

Jesse P. Bates Letters

Biographical Information

Jesse P. Bates (b. ca. 1831) was a carpenter from Hickman County, Tennessee. In the mid 1850s he and his wife, Susan Ann Bates (b. ca. 1837) moved to Tarrant, Hopkins County, Texas. Bates rose from the rank of private to lieutenant in Co. G, 9th Texas Infantry (Maxey's)(Young's). His letters are written to his wife and two children Frank (b. ca. 1853 in Tennessee) and Sarah (b. ca. 1857 in Texas).

Corrinth [sic], Tishamingo County, Miss.

March the 27th 1862.

Dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well as cammon [sic]. We have left luka [sic] and fell back to Corrinth [sic]. There is about 100,000 men here and near here. We are expecting a battle here every day. We are fortifying to be ready for the enemy. I have wrote to father, but I have not received any answer yet. I do not know whether a letter can get from here, there or not for the enemy is all along the Tennessee [sic] River. There was 65 of the Regiment that Baird was in taken prisoners at Fort Donelson and I have not found the balance of the Regiment so I can't tell whether Baird is taken killed or safe. I have heard of Newt. Jinkens. I saw the Capt. of the company that Newt. belong to. He had taken the rheumatism and gone home. He married Anslem Hick's daughter and lives in Lincoln county. I have drawn my money and I send you \$40.00 by Lieutenant Hopkins. I drew [sic] \$58.73 cents and I want you to buy some good milk cows and try to manage the best you can. This is the 3rd letter that I have wrote to you and I would be very glad to hear from my lovely wife and children and if you can do so, I want you to send me a letter by Lieutenant Hopkins. He will stay at home about a week. John Wilcox is dead and I suppose that James is about to die. We have heard that A. M. Scott, that we left in Ark., is dead and that Clawson was very low. Our Regiment is still in bad health. Jo Steele is well. Dan is well and the balance of our neighbors is puny, but none of them down. We have had the most rain that I have seen in along [sic] time. It has rained 3 times a week, but we have had a few days good weather at present. The timber is puting [sic] out a little.

My dearest Susan Ann, my advice to you is to be of good cheer and try to console your troubled breast. Send up your prayers to our god for his blessing on us. Pray that our lives and our health may be preserved and that we may be able to stand the hardships that we meet while we are apart and that we may be permitted to embrace each other. O! That happy meeting. My love, we have never experienced such a meeting yet, but I

hope and trust to god [sic] that we will. For want of space, I have to close. Kiss the children for me, so farewell.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates.

Head Quarters Company G Ninth Regiment of Texas Infantry, Corinth, Miss.
May the 2nd, 1862.

My dear companion, at last I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have never received any letter from you yet. I heard that you was well and spinning [sic] and that you have been sick.

I have had a little sickness, but not very bad. I will give you a list of the men from Hickman County that I have seen here. My brother Baird, Rick Anderson, Dave Anderson, Sam Anderson, Jo Wooten, Bibb, Sam and Jack Bratton, Tom Campbell, Old Jim Easley, Ed Easley, Tom Easley, Andrew Easley, John Anderson, Mick Anderson's son, Tom Walker, Jack Williams, Dr. S. B. Moore, Vernon Bibb, Fordy Smith and a great many more that I know. Will Wooten and John Cummins have been in Alison's Regiment on a visit, but I did not seem them. Now I will give you a list of those taken prisoners at fort [sic] Donelson. There was brother Sam John Wooten, Alton McCaleb, Wint Cotton, W. B. Erwin, L. M. and J. B. Miller and Tom and Marsh Nicks Sol. George Eliza Cantrel, Tom, John and Dave Easley, John Nicks and many more that I know, but I cannot recollect them now. I sent a letter to father. I wanted to send it by Dr. Moore, but it rained so much that he left before I sent it to him and I have not learned whether Walker took it or not. Things that I think you have learn I will not write to you as there is no rise of it. Our company has lost 26 men. I will tell you the names of those from Hickman that was killed and wounded in the late Battle of Shiloh: Wm. Baker, brother in law to Rick Anderson was killed, Rick and Dave Tom Campbel, Tom Walker, Jack Williams and Jo Wooten was all wounded, but I don't think any of them is dangerous. I have not seen any of the wounded but Dave Anderson since they was wounded. My dear, I have drawn a little more money, but I have not enough to send you any now. I sent you 40 dollars by Lieut. Hopkins which I expect you have received long before this. I want you to be of good cheer and don't grieve on account of my absence.

Our god tells us if we pray for any thing believing that we would receive it, we should have it. I have prayed that our lives and health might be sustained and that we may again and live together in happiness and I believe that we will receive it, but we must pray continually. I want us to strive to see which can be the most devoted christian [sic]. Some men turn wild when they come in to camps, but I want you to be assured that it

does not affect me in the least, only to disgust and make me the more devoted. I want you to take good care of the little that we have got and learn the children all that you can learn them; to sing and pray to our father in heaven so that by the time they become accountable for their deeds that they may know how to be and willing to be devoted christians [sic]. Tell George to mend his ways and morals and try to learn his children something besides profanity and vulgarity. Tell McAntire and Travilion that I want them to gather and take care of our wheat. Our neigh boys are all up, but some of them are weak and Don't let the mules be abused, but make them as valuable as you can by their labor.

Sister Narcissa has a fine son. I have not learned any thing about your mother only that she was at last act.

My lovely Susan Ann, I could tell you many things that I can't write at present. Pray earnestly that our beloved country may soon be restored to peace that we may all return to our loved ones at home and enjoy the pleasures of a loving wife and playful children and the sweets of retirement from the bustle and noise of the camp. Give my respects to all enquiring friends. Tell them all to be good christians [sic] and send up their prayers for the success of our arms and the preservation of our lives until our country is free and we return to home sweet home.

I don't know any thing more to write at present, only I advise you to put your trust in god [sic] for support in every time of need. Kiss the children for me. O! That I had a kiss from you and could hold my arms around your lovely form and press you to my heart. May our god bless you, keep you from all harm. So farewell my dearest treasure.

Jesse P. Bates

To his lovely Susan Ann and little children.

Corrinth [sic] Miss. May the 11th 1862.

My dearest treasure on earth. I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still living. I am only tolerable well. I have had the bowel complaint until I am weak. I received your letter yesterday of the 23rd and 28th of March and I was very glad to hear from you and know that you and the children was well.

Dear, you say that you shed tears about me. You are not the only one that does. If it was to save my right arm I could not read words wrote by you without tears flowing like a shower. I am proud of the lines of poetry that you sent me although there is some mistakes in some of the verses. Week before last I started a long letter to you by the hand of Mr. Morton, but as he is wounded it may be along [sic] time getting to you. I wrote in it all about those of Hickman county that I have seen and heard of. I have seen Baird and many others that are from Hickman. Brother Sam and Tom and Marsh was

taken prisoners at fort [sic] Donelson. My other letter contains the names of all that I learned of and could recollect. I was not in the fight of Shiloh. I started and took sick before we got there. The battle ground is about 20 miles from here. We are expecting a fight here every day and our army in high spirits and confident of success and it is thought the war will soon end.

My time is more than six months gone but, I hope that long before another six months I will be in your arms. As every prospect indicates a speedy peace. Honey, you say that the best you can do is bad and I know it is so, but you must not grieve. Be assured my dear that my strongest sympathies are with you. My heart is constantly filled with pain for your protection and our speedy meeting.

You must be patient and bare it with all the fortitude that you can command. You say that John Ra claims a dollar off of you. I want you to have the gentleman informed he had best never mention such a thing to you again.

It is impossible at this time to get a furlough. You say that the time seems long to you and I know it does, it seems long to me, but not so lonesome as it is with my darling love. I know your heart aches and so does mine, but we must put our trust in god [sic] and he will enable us to bear it. Tell Mrs. Steele that Jo is tolerable well. I have seen John Steele and A. C. Ashley. All the boys from Hopkins are here, but I have not had the chance to go to seem them. There has been several of them to our Regiment to see us. I have sent you money and presume you have received it long before this. Our Regiment has been reorganized. Stanley has been our Col., but our Col. now is W. H. Young. Lieut. Col. M. A. Dillard; our Maj. J. Burnett the Scotchman. I am first Lieut. of our company and Hopkins is captain. Dave Morgan is coming home and Moses Rizer is discharged. Our company has lost 28 men. Judd Strother is dead.

There is many things that I would write, but I cannot think of them now. Sexton is sick and A. L. Hamilton has [been] weak and puny for some time. Dan is well. Clawson come ups with the regt. 3 days ago and he is now in bad health and he has lost his right eye. He will get a discharge as soon as he can and go home. I have drawn sum [sic] more, but not enough to send to you any at present as I am compelled to spend some as an officer has to feed him self [sic] and he ought to wear respectable clothes, though I have not bought anything yet. We are in Maxey's Brigade. My dear, tell our little children to do all they can for their ma and to kiss one another and you for their Pa. May the god [sic] of heaven protect and bless us. Let us pray fervantly [sic] that our country may soon be restored to peace and that we may soon be in each others [sic] arms. I am in the woods by myself as there is no chance to find a secret place in the camp to shed tears while I read and write. You say that you was going to send me a letter by Tom

McAntire. I have not received or heard of anything yet. We are looking for Hopkins back every day and I hope you have sent a letter by him for I value your letters more than money. The words in them are so dear.

I would have written to you oftener than I have, but there **was** a while that I had no papers and at other times I could not get the chance on account of the press of business that I have had to do. Tell H. H. Hudson that I have not forgot him, though I have not wrote any thing for him before now. Give him my best respects. Give my love and respects to all that inquire about me.

My darling dove, I must come to a close. Be a faithful christian [sic] and depend upon our god, not doubting that he will help those that put their trust in him. May the god of infinitely love and mercy grant that the time may soon come that we may meet to remain together until we are parted by death and that the parting at death may be short. O! That meeting them sweet lips and lovely arms. My dear wife and little children, farewell until I write again. I remain your devoted husband and father until death.

Jesse P. Bates to his darling Susan Ann and Son and daughter.

P.S. When you write, after my name put on the of your letter.
Ninth Regiment Texas Infantry Company (G)

Tupelo, Miss. July the 4th 1862.

My dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that Sam is alive and well and the health of your Regiment is better than it has been for along [sic] time. The last letters I received from you was those brought by Hopkins. I am allways [sic] glad to hear from you. I wrote to you in the fore part of June to not write to me no more until you heard from me again for at that time I thought may be [sic] I could resigne [sic] and come home, but I cannot get my resignation accepted at the present and I want you to write to me as often as you can. There appears to be no chance of sending letters by mail at this time and I try to avail myself of every opportunity of sending you a letter by every trusty man that started from here to Tex.

The last time I wrote you, I sent you Seventy dollars by Isaac Ramsey. He left here about the 13th of June and I hope that you have got it by this time and if you have been fortunate enough to get my letter and money, I want you to respect the advise [sic] that I gave to you in that letter and now allow yourself to be swindled out of the little help that I am able to send you.

I saw Baird last Sunday. He was well and harty [sic]. I cannot hear, but little from our folks. Bob Bratton has come from home lately, but he can't tell me nothing only that the health of Hickman County is good and that the Yankee's [sic] has never been in Hickman, but they are at Columbia and come down to Williamsport once in a while. Alec Sexton, Dan and Joe Steele are all well. Ed Morgan is well. Abe Morgan, Louis Miller and Tom Beasley are puny. Tom is going to start home soon, but it is doubtful whether he gets there or not.

My dear, I want you to write to me how you are getting along, how much wheat you have made and how your hogs are doing and what luck you have with your few cattle and how you are cared for by the neighbors. And tell me all that you think would interest me for there is more pleasure in reading your letter than anything else that I find here. I have nothing more of importance to tell you now, only I want you to put your trust in god [sic] and pray for this time to speedily come when our country will have peace and that we will be together. O! That I could kiss your sweet lips again and embrace you in my arm. Kiss the children for me and tell them to be good children and mind ma. May the smiles and blessings of heaven rest on my lovely family. Farewell to my darling for the present.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates and her little children.

McMinnville, Warren County, Tenn.

Nov. the 28th 1862.

My dear wife, I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same. We come here 2 weeks ago from Tullahoma. There is but 2 Regiments of troops here and I expect that our Regiment will stay here all winter. Our regiment is in tolerable good health at this time. Jo Steele, the 2 Morgans and Jo Loflen are well. Tom Jackson is in the hospital and he is either crazy or something else the matter. He is not rational. Sexton left us on detail at Knoxville and he has not returned yet. Dan and A. L. Hamilton was at Chattanooga when we last heard from them. A.L.H. was sick and Dan went to wait on him and Louis Miller was near Chattanooga at a hospital and we have heard that A. L. and Louis was furloughed and gone home. I saw Baird the day before we left Tullahoma, and he was well. You said you wanted his likeness, but there has been no chance to have it taken as yet. We are expecting a battle near Nashville and it may be going on now as there was a cannon heard in that direction yesterday. I have not heard any thing [sic] from our folks in Hickman only that Beverly B. Bates was in the army and Sam is exchanged and was in Miss. when heard from. I can't hear nothing from your mother. I wrote to you from Knoxville and Tullahoma and I hope you have got both

letters by this time. I sent you \$250.00 by J. M. Lindly from Knoxville and now I send you \$100.00 by H. J. Moore who is discharged by reason of old age. I wrote to you to buy you a mare if you had money enough after supporting yourself.

My dear, I want you to be cautious and not let no cut throats and swindlers cheat you out of your money. Get Isaac Moore or some other good man to trade for you. I expect to come home this winter, but I don't look for a chance to get a furlough until about Christmas. My love, I know you have a hard time and prayers goes up to god [sic] every day for you and the day may soon come when we will have peace and all return to our loved ones at home. My dear, you have a hard time and a great deal more so than one would put up with, if I could help my self [sic], but you ought to be thankful that your condition is no worse than it is. There is thousands of women and children that the Yankees have stripped of everything in th [sic] world and insulted and abused in the most outrageous and in PAGE TORN manner. My lovely Susan Ann, I want you to try and console your self [sic] the best you can. Put your trust in God and pray without ceasing for their [sic] is some hopes of peace at this time and I hope that instead of a furlough, that we will all be discharged and come home crowned with independence and blessed with sweet peace. Our fare here is meat and bread, only when we by [sic] potatos [sic] and dried [sic] fruit and other things; the weather has been very fine so far, but it has been tolerable cold and it now looks like it mite [sic] snow. I have got me a new pair of shoes and pants and some new socks and drawers though, we generally sleep cold and then I pray to be with you. Tell Frank and Sarah to be good children and kiss ma for Pa. May the God of heaven bless and protect and comfort my loved ones. Give my love and respects to they that enquire after me. I send my love to you and our little ones. Write every opportunity. So farewell until I hear from you again.

Jesse P. Bates to O! That I could kiss them sweet lips of lovely Susan Ann and little children.

Murfreesboro Tenn. Dec. the 18th 1862.

Dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and I hope that when you get this letter it will find you and our little children enjoying the same blessing. We come here the 5th of this month and we left McMinville [sic] on the 2nd and on the 6th. We went in about 10 miles of Nashville and we staid [sic] about there until yesterday. While we was out there, our cavalry captured a good many of the enemy. Gen. Morgan captured 1,800 up on Cumberland river. There has been no fight near here. Father came to see me on the 29th of last month and he brought me one pair of pants, 2 pair of socks and one pair of drawers and a linsey shirt. The folks was all well. Sam had never been home since he was exchanged.

He was down in Miss. Jo Beasley and Beverly is with the yankees [sic]. Jo carried his family to Nashville and uncle John leans to the Lincoln government. Your mother lives near James and Tom is with her. Father could not tell me any other particulars about them. The good Secesh of Hickman drowned old McGraw and John McCaleb is not good Secesh and Will Wooten deserted and sold 2 horses that belonged to the government. Baird was well when I saw him the evening we come here. I wrote to you from Tullahoma and sent it by mail and I wrote to you from McMinville [sic] by N. F. Moore and I also sent you (\$100) one hundred dollars which has had time to reach you, if it has had good luck.

And about coming home, I don't know that I'll get off, but I expect to get a furlough in about 2 weeks and I am going to try with all my energies. Dan and Jo and the 2 Morgans and Loflen are here and well. Tom Jackson is at McMinville [sic] in the hospital. He is discharged, but will stay at the hospital until he gets well. A. L. H. and Sexton and Lewis Miller is at Chattanooga, Sexton is at work and Aleck had got able to go about and Louis has got the dropsey [sic].

My love, I have but little of importance to write though if I was with you I could tell you a good many things that you would like know.

My dearest earthly treasure, I know that you see a hard time, but we have to endure our fate and we ought to prepare for the worst and hope and pray for the best. Although the time seems long we must not despair, but continue to hope and pray. Honey, try to be a faithful christian [sic] and not weep and grieve to excep [sic]. Tell Frank and Sarah to be good children and help Ma and comfort her and kiss one another for me.

I sent your Ma (\$5.00) five dollars.

Give my love and respects to those that enquire after me and take my love to yourself.

I have nothing more to write at present only I remain your affectionate companion until death. So farewell my loved ones until I see or hear from you again.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates and their little children.

Dec. the 22nd 1862.

My dear wife, I have drawn [sic] some money and I send you (\$100) one hundred dollars by Mr. Ramsey. I saw Baird yesterday and he is well.

I learned that Tom was in the army and not with me. Jack is taking care of James Pucketts f[sic] amily. Puckett is in the Yankee army. Sam Harberson did belong to the army, but when fort [sic] Donelson fell he escaped and has been lying out in the woods to keep from going back and he says that he will go to the yankee [sic] army before he will go back to the southern army. Jack is not good Secesh. Ma lives between Jims [sic] and Scott house on the road. Tom owns all Jims [sic] place. Nothing more only I remain your affectionate companion until death. So farewell my darling.

Jesse P. Bates to his loved ones Susan and the children.

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.

Feb. the 25th, 1863.

My dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and that I have been well. I have not received any letter from you in a long time. The last I got from you was dated the 12th of Aug. I have not heard any thing [sic] from you by the letter of our neighbors. I have wrote two other letters to you since the battle.

I have sent you (\$560.00) five hundred and sixty dollars and now I send you (\$140.00) one hundred and forty dollars by Capt. Hopkins provided he gets off. If he don't get off, I will not send it till a better opportunity.

I have seen Alton McCaleb and John Kelley. Alton is in the same company with Cochran's boys. They are all well as far as I know. Baird and Beverly Wack was well when I last seen them. John Harberson is in the same company with Cochran's boys also, Wm. and Sam Baker. I have wrote to your mother a short time back. I am looking for father up here. Sam Harberson has left home and gone into the Yankee lines. I suppose Jack is gone too.

I have wrote to Tom and Marsh and Sam. They are at Fort Hudson La. Tom and Sam belongs to the 9th Battalion of Tenn. Cavalry and Marsh belongs to the 42nd Regt. of Tenn. Infantry Vol. I suppose John McCaleb is killed. He was said to be on Yellow Creek, Dickson County. It is not certain that he is killed. This winter has not been very cold, but the last 2 months has been very wet and muddy and it is now thundering since raining. Tell James Hooten's wife that he is well. All of our neighbor boys is well that is present. Sexton is yet at Chattanooga.

We have not heard anything of Day yet. There has 3 of the men that went to Texas after clothes come back, But Lindly has not come yet.

My love, I want you to be as contented as you can and try and prevent those speculators and swindlers from getting you money for nothing. What money I send you, I want you to live on it, but you must try to spend it to the best advantage if you have any more than enough to subsist upon. Try to buy some good stock that will increase and grow and make something for our children.

My dearest loved ones, I knew it is hard to be seperate [sic], but it can't be avoided now and we must endure it with all the courage and fortitude that we can muster up, putting our trust in the blessed God of heaven for support and protection and the inestimable blessing of peace. At present there is no prospect of my coming home, but I think there will be soon as we have petitioned the war department to furlough the Regiment.

Tell Frank and Sarah God bless their little souls; to be good children and mind ma and help her work and if there is any chance you ought to send them to school. I have never said any thing [sic] to you about it, but I want you to pay what I owe to Jackson. I expect that you have paid Johnson.

There is no prospect of a fight at this time, but there is no telling what will turn up as soon as the weather gets good and the ground settles. The enemy is in large force at Murfreesboro. [end of letter]

[No date, but written in February or March 1863]

Dear and beloved companion, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time hoping that when you get this you may be enjoying the same blessing of health. I received yours of the 21st of Dec. and have answered it by mail and Mr. Weatherby is discharged and is going to Clarksville and I send this by him. The neighbor boys are all well that is present. There is no news from those absent. Baird and Beverly was well when I last heard from them. I have wrote it to you before but for fear you do not get, I will write it again. Father was up here about one month ago. The folks was all well. John McCaleb is certainly dead as they brought his body home. All the boys from Hickman that is here in the army are well as for [sic] as I know. I have not heard from your mother for some time and then not direct. I have wrote to you to try and buy some stock that would grow and you said it was a hard matter to buy mares or any other stocks and if you cannot buy stock, I want you to buy land or land certificates or a young negro. I suppose that land certificates can be bought at fifty cents per acre from the state. If you can buy a good piece of timbered land any where [sic] near to home so that it will be in reach of home to haul timber and if you can find any good place any where [sic] that you can get a fare [sic] price and a good title, buy it

for it will not pay to keep money lying up to no purpose. I would rather you would buy a fine mare than anything else, but if you can not get one or more, buy land and land certificates and I want you to be careful about getting frauds put upon you. If you get any certificates, try to have them located by some good responsible man.

I will send you some more money as soon as I draw and have a chance to send it to you. I am very anxious to hear from you for your last letter was so old before it came to me. I am sorry that you are out of paper and cannot write to me on account of the want of paper. I will send you a sheet in each letter that I send to you. I have nothing more of importance to write to you at present. Give my respects to all enquiring friends. I send you my strongest affections. Tell Frank and Sarah to be good children and pa will come as soon as he can. Put your trust in our God and pray for peace and our return home. May God bless you and keep you from harm. So farewell for the present. So I remain your affectionate husband and companion until death.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates and her little children.

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.

March the 28th, 1863.

Dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present hoping when these few lines reaches you that you and the children will be enjoying the same blessing. I have not received any letter from you since last fall. The last I received was dated Aug. 12th. J. M. Lindly has been back 12 or 15 days, but he never brought the clothes up with him. He left them with Rowland and Tanner and the letters you sent to me by him are in the boxes. James Ferrell has got back and he saw the clothes in Montgomery, Ala. and we have been looking for them for some time. Ferrell says that he sent word by Jim Hamilton for all those that wanted to send letters by him to send them to Tarrant and he brought no letters for anybody but A. L. from that neighborhood. The health of our company is very good. So is that of the Regiment. The neighbor boys are all well that is here. Sexton is at Chattanooga. We have never heard any thing [sic] of Day yet, neither of Allen Vaden. Old Lodwick Vaden has been here and went to hunt Allen. He said that he saw you in September. J. B. Ferrell says he seen you, but did not speak to you. Father was up here about the 10th of this month. He said all the folks was well. I have heard nothing of late from your mother. I have heard that Sam Harberson was at home and that he had not been [missing text] away. John McCaleb is dead. His body was brought home. Uncle Sam has moved to west Kentucky. Baird and Beverly was well when I last heard from them. They are out on the Murfreesboro Turnpike 5 or 6 miles. I wrote to Sam, Tom and Marsh at Fort Hudson, La., but I have not heard from them yet. James Hooten is well. There is a good many

letters come here from that neighborhood and there is not one of them that says a single word about you and I am very anxious to hear from you. It grieves me to not hear from you in so long a time. I have sent you 6 letters since I received one from you. I have sent (\$700) seven hundred dollars in all since I left home. I have heard that our church has revived and that James Hooten and Wilker Bills has made friends and reunited with the church and have promised to do better and God grant that they may be faithful christians [sic] until death. My desire and prayer to God is that christianity [sic] may envelope the whole world and consume every thing that is in opposition [sic] to pure Godliness. There is no war news of importance at present. There has been very little skirmishing on the picket lines. There is no prospect of a fight at present at this place. I want you to pay all my debts. I owe Jim Hamilton the cost on that old Miss. Warren suit and pay him for the old horse collar. All debts that you don't know to be correct and just make the claimant [sic] prove their claims. I owe McAntire \$(16) sixteen dollars and some cents and settle up with Travilion and get square with the world. I expect to send you all the money that I can and I want you to by [sic] something that will grow and make something while we are asleep. J. M. Lindly is going back to Texas. He has swaped [sic] with a man in Goulds [sic] Regt. If he don't get off in a few days I will send you some money by him. [end of letter]

March the 30th 1863.

I have received your letter of the 21st of Dec. and was very glad to hear from you once more and to hear that you and the children was well. I got the things you sent to me. I was proud of them, though I did not need them very bad. I need white shirts worse than anything else. I am sorry that you have had bad luck with your cows and I am also sorry that Confederate money is valued so little in Texas, for if the people of the country does not sustain the credit of the Government, we are bound to go down and any man that refuses to take the bonds of the Government is a traitor to his country. I wrote to your mother some time ago, but I have not heard from her yet. My dear, I am sorry that there is no chance at present for me to come home and I am sorry that it is so, but it cannot be helped at this time and we will have to shed tears and pray to god [sic] for the time to come that we can meet again. O! My love my love, I long to see the day when I can go to your arms and enjoy your sweet presence once more. I have no advice that is new to give you at present. I want you to do the best you can and be a faithful christian [sic] for the prayers of the ritious [sic] avaieth much. Tell Frank and Sarah to be good children and help me to work while Pa is gone and if we are not permitted [sic] to live together on earth any more [sic]; O! May we all meet in the Paradiice [sic] of God where parting will be no more.

You say that you have no more papers to write on, I will send you some and I want you to write to me as often as you can for it has been along [sic] time since I have heard from you before and this letter is more than 3 months old. Farewell my love for the present.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates

Camp Near Yazoo City Miss. June 4th 1863

Dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time, hoping that when this reaches you it may find you enjoying the same blessing. We left Shelbyville 3 weeks ago last Sunday and came to Jackson on the cars and then we marched to Canton and stayed there 3 or 4 days and then we come here 4 days ago. We are about 60 miles from Jackson in a northwest course. We are about 65 miles from Vixburg [sic]. I expect there will be a great Battle fought in this state, but I cannot tell how long it will be before it takes place. We are in Walkers [sic] Division. There was 2 Brigade and 2 Regts. [sic] of McCown's Division come down with us and I hear that Breckenridge's Division has come too. We are getting a powerful army down here now and I think the Yankees will have to quail before us before a great while. I think that a decicive [sic] victory here on our part will greatly tend to shorten the war and bring peace to our Country. A. L. Hamilton and the morgan [sic] boys are well. Jo. Steele is a little puny. We left Louis at Atlanta Ga. Loflen is well too. Sexton is at Chattanooga on detail again. Dan started home from Shelbyville, but he said he was going to come on to Jackson and try to get home. His furlough had been extended 30 days longer. I have not heard from you in some time. The last letter I got from you was dated the 24th of Feb. The chance to send letters is bad at this time, I have never heard from Tom and Sam and Marsh yet, but I suppose Marsh is in Maxey's Brigade and I learn that it is near here now and will be here very soon. We are in a very hilley [sic] country at this time and the water is bad and all we get to eat now is poor beef and corn bread, but I hope we will soon fare better; so soon as the wheat is gathered and ground. The corn crops looks very promising at present. The health of the army is tolerable good at this time, but I do not know how long it will stay so as I fear the effect of the bad water in this country. I would be very glad to hear from you at any time. I have no idea that all of my letters reaches you and if you write no more letters than I get, it is but few that you write. The last letter I sent to you was by Lodwick Vaden. We have not heard of Allen since he left.

I am out of money and have been for a month and I do not know when I will draw any more. There is 3 months wages due me.

I want you to pay every thing we owe and then use the balance of your money to the best advantage. I think that before a great while our money will be worth more than it is now.

James Hooten is well and is in good spirits. I desire very much to be at home with my loved ones that Jewels of my heart. O! My love my love, if I could fold my arms around your lovely form and press those sweet lips of my darlings; how happy it would make me. O! May God bless you and keep you from harm. You and the children kiss each other for me and think of Pa my loved little ones.

We are ordered to be ready to march at a moments [sic] notice. The guns are booming down the river. I must close. I give you my best love and respects. Give my respects to all enquiring friends. So farewell for the present my loved ones.

Jesse P. Bates to S. A. Bates and her little ones.

Back to 9th Texas Infantry
Ector's Brigade
Yazoo City Miss.

Moultons Station, Miss.
July 22nd, 1863

My dear companion. I embrace this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am well, but not very stout. We have rambled about right smart since we come into Miss. We fell back to Jackson on the 7th of this month and we had some Skirmish fighting and some charges. We had one Lieut. killed and one man badly and several slightly wounded in our Regt. We staid [sic] at Jackson nine days and we lay in the entrenchments all the time and then we fell back to Brandon and then here. We are about 25 miles east of Brandon and I can't tell how long we will stay here or where we will go to. This army is low spirited and despondent, but I think the drooping spirits of the army will soon revive. I saw Marsh day before yesterday and he is well. James Hooten is sick and I fear is bad. James Strother is dead. I have not heard any thing of Tom and Sam yet. I have not heard from Tenn. since I left there. I send this letter by J. W. Sterdivant to Gilmer, Mapshur [sic] County. I pay him one dollar and he says he will bring letters back here and if you can I want you to send me a letter. You will have to pay him one dollar, but be sure before you pay your money that you get your letter to the man that is to bring it. The neighbor boys are scattered. Abel Morgan went to the hospital yesterday. I have not had any letter from you since 24th of Feb. George

Ramsey has come up and he says he saw you. I have nothing of importance to write to you. I have drawn some money since I wrote to you last on the 22nd of June.

My loved ones, you must not be disheartened. Hope on and pray on and put your trust in God for help, support and deliverance [sic]. I hope the day will come soon and I pray for it that I can go home to the arms of my lovely wife and little children and enjoy the sweets of their company. Write soon and every opportunity for I love to hear from you for your letters brings your loveliness fresh to my mind. May God bless you and keep you from all harm and restore me to your arms and embrace. I have nothing more of importance to write. Tell the children to mind me [sic] and help her work that Pa will come as soon as he can. O! God bless your sweet soul. So farewell for this time. I yet remain your affectionate husband until death.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan A. Bates and her little children.

Camp Near Morton, Miss.

July 29th, 1863.

My dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope that when these few lines reaches you that you may be enjoying the same blessing.

I have not heard from you by letter since the date of the 24th Feb. George Ramsey says he saw you, but he did not tell me anything about you only that you was well. Others get letters from Texas and I know not why I cannot get no more than I do. I saw Marsh 10 days ago. He was well then. John Lewis is with him. I have not heard from any of our connection in Tenn. since I left there. I have not heard from Tom and Sam since Marsh left Port Hudson. Jo Steele and John and Maj. Travilion are all well. James Hooten has got well and returned to his command. A. L. Hamilton expects to start home on a furlough and if he gets off he will bring this letter to you. The furlough lay between me and him and we cast lots for it; and he got it; although I want to see you very bad yet a furlough is not as valueable [sic] as some might think, as it will cost a man five or six hundred dollars to there and back. At the same time the money is a small matter compared with the renowned [sic] grief that would be caused by parting again. Those that get to go home only get to stay 2 weeks and I feel that it would be to me just like cutting my heart strings to part with you so soon after meeting with those [sic] that are dearer to me than life its self. I hope that it will not belong [sic] before I can come to you under more favorable circumstances than the present. I have become more reconciled to my fate than I was at first and I presume you have too and for us to meet and have to part

so soon would be like tearing a fresh a severe wound which would be a great deal worse than it was at the start.

O! How I desire to be with those that are so lovely and so dear to me and I trust and pray to God that the happy period will soon come when we will be permitted to enjoy the lovely embrace of each others [sic] arms. I expect to send you (\$100.00) one hundred dollars by A. B. Hamilton if he gets off.

My dear, I want you to try to spend our money the best advantage. Try to buy something that will grow in value and make your self [sic] as comfortable as you can. Keep the children going to school all you can for an education is of more value to them than any thing els [sic] that we can give them as they cannot loose [sic] it.

Aug. 19th 1863

Camp Hardee Near Morton Miss.

My dear wife, I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present, hoping that when these few lines reaches you, it may find you enjoying the same blessing.

I have not received any letter from you as I have said to you at various times since the 24th of Feb. and I have certainly sent you at least 12 or 15 since that time. I have sent you one about every week for some time. We all have good health at this time. The whole army appears to be in fine health at this time. We have had an abundance of rain lately and every thing [sic] that can grow is doing fine. It is a matter of regret to me that I do not get any letter from you. I would be very proud to hear from you and my dear little children and to learn that you was all well and doing well in these hard and troublesome times. I expect to send this to you by Capt. Wm. A. Wortham as he has been discharged by reason of disability.

James Hooten is well.

I expect to leave the Regt. in a few days on a detail. I do not know where I will go to. I suppose the object of my going is to Drill Conscrips [sic]. You will continue to direct your letter to the Regt. until you learn where I am.

My love, I have nothing of importance to write at present, though I will try to write something for you to read as I know that you love to read my letters. I have not heard from Marsh, since I saw him about the 10th of July. I have not heard from none of our

connection since we left Tenn. Tell Mrs. Steele that Jo is well and John and Maj. was well a few days ago.

There is no news from the army east at present. Everything appears to be at a stand still at present as regards the enemy. Our army is undergoing a thorough reorganization and drill at present.

The prices of vegetables and other produce are very high at present. I saw a watermelon to day [sic] that was \$18.00 and now while I write I hear \$20.00 asked for one. Mutton is \$1.00 per pound and flour sells at \$1.00 per pound and peaches and apples get as hy [sic] as \$1.50 to \$2.00 and \$3.00 per doz. There is a man here now from Ark. that carries the mail for Texas and Ark. and if you have no other chance to send me a letter back it to Thomas Hales, Camden, Ark. The best way is to put 2 envelopes on your letter; first back it to me as if the mail come direct all the way and then put on another envelope and back it to him. You need not pay anything on any letter that you send to me only the postage to the place where these Expressmen get them. Give my respects to all enquiring friends. I give you and our little children my unchanging love and unwithering [sic] devotion. May God bless you and keep you from harm is my prayer. So farewell for the present.

Jesse P. Bates to his love, Susan Ann Bates and Frank and Sarah.

Oct. 13th 1863

Camp Near Meridian Mississippi.

Dear companion, I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present, hoping that when this reaches you, it will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have not heard from you yet, not since the date of Feb. 24th. I have almost lost all hope of getting any more letters from you. Dan wrote in his letter that you was all well in Aug. I come to the Regt. this morning and I will leave it again tomorrow. I am on detached duty at Ellisville, Jones County, Miss. and I don't know how long I will stay there. I have but little to write. James Hooten is going to start home this evening and he will carry this to you for me and I will send you two hundred \$200 dollars by him. I am sorry to tell you that A. L. Hamilton was killed in the late battle of Chicamauga [sic].

I would be so proud if I could see you and our little ones. I hope that the time will soon come when we can be together and be happy once more. May god [sic] bless you with all good.

I was sick week before last. I had the diphthery [sic] in my jaw throat.

My love, I want you to manage the best you can and be contented. I hear that the people in Texas are very much discouraged and I think it is without a cause for I think that the prospect is britening [sic] and ought to cheer every true heart. I am not discouraged in the least. Tell Frank and Sarah to be good children and help Ma to make support until the war is over and if pa don't get home before that time, I hope by the help of the blessed God that I will come to your arms then. I want you to write me by James Hooten and be sure to tell me how many letters you have got from me since I got one from you and give me the date of them all.

Send me a letter every chance you get. Give my respects to those that enquire after me. I send you the token of my unchanging love. My God bless you and pro- [end of letter]

Atlanta Georgia Aug. the 7th 1864

My dear wife, I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am yet in the land of the living and that I am well at present, and I hope when this reaches you it will find you enjoying the same blessing. The campaign continues and there is no telling where it well end. We occupy Atlanta and the enemy is closely confronting us. There has been several engagements in the last three weeks and our advantages in the results was small. The firing along the line of Skirmishes seldom ceases longer than a few minutes at a time. There is some body hurt every day by stray balls or an occasional shell. There has been no shells thrown in to the city to day [sic]. The reason I suppose is that it is Sunday for on every other day there is kept up a continuous shelling of the city.

There is eleven of us now present in Co. "G" and we are all able to eat all we can get, but some of the boys are not well. Jo Steele is puny and has been for some time. Loflen is yet absent on account of his slight wound.

Our army is still in tack [sic] and in good spirits and confident of our ultimate success. Our army in Virginia stills keeps the wiley [sic] Grant back from Richmond and I think that the gallant Texas Gen. J. B. Hood will thwart the plans of Mr. Sherman to occupy Atlanta until he will have to abandon the undertaking and call it a failure. Genls. Early and Breckenridge has been in to Maryland and made a successful raid and come back across the Potomac river and met the federal Genls. Averell and Hunter and whiped [sic] them and taken all their artillery [sic] and many prisoners.

I saw Marsh about a week ago. He was well and unhurt when I saw him. He had just been in a very hard fight. His Brigade suffered severly [sic]. I have not seen Ike and Tom yet and have not heard of them lately. The last account I had from Hickman County, everything was quiet and the people doing the best they can under Yankee rule. There has been several men come from Texas lately with letters, but none for me. I have not heard from you since I seen you and I would be very glad to get a letter from my loved one. I am going to send this by Benjamin Birdwell and I want you to send me a letter by him when he comes back here. I enclose a small piece of paper with the proper backing on it.

I am now on the skirmish line and W. L. Miller is with me and he to [missing text] too. We had a wet time last night, but to day [sic] is beautiful day. I have not had any money for some time, I drew [sic] one months [sic] pay since I left home and I loaned the most of it to the boys of the company. They have not drawn any for more than nine months. We are living tolerable hard at present but not suffering. We get corn bread and bacon two days and beef one. Our bread and beef is cooked and brought to us. Sometimes we get a small mess of peas, but we don't get enough of anything to satisfy our appetites, although there is no danger of suffering on what we get. There is a great many that steal what few vegetables the poore [sic] women and children have in this place, but I thank God that Co. "G" has no rogue at this time. Write soon and every opportunity. Be a faithful christian [sic] and instruct our children all you can. Give me all the important news you can. May the mercies of God rest upon you is my prayer. Pray with out [sic] ceasing for the independence of our Government and the peace of our country. So farewell my darling wife and little children.

Jesse P. Bates to Susan Ann Bates and her children.

Camp at Lovejoy Station, Ga. Sept. the 17th 1864.

My dear wife, I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping that when this reaches you it may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have not received but one letter from you since I saw you and I suppose that you have got the answer to it before this. We have left Atlanta and are now between 20 and 30 miles down the Rail Road towards Macan. We left Atlanta the night of the first of this month and the Yanks are in the place. Old Sherman has driven all the people out of the place. There is a truce going on now between the two armies along the Rail Road bringing the families out of Atlanta.

The boys are all well that are here. Loflen is at Auburn, Ala., but he is well as I got a letter from him a few days ago. Jo Steele will be home if he has good luck some time

before you get this. The army is increasing rapidly every day. The teamsters are being sent to their commands and negro's [sic] put in their places except ambulance and ordinance wagon drivers. We are getting a plenty to eat at this time such as beef, corn bread and peas and we got molasses once and some times [sic] rice.

The regt. drew [sic] money yesterday. I have assigned a pay account and have sent for some cloth to make me some clothes. I will have some money in a few days and I would send you some the first opportunity, but I suppose that confederate money has become worthless in Texas by the State refusing to take it for taxes, and if it would do you no good I do not deem it necessary to be at the trouble of sending it. If it is so that the State of Texas has refused to take the currency of the country for its tax, I look upon it as a very disgraceful act of the legislature. I thought that Texas was too patriotic to send men to the legislature that are so black hearted. I think that they every one ought to be driven out of the State.

There is some rumor of us going to Virginia, but I don't know whether there is any truth in it or not. There is nothing official about it. There is nothing in the signs of the times at present to base an opinion upon in regard to the things [end of letter]

James P. Bates to John A. Travilion
[ND]

Dear friend, I address you a few lines requesting you to do me a favor in assisting my wife to buy such pieces of property as she may desire to buy and I want you if you please to help her to find property to buy as I want her to buy and good mare or more than one if she can and if not to buy land or land certificates and if not that, to try to buy a young negro and I want you to see that there is no fraud practice on my family and if you have to be [sic] at trouble, I will satisfy you for all your trouble and if you will assist my wife in these matters you will confer a favor on your most obedient servant and friend Jesse P. Bates to John A. Travilion.

P.S. I have not heard any thing [sic] of your son since his Regt. come in to this department. Joseph Steele is well. So farewell for the present. J. P. Bates to John A. Travilion.

