around in Mississippi & in alabama Tennessee &
Kentucky o wouldnt you like to run around and see the Country with me you
Could get to see plenty of cotton & niggers & see & hear plenty of cannon i
tell you but it is pretty hard to march 15 or 20 miles a day with a Cartridge
box with 200 rounds of amunition & ahaversack with 2 days ration lantern & big
gun besides well give my love to all inquiring friends direct to J S McCarty
Company E 27th Reg Ills Vol Nashville Tennessee Well i believe i will bring my
letter to a close so no more at presant But Still remains your kind loving &
affectionate Brother James S McCarty to Willian T C McCarty

Camp Near Murfreesburro February 9th 1862

Dear Sister i now take the opportunity of Answering your kind letter that i received with Mothers is am well at present & hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing for i think it a great Blessing we still are in Camp near Murfreesburro we have Changed our Camping ground once since we went into Camp after the Battle for the Camp where we where first was so low that it got so wet & muddy that we couldnt hardly get around at all so we moved about a quarter or a half of a mile on a higher dryer place so we have a pretty dry place to stay when it hant a raining it rains very often down here But we dont have much Snow we live tolerable Comfortable whilst in our tents. but of late we have had to fo on picket pretty often and i tell you it is awful disagreeable to stand picket and it a pouring down a raining i am glad to hear that you like to go to school and that you have such funny times try and learn to be a good writer and a food speller if you Can you say that this term jeff and annabell are pretty MisCheivous well i hope thay may enjoy thereselves while young give my love to them and tell them i am glad to hear that they have not forgotten me yet you say the boys that went a Soldiering are getting tired aready Shaw they ought not to get tired aready i have been in Service over 18 months & i think if i am spared my life & health that i Can stand it 2 years like a book although a Soldiers life is a hard life to Lead especially in the volenteer servjce where we have so much Marching & fighting & much gard duty & so much exposure to it takes a man that has a good constitution to Stand the hard knocks & fatigue that a Soldier has to endure i am glad to hear that the boys are having such fine times a going to extra meeting o hohw i would like to be at home a little while to go to extra meetings with them the young men about west creek must be pretty scarce give my love & best respects to all that inquire about me and tell them i fell very gald that they inquire about me when you write again tell me if Aunt Retta has any beaus or not & wether Rachel McKaig is Married or not tell me all you about the young man & girls that i am acquainted withe o how is ole Mrs Wallace agetting along thses times Who os living with her now how is Caroline Smith & Rhoda along thses who is payign attention to them now who is working for mr Smith now o of i live to get homw how i will go it for a few wecks give my love to Tom godfrey & July try & get a good pen when you write again i Could read your letter pretty well i have not been in any Battle since i last wrote to you but on Friday the 30th of January our Regiment went out with some other troops a forageing Soon after we got out as far as we were going the enemy attackd our troops but our Regiment where in the rear of the train so we did not get to fight any that day but some of the Balls & shells came Close to our Regiment next day our Regiment was on picket day after that our Regiment was at work on Breast works our men are fortifing Murfreesburro so if the enemy attacks us here there will be a bloody heavy fight i tell you but i dont think there is much chance there doing it i have over 5 months pay coming to me and no prospect of getting paid either very soon when i get my pay i will try & send some to you if i think it safe it has been so long since i got any money i am pretty well strapped the government is so poor that it dont furnish us boots so i buy my boots i bought apair since i Came in Camp and i had to give 10 dollars for them in green backs for i didnt like to go a wading around in the mud & water with shoes and on the same day i had to give 75 cts for a pair ofsocks or go bare foot for the government dont furnish us half enough of socks i got a good Rubber Blanket i drarsed it Wel i excuse you for bad writing give my love to all inquiring friends keep a good share to yiurself Write soon well i will Bring my letter to a Close so no more at present but still remains your affectionate loving and obediant Brother James S McCarty to Rachel L McCarty

Camp Shafter March 24 1862

Dear Mother i now sit down to Answer your kind letter that i received last week
i am well at presant wth both my legs & arms as yet i have not been in any more
battles since i last wrote to you but i have been very Close to me so Close
that i snelt powder i woulf of wrote an answer to you letter before but on the
day that i received your letter we had a review in the afternoon & in the
morning our line was attacked so our division was put our in a hurry and i tell
you we had a good deal of doublequickingto do soon we where drawn up in line
of Battle and our artillelry opened on them and the right wing of our regiment
was left to support the Battery and the left was thrown out as skirmishers and
the Cannon Boomed away awhile O i tell you it sounded like ole times but we
expected to have a big Battle right here at Murfreesburro sure enough but our
artillery Soon made the Rebels Skedadle for thay had none to opperate on us at
least they never opened it on us soon after the artillery stoped firing
Company E and F where sent out as skirmishers to see if the rascals had
skedadilied for good or not o i tell you the old 27th was ready and willing for
a fight with the old secsh for a great many of our regiment would Sooner they
would Come and fight us instead of running all over the Country hunting them up
and fighting them yesterday our Brigade was on picket and there was a report
that the enemy where agoing to attack us again this morning & they made some
feint attack on our videtts before day i Came on post Just at daylight So i
thought i would have the great pleasure of helping open the Ball if they should
Come So i made myself ready to help give the butternuts a warm reception but i
had to leave my post disapponted for theu did not Come but our Cavalry said they
where outside of our lines a few miles 2 regiments and 2 pieces of artillery
our picket have been moved back a long was so i suppose the enemy thought we had
left Murfreesburro So they would Come and see about it but they Soon found the
yankees where Still therr and ready for a fight and so they soon skedaddled
Murgreesburro is pretty well fortified nonw So if they fetCh a heavy force
determined to take the place i tell you it will be a harder Battle than was ever
fought in tennese for old RoseCrans boys are fighters i tell you we have been
tried espeCoally the old 27th i tell you mother it dont frighten me to much to
walk up before the Cannon and the muskets for i have done it So often that i am
getting pretty well used to it it Sounds pretty natural to hear the old Cannon
belch forth the iron hail from ilts mouth 2 boys of our Company that where
wounded in the last Battle have returned to there Company Well Dear mother i am
gald that you have Such happy times i hope it may Continue o i am glad to hear
that the work of religion is progressing so rapidly o how it would rejoice me
to be there and attend the meetings o i hope and pray that i may be spared to
Come home again but i dont see any prospect A getting home Before my time is up
and that is a littles over 16 months yet o we are about to have a New Second
Leiutenant we had another grand review today we where reviewed by old General
RoseCrans himself o what a pretty sight it was to see the troops dressed up in
there Best and see a whole Company take a step at a time o i tell you the old
27th Can do Some Splendid marching yet give my love and Best Respectts to all
inquiring friends wheever they are to be found Well i havent much news to write
for we havent been in any fight lately So i believe i will bring my letter to a
Close write soon o how glad i am always to get such good advise and such
enCouragement from a kind mother So No nore at presant But Still remanis you
affectionate and loving and praying Son James Swain McCarty to Marths Ann
McCarty Good by

Headquarters 17th Illinois Vol. Infantry
Camp Donnell, Tennessee April 20th 1862

Whereas our Government is now engaged in a struggle for the perpetuation of every right dear to us as American Citizens and require the united efforts of all good men and loyal men in its behalf And

Whereas we have beheld with feeling of infamous sadness and deep regret the spirit of opposition on the part of a portion of the people of the North to the Federal administration and also to the Authorities of the State of Illinois in there efforts to suppress the infamous rebellion Wherefore

Resolved that we are today as ever before unconditionally and uncompromisingly for the union its peril and for upholding the president in his war measures for the maintenance of the Dignity of the Government and again unfurling the glorious emblem of our Nationality over every City and town of the rebeldom

Resolved that having pledged ourselves to the Service of our Common Country in the hour of our National pride We have a right to expect and demand of the people of the state of Illinois our friend and Neighbor at home that they lay aside all party and party animosities and Come at once now to the resolve presenting a determined front to our enemies at home as well as those under the Command of the dark traitor Jeff Davis

Resolved that we as Soldiers would as soon fight the enemies of Our Country on the prairies of Illinois as in the sunny South and that we hold ourselves ready to obey any order from the president to march into our own state with Bayonet fixed to enforce the Laws

Resolved that we are opposed to all proposition for a peace with traiters in arms that we are opposed to any compromise or any propositions other than those of Loyalty and implicit Obedience to the Constitution and the Laws of our Country

Resolved that appreciate the oppositions manifested in Some Sections of the return of absentees and deserters from the army All such are unfaithful to there Oath there Country and there Companions in arms and any attempt to Shield them from the penalty inflicted by the Laws Should and we believe will bring upon there Simpathisers and protectors Speedy and Sure punishment And we heartly Endorse the measures taken for there forcible arrest & trial of all Deserters and there Aiders and abettors to the above resolutions ther was no positively one DeSending Voice i have the honor to be your humble Servant

James S McCarty

Headquarters 2nd Illinois Vol Infantry
Camp Shaves, Tennessee April 3rd 1863

Whereas Our Government is now engaged in a struggle for the perpetuation of every right dear to us as American Citizens and require the united efforts of all good true and Loyal men in its behalf And

Whereas we have beheld with feeling of indignation and sadness and deep regret a spirit of opposition on the part of a portion of the people of the North to the Federal administration and also to the authorities of the State of Illinois in their efforts to suppress the infamous rebellion

Wherefore Resolved that we are today as ever before unconditionally and uncompromisingly for the Union in its peril and for upholding the President in his measures for the maintenance of the dignity of the Government and again unfurling the glorious emblem of our Nationality over every City and town of Rebeldom

Resolved that having pledged ourselves to the service of our Common Country in the hour of our National pride We have a right to expect and demand of the people of the State of Illinois our friends and Neighbors at home that they lay aside all party animosities and come at once now to the rescue presenting a determined front to our enemies at home as well as those under the command of the dark traitors Jeff Davis

Resolved that we as Soldiers would as soon fight the enemies of our Country on the prairies of Illinois as in the sunny South and that we hold ourselves ready to obey any order from the President to march into our own side with Bayonet fixed to enforce the Law

(2) Resolved that we are opposed to all propositions
for a peace with traitors in arms that we are
opposed to any compromise or any proposition other
than those of Loyalty and implicit Obedience to the
Constitution and the Laws of our Country

Resolved that we appreciate the oppositions
manifested in some Sections of the return of
absentees and deserters from the army. All such
are unfaithful to their Oath to their Country and
their Companions in arms and any attempt
to shield them from the penalty inflicted by the
Laws should and we believe will bring upon them
sympathizers and protectors. Speedy and sure
punishment. And we heartily endorse the
measures taken for their forcible arrest & trial
of all deserters and their aiders and abettors
to the above resolutions there was no positively
one dissenting voice. I have the honor to be your
humble servant

James

S
M^cCarty

Camp Shafter Near Murfreesburro Tenns April 30th 1863

Dear Mother it is with the greatest pleasure imageable that i now Sit down to Answer you kind loving & good letter that i received not a half hour ago i am well at presant O i enjoy excellent health i believe Solfieriing just agrees withe me O i am so glad to hear you say that you dont worry about me & father O that is right the good Lor will take Care of us i know if we only love & serve him in a right maner i Still trust in the All wise providence & i pray that we may meet one another in that better world if we are not permitted to meet on earth again but trust & pray that we amy meet around the family alter at west creek where we Xan worship our dear Blessed Savior in a SoCial Company & in peace Where we will not be surround with Curseing & swearing like i am at the presant time for there is not a half dozen Christians in our Company so you see i have not many Christians to Comfort me with there good advice so i Call upon the ever willing & ever ready & mesciful providence to aid & assist me in my trial & afflictions that i have to endure night & morning & the good advice that i receive from you O it rejoices me O i am so thankful to the all wise providence that i have such a kind Loving pious religion & praying Mother & such Loving kind praying Brothers & Sisters & friends O it nearly makes tears Come to my eyes to read your Loving Letters O how i would Love to see you my Dear Mother & help you along all i Could in Spiritual matters as well as worldly matter but i dont expect to get to Come home wntil my time is out wich is Several months yet for it would take me so long to go & Come that i wouldnt have Long to Stay after i got there & it would cost me a good Deal to a year & 9 months of my time only is out on the third of may which is Close at hand now i tel you the time is passing Slowly away and i might lose the pleasure of bring in a big fight if i should be so Lucky as to get a furlough so i believe it is best to stay with the Caompany if they are wicked Bad men i get awful aggravated with them often time for they plague me so much & appear to hate me beCause i dont drink Whiskey play cards swear lie & steal like they and they say once in while in a kind of a slur no he wont drink nor play cards for he is religious it makes me mad for a Little while but i try & pass it by & i pray the almighty may give me a kind loving & forgiving temper & if there ever was a place that would try a Christians heart if is in the army i tell you for a man Cant hardly get out by himself at all for there is such an awful large army Campd here that the Soldiers are Shouting all around in every direction to day the men are on picket all but a few that is sick wounded or havent got accroutenents i was on gaurd last night we have not had any long march since i last wrote to you last so we have had tolerable easy times we have to drill sone times & have a Little police duty & fatigue duty but that hant much but we have to go on picket guard very often but that hant so bad now day for the weather is getting warmer & we dont have so much stormy weather as we did in March i am glad to see Nice warm Clear weather for it is so much more pleasanter we where mustered today for two months more pay but i dont know when we may receive it we may receive it tolerable soon if we stay here Near Murfreesburro i think perhaps we may get to stay here or Close by anyhow this summer for it is getting pretty well along towards summer now we are almost turned out of doors for we have to live in dog tents but they will do tolerable well to keep the dew off of a night and keep a little sun out in the day time but they are not much account in rainy stormy weather well it is awful Dull times in the regiment now adays but the health of the regiment is very good about as good i guess as it has been whilst in Service we havent had any fight since i last wrote to younor i guess we wont have one Soon neither unless we move onto them which i dont see much prospect of yet father has quit writing to me all together poor fellow he appears to have a hard time to get along in this world i get discouraged once in awhile but i get such encouraging letter that i soon get over it am all right again wehave not got but one preacher to preach to a whole Brigade 4 tegiments So he dont get much time to visit the Christians in the regiments Well News are scarce & times around here very dull so i belive i will soon have to bring my letter to a Close our Captain Stout has got back and taken Charge of the Company & portar has gone home on a furlough for 20 days O Stout is an awful wicked man & swears tremendous hard but he is not so awful hadr on the Boys after all give my love & best respects to all inquiring friends especially to Aunt Ann grand ma pa Aunt netts & the rest still keep in

Your dear son to come home again that you may embrace him in Love in the dear
Circle I pray for you all that the Lord may aid & assist you in all your
troubles & trial through Life No more at present but Still remains your kind
Loving & Christian Son until Death James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty Good

April Camp Shaffer Near Murfreesburro 30th 1863

Dear Sister it is with pleusure that i now answer your letter i am always glad
to hear from home to hear how you are al getting along Does etta Wallace and
you have such nice times and play hide and hoot around the hay stacks like you
used to o how i would Like to play with you o wouldnt we have some big funny
times and Cut up Some big monkey shines if i was to Come home to Stay never
mind i hope and pray i may get to see you all again on earth if not i hope we
may meet in a better world than this hohw is uncle Charleys Cersons litte a
getting along these time and henry i expect henry is getting to be a pretty big
boy by this time is jimmm wallace as fat as he use to be and as full of his
frolics iexpect your pretty nice times now for the Weather is getting warmer
and you Can go out an sCratCh around in the dirt & help your Mother fix the
garden a Little is melly as full of her Capers as She used to be when i was at
home does She like to Comb hair as well o how i would like to Sit in that old
big rocking Chair & have her to Comb my hair for me Dear sister i am glad to
hear that you will try & be a good girl that is right be a good girl & obey your
father & mother and you will get along very well o wouldnt you Like to see a
Camp of Soldiers Sally and see our dog tents that we have to stay in o if you
would Come along by my tent i would run out and bark at you but i wouldnt Bite
o the Soldiers look nice when they are on dress parade all in a Straight Line
and Dressed in there Best i tell you and Band a playing Such nice music but
when the cannons begin t roar it isent So pleasant & the Bullets Come at a
feller like hail it is not so funny do you think so Sally Well i believe i
will Bring my letter to a Close for i havent much to write about i quit by
giving mLove to you and all the rest of my Brothers and Sisters so No more at
presant but still remains your kind loving Brother James S McCarty to Sarah
Elizebeth McCarty

May 8th 1863 Camp Shaffer

Dear Mother i am well at presant & i hope these few kines
may find you enjoying the same great bkessing i just got a
photograph this forenoon of our Dear Beloved & departed
Colonel F A Harringtonn it looks just like him i thinf & i
didnt have to give but 35 cents for it so i thought i would
get one & send it to you before it got dirty and soiled i
will send a song for Aunt Retta to in this please give the
song to Aunt Retta mother i dont expect an answer to this
for i dont expect to write much foe i was on picket
yesterday and last nightand it rained most all day & night
& was cold to so we had an awful Disagreeable time but i
tell you our still lies still & i dont see much of a forward
movement as yet please excuse me for not sending a lock of
my hair for i forgot it until i get a letter in the office
or base rather there is some report that Bragg is coming
to give us a fight but i dont think there is much Danger of
his attacking us here for we are to strongly fortified & if
he did it would just suit us for we would rather fight him
here than to run after him All over Tennessee to get a
fight out of him the soldiers appear to be in very good
spirits & very healthy there is talk of us losing one of
our old regiments there is talk of it being consolidated
you needent Bother to answer this i just send it to let you
see our Brave Colonel that fell at Stones river i tried to
get more of them but i couldent get but show it to
grandpops folks & see what they think of him give my love
to All inquiring friend my love to you & my dear Brothers &
sister No more at presant but still remains your kind
loving and affectionatl Son James S McCarty to Martha A
McCarty

Camp Shafer May 21 1863

Dear Mother i now sit down to answer your kind Loving affectionate & good letter that i have just received & read i am well at presant & i enjoy splendid health i tell you i am getting along very well for a soldier nowadays it is awful hot & dry down here but we have very cool nights & no mosquitoes at all nor knats nor greenhead flies neither it is bad for you that you have such awful wet weather but it may be dry after awhile we are still Campd on Stones river Near Murfreesborro but i dont know how long we will get to stay here for there is a report a going in Camp that Bragg has fell back & that our troops at Least a portition of them are under Marching orders already if bragg has fell back towards viclsburg i expect there will be pretty stirring times here before Long we are willing to fight them but we dont Like Marching this dry hot dusty weather but if we must wew are ready to push on and Crush the rebellion out sooner the better we have a good deal of drilling too we have to drill twice a day 7 to 9 Oclock & 4 to 6 oclock in the evening we hate it awfully but we Cant help it & we have a good deal of picket gaurd to stand to or walk rather for the orders are very strict on pickey A sentinel has to walk his beat the whole two hours if he obeys orders but we have to do the best we Can i hope there is a better day a coming o Mother do you get any papers Called the harpers Weekly with pictures of the great Battles of the Potomac i told our second Lieutenant to write to harper to send a paper by that name for one year to Martha McCarty & he did it for u wonted you to see some of the sights of Battle and the horrors of war but mother the picture of a Battle is nothing like being in one and seeing it in reality to see the little 6.10 & 12 pounder Bull Dog Alooking you right in the face & Barking at you & the Little bullets come A Whistling by same as they where saying By But after we once get into it i tell you dont mind much we pay them back in the same kind of coin it is pretty tolerable quiet around Murfreesburro as far as i know at presant but if all is true that i hear you may look for stirring news in the next letter that i write that is if i am permitted o write Another i am glad to hear you get along so well & that you are so lucky i hope the lot may soon be dry enough to plow and plant how it cheers me to hear from you & hear that there is so many that inquires about me o i am So glod to get a letter from you i always sit right down And write an answer to it if i Can o it has such good cheering & comforting news in it i have had a pretty good Chance to go to meeting of Late & i improved it pretty well to i commenced reading the bible through About a month Ago & i have it pretty Near through o i read it a great deal & i find it a very good thing to o how it enCourages me & going to meetings & hear the good Brethren pray o it helps me a good deal in this unfriendly world Dear Mother i have greay many trials & diffiCultes to enCounter in this umfriendly world but i go to my heavenly father for Comfort & assistance & i know he is able & willing to help all those that ask him in faith beliving that put there trust in him i would love to assist you in the family prayers Night & Morning but it so i Cant but i pray that my heavenly father may spare my life o that i may be permitted to Join you once more in family prayer in the family circle o what happy thought to think if i am not spared to See you again this side of a never rending eternity that i have a prospe ct of meeting you in that Land where we will meet to part no more forever i have not much News to write So please excuse me for this short Letter give my Love & Best respects to All inquiring friends Write soon and give me all the News for i dont have much news to write nowadays well i believe i will Bring my Letter to a Close So No more at presant but still remains you kind Loving affectionate & obediant Son M the good providence keep us faithful until death James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Camp Shaffer May 21st 1863

Dear Sister i now sit to answer your little letter tha you sent me i could just read it & that was pretty much all to for it was blotted so i think you might get change enough to But paper & stamps the storekeepers must be pretty bad off if they cant change a five or even a ten dollar bill they can change a 20 or 50 dollar bill here in the Army we have a great deal different kind of weather down here to what you appear to have in the east for the weather is very dry & hot down here & the river is getting very low there is not a great deal of Stirring News around that is reliable at the presant ther is reports that we have to march before long but i dont know wether it is so or not there is some signs of a March or being attacked for all that was not able to March have been ordered to the rear to the Convalescent Camp one of our men by the name of John Medford that was taken prisoner at the battle of Stones river just fot back to the Company today you say that the girls have a prayer meeting a Tuesday nights o how i would like to see you enjoying yourself with the rest of the girls we have some good meetings here now when we are in Camp there is meeting Sunday at halfpast ten and halfpast six at night & prayer meeting a tuesday night Wensday night & friday night that is if the Brigade is in Camp on those nights So i have better times and feel more encouraged to press on in the good cause that i have started in o dear sister continue to pray and hold out to the end never turn; back but ever put your trust in god and you will come out all right at last i pray for you that the Lord may keep you faithful well you wrote me such a short letter that i believe i will write a haort answer give my love & best respects to all and tell them that want to hear from me right bad to write to me and i will try and answer it if i am alive & well My love to you & all the rest of my dear brothers & sisters & mother No more at presant but still reamins your kind loving Christian & soldier Brother James S McCarty to Rachel L McCarty

June 1st Camp Shaffer 1863

Dear Mother it is great pleasure that i now sit down to Answer your kind letter that i recievd A few minutes Ago i am well at presant & enjoying myself very well & have been Since Night before Last Night before Last the orders Came for to be ready to March with 3 days rations in our haversack & 4 in our knapsacks but we have not gone as yet but expecting yo be called to face the enemy soon yesterday there was fighting in front & the 2nd Brigade of our division went out A little piece but returned again to there Camp before night there is an appearance of A general move of this whole Army before long so bby the time this Letter reaches you i may be engaged in a deadly strife with the enemy or in death .but ny trust is in god i Leave all to him & i know if i only serve him Aright & obey his Commandments that he will take Care of me if it is my destiny to fall & never to met you on earth again i hopr & pray that better world above where meeting & parting will be no more forever i was at meeting Last night & they had A very good meeting there appears to be a great many that are tired of sin & are Coming to Jesus we had prayer & speaking meeting and some of the young Converts spoke & when the Call was give for any that wanted to be especially remembered in prayer & wanted to lead a New life Several Came forward & gave the Chaplain there hand o how it rejoices me to see such a trrning to the Lord if late i have been trying to lead a better life & have taken to reading the scriptures more & try to be more kind Loving & forgiving to my wicked Companions around me and i feel a great deal better by it & get along a great deal better with my fellow'Companions in Arms o how it enVCourages me to get your good letters and read them i feel very well satisfied at presant o how Cherring to hear such food news if graht only takes Vicksburg & all the men & guns & we whip them out here i think the Southern Army of the west will be about gone up i dont much doubt but that we will have some very hard fighting to do before long if we move to the front unless the enemy have taken off a part of there force to reinforce pemberton at Vicksburg i believe we are just the Boys to Whip old Bragg we have the name of being a fighting Brigade & we still have the determination to fight whenever we are called on we are ready to march iut to meet the foe at any time but we most awfully hate to pack 7 dayys rations but i guess we Can stand if we have it to do there where pretty stirring times here yesterday troops where Marching drums where Beating & Cannon where roaring in the distance it looked very much like war i tell you but i expect we will have more stirring times before long it is kind A strange that father dont write to you perhaps he is some where he has not the Chance to write & perhaps the reason he dont send any money home he has not got paid off Lately mother if you get out of money let me know whenever you are in need & if i have any i will divide with you we have over 3 months pay Coming to us now but i dont expect we will get paid very soon for if there is a battle to be fought here soon we dont want it now i dont expect we will get iti till after the Battle i have money enough to last me 3 months yet anyhow well i believe i have wrote you about all the importance at presant so i believe i wilil Bring my Letter to A Close give my Love & Best respectts to All inquiring friends o how i would Love to see your fine preacher & hear your splendid presiding elder preach well i will Bring my Letter to A Close with Love to you & all my Brothers & sisters still remains your kind Loving & affectionate Son James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Dear Sister i now take my pen in hand to Answer you kind letter that i received
y. others i am well at present & hope these few lines say find you enjoying
the same great blessing we are still encamp near Northboro but i dont
expect we will stay here long for we are under marching orders to be ready to
march at a moments warning with 3 days rations in our haversacks & 4 days
rations in our knapsacks the second Brigade went out a piece yesterday and i
expected our Brigade would have to go next but we havent had to start yet
but i heard a man say today that Colonel Bradley acting Brigadier general of the
Brigade we would have to go out sure of we didnt go today we would have to go
tomorrow so i suppose we will soon get to hear the Drills whiz & the Cannon
roar again before long but we are ready to meet the foe at least the most of us
are whenever we are Called on we have had very wet weather for a week past
but it has been tolerable warm the soldiers are in pretty good spirits on the
24th of may one of our Company A Wicked young man Belonging to the hospital was
Cook in the hospital he was Carrying water up the river bank on the side next
to the camp & the Butchers where shooting beeves on the other side and one of
them missed the beef & shot the man right in the head Close to the Left eye his
name was John K Camp this happemed Late in the afternoon and that Night about
Midnight he was Called into the other world he never spoke after he was shot
what a warning to those are not prepared to die i pray the Lord he may keep me
faithful & that i may be prepared to die whenever death may Come pray for me my
dear sister i pray for you that the Lord may keep you faithful No more at
presant but still remains your kind loving Brother until death James S McCarty
to Rachel F McCarty

DEAR Brother i try to pen you a few lines in answer to the few you sent i am
glad to hear you say that you get plenty of work but sorry to hear that you are
afflicted with the toothacke but Dear Brother that is not so bad as to have a
leg or arm shot off & have to lay in the sick hospital for monthe at a time in
pain & misery like a great many have to do and i dont knnow how soon i may be
wounded or perhaps killed perhaps before this lwtter reached you i may laying
on the Cot in some hospital or else the spirit world but i trust in god &
whenever i may go to a better land where there is no parting nor sorrow nor wars
nor numers of was i am glad to hear that you have come home to help mother that
is right be a good boy and help your kind Loving Mother all you can o how i
would love to help her & work in the lot & garden o hope when my time is out to
Come home & see you all & help mother work & go to meeting with you o i am glad
you have started out to serve the LOrd & put your trust in him i do pray the
Lord may bring you up in the fear of the LOrd give my love & Best respects to
All inquiring friends well i Believe i will Bring my letter being i have 2 more
letters to Answer for i got one from Anna today so No more at presant but still
remains you kind & loving Brotoher James S McCarty to William Fitman C McCarty

Camp Shaffer June 5th 1863

Dear Sister i now take my pen in hand to Answer your kind Letter that i received in mothers i am well at present and hope these few Lines may find you enjoying the Same great Blessing we are Still enCampt near Murfreesborro but i dont expect we will stay here Long for we are under Marching orders to be ready to march at a moments warning with 3 days rations in our haversaacks & 4 days rations in our knapsacks the second Brigade went out a peice yesterday and i expected our Brigade would have to go next but we havent had to start yet but i heard a man Say today that Colonel Bradley acting Brigadier general of the Brigade we would have to go out Sue if we didnt go today we would have to go tomorrow So i Suppose we will soon get to hear the Bullitts whiz & the Cannon roar again before Long but we are ready to meet the foe at Least most of us are whenever we are Called on we have had very wet weather for a week past but it had been tolerable warm the soldiers are in pretty good spirits on the 24th of May one of our Company at Wicked young man Belonging to the hospital was Cook in the hospital he was Carrying water up the river bank in the side next the camp & the Butchers where Shooting Beeves on the other side and one of them missed the beef & shot the man right in the head close to the left eye his Name was John K Camp this happened Late in the afternoon and that Night about Midnight he was Called into the other world he never spoke after he was shot o what a warning to those not prepared to die i pray the Lord he may keep me faithful & that i may be prepared to die whenever death may Come pray for me my dear sister i pray for you that the Lord may keep you faithful No More at present but still remains your kind Loving Brother until death James S McCarty To
Rachel L(?)McCarty

Dear Brother i try to pen you a few lines in answer to the few you Sent i am glad to hear you Say that you get plenty of work but sorry to hear that you are afflicted with the toothache but Dear Brother that is not so bad as to have a Leg or arm Shot off & have to Lay in the sick hospital for months at a time in pain & misery Like a great many have to do and i dont know how soon i may be wounded or perhaps killed perhaps before this letter reaches you i may be Laying on the Cot in some hospital or else in the spirit world but i trust in god & whenever i am Called from this world i pray i may go to a better Land where there is no parting nor sorrow nor wars nor rumors of wars i am glad to hear that you have Come home to help mother that is right be a good boy and help your kind Loving mother all you Can o how i would Love to help her & work in the Lot & garden O hope when my time is out to Come home & see you all & help mother work & go to meeting with you i am glad you have started out to serve the Lord Still Continue to serve the Lord & put your trust in him i do pray the Lord he may bring you up in the fear of the Lord give my love & best

Lord & put your trust in him i do pray the Lord he may bring you up in the fear of the Lord give my love & best

1881
1787
96
52 81
1879

respects to All inquiring friends well i Believe i will Bring my Letter being i have 2 more Letters to Answer for i got one from Anna today So No more at presant But still remains your kind & Loving Brother James S. McCarty to William Pitman C. McCarty

Elizabeth & James

Edna McCarty b. Jan 17 1813 age 7 yrs

Anna - 18
Mary - 18

John McCarty b. Feb 2 1810 age 67

26-29
March 4 1881
age 73

1896
72
1878
Martha A. McCarty b. Feb 13, 1845 age 72

dear July 27-1895 at age 77

James McCarty

Edna

Elizabeth - Dec. 23, 1833 - March 21, 1897

John B. McCarty b. May 3 1832 died Aug 1893

1864.2
71.5
1792.7

Aug 1865 - 91-5 mos

James McCarty

Edna McCarty

Camp Chaffee June 21st 1862

Dear Sister i now take my pen in hand to answer your kind letter that i received with mothers your Lines found me enjoying my health & strength as you hoped it would i enjoy excellant health & times i havent much to do & have the privilege of going to meeting every night when not on guard duty which is so very often my time is passing swiftly by i have got so use to the service that i like it very well & feel very well satisfied & encouraged we did not have to March out to meet the enemy as we expected So we are here in Camp Chaffee when our turn came we had to go out on picket to stay 6 days our division had got the Salem pike to guard A Brigade goes out at a time & stays six days & our Brigade had to go out on the third turn there is only 3 Brigades in our division so we don get to stay in Camp 12 days & then go out on the Salem pike & stay 6 days the weather is pretty dry & warm down here there is No prospect of us having to March Now i would like to see you & have a good time with you but i am so far away i hope i may see you all on earth again but if i amno permitted to meet you on earth again i hope & pray i may meet you All in heaven give my love to All of my inquiring friends & thank Lil Taylor for sending her love to me and all th rest that inquire after my welfare i pray for you my dear sister & i desire your prayers that i may prove faithful there is not much to write to you Write Soon & give me All the News please excuse me for not writing more for there is not much to write Well i believe i will bring my Letter to A Close So No more presant but my LOve to you Still remains your Brother James S McCarty R L McCarty

Dear Brother i now take my pen in hand to Answer you Letter that i received with mothers it found me enjoying excellant health sa you hoped if would i am gald to hear that my Letter that i wrote to my Class mates was read to them & that the preacher Spoke so much about it o how i would Like to go to the Saturday night Class again i hope i may be spared to go with you to the class there is not much news to write to you o how i would Like to fo fown to the Beach with you & help you Catch eels & pick up Crabs o if i could get you down on the Beach how i would roll you in the sand we are Campd Close to Stone river Not more than a quarter of a mile off so we Can go down & wash off pretty often but it is not so nice as the Beach it is an awful stony river & pretty shallow to you said fight on for my country well i insure you i will when i get A Chance providence permitting there is no much prospect of A fight around here at presant i believe but i dont know how soon the rebels may fly in here & skare A few union soldiers but they better be a Little Careful how they fool around us for we are ready for them whenever they are a mind to Come Just let them COMe on we would Like to take out our fighting out here in Breastworks & no have to Chase them All over the Southern Confederacy For 9 months men has a great time getting mustered out the ought to enlist again anyhow when the Country is in such peril i think i would enlist if my time was out if the Country needed my as bad as it does then i am glad to hear that you have got your potatoes all in thats right work for mother & raise something to eat be a good boy i pray for you that the Lord may keep you faithful & that if we are not permitted that we may meet in heaven give my Love & Best respects to All of my inquiring friends My love to you & all the rest of my Brothers & Sisters Write Soon Still remains you LOving Brother J S McCarty Wm McCarty

Camp Shaffer June 21st A.D. 1861

Dear Mother it is with the greatest pleasure imaginable that I now take my pen in hand to Answer your kind Loving interesting Letter that I received this afternoon. O how glad I am Always to hear from you to hear that you are well & going well I am well & feel very much encouraged to press on in the Service of my blessed Savior as well as for my Country. We are in Camp Shaffer yet we have been out on the Salem pike 6 days as Brigade picket & Just got in yesterday we did not have to march as we expected the enemy was just feeling our position I guess & they soon drew off and let us alone. It is very quiet around here at the present. the boys as far as I know appear to be in good spirits & in pretty good health. on Sunday the 14th of June J Shockensee Company Private was killed instantly he was lying in his tent asleep close by a tremendous big tree when a very large limb about 40 feet high gave way & fell across his breast & head killing him instantly. O how sudden he never Awaked out of sleep until he was called into the other world. he was a noted gambler very wicked man & only 21 year old this month. O what a solemn thought I was in my tent at the same time Just Awakeing out of sleep when the limb fell it fell close by my tent but the good providence protected me from danger. the work of religion is going on gloriously in our Brigade. on Saturday 13th of June There were 13 Baptized in our Brigade & today the 21st there was 16 Baptized on Stone river. Old Brother Raymond the Chaplain of the 59th Regiment Ill has all the Baptizing to do. the good meetings still Continue on. we have had meetings for 4 weeks or more evry night * Sometimes in the daytime. Brother Raymond is all the Chaplain that belongs to the Brigade. O I feel happy & feel blessed of late & feel a stronger Desire to follow my Blessed redeemer. O I feel thankful to my Lord that he permits me to enjoy so many blessings. O Mother you know not how much good your kind Loving & intelligent advice does me. O how thankful I am to have a Christian Mother to encourage me in this vile sinful degraded world & to Comfort & support me by her advice through my troubles trials & afflictions of this world but best of all my trust & Comfort is in Christ. whenever I get downhearted his Courage or in trouble I can call on my Blessed Savior who ever ready & willing to Bless those that call on him in faith Believing Nothing doubting. I feel very well satisfied & I enjoy excellant health & I feel very much increase of the Love of God to my Soul. I pray God he may keep me faithful & that if I am not spared to see you face to face on earth again that I may meet you & all the rest of my friends & relations in glory. I am glad to hear that there is so many that inquire About me & I am glad that my old friends at home havent forgotten me. I hope to see them again on earth. tell them mother I have not forgotten them but that I still think of them & pray for them that the good Lord may keep them faithful. give them All that inquire about me my Love & Best respects as a Soldier for Jesus & my country to & that I desire an interest in there prayers. O how I would Love to be home A Little while & help you hoe potatoes Beans but I am too far away to come to see your pretty garden & corn lot. I am glad to hear that father has sent you some money & that he is still alive & well. we have near 4 month wages due us now & I dont think they will pay us until the four months is due. I hope not anyhow. poor Charley I am sorry to hear that he was poisoned. I hope he may soon get over it. we have very easy times now. we dont have much Marching to do nor other duty either & can go to meeting evry night & stay till it is out & not be put on extra duty for missing roll call. O how I Appreciate such priviledges & Love them. give my love to grandpaps folks & All the rest. Well I believe I will my letter to a close for the present. Write soon. we are not under Marching orders at present. No more at present. But still remains kind Loving Affectionate. James S McCarty M A McCarty my love to your B & Sisters

Camp at the University of the South Tennessee

July 17th 1861

Dear Mother it is with great pleasure that i now take my pencil in hand to answer your kin interesting letter that i received Night before last we left Camp Shaffer June 21 And we have been on the march ever since Chasing old Bragg laying still for only a few days at a place we have the hardest March i think that we ever had since we have been in service we had to wade 3 streams waist deep one day & several small ones all the way along our division got along so far without having a big battle al we expected the first day our Regiment a part of it was engaged but the success was ready to fight we expected to have the a big battle at CalCahoma but old Bragg was afraid of Rosey so he skidaddled to the mountains but our army followed him And drove him Clear to the Tennessee river i am well & have been all along the trip & feel very much encouraged & contented the boys appear to be in very good spirits & anxious to bring this war to an end i expect as soon as the Commander Can get provisions enough up we will strike out again for old Bragg we are waiting for provisions we where on half rations for several days but we are drawing full rations of Bread again we are on top of the Cumberland mountains the roads are very bad & muddy if i dont write to you for some time again dont worry about me for i have enough to Carry without Carrying paper ink & envelopes o i dont know when we will ever get stationed in Camp again i have not got any ink nor cant get any at presant so please excuse me for such poor writing i thank Rachel for writing to me but i believe i cant Answer hers this time for paper is so scarce and i have such a poor Chance to write it is awful hard Marching up these mountains this hot weather and we have a tremendous lot of rain so i hope to soon get stationed again but there is no prospect for old Bragg is such a fast runner we just have to put down to it to keep up with him give my love to all inquiring friends my 2 years will be up the third of next month and i think if the war goes on as it is now it will all be settled up in another year i will just write you a short letter to let you know that i am still alive & well and still trying to serve my Blessed Lord i hope to be spared to see you again in earth how i would of liked to a gone a fishing with you on the 4th i was on laying at Cowens Station resting on the 4th a soldiers Life is a hard Kife i think those 9 months men ought to enlist again well Believe i will Bring my Letter to a Close i will try to wrote you a better letter when we get into Camp providence permitting my love to All my Brothers and Sisters and to you Write Soon Still remains your loving Son James S McCarty to Mrs Martha A McCarty Write Soon

Bridgeport Alabama August 7th 1863

Dear Mother i now sit fown to Answer your letter that brought me such sad New
i reCievd your letter today & was glad to hear from you but very sorry to hear
of the loss of my dear brother so if i only Could of seen him before he was Lain
in his long resting place but i was so unfortunate that i Could not get to see
him i hope & pray i may meet him & all the rest of you in that better land
where parting is not known i am well & hope these lines may find you enjoying
the same great Blessing we are at Alabama on the tennessee river it is A very
good place for a Camp except the water is so unhandy we are campd on a large
hill & evry time we go for water or go to the river we have to go & come up this
big hill wich is a very hard job i tell you All is very quiet here the rebels
are just on the other side of the river but they dont disturb us there is No
signs of old RoseCrans going any farther for some time i think perhaps we Can
fet to stay in Camp A month or to they are having the Camp fixed up very nice
the have Brush sheds fixed up over our tents for shade for it is very hot here
now & pretty dry we have very busy times a fixing up the Camp & standing gaurd
the Cars Come here most evry day now so i think we will Certainly get enough to
eat yesterday morn & noon our Company had just Crackers & Coffee to est but in
the afternoon we killed a Couple of Shoats & had them Cooked for supper i would
love to be as Close home as father is i would soon get to see you i am
thinking but my time is passing off very fast i an on my last year & pray the
good Lord may spare my life And my parents & my Brothers & sisters that i may
see them it is dreadful to Loose A dear Brother but the Lords eill be done not
mine i will try & be resigned to his will i am striving in my weak was to
serve my Blessed master & to make heaven my home although i have a great many
trials temptations & difficulties to enCounter in this unfriendly world but the
Lords aid is sufficient to over Come them if i will only do my masters will & be
faithful to my trust & live a whole hearted Christian & Come to him aright he
will assist me in overcoming all of them i know the way the war is going on at
the presant i think this war will soon Come to A Close i am not tired nor
dissatisfied with A Soldiers life but i would like to pay uou all a visit & i
Cannot od it whilst i am so far away from home & i dont expect to get any nearer
home until my time is about expired for if any thing we are getting farther
away all the time there is not much news of importance of what is going on
around here i believe i have told you about all the news of importance i will
send you five Dollars is is a small sum but i hope it will do you some good if
i was home i would try and help you momre but i have to look out for myself &
evry thing we buy we have to pay such an enormous prices for them that it takes
near evrything we make & all the money i get i get honestly i dont get it
gambling like a great many of my comrades do give my love & best respects to
All inquiring friends do Not Mourn for your dear son the good lord had taken
him to himself i trust & he will be a great deal happier there that he would in
this troublesome world do Not worry about me the LOrd will take Care of me
Write soon & give me all the news i trust there will not such sad News in the
next being i wrote RaChel a letter a short time age i will not Answer hers or
the little sheet i got No more at oresant but still remains your kind loving
affectionate Son and soldier boy James S McCarty Martha A McCarty

BRIDGEPORT ALABAMA August 20th 1862

Dear Mother I now sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well at present we are camped at Bridgeport yet but we do not know how long we will stay here we have sent back our knapsacks to the rear I will send you 25 dollars to get tombstones for my dear departed Brother I would of sent it before but I was so forgetful that I did not think about it until day before yesterday but I hope it is not too late yet get 2 nice ones with a verse on one of them Mother and if the 25 dollars dont pay for them why let me know and I will try to spare a few dollars more get them Dearest Mother it went very hard with me to hear of the sudden Death of my Dearly beloved Brother but so it is death cuts down all both great & small I feel that I want to do something towards the fixing up of the remains of my dear brother & I want something to show where his remains lay in the old Churchyard So if I am so highly favored by divine providence as to live to get home again I can see where his last resting place is get a nice verse pput on the stone I will try and stand the cost if you will only let me know what the cost let this be an answer to your letter that I expect is on the way now as soon as you receive this letter write and let me know if you received the 25 dollars O how I would like to see you all I pray that I may meet you all on earth again if Not I pray I may meet you one and all and my dear Brothers that have gone before in that better land above where grief sorrow and parting is never known O how I would love to be in that world now along side of my dear brothers singing in everlasting praises to my blessed Master well there not a great deal of important news for me to write about at present except the Rebs are deserting and coming over to our side almost daily not only but a few officers come over once in awhile well I believe I will bring my letter to a close perhaps we will have to march shortly from this place and it may be a long time before you hear from me again if ever but how soneever write as soon as you get this give my love and best respects to All inquiring friends My love to you and Brothers and sisters So No More at present but still remains your ever affectionate loving and kind son until death
James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Camp Roberts August 29th 1863

Dear Sister i now sit down to Answer your long looked for letter that you sent me i received it yesterday whilst i was out in the woods Cutting timber i am well at present & hope these lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing i enjoy excellent health and am very well satisfied * like soldering toberable well our time is passing off pretty fast the governor of illinois i heard was trying to get our furlough time allowed us wich if we do our time will be out in april next & some of the boys are in good spirits thinking they will get there furlough time allowed them we are still at Bridgeport we sent our knapsacks back to Stevenson but we sent back for our Blankets so we sleep very Comfortable A nights the weather has been very cool since Wensday last our picket gaurd is very light now having only to go on gaurd evrt 8th day that is picket gaurd and there is not much other gaurd duty to do the Rebels dont bother us much now a days so we have pretty peaceable times here now o but i get awful lonesome & dull and tired of alaying around here i tell how i would love to go a visiting once in a while Around west creek & gothe beach with the party i expect you had a fine time down on pearcey with your beau if em Cerson is married when you get this tell her i wisher a long life & a happy one who is that Mary J Wallace wheredid she come from where does Mary E Hoffman live now & who goes to see her i am to hear that the girls think enough of me to send there love to me tell Theba McKaig i send my love to her & i thank her for sending her love to me who is Mary J Wallaces man wher does he belong What business had he to take Mary E Hoffman in the water i wish you would let the girls alone here after especially my old gal if he pleas for me my dear sister try and get a smart decent & nice young man if you have any try & andget well acquainted with Isah Hoffman and find out weather he is may account before you tie the knot or any other man my dear sister tell me honestly do you have enough money to keep you agoing tell me honestly if you think i pay you inough wages dont be afraid to tell me come right out with it it just between you & me its just our business i will send you five dollars mor in this letter i think llikely if we stay here we will get payed off again soon if not i beleive i will have money enough to run me through how does the corn crop look & the potatoes i tell you we dontget many potatoes here but plenty of hard crackers & meat i hope i shall live to see you all again and enjoy the Comforts of life with you again Dear sister you requested me to pray for you i so very frequently & i still desire your prayers i am very glad to hear that you are still trying to live faithful & make your way to heaven i pray if we are not permitted to meet again on earth that we may meet in heaven give my love to my dear classmates tell them that i still remember them in my prayers and that i request there prayers for me give my love & best respects to All inquiring friends Write soon dear sister for i will be anxious to hear wether you got the five dollars or not my love to father mother & all Brothers & sisters put your trust in god & try tolive faithful well i believe i will Bring my letter to a close No more at present but still remain your kind Loning affectionate Brother until Death
James S McCarty to Rachel L McCarty

Camp Roberts August 29th 1863

Dear Brother i now sit down to write you a few lines in answer t the ones you sent me i am well & glad to hear that you was well i was very glad to hear you had come home with the intention to stay and comfort poor mother thats right my dear Brother take good care of her and i hope i shall live to get home to help you i am glad you are striving to serve your Blessed master still strive & never get tied nor weary until the prize is one well ther is not much agoing on here at the present it looks some lilke as if we where going to Cross the river here sometimes before long we where in the timber getting out logs for something either bridge or Boats we dont know wich and some pontoons came up last night i was very glad to get a letter from you i hope you will write again soon & tell me all the news how you are getting along & all about it No More at present my love to you still remain your kind Brother
James S McCarty to George E McCarty

To all Whom it May Concern
Greetings

This May Certify that that the heaven Bro James McCarty
Co.E 27th Ill Vol After a thorough Acquaintance, with the
reason of his Hope in Christ . On profession of faith, was
Baptised by me in the Tennessee River at Bridgeport, Alabama
on the 28th day of August 1863

I do therefore hereby most bondially Commend him to the
fellowship and Watch love of any church of our Lord Jesus
Christ in gospel order believing him to have "passed from
death to life" and praying the Grest Haed of the Church
Make him a Sure Yoke Fellow in the Kingdom & patience of
Jesus

Yours in the best of bonds
:Lewis Raymond
Chaplain 51st Ill Vol
& member of the Bapist Church

Camp Roberts, Bridgeport ALa.
August 29th 1863

Camp Near Chattanooga October 17th 1863

Dear Mother i now sit down to Answer you kind & interesting letter that i just recieved a few moments ago i am still alive & well through the mercies of a kind providence you supposed i would be in the Battle Near Chattanooga the Battle commenced 9 or 10 miles out from Chattanooga but the enemy having an overwhelming force we where repulsed the 3rd day of the fight & had to pull back Near Chattanooga & the enemy still pressing us hard on the Night of the 4th days fight we had to fall back to Chattanooga the whole of old Roseys Army where we had to go to entrenching as fast as we could & build forts wich is going on yet & it is 4 weeks tomorrow 18th Since our line had to pull back the enemy are very quiet & have been for a long time but I expect they are planing some scheme to get our rear i sent you a Nashville daily union that had an account of the Battle but not very true on so i got a Cincinatti dayly Commercial wich a had a very true account of the Battle i belong to that Brave general Sheridans division 3rd Brigade i hope you will get the commercial so you can see how we had to fight against supeior numbers i expect there will be another awful Bloody battle fough there when old rosey gets reenforcements wich are on the way & some of them i guess close by the enemy are within 3 miles of this place with a tremendous force so i expect it will be an awful hard fight to drive them a way but the men are in goog spirits as you might expect & feel confident if we get an equal number we can whip the Rebs our Company th 21st have been consolidated & is now called the 4th Army Corp under Major General Gordon granger We have plenty of Bread now for a few days but not enough of meat & half rations of sugar & coffee wich comprises our living it is hard but we have to bear it & work a good deal to on fortifications o how i would love to board at a good place for about 3 months but we cant buy much if anything here in way of provisions so we have to make out the best we can we have had 3 days & 3 nights study rain here this week so it is very mudy i am very glad to hear that the corn is good & the truck is nice i hope you may live comfortable & nice this coming winter but i expect to have a horrible time this winter if i live but if i die i hope & pray i may to a better world on high i was glad to hear that you had got Corbit's tombstones & that you money enough to get them i have not joined the Baptist Church at all Mother i still hold to the methodist doctrine but i go to most any church here in the Army for we dont get to go to church whenever we want to here i read the bible over & studied up on the mode of Baptism the way our Savior was Baptized & i thought is was right to be immersed but i had no notion of joining the Baptist i thought it would not make any difference to the members of the methodist church wich way i was Baptized although i know mode is sprinkling read the 3rd capter 16th verse of Matthew i still am striving to serve my blessed master in my weak way i hope & pray i may meet you one & all in that better land above where meeting & parting is no more i have great many trials & afflictions here but my trust is in god i got a letter from Anna this week she was well give my love & best respect to all inquiring friends tell me something about Aunt Ann gradpaps sister how is she getting along what is the reason retta dont write i havent heard from her for a long tine dont be disappointed if you dont hear from me again for a long time for i dont know how soon we will have to march again i still remember you in my prayers & am glad you do the same my love yo you & all my brothers & sisters No more at present but still remajn your kind loving affectionate Soldier son James S McCarty to Martha A. McCarty Write soon if you please dear mother

Camp Robert Bridgeport, alabama
Sept 1st 1863

Dear Mother i am well at presant & in good spirits I feel frustrate we are at bridgeport it is very busey times here the engineers are puting up a bridge across the river the Cavalry had been within 12 miles of Chattanooga on their side of the river & was not fired at i guess the rebs have got scared our & have commenced a retreat there is no more prospect of us moving away from here than they was when i last wrote to you so we may stay here a month yet for all i know it very bad here and agueish but there is not may sick in the hospital sick mother i was Baptized on the 23re of august and i got my certificate & i will send it to you for safe keeping until i come home if ever i so for i think i shall need it i hope you think hard of me forgetting baptized for i thought it was right to do so & i want to try to do right & make heaven my home at last i r ead the bible through 2 in less than 3 months so i thought it was right to be immersed give my love to all inquiring friends to brothers & sisters keep the Certificate for me please keep a good share of love no more at presant but still remain your loving son
James S McCarty to Martha A McCarty

Camp Chattanooga October 26th 1863

dear Brother i now take my pen in hand to answer your letter of the 11th wich i just reCeived last night whilst on picket duty i was very glad to hear from you & to hear that you was enjoying good health your letter found me enjoying very good health but with only half of a cracker in my havensack for my supper No meat at all so you see we have a hard life to live we get only half rations most the time of Bread & coffee & sugar & not full rations of meat wich is all we have to live on we have no way of getting grub here except with wagons & the roads are tremendous bad for there has been so much rain for the past few weeks the rebs have us pened up here so Close that we Cant forage enough even for the mules and horses we Can have a look at the Butternuts whenever we go out on picket for there picket line is not more than a quarter of A mile from ours & we have to go on picket evry other day grub or no grub if well old rosey had benn Called away from here the report is that old general grant is going to take Command of this Army they say he is here now but i have not seen him yet general G granger is Commanding our Corp now old McCook has been relieved of the Command i have not been through another battle but i expect soon as reinforcements gets up we will try to drive the rebs away from here & get possession of the railroad that runs to this place wich if they dont get possession of before long i think we will about starve here together or have to evacuate i am very glad to hear that you are all doing so well at home i hope & pray that i may soon meet your all on earth again if not permitted to i pray that i may meet you in heaven where hardships is never known give my love to All inquiring friends write soon again & tell me all the news still remains your Kind loving Brother James S McCarty to G E McCarty

i now begin to Answer your letter dear sister that i received with emorys i was glad to hear that you was well i an still alive & well & still trying to Serve my blessed Savior although i have a great many afflictions & hardships & temptations here to endure but i trust that there is a better day a Coming i hope to meet you all on earth again but if not i hope and pray i may meet you in heaven i am sorry that you & mother have so much outdoors work to do i would like to be there to do it myself but i Cant be there & fight for my country too i am glad to hear that you have so plenty of evry thing i wish i had to but so it is i have to nearly starve & work & stand picket in the Bargain the prospects look very gloomy now of being anybetter times any way soon i tell you the weather is pretty Cool here & we have a great deal of rain wich makes it very disagreeable & muddy tell Mother i thank yer for the ballet she sent me & for the few lines She wrote me o i am so glad Always to hear from home especially from mother the mail Comes very irregular & no rail road to Bring it on So it takes a long while to get a letter here from home dont think hard of me if i dont Answer you letters right away for i am on picket evry other day & perhaps have fatigue duty to do when i come off so you see i dont have much time to write whilst things are in such a fix as they are now direct to Company E 27th Reg illis Vol infantry Chattanooga tennessee give my love to All Brothers & sisters & mother & all inquiring friends my love to you Write soon still remains your loving Brother James S McCarty to RaChel L McCarty

Chattanooga Tennessee

Nov 21st 1863

Dear Mother it is with pleasure that i take my pen in hand to Answer your kind letter that i received this forenoon i was sorry to hear that you where not well & that you had that dreadful disease Nueralagia in the head i hope thse lines may find you enjoying good health i have my health first rate but i feel kind a bad today we are still laying in Camp at Chattanooga & i dont think there is much danger of us moving on to the enemy in our front for some time yet for provision is rather scarecs to make much of a move i am glad to hear that you have plenty of potatoes corn & flour i hope you may always have plenty i would love to share the good things with you but it is imposible but i hope & pray we may meet on earth again Some of the officeirs think we will get our furlough time allowed us wich if we do will make our time soon out Some of the regiment are enlisting again but i think i will wait until i serve my time out here before i enlist again that is if i am spared my life till i do get our of this we have not had much cold weather here but some few awful cold frosty nights Some few of the things that we sent back to Nashville from Mufreesburro last spring have been froughtup & i happened to be one of the lucky ones i got my overcoat wich was all that i sent back so i think if i had a good pair of socks and drawers i would be pretty Comfortably dressed Socks are very acarce here at presant but i hope thay will soon have a lot on here we had orders yesterday to be ready to march at 6 oColck with 2 days cooked rations but we didnt have to go & we was very glad of it Well i believe i will bring my letter to a Close my love to you & all my brothers & sisters still remain you kind loving & obediant son James S McCarty to Martha McCarty

Dear Brother i n ow take my pen in hand to answer your letter that i received with the rest i am always glad to hear from you & to hear of you all getting along so well there is not much going on around at the presant our men keep throwing a few shells over to the rebs once in a while & some rebel deserters Come over into our lines once in a while 2 deserters from our army where shot on the 13th of November it was an awful sight to see men set on there coffin & be shot to death i tell you but according to Military law it had to be done on the 15th of this month there was a man had his head shaved & his uniform stripped from hi, 2 other men where drummed along the whole length of the line with a big board on there Back with the Crime marked on it om big letters one was Coward the other deserter they are straitening up things here or at least trying to old U S Grant is in Command of us now so i expect he will try to straiten us up & get us ready for the Spring Campagne the rebels have moved up there picket line towards ours till i dont think we stand more than 2 or 300 yards aparts so you see we have a good chance to look at each other when on picket guard i feel kind a unwell today so i believe i wont write much excuse my poor letter i hope to write a better on next time if permitted to live to receive another give my love & best wishes to all inquiring friend i have been waiting to receive a letter from Thomas Taylor ever since i been here i dont know what is the matter Write soon no more at presant but still remain you kind loving Brother James A McCarty to George E McCarty

Chattanooga Tenn
Dec the 2nd 63

Friend I am requested to rite a few lines to you for James he is wounded throug the right arm between th shoulder and elbow it is purty bad but he is no dangerous he is in the hospital I was down to see him today he has very good care taken of his and he told me that he had not got no one to rite to you and I offered my service and he said that he would be glad if I could rite you a few lines he was wounded on the 25th of last month in the battle at this place just as we had gained te top of Missionary rige I was wounded just a few minutes before he was but I am not hurt much I will be able to go to my Reg in a week I belong to the same Co that he does our Reg has gone to Knoxville to reinforce Burnsidess it will be gone two or three weeks it may not come back at all they left thare camp all standing and I am in the camp with to or three other boys that is slightly wounded I can not tell you whare to send a letter so as James could get it and I think it best for you not to rite wntill you hear from him again for he will be sent up north as soon as is convenient he told me to tell you not to worry yourself about him for he iswas doning fine I will see himevry few day as long as we both stay here I expect you have heard of the great victory gain here at this place for it is a good one I dont think James is any ways dangerous and if he gets so I will rite to you if we stay here to geather I beleave I have told you all that he wanted me to no more
from James S McCarty to his Mother riten by E M Gomlin

Dec the 7th 4 oclock P M 1863

Friend I noe take up my pen in hand ti rite you a few lines for James I was down to see him this afternoon and He said that he wish me to rite to you again he is in the same hospital yet his wound is doing very well the bone is not hurt and he is well cared for considering whare he is he has had the erasipales for to or three days it has broke out on his back but it is not very bad he said that he did not no what to say about you riting to him but concluded that you had better rite one any how and send it to the Co for we think that the Regament will be back here before he is sent away and if he is here he will get it and if he is sent away the letter will be taken care of untill we no whare he is i have heard that our Reg is now at Knoxville and will not be back here before the last of this month but it is only Camp news some of the boys have been sent north but James will not be spt to go for some time yet things here are just the same as they was when I rote to you before as for my seld i tried to chop some wood last evening and it set my brest to paining me for to or three hours but I am well other ways James said that you must not worry about him for he is doing the best he can and that is all that is required of us no nore this time E M Gomlin ritten for James McCarty to his Mother

CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE
DEC THE 16TH 1863

I have just saw James and he wished me to rite a few lines for him and he said that he thought that he would be able to rite to you himself in a week more his wound looks to be nearly well he has been quite sick with the aresipator but it is check now and is nearly well of it but it has left him quite week he was up and walking a round the room today but did not offer to go down stairs he said that he does not think that he will be sent away now but he thinks that hw will be able to come to his Co when it gets back here we expect them soon now and he said for you to send his letter to the Co just as you did before the battle he sends his love to you all if you should see my sister Mrs Wilson tell her that I am well but do not put yourself to any trouble on my account my wound had got so near well that I must say it is well one of the boys that belong to ou Co has died from the affect of his wound since the battle his mane was S Newbury all the rest is doing very well and all have good care taken of them James was boasting of his cumfortable room and his good care to day there is no news in Cam today

ritten for J S McCarty to his mother by
E M Gomlin Co. B 17th Ills Vol Chattanooga Tenn

Hospital No 3 Chattanooga Dec 26th 1863

Dear Mother is is with pleasure that i Now sit fown to write you A few lines to let you know haow i am getting along i am well of the erysipelas and my wound i think will son be well to i am so i Can wald around but i am kind a week yet it was A Month last night since i Came here i feel pretty well at present i expect the doctors mebbly will send me to Nashville before long till i get fully able for Camp futy at least i hope they will i would love to see you first rate O i hope before many months providence permitting i will see you face to face our Regiment is now in knoxvill tennessee exCept A few wounded thatwhere left here at Chattanooga i would love to here from you awful well but i dont know where to tell you to direct your letter for i dont know wether i will be here long enough for a letter to get here for i dont know how soon they may move me some where else i got your letter with th Crumb of pound Cake in it & was glad to hear from you & i nould of Answered it before but my hand was most to trembly so i thought i would wait until i got a little stronger it is s little weak yet you see by my writing but i guess you Can make it out we have some pretty cold weather here although it is in disea i have very grub at the presant o how i would love to be at home a couple of months till i Could get stout again but my time is so short & it is such a long ways home that i dont thhink it would much use to take a furlough if i could get one i wish you would tell Anna McCarty when you write to her that i lost her directions & i did not no where to send a letter to her & that is the reason that i didnt Answer her last letter that she snt me tell uncle Charley pit & wife i wish them A long life & a happy one together & hope they may do well i hope soon providence permitting to be settled si i Can tell you where to write to so i Can hear from you i hope you may get along all right this winter it appears to be very quiet here at Chattanooga there is not much news a going as i Can hear yesterday we where treated to apples & last night we where again to two apples & lager beer but i Could not go the lager the cars are not running here yet so there is not much Chance to buy any good things give my love and best repects to grand pa ma & all the rest of the family & to all inquiring friends my love to you & all Brothers & Sisters so i believe i will Close for the presant Still remains your kind loving affectionate Son James S McCarty a Union Soldier to Martha A McCarty

now I am at present as happy as to I want you to visit to me and
tell me all the news is at west Creel that not much news on
at Jermonfoun for hit is a dull place out here there is not
much to be seen a horse but I like there is plenty of toban we
excuse me I did sending this before after I comments hit
I feel an hurt in my arm except as it is much better so you visit
soon as for hit worth for that I can say god by Wm P C
McDarty

COL. HARRINGTON,
27TH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS.
KILLED AT STONE RIVER, WEDNESDAY DEC. 31ST, 1862.

COMPOSED BY
JOHN SHEEHY, Co. G., 42nd Ill. Vols

Air:—Caroline of Edinburghtown.

Come now, brave boys! I pray you'll give attention for awhile,
And I will sing a verse or two, the time to beguile,
Concerning gallant Harrington, that hero true and bold,
But now his brilliant course is run; he in the grave lies cold.

He was as true a soldier as ever drew a sword;
Feared he was by his enemies, and by his boys adored!
He was the man to lead a charge as often he had done,
But he is gone, fair freedom's son, the noble Harrington!

The 27th, who never yet was backward in the fight,
That hero bold they followed on with hearts both brave and light.
He was their noble Colonel, and well deserved the name,
For nobly did he stand by them on many a field of fame!

On Stone River's bloody field, where cannon loud did roar;
Where many a hero fought, and bled and fell, to rise no more;
Bright fame did weave a laurel-wreath for the 27th boys!
That day they proved an honor to themselves and Illinois!

To see brave Harrington that day upon his noble steed,
Through fire and smoke his gallant boys he cheered by word and deed.
With clarion voice he cried: "Brave boys, do as you've done before!
Those rebel legions we'll subdue and peace we'll soon restore!"

Bravely fought those gallant boys that eventful day,
Though sorely pressed on every side, they scorned to give way,
'Till a fatal rebel shot it laid their heroic leader low,
While from his wounds his precious blood in gushing streams did flow.

His fall was witnessed by us all with anguish sore and deep,
On Stone River's bloody shore to take his last long sleep.
To see that gallant hero there lie sweltering in his gore!
Farewell! farewell! brave Harrington, you'll lead your boys no more!

Though sorely grieved and hemmed around after their leader's fall,
Still to avenge the hero's death, it was resolved by all.
And faithfully their word was kept and nobly carried out!
The rebels did experience it and fled in utter rout!

And now, brave boys, the fight is o'er; the victory we've won,
And many a home made desolate, the loved ones now are gone:
They died for liberty and truth and never did they yield;
Their deeds we'll long remember, on Stone River's bloody field!

And now, farewell to Harrington, that hero true and brave!
He loved our flag and for its sake now fills a soldier's grave.
May his memory be cherished by his brave, heroic boys!
And may they continue as they've been: true sons of Illinois!