

## Benjamin Philip Letters

Nashville Tenn [sic] Feb 29th (64)  
(1864) [crossed out]

This evening finds me well. The regt [sic] is here. We have been for one day and night. We arrived here Sunday about 2 oclock [sic]. Last night we pitched our tents for the night and during the night it rained very hard. The water run under the tent and routed me out and I evacuated. It has rained all day but we are in a femail [sic] colege [sic] to night. So we fair [sic] very well for soldiers. This has been a very extencive [sic] colege [sic] but it has been through the war so it doant [sic] look very nice at presant [sic]. Well we will remain here till to morrow [crossed out] wean morn. Then we will leave for Chatanoga [sic]. Then I expect we will go from there to Notville [sic] where there is some fighting to be done. That is the place for the ninth. There is a great many Solders [sic] here laying here garding [sic] this town that is prety [sic] near gon [sic] black. We see three negros to one white man. Everything is very high here. We have to pay 60 cents for a meal and then be launced [sic] at last. If you have more than one cup of coffee they charge you 10 cents extry [sic]. Ike is all right. I expect that we will get to see Alf prety [sic] soon for we are going through where they were. The boys keeps so mutch [sic] nois [sic] that I cant [sic] write. I got back to Indianapolis in good time. The regt [sic] was just redy [sic] to march down to the depot to take the train but those that went to prices [sic] didnt [sic] get back nor haint [sic] got up yet. I wish that we had of went to prices [sic] that night. We would of had a good time for the boys was there I expect waiting for us to come. Well I will close this letter for the candle is about out. I will write to all of you when I get time. Give my love to all

Phillip M. Benjamin

To all my friends that may have the pleasure of reading this  
Good by

Gallipolis March the 9 [crossed out]  
1864 [crossed out]

Camp Harker Tenn [sic]  
Aprile [sic] the 23, 64

Dear Sister,

I received your long look for and welcome letter a fiew [sic] days since. I was sorrow to learn that your health had been so poor. Well Lib it is the same thing over and over. The camp is full of rumors of being payed [sic] and being discharged of going to Texas. We have some prety [sic] good times for all its so lonesome in camp. One night last week the boys of the 1st Division formed a torchlight procession and marched to Gen.

Stanley's Head qrt [sic] and he made is a speech and several others spoke. I will discribe [sic] the procession as well as I can. We had candles lit and used our bayonets for to hold them up with. At the head of every Regt they had diferent [sic] representations painted on pup tents or paper with the light inside to make them show plain. One thet [sic] I noticed had a big Eagle and under one wing having Jeff. Davis, the other Waid [sic] Heanpton [sic], and a thousand other paintings that I woant [sic] mention. They was all drawn by the best of painters. Now for that visit you spoke of. I will go and you must be ready when I come home, whenever that is. I want to go in a bout a week after I get home then I expect to go west on a long visit and more than likely make that my home in some wild country. There will be a huge amount of soldier go west as soon as they get out of the service. Ike is well. I have wrote all that I can think of this time. When you write give all the news. I have lost track of every thing. Most give my compliments to all the folks. The mail hasent [sic] come in for the last three days on the account of some bridges being washed a way between here and Louisville. I cant [sic] say when this will reach you. I should have wrote ear [sic] this if that obsticle [sic] hadant [sic] of been in the way.

Yours truly,  
P.M. Benjamin

Nashville, Tenn [sic]  
December the 12th, 1864

Dear Sister,

This cold morning I will answer your letter which I received a fiew [sic] days since. The morning before I received yours I mailed one to you so I wasn't in any hurry about writing to you. I must write to Alf and Hamp or I am a letter due them. Well it is very cold fer [sic] this part of the world but I guess if the rebs can stand it we can. They are in our front. There is some fighting at intervells [sic] along the line with little damage to either party.

Well you spoke of those things which I thought of sending for. The reason why I did not send for them is this. We have got to this place where we can get any thing that we need by paying a big price. I will give a fiew [sic] of the prices. Buter [sic] \$1. Apples 3 for a quarter. Bread 20 cts. loaf about the size of a biscuit. Other things in propotion. Fresh pork 25 cts [sic] a pound. But after all we have lived pretty part since we have been here in Nashville. Well I havent [sic] any thing of importance to writ [sic] at the preasant [sic]. Ike got your letter. He is well. I doant [sic] know if I wrote or not. He is driving the Regiment Headquarters wagon. I see him every day. Give my compliments [sic] to all the folks. I hope you all will have a pleasant holidays. I should like to be at home long enough to help eat some turkey. I have wrote all that I can think of. You will have to excuse this short letter.

I am as ever your brother,  
Phillip M. Benjamin

Camp Blue Springs Tenn [sic]

April the 11th 1864

Well Lizzie I have the pleasure of answering your letter that I received a few [sic] minutes since. I am well and have being [sic] every [sic] since we have been here. We have been out to drill this fore-noon. We was shooting at target. That was fun for me. Ike and Alf was here and herd [sic] the leter [sic] red [sic] with mutch [sic] anxiety for the mail has been very small for us. I got 3 to day. Alf thought that he orto [sic] have a leter [sic] today but it didant [sic] come. Tell Jance that she woant [sic] have any excuses this time for I have writ [sic] to her. You said that you herd [sic] that Chatanuga [sic] was in the rebs [sic] hands. That is a mistake for when they take that place our corespondence [sic] will be plaid [sic] out for that is all the route that we have any communication with the north and all of our provisions and munitions of war have to come through that place. We are about 30 miles from Chatanuga [sic]. The rebs [sic] is in force at Dalton about 20 miles from her [sic]. They have made ther [sic] appearance close to this place but they was in small parties. They have intention to attack this place. Old Grant will change the program. The army of the Potomac will have to do some fighting. Before long he will take the starch out of them I think. Well I will send you his and Rosecrance [sic] potographs [sic], the leading men of the day. You must try and write more the next time. I want to know if Sant was to see the folks at White or not and how the bounty is progressing. Then I will send for to have him to draw mine if it is to be had. Nancy writes that she took a visit to the battle ground and she had a bad spell of sickness there. She writes to her cosins [sic] [illegible] the 15th will be home soon. They are at Chatanuge [sic]. There is some talk of this Regt going to the army of the Potomac. I cant [sic] tell whether we will or not. Tell Hamp that I will write him a leter [sic] before long. I have writ [sic] all that will be pendent [sic] this time. Give my kind regards to all enquiring friends. I will bring this to a close.

Phillip M. Benjamin  
your brother

Ike and Alf sends their love to you all  
Thomas you must write

Pulaski, Tenn [sic]

November the 11th 64

Dear Sister,

This mornings [sic] Sun has rare bright and beautiful after a long rain. I received you [sic] leter [sic] the other day but havent [sic] been in mutch [sic] of a hurry to write as there is a bridge washed away in the railroad between here and Nashville so that the mail cant [sic] go nor come. It is thought that to day the cars will run through.

Well we are a long way from where I wrote the last letter. Since that time we have been on the march over mount through valley where we got no mail nor rations. Thought we had plenty to eat for our regt [sic] was alone in a ritch [sic] contry [sic] where there had not been any army through and we had orders to live off [sic] the citizens which we did so we lived well. We had chickens, potatoes, apples, and honey sorgum [sic], fresh beef, and pork. Well everything that a good contry [sic] could aford [sic]. We arrived here about the 3 of this month. Then we got a bug [sic] file of letters for the regt [sic] at this place. The Regt [sic] joined the Corps. It is thought that old Hood is coming to pay us a visit. I hope he will for I am tired of running after him. I think the 4th Corps will remain here for some time. If it does after while I will send for a box of things that I cant [sic] get here very well. They are makeing [sic] preparations to pay us off. There is a part of the 9 cavelry [sic] her [sic] but they cant [sic] tell me any thing of Wess Louey. Do you ever hear from him? I am glad to hear from the draft. There is two hundred on the way to join the 9 that will swell the ranks considerable. I have some beans on cooking for diner [sic]. They bother me some to keep fire under them. You and Jen had beter [sic] come over and help me eat the beans if she is not dead. I would like to hear from her any how if you cant [sic] come. I have wrote to her ask her if she got my letter. Well I should like to have a drink of cider and a big apple. They are scarce here. Ike is well. He said that he would write some of these days. Well I have wrote all that I can think of this time. Cay Wail, I doant [sic] hardley [sic] know him so I cant [sic] say what he is.

Give my love and respects to all my friends. I remain your brother

Phillip Miller Benjamin  
PMB

Undated Letter

This letter is badly torn and much is missing. Note from original transcriber: Letter possibly written sometime in Dec. 1864 since it meentions [sic] Nashville, Tenn. and the battle for Nashville was Dec. 15-16, 1864.

[illegible]

Our wounded fell in th[illegible] hands so fell back here in the night and are in position a round Nashville and the reble [sic] army is in our front. The pickets keep firing at intervels [sic] a long the lie and some artilery [sic] firing with little damage. Well Lib I have wrote to you all last but havent [sic] received a letter since the [illegible] of Nov. The day we arrived there then I wrote to all that I thought to be my friends but I suppose the mail has been captured or els [sic] I should have got the answer to some of them before this [illegible]

Give my respects to all my friends. Tell them to write as I have wrote last and they have the best chance to write at the present.

[illegible] by P.M. Benjamin

Camp of the 9th Ind  
March the 29th 1865

Dear Sister,

At length I have the pleasure of answering your kind letter of the 15th which I received on the march to this place that I havent [sic] learned any name for. We are camped in the woods on the Bristol [sic] and Knoxville R.R., 65 miles east of the latter. We have stopped for the purpose of repairing [sic] the railroad which rebles [sic] have burned. We have had some prety [sic] hard marching since we left Huntsville. This is nearly three hundred miles from Huntsville. We are in Tenn. at the presant [sic].

I saw James Hughs a fiew [sic] days before I left and Louis Glacier. The later [sic] was in the hospital but wasant [sic] bad sick. They belong to the G.Co. 35th Regt of Ind Pontoonery [sic]. The Regt did belong to this division but they all signed to the pontoon train.

Well the peach trees is in full blume [sic] and every thing looks nice and like pleasure more than like war though we can see the horrors [sic] of war on every hand. The women and children coming from every state to our lines for protection and food to keep them from starving. They travel through the contry [sic] and camp out where the night over takes them and when they are near wher [sic] there is any camp of our solders [sic] then they wait till they move camp. Then they can pick up old clothing and meat, crackers that is left scattered over the camp. Lib, I had thought of not having to write any more for it seemed to me that I was never going to get a letter any more. Yours was the first since I left Huntsville. It seemed like a year. Well I have another poto [sic] to send you. It is one of the boys. Alf will know it. Well I have wrote everything that I can think of this time.

As ever your brother,  
P.M.B.

Camp of the 9th Ind  
April the 5th 65

Dear Sister,

I take this pleasant morning to write a feiw [sic] lines for I am at leasuer [sic] today. Well but some what lonesome [sic]. Wel [sic] as I write I hear the boys hollowing maile [sic]. Probably I will git [sic] a letter. The last brought me three, the first for a long time. I had become weaned so that I could do very well without any. I think that I will come home this summer for the news is very good now.

Well I will try to tell you where I am. This is a long way from where we was when I last wrote. We are 65 miles east of Knoxville, Tenn. near the North Carolina [sic] line. Well the mail has been distributed but I was not represented [sic] in this mail.

Lib, as to your marring [sic] I haven't a word to say. You have to make your own choice and if you git [sic] a bad bargain that is your look out. You didnt [sic] say when.

Probbely [sic] if you put it off till fall I can be at home. This war is going to close soon for Sherman and Grant is the men that will do the work.

I haven't anything to write of any importants [sic]. There isant [sic] any enemy in this part of country worth mention.

I will bring this scribling [sic] to a close. Probably I will have more to write to you the next time. Ike is well.

I am as ever your brother and well wishes,

Phillip

Good by,

Phillip M. Benjamin