

57th Indiana Infantry

John McGraw

Wagners Brigade

Head Quarters 25th Regt Iowa Vols
Camp at Murfreesboro Tennth 1863

Dear Wife and Children

I received your letter of
the 26th of last mo and was very much
pleased to hear that you were all well

you say that you do not hear from me
as often as you used to I do not know
what is the reason for I have written twice

a week to you, I have not heard from
you since the letter of the 26, I have

written to you two letters since the battle
I hope that you have received them for

I know how anxious you are to hear from
me I am still in command of the 25th Regt

and have the honor of commanding a regt through
one of our largest battles that is more
than a great many of our Vols do

I write to you to tell you that
Amos Traher was wounded he has since

died but I have since wrote to his
in regard to it I am tolerable well

I have a slight cold from laying out
in the wet and cold during the battle

I have my uniform much the
better get strong and the apples dated

I should like very much to be at
home to night and eat apples with

you Oh you do not know how I

like to be at home and sit in
my little family circle to night and
enjoy their company but it is not
permitted to me, it would be so pleasant
to sit in our Dear home all together once
more. May the Lord grant that that the
time may soon come.

I unfortunately lost my gold
pen day before yesterday in moving camp.
I wish that you will have to get and
send me another one and get a case and
send it by mail. I would not have
lost it for a great deal.

I am so proud of my Uniform
now I have the best one in the brigade.
I took the shine of all the officers at the
party at Col. Wagners the other night that I did
~~not~~ in my last letter and that ~~was~~
very nice after wearing the kind that I have
been wearing for a long time.

I wish that you would tell
me if the needle case that you made me was
in my trunk if it was not it is lost.
I am glad that you have got me such a
nice hand-trunk. I should like to see it
and that bottle of brandy if you can see
any body coming to send it by send it
by them if not send it by express but it

I am in no great hurry for it I can get
along very well till you can send it
convenient. Jim received a letter
to day from both of the 26th and one
from Callie of the 28th. Clin's arm
is not well yet he is still at New Albany
Callie has been down to see him again.
They were over at Mrs Crabb's and saw
that set of ware Callie says that it is
very fine.

We are having beautiful weather
here now. Clear and pleasant about like our
weather in April - it is very pleasant.

I am glad to hear that you were
to a good Christmas dinner. Well we
were out foraging on Christmas day and
had along March and drove the rebels
back and got the passage went back to camp
in the evening. The next day went back
up camp and started towards Murfreesboro
and were engaged with the rebels from that
time until the night of the 31st of Jan
when the rebels retreated leaving us in
possession, we are now lying on the south
side of town and are building breast works.
I do not know how long we may remain
here. My Love to you all and
may the Lord bless you all.

John W. Brown
Capt 57th Ind. Inf.

7-18
P. W. Direct your letters to me through
Louisville Ky they will come sooner
than they would directed to Nashville
J. Pett

Jan. 12th 1863

I am well this morning and hope you
are all the same. You need not send the
pen that I spoke of as I had a present of
one this morning by Lieut. Bradleigh of our
regt.

J. W. B. Grant

deep were we were that we had to move
the regt up on a hill to get out of it we
lay there untill about ten in the morning
when we started on our way back and arrived
in camp at 4 in the afternoon after three
men wading through the mud and water
the water in many places being knee deep
where the men had to wade, the camp was
found overflowed when we got back you could
not find a dry place to lay down my uniform
was in my valise setting on the ground in my
tent and the water got in (by the way the water
was seven or eight inches deep in my tent)
and when I got time to attend to it it was
frozen in a solid lump, we moved camp
the next day and have been very busy making
out reports and pay rolls since, Doctor Francis
co. Doctor Fisher and Pitkin were here and
I heard that Doctor Hubbard had been here
while I was away on that march, we are
all well here ~~camp was here~~ just after
I commenced writing this for awhile, I am
still in command of the regt, I would
like very much to hear from you it seems
like an age since I heard from you those
that come cannot tell me much.

My Love to all your Loving Husband
John S. M. Gray

1
Jan 18 - 1863
Camp at Murfreesboro Jan 18th 1863

Dear Wife and children

It is not often that I miss writing to you in the middle of the week. But this past week I have been so engaged that I did not get an opportunity to write. I have written three letters to you since the fight but have received none. The last letter that I received from you was written on the 26th of Dec the day that we left Nashville and probably while you were writing that we were skirmishing driving back the rebels from Nashville. We met them the same day that we left about 2 o'clock and were fighting from that time until Sunday the 4th of this month, we had a hard march last week we left camp on Tuesday morning at 1 o'clock on a reconnoissance it was beautiful weather the first day but the next morning it commenced to rain and rained continually all day while we were on the march, at night we went into camp and the men sat up around the fire it rained very hard. I lay down and threw a gun blanket over me and slept sound until three in the morning when I waked up with cold and sat by the fire the balance of the night it had turned very cold and the rain and sleet fell and froze to the trees until it broke them down the water became so

1-27-1863



Dear Les 27th Ind Colo

Jan 27th 1863

Dear Wife and children

I have been waiting patiently for letters from you but have received none except the one of the 5 that I spoke of in my last letter which I think is very strange. As I have received business letters from there written as late as the 19th and I know that my dear wife has not neglected or forgotten me or to write but must lay the whole blame to the mails.

I am in first rate health which I attribute to the good favor of the Lord and feel very thankful. Therefore Frank and Jim are also in good health. Frank was over here on Friday. Our men are in tolerable good health. I believe that I might say rather unusual by God although they have been very much exposed, the weather has been very warm and pleasant here this two days like spring but this afternoon it commenced to rain and is still raining and turning cooler, we came in late last night from a foraging expedition out the liberty pike there was several

came in with us consisting of thirty
or forty persons moving North a
number of the men had been in the
fight here and had been laying
in the woods since to keep out of the
way of the rebels to keep from going
in the army, there is very little
news here at present there has been
very little mail came up and no
papers scarcely and the news is pretty
stale when we get it very similar
to that letter that you sent me

I received a letter from Col
Hines this evening from Indianapolis he writes
me that he is getting along finely which
I am very glad to hear.

I have not heard from Col Leonard
or the adjutant since they left

Some of the boys here are not
right well Albert Prescott looks badly he
has a bad diarrhea, but is going about
Camp and I am in hopes that he will
soon be all right.

Kiss my little ones for me and
have them write I would be very thankful
if I could be there to night to kiss all of
you my self but here I am and presently

I will lay myself down on my lonely
blanket by myself to dream of those far
away but I live in hopes of soon being
with my Dear Family at Home for I
pray that this strife and bloodshed may
soon cease and that we the whole country
may be happy once more, the people
in the South must be suffering very much
for want they are living on the common
-est kind of food and every thing is very
high I do not see how they live a great
many of them but they have to make their
own clothing and wear what they had before
the war, well this is the ^{6th} letter that
I have written since dark and I am a writing
without fire and it is turning a little cool
and is now ten o'clock so I get taking
all things into consideration I will bring
to a close. Wishing the Lord may grant
you all good health and happiness.

Your Loving Husband
John H. Beaw

1-29-1863



Tuesday Jan 28th 1863

I wrote last yesterday or last night that it was turning cool. It is quite cold this morning and snowing some but not cold enough to freeze the ground.

I am well as usual this morning and hope that you are the same.
My Love to all

J. G. M.

21-29-1863

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn
Jan 29th 1863

Dear Wife and Children

I take the present opportunity of a few moments to write to you I have written one letter to you this week but have not heard from you since as I stated before the 6th of Jan I am well and hearty as I could wish and hope this may find you in the same good health, I with the Regt have been out for forage to day and of all of the forage parties that I have seen this was the largest there was about six hundred wagons left Murfreesboro and about I thought twenty regt I went over the battle ground to day and it recalled a great many thoughts to my mind, the trees in the woods where we lay a part of the time are just literally cut to pieces we had hardly got back in camp when we were ordered to report tomorrow morning in the fortifications at Murfreesboro at half past seven o'clock I suppose that we are to help build them they are building very strong works there we passed them to day on our forage trip there is not much news here at present and we do not get any by the papers the one that is published at Nashville

Do not have hardly any news in it I suppose
that you have seen those resolutions of the Indiana
troops to the legislature of the state and probably
Dr. Hiberd told you that I was one of the
members of the meeting that drafted them
for the consideration of the troops I met
him in Murfreesboro at the time and he
told me what we were doing,

I do wish that I could get some letters
from you for I am so anxious to hear from
you and I want you to tell me all of the
news and what the people think about
the fight and me and every thing of
importance, Oh how I would love to

come home and see you all and live
with you at home a while it would give so

much pleasure give my love to mother
and Mary also to Jim and Mrs Jordan
Mr and Mrs Patterson and all enquiring
friends, where is John Morrison and
what is he a doing I have not heard from
him yet for a long time do you hear any
thing of John Sedell or Jack Haines
and where are they, though I see in
the Nashville paper that the sixteenth and
sixty ninth were up the Arkansas

I do not hear any more reports about
me being circulated at home like there
used to be do they talk so much or
abuse me like they did or what do they
think of me there now I should like
to know how dose your Cows get along
you said once that you thought that
if I was at home you expected that
I would catch the Cow fever from Jim
Jordan and Mitt Gair but I would
like to know who took it first

As for my Tart I do not know hardly
what a Cow is for now except for beef
is that is all the part of a Cow that
we get in the army, (yes we get leather
for shoes but as for butter and milk that
is altogether out of the question

The boys are all tolerable well I wrote
that Albert Prescott was poorly he is getting
some better his diarrhea has been quite bad

Well now I will conclude
by sending you each of you a good kiss
and all of my love

John V. Brown

2-21-1863

Head Quarters 5th Ind Vols
Camp near Muskegeto Tenn
Jan 31st 1863

Dear Wife and Children

I take the present opportunity to write a few lines to you and let you know that I am well and hearty as I hope this may find you the same I have not very much news to write I have wrote three letters I believe this week already but Lieut Plumer was going home in the morning and promised me that he would call and see you he has resigned his Commission as Lieut in this Regt I guess that I will send some few small things by him I have not got a great many things to send though but I have a box of Laurel wood and some pieces of Mussel shell that I picked up at Galatin Tenn that I saved to make small relics of when I get home I will look and see what I can do for you that I do not need here I told you in my last letter that we were going to work on the fortification well we went and worked all day they are building some very strong ones and the embankments are perfect think to you know how strong they will be when that is but for me

Not to Describe the fortifications for fear that
this might fall into the hands of some
rebel I received two letters from you
yesterday that were written since you had
heard from me and it gave me great
pleasure to know that you had heard from
me and had that anxiety of your mind
Pet I know how bad you felt and how
anxious you were to hear from me.

I am very sorry to hear that you and
Ida were both sick I do hope that this
May find you both in good health.

I have not had better health in my
life than I have had for some time now I
think that I am eight fat pretty much
enough so to kill for pork you say amos
drakers father wished to know how he
was well poor fellow he is dead I wrote
to his father in regard to him the last
time that I saw him he wished me to
write to him but he did not want me
to tell him how bad he was

Suff came up from Nashville today
he had the shuntism and went back
after the battle he is well I believe now

2-1-1863

Sunday Evening Feb 1st 1863

I commenced this letter last night to send by Lieut Plumer expecting that he would start home this morning but did not finish it for the reason that he did not go, he put off starting untill Tuesday morning so I will keep this and send it by him, I said that Duff was well now but he says that he is still afflicted with the shun-
dism some, I received your letter to day of the 25th of last month and was very glad to hear from you but I am very sorry to hear that you have all been sick but I hope the Lord may grant that you may soon be in good health

For my little family at home is all I have of interest in this world and it grieves me to hear that they are suffering, you wished to know what to do with my hands indeed I can hardly tell it is so uncertain getting any thing through I guess that you had better keep it for a while untill you should get a good chance to send it or untill you hear from me further ~~from~~ in regard to it you say that Mrs Crab and Mr Taylor were coming to Nashville and you wished to come to see me well I should be very glad to see you but I do not think that you could get through here to see me if you were in Nashville, Capt Blanch came down here yesterday and said that there was a number of people

Came down to Nashville with him after their
dead killed in the battle but could not get
through to get home and had to go back.

do you see what the chances are for getting
through you say that Dr Francisco said that
Albert Peckott should be discharged why there is
nothing the matter with him he was poorly and
looked bad for a while but he is as well as
ever again now I think he looks well any
now and says he is well but there is always
times of sickness to every body but that is
no reason why they should be discharged
for if they discharged every one whenever they
were not well there would be no army very
soon but it is my duty to protect the govern-
ment as much as possible and also do my duty
by the soldier and as soon as I see that he is
no longer fit for service I do all that I
can to discharge them but I would not
be doing my duty to the government if
I discharged any that were fit for duty
and I think that they any of them have
no more interest in home than I have
and have as good a right to stay as I have
well now I have done with that I must
tell you a little of our camp amusements
the night Lucy came in our tent at our
quarters (I still eat my meals there)

while we were eating and three or four other officers with him and Finney sat up to the table and invited the other officers up to eat after we were done they still sat there and Jim and Finney concluded to sing a song for us they got the song book and candle and sat down to sing I whispered to the other officers that when they got fairly to singing that we would all get up and walk out and leave them by themselves singing and we did so, I went to my tent at Head Is and was writing after an hour or so they concluded to play a joke on me so up comes one of them and wants to know what I wanted with him I told him that I did not want him why says he did you not send for me by the orderly (which is the way we do when we want them to come to head Is on any kind of business) says I no I did not send for you then I thought of Finney and began to tell him that Finney was playing a joke on him for being him in his song but before I got half through in walks Finney so I then thought that Jim had sent the orderly around to Finney and bucket but they came walking in one after another until they were crowded in the tent I then seen that they were trying to play a joke on me so I that

Sent over to the 15th and had a little whiskey
presented to me by the Major of that Regt
yesterday so I concluded that they should
not have any joke on me I never got up
but told them I knew what they come for
and told them there was some whiskey
drink that that was the business I had with
them they drank then concluded to play
a joke on Howe the gr Master and plumer
being out of the service he thought that
he would go ahead as he would have no
business there and could not say he sent for them
so in he went to witness the joke and after he
went in to see the joke played on the gr Master
I told the boys that if I was them I would not
go and let plumer wait to see them come and
bores him and they did not go but went to their
tents and plumer waited so they got the joke on
him, well this is a beautiful moonlight night
and has been a very pretty day but last night it rained
all night, well I must come to a close and knit
up what I can find to send to you as Plumer was
Justin and says that he is going in the morning as
there is a train going to Nashville but I could have wrote
abouge better only for that I thought that I could write
some more to meric in night but if he goes will not get to
I am well Your Loving Husband
John S. G. G. G.

2-3-1863

Memo
Settle

Head Qrs of the Regt Ind Vols
Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn Feb 3rd 1863

Mrs Mary Ann McHaw

Dear Wife Writing in my tent to
night, and nothing to do I felt kind of lonesome and thinking
of those at home as I always do when my mind is not engaged
in some other business, which is the cause of your getting so many
more letters than any one else there at home (there, I suppose,
and in fact I know that I write a great many more letters
than any one else here, but I am always thinking of you
when I am by my self and I think of the pleasure it would
be to all of us if I were there and how happy we would all
be, and then I employ my time in writing in lieu of
talking to you, and I know what a gratification it is to you,
to hear from me, for I know how happy I feel when I get
a long letter from you and hear that you are all well and
getting along well but it worries me when I hear that you
are sick, I am more fearful of that than I am of an
expected battle since we have lost our sweet little children
and I am uneasy untill I hear that you are well again
I received today your letter of the 28th and I am very
sorry to hear that you are not all well yet I pray that the
Lord will spare and protect you all in good health.
I am very glad you received the news through Mrs Payne
that I was safe for it was a source of great anxiety there
being a large battle and you not being able to hear from
me so for that reason I write to you the first opportunity.

I know how I would have felt under the same circumstances
it was a great trial for you, but yet you did not suffer
as did thousands of other families just to think of the thousands
of families that had those they loved dearly shot down and
and mangled up by cannon shot and left on the battle field
in the cold embrace of death, and others to lay hours to suffer
before they were carried for on the cold ground and it was cold
I discovered for I was on the field with nothing to keep me
~~warm~~ but a thin blouse, and others with their over coats on
and buttoned up to the chin, but I had to keep moving to
keep warm our regt was on the advance line as it had been
from the morning of the 29th as you will see by Gen Woods report
in the Cincinnati Commercial of the 10th I think it is, Wagners brigade
were skirmishing the road all day on the day before we reached Murfrees
boro and then kept the front until the battle was over in the night
of the 29 our brigade kept watch in front and consequently
did not sleep much in the morning of the 30th the 104th Co and
Finneys were thrown forward about six hundred yds in front
of the brigade and fired as skirmishers and remained there under
a heavy fire from the rebel rifle pits until dark when we were
relieved by the 40th Ind regt of our brigade when we went back
to where the balance of the brig lay and slept soundly until about
4 o'clock ^(with occasionally a ball flying over us) when we were up and eat our breakfast on hard
crackers and coffee and were prepared for the fray and it
was not long in coming shortly after daylight the skirmish fire
commenced and a little later we could hear it commence in a
continual war on the right and kept getting nearer and
nearer while we kept up a continual skirmish fire to the

front but the heavy fighting kept getting worse as I
halt and presently we could see across a field and
here appeared to be the whole right of our army coming through
the cedar thickets and across the open ground with wagons
loaded with ammunition ambulances artillery and men all flying
before the enemy as hard as they could go and they appeared
to drive the right around clear behind us then at the same
time the rebel cavalry attacked the ammunition train of further
to the rear and it seemed that we were muchly surround-
ed at the same time the enemy advanced in front and
endeavored to drive back our brigade and came charging
down on us but we did not drive with a cent there our
brigade stood and could see the balance of the line
coming back and the firing all around them but they stood
like steel and as the enemy would advance on us we would
drive them back during which time they sent one of our
brigades of to the right to support them and check up
the rebels which they assisted in doing the other brigade
were sent to the right of us which left us the remainder
of the army, the fighting continued on and at 8 o'clock
the enemy concluded he would break the left wing of
the army they counteracted a large force in front of us even
brought up reinforcements strong Corps that had been in
before the open country as far as you could see in the
the end of the line came into the woods and I do not know
how far down them behind that line still another and
an officer they marched behind with confidence flying

and then something on steadily if was the great benefit
right that I ever saw, we lay on the ground as close down
as we could get their artillery shelling way it was great at this
time that got three was struck with a six pound shot and
enrich back and called on me to take the entrance
Get Fearna having been wounded down have before with
the shot flew like hail over us and I had the men lay as
close as they could get to the ground to protect them as much
as possible from the fire ~~the entrance was very close~~
when the rebels came close enough we raised up our powder
on them with our rifles the artillery men were shooting round
right through them and between the two they got between
to itself away and disappear and presently that was left of them
broke into disorder and ran as fast as they could go but the
rebels kept up a very heavy artillery fire on us until after dark
and our brigade was supporting our batteries and in charge
of them that the whole time with them that and their fellows
ing up the ground among us and knocking the dirt higher
the fire and rattling over us at a terrific rate but just before
dark the rebels undertook to cross the river a few hundred yards
to the left of us and Col Wagner ordered me to advance through
and drive them back which we did in a hurry we threw
ray there on the bank of the river at night without fire
and a creek of sleep the weather very cold but ^{out} for all of
the hardship and danger we were in we were ^{of spirits} of spirits
and passed the remainder of the season not a minute of
to go the name of the fire is the that all men might and
I happened to think of it being this year and so I must along

2-3-1863

U.S.

I wished the men a happy New Year and they were all joyful and passing the compliments around, Well so ended the fight of the 31st of Dec and our Brigade that is Col Wagner was the only brigade that had the Honor of holding the same ground during the whole of the day the rebels were not able to drive us an inch from where we were in the morning when the fight commenced, Gen Bragg pays us a very high compliment he says in his dispatches to Richmond that he had driven back the right for several miles and had attempted to drive back the left and had charged them and endeavoured to drive back and capture their artillery on the extreme left but was repulsed but he attributed the repulse to their being supported by a brigade of regulars, I see that the reporters of different brigades and divisions praise their own but say nothing of others so those that have no correspondents get no credit for their deeds of valor I see there are many get a great deal of praise that are the least deserving They tell about the hard fighting they done near a certain burnt pick house on the Murfreesboro Pike but they say very little about us that was nearer to it than any of them and remained within six hundred yds or less of it all day it was a horrible sight when one had time to think about it at leisure of men being cut down by the side of you probably blown all to pieces by shell and in which ever direction you may look almost and see men falling and the ground strewed with the dead and the dying and you not permitted to do any thing.

for them but must pass on and let them lay for some
one else to pick them up and probably lay there for
hours and suffer with cold from loss of blood made worse and
craving for water to quench their thirst this thing of war
is a horrible thing to think of men standing and lying
in wait to kill man and mangle one another.

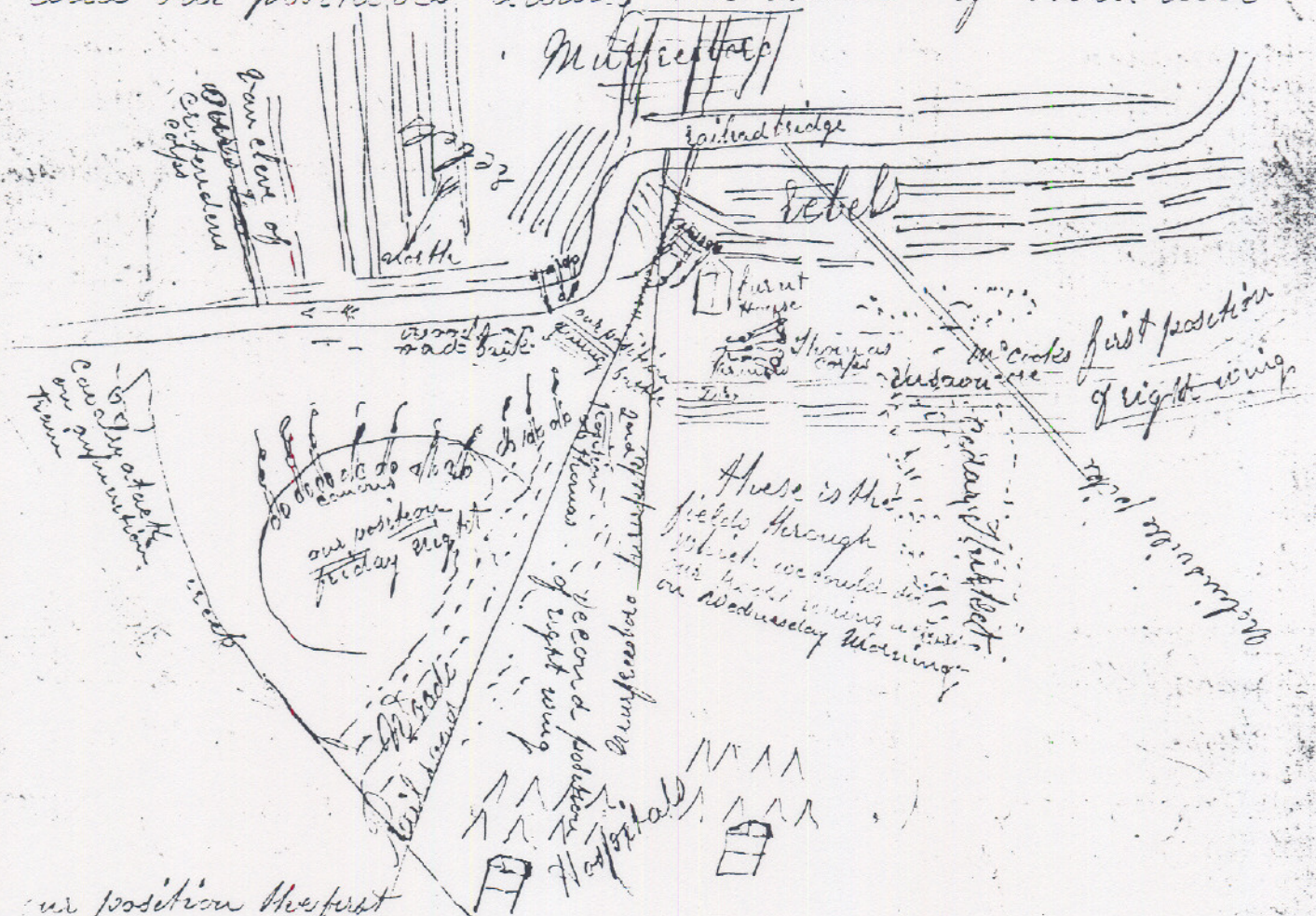
I wish this war the lord willing were over but I am
not willing to see it settled dishonorably as some of your
Indiana butternuts would do it, in that case all the
blood treasure and suffering expended so far will be
in vain. but the lord will put a stop to it all
in his good time, If the right wing of the army that
did so much blowing had been prepared and stood
their ground as Citendens Corps did so that Gen Roscrans
plans could have been carried out of swinging Citendens
Corps around through Murfreesboro we would have totally
defeated Bragg's army and would have had their retreat
cut off and consequently captured nearly all of it but it
was not to be so it appears, Well we lay there in pretty
nigh the same position as far as the army is concerned
during Thursday our brigades were drawn out further
to the left and a little more back and lay in a small
basin on a slight hill of a kind of a horse shoe shape
supporting some batteries there were placed there with
almost a continual fire on us during the day in the
evening there was a division sent over Stone river which
was close at hand and on the morning of Friday
there was a large number of artillery brought up and

planted around this ground as the adjutant
Gen of our brigade told me to take the rebels
 if they should attempt to cut of that Div over the
 river as they were thrown over for the purpose of draw
 ing them in there the canon were nearly all hid

behind the brow of the hill only a few visible to the
 rebels and them and the rebels kept a continual fire
 nearly all day upon one another by artillery and
 once and a while a shot or shell would burst near
 or strike the ground and throw the dirt all over
 us and sometimes as we lay there on the ground
 a shell would explode right among us I do not
 see how we escaped it was an intervention of Providence
 -ce, that saved us, at about 4 P.M. on Friday the
 enemy advanced and made the attack on the Div
 of Paucet of our Corps that was thrown over the river
 just where they wanted him and set a fire as
 he got it was terrific there was 50 or 60 pieces of artillery
 planted on the hill where we were besides what
 were in other places and the guns where we were
 saw the fire of the rebel guns on us and we were
 under a perfect hailstorm of shell and shot
 until nearly dark when we drove the enemy back
 some the brig was then moved across the river at
 a double quick the rebel artillery shelling us meantime
 but they could not get our range very well
 sometimes they would go just over our heads
 then strike the ground and ricochet over our heads

but we discovered afterwards that the rebels got enough
this time and had commenced retreating right away
from that time that night it commenced to rain
hard and rained continually almost and flooded
the ground where we were we lay there shoe tops deep
in water until 4 P.M. when we were relieved on
the advance lines by another brigade and moved
back about 4 hundred yds to get a little rest about
~~9 o'clock in the evening there was a heavy rain~~
fire a cross the river and the brigade was in line
to go to the assistance of our men but they succeeded
in driving the rebels out of their entrenchments with-
out our assistance, this was the last fighting I heard
during this battle the rebels were all gone the next morn-
ing the enemy had gone and left us in possession of the
field to bury the dead of which they lost a goodly ^{no}
the ground where the fight was on Friday night was literally
covered they acknowledge a loss of 2,000 ^{two} thousand that
evening, at about one o'clock we were waked up and fell
in and crossed over the river and went back to the hospital
to care them and bivouacked on some stones, it felt
so we were glad to get out of the mud again
once more we lay there for several days sending
out details to bury the dead both ours and theirs
the dead had lain there a great no of them from
the time of the fight on Wednesday until the next
week at that time our loss in the regt was
fiercely heavy out of about 200 men the number that

We took into the action we lost 46 in killed and wounded which is about 30 per cent I will draw you a kind of a sketch of the battle field and our positions during the battle of Stone river



our position the first day was right at the bend of the river where we remained the whole day the right was driven back clear around over the railroad the second day we were in that creek where the cannon

I do not know whether you can understand any thing from the sketch I have made without I were there to explain it to you I guess that Gen Rosecrans will have to give Me a leave of absence to come home and explain it to you I think it be better I had to

our reg how the rebel forces could play on us

it he would send me a leave of absence to come and explain it to you, we now lay about a mile and a quarter east of town between the Liberty and Lebanon pikes that is Crittendens Corps the army has been reorganised our designation is now the 2nd Brigade 1st Division of Left Wing, (and Crittendens Corps is the 2nd army corps so ours is the 2nd Brigade 1st Division 2nd army corps army of the Cumberland.

I was over to see Sam and Mollie Finney on Tuesday afternoon they were all well. Mollie talked some of going home they were living in a tent Mollie says that she likes it first rate and seems very well satisfied there she had not heard very lately from our friends at Louisville. You want to know if I have paid David Taylor that money, I sent it to him from Nashville when we first arived there but I have never heard from him whether he had recd it or not but I suppose he has I sent it Sergt Gill of our regt and he said that he handed the letter to the folks at the house, you say if you had been here you would have taken care of my Uniform and dried it, I know you would but I hope you may never be in such a place to have to live in a tent ten feet deep in water and mud and cold enough to keep you, you say you wonder what the ladies thought of me at Col. Magners party.

why bless your soul there was no Ladies here
 and besides that I have not spoke to a lady
 since I left Louisville Except Mellie and an
 old lady that I Met at Sam Finneys for
 one day while we were at Nashville so you
 see that if I do not get to come home soon
 I will be liable to forget what a lady is
 and then you would be soey I know, but to
 return, the Wetting that it reed did not appear
 to hurt my Uniform any that I can see, it looks
 about as well as ever and is a good deal the
 best looking one that I see about here

I am well and hearty Finney is also well
 Jim is well and Duff as are most of the boys
 Albert Prescott is got well again he says and
 he looks right well Alfred Albertson says if you
 see his Mother tell her that he has not reed
 his Box yet, and that he is well

I hear that Col Hines intends visiting Richmond
 when he gets well enough to do so probably he
 will call and see you if he dose, I have
 not heard from him since the 18th of last
 month but he wrote that he was getting along
 very well then,

I was up to Murfreesboro this morning
 and bought the vir Commercial of the 2nd
 and the Louisville Journal of the 3rd but they
 were barren of news, since they have commin
 - ced

running the card through again they being
the papers and sometimes we can manage
to get one to read, I sent some few things home
by ~~Frederick Plumer~~ when he went and among them
that little Diary and forgot to take out my Postage
Clamps out of the pocket you will find them
in it, I commenced this on the evening of the 3rd
and concluded that I would finish it to night.

~~and I guess that I have got nearly enough in~~
it I will tire you out in reading it if I go much
farther with it but I cannot see you to talk to you
So I thought that I would do the next best thing
that I could and write to you give my Love to
our sweet children and kiss them for me Oh how
I should like to be with you to kiss you all my
self I have not been on Comedick as I have been
here lately I feel as if I would give almost anything
to be at home with my family and enjoy their
company Give my Love to Mother and Mary
and Clara and all enquiring friends, this has been
a cold stormy day here it has been snowing and
blustering all day and is still the same. The regt
has been out at work on the breastworks again
to day they are building some very heavy ones here
and a great many of them. Now I will close to
write my Love to all of you. Write me ever
mine

John W. McLean