

129th Regt.
Ind.

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Incl. 9

No info on St. Louis River

In more than one of his letters Timothy A. Rardin mentioned to his father that he was writing a letter to him at least once a week. This collection of letters, therefore, cannot be all the letters he wrote. There are enough, nevertheless, to give a rather thorough story of his army career. Before depositing the originals with the Indiana Historical Society I have attempted to reproduce the collection so that his posterity and other interested persons could have the benefit of being able to read them. This collection was in the possession of Mrs. Henry McCarty, nee Amelia Dale Rardin.

A few comments are in order. One is that I have corrected the dates on one of them from December 1865 to 1864, because it obviously was written before his discharge in August, 1865. I failed to correct the dates on the first two letters, which should be 1864 instead of 1863, inasmuch as he did not enroll until August, 1864, according to his discharge. This misdating is understandable; I have often made the same mistake.

I have not attempted to edit these letters, considering that they have more linguistic value, and are more interesting, as they are written. In some instances I have double spaced where I thought sentences should be divided. In a few instances, no doubt, I have failed to read correctly, and in some I have made typing errors. I have not attempted to correct the spelling. Lest anyone be amused at the spelling, he should remember that Samuel Johnson tried to establish a uniform system of spelling into the English language in 1755, and it is not to be marvelled at that his system was less than successful a century later. Timothy A. Rardin was not illiterate. His mother was a schoolteacher and he must have learned something from her. He simply wrote in the koine of a century ago as it was spoken in the Hoosier state.

The J. F. mentioned in the letters is the same as Findley or Fintley, brother to Timothy. He died in the service. According to Mom (Amelia) and Uncle Ben Rardin, I had the impression that he died in a prisoner of war camp. The letters say nothing about this.

The letters have historical as well as sentimental value. They give little side-glances into the human side of the war. I could comment at great length on that. In two of the letters he mentions foraging for food. My grandmother Rardin, when she was living, related what this was like. The soldiers would go to a farmhouse, enter the farmer's smokehouse, and take out all the meat. They would select the best hams and bacons, then destroy the rest. They would go to dry goods stores and ask for groceries. When the merchant would apologize for not having that kind of merchandise, they would pretend to be angry, then run their bayonets through his bolts of cloth so as to destroy them. It is no wonder that they still call us "damn Yankees" a century later, and have only partially forgiven us. In spite of all the bitterness, however, it is significant that the Union soldiers could attend a party with Confederate soldiers home on furlough.

There are a few other letters, bearing dates up to 1880, which I have not reproduced here. They also have historical value, but not so much as the letters written during the war. These are with the war collection, and are available to anyone who wishes to examine them.

If these letters lead to the uncovering of other information which should be included in this little booklet, I hope that information can be published as a supplement or an appendix. If anyone has relevant information I suggest that they correspond with my sister Maxine. Address her as Mrs. Robert E. Smith, 110 North Grace Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

John Rardin (Reardon), born in Ireland. Came to United States in early Eighteenth Century. Settled in western Pennsylvania. Married in Ireland to a Miss Stewart. children: Thomas and John, Jr. Second wife, Anne Freeland, married about 1760. Issue: William, Moses, Timothy*, Jacob, Anne. Veteran of Revolutionary War.

Second Generation. Timothy Rardin, born May 21, 1772, Pennsylvania, died January 18, 1858, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Permelia Smith August 16, 1792. Issue: David, William, Mary, Moses*, James Timothy, George, Jonathan, Permelia. Timothy and wife Permelia (born Oct. 3, 1776, died March 10, 1824, daughter of Methodist minister) came down the Ohio River about 1794, settled in Campbell County, Kentucky. He is listed in the 1794 Campbell County tax list. About 1806 he moved to Clermont County, Ohio, where he cleared 240 acres of land. It was called "Franklin Farm," and was in Monroe Township. Timothy was a member of Captain John Shaw's company during the War of 1812. He served on the Grand Jury in 1828, was Monroe County treasurer in 1839, and Justice of the Peace in Clermont County for 35 years.

Third Generation. Moses Rardin, born June 6, 1803, died 1868. Married Rebecca Herron (Her father had come from Ireland). Issue: Sarah A, John, Timothy Andrew*, and Permelia Rebecca. Postmaster at Art, Indiana, farmer.

Fourth Generation. Timothy Rardin, born May 15, 1843 (some records say 1839) died November 29, 1895. Married Mary Angeline Myers (born June 3, 1852, died November 7, 1940) May 16, 1883. Issue: Jesse Hill, Byron Earl, Cecil Andrew, Amelia Dale, Benjamin. Timothy was a farmer, served in the War between the States with Captain Benjamin Morgan, 124th Regiment, Indiana Infantry Volunteers. (This information was compiled by Mrs. Robert E. Smith, nee Maxine Marie McCarty, granddaughter of Timothy A. Rardin.)

Nashvill Tenn April 12 1863 Soldiers home

I have got here last nite at six o clock i left Ind on Saturday nite at nine o clock and got to louisvill at four in the mornin; a Sondag and stayd there til monday at seven o clock and started here and got here at six in the evening some of the boys sais wee will start for chatanuga at too this evening there is four of my Reg left Ind with me the Reg is 20 miles from knoxvill the weather is not so verry warm here the peach tres is in bloom there is some corn planted here this is a verry nise plase this day is verry cloudy and looks some like a ain i feel verry well at this time and think when those few lines come to hand they will find you well i believe that i have nomore to write at this time you can tell all that wants to know where i am that i am in tenn From Tim A Rardin to Moses Rardin

Chatanugor, tenn. April the 14 1863

I am in this blase now we tried to get to start to the reg this morning the cars ware full there is some of my co here Fintley is well i have had no truble in getting a threw the reg is a going to stop and drill a bout 40 miles from here there is a great many of the boys has give out on the march i staid one night in alabama i have not slep over too hours since monday night the weather is cloudy here and the nites verry cold this is a verry poor hilly country there is some nise land in alabama i crossd one corner of the state the talk is that the war wont last long i believe that it w.l come to a close i am wel and J. F. is to i have not seen them i past the the reg tuesday nite i did not now it tho there was some of the boys got apou the cars i hope these few lines will find you well T. A. Rardin To Moses Rardin

April the 20 1864

Dear father i take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know where i am and that i am not vary well i have not got very stout and the river water does not agree with me it is as cold here as it was in ind when i left there there is one hundred of the Reg camped here and it is a verry dangerous place Wee marched from louden last Sunday evening here wee are stationed on the rail road six miles from loudin wee marched here in too hours i give out in half a mile of this plase we ware called in line last night and stood in line for too hours the rebs did not come we are fixed verry well here for wee have rifle pits all aroun the camp the rest of the Reg is at Chatanuga or was there on Sunday there is a batle a going on soon and they will not bee here for some fifteen days yet for the is between them and us there is none here ondy them that give out on the march there is one devison a marching a threw they are ashiping the soldiers from knoxvil there as fast as they can wee donot no when wee will bee attackted here and there is no troopes nearer than six miles of us but wee will give them half for nothing unles than 1000 can do much with us guard duty is verry heavy for we have to keep out verry strong pickets i was on picket last monday and have to go on in the morning wee stand 24 hours too on and four off there is none of the boys that lived clost that has give out there is ten of Margans co here and he is with them he is not verry well and looks verry bad he is in com of the boys that is here wee have plenty of hard tacks and fat meat to eat coffe & shugar and beens some of the boys went out and kild a beef yesterday there was as heavy a frost asever i seen in oct in Ind this morning wee eat some fish here things verry high here tobacco is too dol a pound and not verry plenty at that prise there is a great many people comes in camp mostley woman they are not verry sharp they wont believe that there is any plases like this they like to live in the hills and mountains i would not live hn tnes part fo the contry for the state and be compeled to live in it with these few lines i will come to a close saing write soon direct to the 124 Reg Ind Vol Co E care of Capt W. S. Morgan. By the way of Nashvill Tim. A. Rardin to Moses Rardin

Nash Vill ten May 27 1864

I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know how i am and where i am at the convalesent hospital here now i left the reg last sonday i could not stand the marching as well as J. F. he was well and all the rest of the boys wee seen some hard times when the battl was a going on wee ware in hering of the canon and musketry for too weeks and then wee had them all most surrounded and was agoing to go for them on the next morning but they sced- adled that nite and wee run them twenty miles when i give out wee have done with out any thing to eat or drink and got up from sleep and went 20 miles in six hours and ther was a great many give out on the force march in fol- lowing the Rebs Wm Det Dave A is wel Hubert A was struck in fact with a rock from which there was a shel struck the shel did not burst of it would of kild a great many there was a man kiled in co A. that stod by Wm brite Capt was hirt some by the shell striking the rock if he had of been standing stil he would of been kiled one pees struck J. F. on the shoulder it did not hurt him and wee ware not clostenof to them to hit them with our guns wee ware too miles off then wee ware on the left wing of there force wee started and marched to the right wing with out any rest 15 miles before we got there they fell back and wee did not get in the fite with these few lines i will bring my letter to a close hompin that it wil find you all wel they may talk of starving the rebs it is fals for i never seen iny beter crops than is in georgl from dolton 40 miles south to wards of atlanta the crops are good & every house wee go in wee get all of every thing that is for to eat and plenty of good brandy to and they have good guns & are all ways

(May 27, 1864 continued. this is a separate sheet without date)

if they had the army that wee have they would not run they kild as many of our men as wee did of thers wee took about 1000 pris they only had 40 thousand and wee had one hundred and fifty and wee kiled only about 6000 of them and wee lost as many the son is verry hot in georga the dust is verry bad in marching it is shoe mouth deep there is the nisest farms that i ever seen the land is level and rich soil it is the color of the prairie land with these few lines i will close for the doctor is in he sais that i will go to louisvil this evening or to morrow the measels they tell me that i must not nor cant go any more to the reg til i get stout and the doctor here ways i will not soon ~~see~~ for it is the measels that is settled on my longs this is a nise clean plase here and i would rather stay here than go to louisvil if i go there i wite not get in as good a plase as this is Father i am in hopes that you are geting stout for i now you must suferda great cal i know what it is to bee sick i have not heard from you for some time as soon as i now where i will bee for some time i will write to you a gain and i want you to write to me for i have not got a leter since i have been in the army and i am going to write but verry few more i have wrote to nearly all of the people i was acuinted with and got no ans and i will write no more to them i will bring my leter to a close for i will write you another soon Tim A Rardin to Moses Rardin if there is any one in quires where i am or where to write to me tel them i am at the Cumberland hospital 4. division nashvil Tenn

Cumberland Hospital Nashville Ten May 31. 64

I take this oportionity to write you a few lines to let you know that i am at nashvil & will not go to lewisvil for too weeks sow i want you to write to mee as soon as you get this leter for i am verry eager to here from home i have not got a leter since i started to the army J. F. got one a bout a month a go from you wee have nad now chance to write for too weeks and you need not look for a leter from Findley until the Reg stops marching for they cant send a leter from the front there is no mail there nor will not bee till after the fight at atlanta we have a good colonel in the Reg. Burges is his name wee are in a hospitl divis com by Jene Hovey 1st division 23 army chor there is a great many sick in this plase and some few wounded wee have verry good grub to eat ther i am not verry well at this time thee doctor sais that it is the anuma from the measels caused by the measels and exposure tell uncle Wm that the reason that i did not pay the postage on the leter i sent him was be cause i had no stamps nor money wee have not drawn in the Reg yet nor want until the fight at Atlanta is over then i dont now whether i will not bee with the Reg. if i do not get stout i am in hopes that you are all wel when these few lines will come to hand with these few lines i will bring my leter to a close you must write to me as soon as you get this leter dont wait to long for i may not bee here verry long there is talk of us a going to lewisvill ky and then bee sent to the States where we belong for the hospitals are all full now write soon direct to Cumberland Hospital 4 div. Nashvil Ten. tell Uncle Wm to write too to me if he can soon for i will like to here from him.

Jeffersonvill Ind June 17th 1864

Dear father i take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that i am in hoosierdom once more i feel leter all ready for i can get some thing to eat here that is fit to eat i have not heard from J. F for too weeks he was well they are after Jonsons army under shearman in the 23 army chorps and hovey the div. Tim A. Rardin Old Abe and A Jonson of East Tenn for vise president for the union now or never hurraw for them write or wrong the write is on our side for ever

July 1st 1864 Joe Holt Hospital Jefferson

Dear father and mother and sister i take this oper tunity to write to you and to let you know how i am a geting a long i an so as to get a bout i am verry weak i have verry litle use of my arms & legs they are sow week J. F. is some where beteen here and knoxville i heard from him last satur week he was not verry bad he was geting beter... as for my pay i know not any thing a bout it there is some talk of us of drawing it here by the tenth of the month any descriptive roll has not come yet and i cannot draw til it comes i have a good deal to send home there is about one hundred and forty dol doe me i am not verry satis fied with the fair here it is not verry good & i have had to ware one shirt ever since i come here for i cannot get any clean one the shirts wee ware is white coton they are for the hospital and we cannot ware our other soldier shirts in the hospital here... i wish i was with J. F. for i am lonesom here if milton whelar & john wyatt was not here there would be no one that i knowed m whelar is from my co. he left the Reg in the altono mountains in ga Tim A Rardin

Jefferson Ind Joe Holt Hospital Aug 2nd 1864

D Father mother and sister i set down to write you a few lines i am not verry well yet i hope when these lines comes to hand they will find you well i was verry sorry to here of J. F. death but wee all have to die some time or other wee know not when nor where wee will bee caled off i would like to of-been with him but it was no that i was sent one way and him the other you wrote to me to know my opinion on bringing him home i do not know what is the best thing to do a bout it it will cost some one hindred & 50 dollars to go after him and bring him home you and uncle wn can doo what you think best i know that wee would fel beter satisfied if he was bueried at home for my part if it falls my lot to bee called of sofar from home i dont want you to bother sending after me for i think that it does not make any diference where a persons body lies so they are bueried. all thou if you are a going to send after J. F. as soon as i can get my money i will pay the expenses for i have got a good lot of it a coming to me i think if you do send that Uncle Wm. Herron had best go... i dont think that you need to bother your self about me agoing to the front for i can not walk half a mile to do my best i will either get a discharge or bee put in the invalid Corps in the corse of too months i think that this soldiering in the hospitals will do me for i have been in them till i get tired of hering of them if i would allow myself to get homesick i would not bee able to go about i have seen some so i do not let nothing trouble me all though i was verry sorry when i heard of the death of J. F. but i could not help it and think he is beter off for he is out of this trouble some world of sorrow & in a few days wee will al have to go and we now not when nor where wee will bee when wee are caled to dy if you go after him and pas clost to me i want to see you if you have time to stop....Tim A Rardin To Moses Rardin and R. Rardin

Joe Holt Hospital Jeffersonvile Ind August 9 1864

Dear mother father & sister i wonce more set down to write you a few lines ...as for my health it is verry good except loss of the use of my self... i am verry weill fixed if i could get the grub that sooted me the grub that we have to eat is coffe bread & strong buter for breakfast diner water bread beef & soop for super tea bread & apels ...i am gaining strent now for i have got a verry good appetite to eat if i had some corn bread and milk & mush & milk with this kind of grub i think that i am gaining strength... Mother you must not trouble your self to much about J. F. for he is out of this troublesome wourld and where there is now more trouble in a land of peace and where sorrow is no more you wrote to me to know if he was discouraged when i left he was not for the last words he told me was not to bee thinking of home when i left the reg.....

August 9, 1864 continued)

he told me he would not ask for money he had some and told me that he had lent all that ~~was~~ would he had one dollars worth of stamps for he let me have five and told me that i mite have more and he said that none of the boys knowed he had them and i told him not to let them know it for they would want some of them he said he would not for they cost five cts a piece down there he wanted me to take some money i did not for he had only a do. he let me have his pocket ink stand and took mine for his had red ink in and he wanted black ink and when i get a chance to send it home i will if father comes i will send it with him and some of my close and one pair of socks of J. F. that i got in my nap sack they are good yet i never ware them for wee get sox here and i have one pair of my own with me....

Madison Ind, August 24, 1864

Dear father i am beter than when you left me i have not heard from you since you left me i hope that you got home saft and al the rest was wel ...i am beter satisfied here than i was at Joe Hold and the grub is beter... i can get a furlow the first of Oct to go home to vote the doctor wants to put milt wheeler and me in the Invalid Chorps but we wont go in i am going to keep out of it as long as i can for they put on too much stile to soot me Sis i will send you some thing it will do to look at...Tim A, Rardin U. S. Hospt. Madison Ind Sec too ward four

Madison Ind Sept lest 1864

i started to write you a leter yesturday but i did not get it finished for wee had to muster for pay if they dont pay of here for thee weeks i will get my descriptive list i have sent after it and i think that it will come here this month if it does and i get my money i will have you come here and i will send it home with you i think that i will bee at home this fall for they wont have me in the invalid chorps for they say that i am not fit for any duty and the doctors thinks that i never will bee fit for any servise they say that i will have to ware this fever out of my bones for medeson will do no good i say that it is the medisan not feavor...i wrote ten diferent people since i have been here i think that i will get a leter from Wm Brite i wrote him one last week TAR

Madison Ind Sept 8th 1864 Dear Father i hake my pen in hand to write you s few lines to let you know how i am i am some stouter than iw was when you ware to see me...i dont know what is the reason that Uncle Wm dont write to me once a month or oftener i have not got one leter from him since i left home and i ~~have~~ wrote him 5 or 6...i asked the doctor for a pas the other day and he said that i had beter wait til the first of the month and then go home for 30 days...write how the democrats likes mcleland for presedent i think there is more prospect of this war coming to a close now than ever has been the rebs has lost three of there best generals and John Morgan makes four in the last too weeks i wish that the draft hadof went of this week so that there would of been some of the buter nuts drafted i wrote louis F. a leter two weeks ago and have got no ans...i onley have got one leter that was from Jane Herron Tim. A. Rardin Write to me if sis got that liberty tree i sent hur.

Madison Ind Nov 23rd 1864

...i will send you 5.00 dollars at a time so that it wont bee much lost if it is lost...i drawed to months pay here last friday there is lots of the boys a going front this evening they are thined out there in the hospt they send them to the front and to the R. V. core everyday Tim A. Rardin

Dec 12th 1864

Dear Father I am well and hope you are all well we have had some hard marching but are now in camp close to the Tenn River now we are a waiting for transportation we are a going to corrinth to see if corporal Hood is there the Rebs sais he is on detached duty now i get a long verry well i am on brigade provo guard and will get my knap sack halled when we march Wm. Donham is well it is night and i write by fire lite on my knee i have not got only leter from you this month wee will get mail to morro write soon and often wee will draw pay soon i have money yet T. A. R.

Dec. 13 1864 Dear father

I am well and there is a chance for a fight here the rebels is a going to fite the cannon is a playing yankee dodle with these few lines i will close Nashville tenn T. A. Rardin i hope you are well i sent a box to brazille to you

head quarters Columbia Tenn Dec 27 64

Dear father k thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well and hope that these few lines find you all well i got a leter from you dated the d2 of dec and was glad to here from you well i will tell you how i spent Christmas it was a marching from Springhill here and i got here on Sondag nite and found the boys all well and in good spirits wee are a doing provo duty now will donham is well D. A. is not here nor lewis or bob Donham Cap is back sick he is a going to resine i dont know when i will draw any pay it wont be long i dont think wee are about 30 miles from the front lines now with these few lines i will close Tim A Rardin Co E 124 Regt third division 2 brigade 23rd Army Chore

January 15 1865 Camp in the field near clifton Tenn Dear Father

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that i am well & hope these few lines find you all well i have not got only one leter from you since i left madison the word is that we are a going to Stoneman we are a waiting for the boats now we will go around by New York we will have a long ride on the watter i am in hopes this war wont last longer than next summer but i think the hardest fiting will bee next spring at Richmond the army i dont think will ever come back in tenn for hood was cut all to pieces and cant raise enough to fight any more T A Rardin

Feb 7th Camp Stoneman near Wilmington City Dear father

I take my pencil in hand to Write you a few lines to let you know that i am well i got too leters from you yesterday lafe donham got one dated the 29 said Uncle Wm was dead i was sorry to here that when i was at Uncle Josephs i got a leter from home william red it he said that he did not think that Uncle Wm would live long for he was like Uncle J F A was where wee are now is a verry cold place but wee are dressed warm i ware too pair of trousers to shirts & a dres coat & over coat Wee are not a going to stay here long wee ware 13 days a coming from clifton Tenn here i am a keeping a memorandum of the cuntry i travel over since Jan 1st 65 the health of the boys is good i am still at Brigade head quarters doing prove duty wee are in the first Reg. first division 23 A. C. dave altman is here you write that you wanted to know what wilson said about J. F. he is not with the camp i wish that i had my money to send home wee are a looking every day to get payed off wee are camped on the Bank of the Patomic River four miles from the city Wash- ington city is not a nice plase...i seen a man from close to Uncle George Rardins...i staid one nite at Uncle H when wee come throe Cincinnati Wm & i went to chirch & we had a good time the river was froze at cin & we had to take the cars they was box cars & no fire in them & was very cold a soldier has hard times in the winter...my wate is 170 pounds you would not no me

March 10th near Kingston N. C. Dear father i am well wee have been fighting three days and have gained the ground our regt was on the lines all the time Tom Deeter Abe Loudermilk Thomas Bilderbac Asker veach Wm Bright and Frank Morgan was wounded Joseph Cox was killed out of Co E Mangan & Britton is not only elite they never left the field they charged our lines three lines deep wee only had the first div engaged in the fight the rebel prisoners sais they was whooped bad and had a heavy los i dont think they will make a stand near here this is a nise day i have not got much to write now write soon Tim A Rardin 1st Brig 1 Div 23AC Co E 124

Golsburrow N. C March 23 1865 Dear Father mother It is with pleasure that i write you to let you know that i am well ..i have not got a leter since the one dater the 23 of Feb. wee had a verry hard fight the 8,9,10 of this month at kingstone wee cleaned them out though but wee lost a great many men Tom Deeter & Joe Cox was killed out of my co. Abi loudermilk Oscar veach & Tom Bilderbae wounded verry bad there was some more wounded slite wee are camped here at this time Shearmons army is here and wee will lay here till the army gets suplied with close and some thing to eat and amunition then wee will march for Richmond wee will clean every thing before us when wee start the rebels cant stand there ground longer than this summer i dont think for they dont stand fire verry well now they will run and i dont find any objections to that wee did not have to fight any at this place Shearmon will bee a round our lines this evening wee will draw pay here they think if wee do i will get mine this time and i will send home a bout 2.50 or 300 and i want you to use it if wee dont have to leave here for some i will get some mail to & get to here from home i am not out of money and have plenty of close and tobacco if you have not sent that comb you need not send them Wm D & D A is well the bois is all well and in good spirits wee are in a land where things is plenty there is no end to sweet potatoes and fat hogs and corn meall the forage is verry plenty here tobacco by the box and that what is good wee have no chance to get mail here verry often for the railroad is not fixed up to Newburn yet it will bee fixed this week and then wee can get maill with these few lines i will bring my leter to a close write soon Tim A Rardin

Mosert Hall ²⁴March 26 1865 i am well i got too leter from you to day i am on safe guard at a rebels house there is a gay gal here and she sings the bonny blue flag she is full of fun & good looking She is not a fraid of the yanks She is a going north when the war is over there is a going to bee a party here to nite and the yanks is a going to have a good time i am some distance from camp i went to camp this morning the boys is well Writhe soon Tim A Rardin

Mosart Hall N. C. April 1st 1865 dear father i set down to write you a few lines hoping they will find you all well i am well except my legs i got three leters from home last week i got them combs you sent me i had got me to but they will bee of use some time there is strong talk of peace in the army at this time i think that it is more talk than any thing as wee had some hard marching and fighting times looked verry hard at the battle east of kington there was only too Brig of our Div in the fight & wee was surrounded at one time for a few minutes there was 28000 of the rebs and only 300 of our men Thomas Peter is dead from his wound the rest of the boys is a getting a long well Wee are in camp at this time i am saft guard at a rebels house there is a gay gal here she is a going north when this war is over she is verry much attached to some of the Yanks She thinks they are clever people the doctor is a going to send me to the hosp as a nurse when wee leave here i think that if this war was over now that i would not bee satisfied at home wee have joined Shearman and will get to rest at this plase sometime there will be a verry good chance for a man to make a fortune here when the was is over and i will try it i think i will go home first tho and see how things looks there...

April 9, 1865 Greenville N. C.

...i am well wee have had a verry hard march from Raly to greensvill now of 85 () wee marched it in 4 days wee are in camp here now wee will not stay here long we are a going to Charlot N. C. in a few days Ruse Jeffers started on the 2and for home i sent too Reb song books with him cousin dave Drake was with me last nite & to day he is in the 63rd. Ind The weather is cool here corn is large enough to work wheat is a heading aples & peaches is plenty cherrys is ripe & the things is verry plenty here woman in every direction a runing after yankes for they say they want to go north the war is plaid out & if the boys had money plenty there would bee some pleasure a soldiern now Aaron Flowers of my Co was marid last week to a woman the reb soldiers says that they dont want the yanks to leave Aher for they dont know what the gals would do for sweet harts there is talk that wee will go home by way of Tenn & get on the cars at knoxvill & get home July 1st & that wee will get mustered out here in this state our pay roll is all made out to sign for pay & the talk is that wee will draw in a few days...ps wee start in the morning for Charlot wee go on the cars the distance is 50 miles

April 19th Raliegh N. C....we are in raliegh now a doing garrison duty there is a great many of lees men a geting home on paroll Johnson has not surrendered yet Sherman gave him five days to give up in and then if he does not wee will take them they are surrounded on all sides by the yanks as wee are called the Southern gals says the only chance for them is to marry a yanke for there is not one man to ten girls in the South i think the war is plaid out it is reported old abe was killed on the twelfth it is only a rumor -this place is not half as large as Terre Haut the state house is not as large as the court house in our county seats....

Near Raliegh N. C. April 22 1865 Dear Father I take my pencil in hand to write you a few lines I supose you have herd the fiting is over Jeff Davis is captured & has surrenderd all the army between Richmond & the Riogrand wee are a laing in camp a waiting word from Washington what to do the word is abe is dead wee will start for Washington in the course of ten days or three weeks the offic.ers say wee will bee at home the 4 of July i put it off till the first of Sept i will have plenty of money then to go in to some thing i will sow about 20 acors of wheat if i get home in time wee will be apt to bee mustered out at Washington wee have to march through to Harpers ferry via 200 miles Wm Herron is well Early (Iskit) got a leter said the small pox was verry bad at high land i want you to sell out and go to Ill there is so much beter land there and the prairie is sonise to farm in i think that farming will soot me the best of any thing els i know that i wont bee content at any thing els write soon Tim A Rardin

April 26 1865 Raleigh N. C. ...wee here a great eal of the war being over but this morning wee had orders to march on Jonson the order was countermanded and wee still stay in camp wee will not stay here long Grant is here with Shermon i seen him yesterday the word was that everything was surrendered up to us but wee here so much that wee dont believe only what we see and only half of that...I think wee will bee at home in too or three months the boys is well Tim A Rar

May 28 ...i am heartier than i ever was before my weight is 170 lbs i have no effect of weaknes in my bones nor havent had for some time the doct sais i never will bee troubled with them any more wee have not got any going to do here only a little guard duty wee have a nise camp & plenty to eat but not much money ...wee will not draw till wee are musterd out i dont think this is a nise place here & i think that if the people would farm here like they do north they could raise as much wee have green peas & strawberrys & cherrys here peaches will be ripe in two months or les time...(continued)

(Charlotte N. C. May 28 1865 continued)

Wm H. has gone to Washington the 14th 17th 15th and 20 corps have gone to Washington the 23rd & 10th corps is left in this state till civil law is in force that wont bee long the election has went of wee will get home this fall wee are ordered to Washington next month there wee will have a grand review & bee musterd out the four corps that left us at Raliegh will have a grand review in Washington the 30 of this month i have not got much to write now tell all of the folks that wee are all in a hurry to get home Wm Donham is well Tim A Rardin

June 17 ...i sent you a letter for you to send me some money if you can send me some 2 or 3 dol. it will bee of a great eal of use to me for wee wont draw any till wee are mustered out that will be in too or three months they are a dischargen all that is at the Hospt and all that there time is out and then it will come our turn next as for the regulars none of the boys is a going to join them Capt R. F. Morgan is a going in the regular army but none of the boys likes him well enough to go with him he is so cros that he is a fraid to go home he has had some of the boys cortmartialed and 16 dolars of pay taken from them there is six in the Co....

June 25th Dear father i thought that i would write you a few lines this lonesom day wee are in camp & nothing to do time pases a way verry slow here i dont feel verry well at this time wee have not got exercise enogh for good health I got a letter from you June Sixth i look for a nother soon i sent for some money if you have not sent it with arthur deeter when he comes i want you to write often for i like to here from home every week or too i rite one letter every week sometimes too i dont think that wee will get mustered out or draw any pay before winter for there is so many to pay that it will take some time and wee will bee the last mustered out i think that the offisers is a triing to keep us in the servise the 120 & 124 in our Brig has got the 65 & 63 Ind Regts atatched to them Cal Orr wont have any put with ours our regt no 300 men he is a triing to get is mustered out on account of co C being taken prisner and home on parol he commands the Brig and will do all he can for it i believe...wee have no chaplin with us now he went home his family was sick & 2 of them died and he resined he give us a good lecture the night before he left us he talked verry nise to the boys wee got squad passes to go to town to church with a sargent with us every Sunday....

June 27..Dear Father i received too letters from you there was too dol. in one of them i was verry glad to get it i am well at present i felt some unwell last week but have got all right a gain wee have good times here black berries is verry plenty here & wee draw flower and have lite bread and plenty of grub i think that wee will get mustered out sometime thisfall for wee are of no benefit to the government now there is no fiting to do and the guarden amounts to nothing it has been verry wqrm here but is some cooler now harvest is over apples & black berries is ripe & pairs & plumbs corn is in the tostle & silk wee will soon have green corn here as for health it is good there is only about 250 sick in the Hosp out of our Div there is 18 regts in the Div wee have good water here it is Spring watter & plenty of it there is some men a getting discharged here now Sam Downy & Wm Cox out of our Div has aplid when i go home i want to go with the regt for wee have nothing to do now only government rations and draw pay wee draw 20 per month since the first of March & that is good pay & do nothing ...you need not send me any more money now for this will do me some time...Tim A. Rardin

July 5...Dear Father...we had a verry dry 4 here wee went to town & marched a round town from 8 to 12 & then wee went to camp & got our dinner & at nite the boys had there fun they shot away 80 rounds of cartriges to get shut of carraing them in there boxes there is not any prospect of going home soon i wish that wee would draw some money soon i dont think wee will get home before wint r or spring.... Tim A. Rardin

Camp near Charlot N. C. July 7th 1865 Dear Father i take this oportunity to write a few lines hoping they will find you all well this is not a verry pleasant time here for the weather is warm wee roast egas in the son i got a letter from you June 28th i have got a dol & 10 cts in letters the money come in good for money is verry scarce with us now wee are a going to leave this place soon i think wee will start for the north there will bee some thing done soon with us to pay us off or to start us home ...i dont know whether you can read this or not for i have been a running around to day with some of the rebs in the contry and you wont be gon long till the womans will bee a running after them to get them to go and take supper with them & then to stay all night or a part of it this is a verry great place for woman there is ten to one man & they are as dark as negroes & mallattos.....

Greensburrow N. C. July 23rd 1865 Dear Father...wee have left Charlotte and are now in camp here our Regt & the 120th is a doing duty here wee will bee the last out of the service there is six Ind Regts that will stay in this department till civil law takes effect that is the first of Sept. then wee will get to go home the rest of our corps is all mustered out only the 120, 123, 124, 128, 129 and 130 Ind Regts is all that is left of the corps wee are all scattered i have not been with my co for over one week i am detailed for train guard from here to Ralieg to guard the canon and amunition wee have lite dute the weather is verry warm here peaches is ripe wee have plenty to eat.....

August 12..father i dont see any prospect of getting home before our time is out the officers wants to make money and they are a living better than they were when they was at home i have not got a letter from home since H. Fisher come back from home and the cars cant run through for one or too days yet... August 13th (same sheet of paper) I have got a chance to send you a letter by Gradford Holland bac he is the fifer in our Co. he lives in Terrehaut he is a going home...there is too regts a doing duty here now the 120 and 124 Ind the boys is verry hard here everry citisen that comes in with any thing to sell they set a price on it and if they wont take it wee go for there things and then the next time they come back they will take what wee ask for them...

August 15 ...Kurnelis Nosby out of our co has gone home on a furlow he lives in vigo close to Olie greens...there is some talk of us a going to texas but there wont bee any of the boys get there they will all run of and go home there is a great many a going home now there will bee nothing done with them that rinn of only loose there pay...

Aug 25 ...wee are ready to bee mustered out now the Rolls and discharges is made out and wee are a waiting for the mustering officer to come and the pay master...You need not ans this for i will be on the Road home when you get this T. A. Rardin

Discharge Timothy A. Rardin private, of captain Benjamin F. Morgan Company E 124th Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers. Enrolled 28th of August 1863 to serve three years or during the war. Discharged 31st of August 1865 at Greensburro N. C.

Said Timothy A. Rardin was born Clay County Indiana is 22 years of age. 5'11" tall. fair complexion blue eyes, light hair, enrolled as a farmer.