

Camp near Murfusboro April 30th

Cousin

I am going to talk to a short time this evening if you have no objection I
and your good letter a few days ago I Started on home Day before yesterday directed
Well I will tell you what I have been doing for a day or 2 past I came off picket
day before yesterday yesterday orders came that we would have to turn over our tents So
we had to take them down I am very Sorry for the shelter tent don't amount to much in
the rain I think they might have let us kept them as long as we are in Camp Our mess put
our tents all together and made one large one just after we got them fixed it commenced
raining it made a perfect mud hole of the tent but its dry now it will be very nice in dry
weather but wont amount to anything in wet weather Orders Came to the Major that the
enemy were advansing in large force and for him to have his regt ready to march at any
minute Col Manderson went home last week Lieut Col ~~Stallan~~ Came to the regt to day I
suppose he will take Command until Col comes back I beleave I told our folks in their
letter about a reconnoitering [?] ^{part} that was out and had Sent in a number of prisoners
part of the party went past here today they had a Rebel Major with them This fore noon
we had general muster and inspection Lieut Chamberlain brought our tent three boxes of
blacking and told us to fix up in Style we all blacked our boots and Shoes Cartridges
boxes and came out in Style when that party was passing they made a good many
remarks about our black boots it just takes ^{to} to put in Style when they take a notion
TL Sexton has just come in and Said there was 4 of our picket Shot last night by
Guerrillas I want them to keep their distance when I am on picket the Registra came to
day it is a welcom messenger almost as good as a letter I have not had a letter for three
days I think it is about time some of my friends were thinking of me Dave Shielels is Still
better but it will be sometime before he is fit for duty his System is pretty well run down
it is very warm to day the boys are all or almost all in their Shirt Sleeves Friday May 1st I
am on camp guard to day and we have to Stay at guard quarters So I will talk a Short time
to my Cousin They are getting very strict the orders this morning were if any one was
caught ~~Stamping~~ ^{Stamping} on their ~~Butts~~ ^{Butts} or talking with any one they would be put under arrest but
we are not very particular when there are no officers in Sight I don't care in ~~strict~~ ^{strict} on camp
guard on picket I don't care how strict they are for I calculate to do my duty there up to
the handel I received a letter to day from Clair ^{Hovis} She has had dyphtheria but was
better I suppose you are preparing to plant corn do day I think I can almost see you
wouldn't I like to go over to your house this eve and hitch ~~Whie~~ ^{Whie} in to your buggy and
take a ride we would go to Bedford by the way of ---- Wont it be Joyful when the time
comes when we will all be permitted to return to our homes and friends it is to good to
think about but untill that time comes God Sparing my life and health I think it my duty
to be a Soldier I enjoy myself first ~~rite~~ ^{rite} I never get homesick as I feared I would but I tell
you our friends are often in our minds I would rather have a letter from home or Uncle
Johns than the prettiest thing I ever Saw I do not think you have the least idea how much
good it does me. They are calling for Supper So I must go the Co all eat together now
Tuesday Apr 4th Dearest Cousin how do you do this evening I hope you are well I have
not written any for a day or So I will finish this this evening as I will be on picket
tomorrow yesterday I received 2 good letters one from home and one from your Self I
spent yesterday the most like Sabbath of any day Since I left home in the forenoon

standing

Wrichs (?)

TL & Jas Dobins and I went to preaching at the 100th Ill heard an excellent Sermon in the evening at 6 quite a number of our Co went to the 30th Indiana to preaching when we got there we found they were going to administer the Lords Supper I suppose there were 75 or a 100 communed there were 2 preachers there I think they were Methodist although they were not of the boisterous kind appeared to be very good men one of them I think was a man of high intellect in inviting persons forward to commune he Said they would just leave that to each man to decide for themselves Said they could not do as they would at home but would just leave it to each mans concience to decide for himself Marshall I don't think there ever was a meeting that did me as much good as that one did I never felt as deeply the kneed of Something to remember our Savior by as I did then how apt we are to become careless in our Masters Service and how appropriate the commemoration of his ~~glorious~~ suffering to keep our Savior to designate Some way by which we are to remember him by I Suppose Father Walker would not think it right to commune with a Methodist but under the circumstances we are placed in I do not think it was wrong I think if he had been away from religious privaleges as long as we have and among those who almost all care nothing about religion and would get among Christians even if they were Methodists I think he would have done the Same the preachers seemed like very good men Cousin you have no idea how you would feal to be among careless and profane associates for a long time then to get among those that love the Lord I felt just as if everyone of them was a brother I again ask an ^{interest} in your prayers that I maybe kept in the right path we are so apt to stray nothing but Gods grace can keep us in the right path and here we have more temptations to do wrong than at home and as we are both Striveing to walk on the Same road both going to the Same home we Should pray for each other Cousin I don't think there is ever a day but I often think of you and of all My Dear friends at home They are making arbors in different regts to have preaching in the way they are made is this they take an about 50 ft Square then plant Sedar trees as thick as they can Stand all around then where the first roe of Seets would be in our church they plant another roe about 6 ft ^{short} --- and another at the other side Small trees and weave branches all through among them

[Written upside down among the letter and up side of letter]

Uncle I have not forgotten that you owe me a letter and I don't want you to forget either I want you to be careful and not work to hard mind it wont pay I want you to caution Father about this tell him just to let time slip when he don't feel well I am going to try and wind this war up as soon as possible then I will start home and make up for lost time I think our political horizon looks brighter than it has done for Some time what is your oppinion on the matter

is to remember
ance of him and
of our duty
now kind in
Dis?

seats all through in regular order
it is nice for (wicket) they
plant

comment
^

horizon [horizon]

May 4th Dave is better but Still weak I was to See him about an hour ago he keeps in good Spirits that is the main thing when Sick here Bently was taken to the hospital the eve with fever we come here the wrong time in the year there are a great many of the recruits Sick there is considerable talk about moveing yesterday orders were read on dress parade from those to have 5 days rations on hand all the time and be ready to move at any minute Rory rode through our Camp yesterday he often takes a ride all through him command near here we think here that he is old preten-- he is the man I want to do my fighting under I am bunking with Criss Since Dave went the hospital we had a beautiful rain this eve things looks ---- did not the trees are all out in full leaf I wont tell you to write often for I know you will Give my love to Grand Pa and all the family

Camp near Murfreesbow May 27th 7^{1/2} o'clock PM Co. 1863

Good evening Cousin

I will commence a letter to you this evening although I have nothing to write that will interest you news has about played out it is just the same thing over and over again every day with ~~regard~~ to war news you are better ~~than~~ ^{reporting (?)} than I am So I kneed not say anything about that I mailed a letter to Mattie this morning I received one from you not long ago we ~~drill~~ ^{drill} at 10 this morning but I tell you we were not hurt any we drilled about 20 minutes lay in the Shade the rest of the time the officers ~~had to drill~~ ^{had to drill} as bad as we ~~only~~ we had battallion drill at 5 PM the Col put us through on double quick for about 15 minutes O but the perspiration did flow freely it is the good of us if we only thought So I expect I will be either on picket ~~for~~ ^{for} Camp guard tomorrow the picket lines have been moved out we have over 2 mile to go now I think we will have to move Camp Soon the watter is getting very Scarce here the Springs are So low we have to dip it with a tin and it is no little watter we use the bugle is blowing for roll call So good night

Thursday 28th here goes for a ~~few~~ ^{few} more lines I am on guard today at the Col tent ~~and~~ ^{and} have had a very easy time the Col dismissed the guard in the morning until ~~late~~ ^{late} to night clever in him wasn't it I tell you the 19th get out a nice guard now there are excused out of picket and Camp guard each who have everything in the best order the guard at the Col tent have no chance to get excused on camp and picket every man has his Shoes

^{blocked} Cartridge ~~box~~ ^{box} flashed in the best Style and his brass as bright as a dollar it looks nice but it takes almost to much work I never blocked my boots at home once ~~for~~ ^{for} ten times I do here if we have not our Shoes Shinning every evening on dress parade we are ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~black~~ ^{black} them I tell you there is a difference in the looks of our guards and that of other ~~Feet~~ ^{Feet} It has been raining a little this evening the first for a long time I do wish it would rain hard it is So ~~dirty~~ ^{dirty} wouldnt I hate to march now we are under Marching orders at the present Some Say we are going to fort Donolson but I don't credit the report I wish you would come and keep the flies off me while I write I never Saw the like it is almost impossible to eat for them we have to keep them off our vietuals with one hand and ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~the~~ ^{the} bite into our mouths or they will get ~~on~~ ^{on} I don't know what makes them So bad ~~Co~~ ^{Co} is

~~forming~~ ^{forming} now for ~~reville~~ ^{reville} don't know who by I wish you could see them you would think they were regulars but may be you think Self praise is no recommendation after the review is over I will tell you what the object was Saturday 30th It has been raining almost all day I was detailed this morning to help dig a well but it came on rain before we had been at it long so that Stopped ~~operation~~ ^{operation} the watter is getting very Scarce I did my washing the afternoon Saturday is wash day we do not have any drill that day untill 4 oclock we have had considerable rain for 2 days past very heavy thunder to day but it is Still warm the ~~reville~~ ^{reville} I Spoke of the other day was just our Brig it was to See how the men were supplied with every thing nessessary they had to have everthing with them ~~and~~ they had after review they drilled an hour made 2 bayonett Charges I just wish you could hear them yell when making a charge I don't think I would like to see 2 or 3 thousand men coming at me with fixed bayonetts and yelling like mad Men I don't think there would be

^{C.T. (?)} any fun in it at least ~~Shafer~~ ^{Shafer} has applied to Gen Roseesans for furlou will know this evening whether it will be granted or not ~~If he gets here I won't~~ ^{If he gets here I won't} Marshall I have not written a letter to anyone except you and our folks for Some time I cant think of anything to write

I love to get letter but I will not get any now only from you and our folks ^{mind} that and
write of ten I have one from Mary ^{had} yesterday written at our house Said you were there
and Said you and Lizzie were talking about Some love ~~Scrape~~ but She did not understand ^{in all such}
if you inform me what it was about as you know I am interest ^{at} tell me all Such Stories as
that There has one of the boys has just come in and is talking so I cannot write any more
Sabbath evening Well Cousin I am going to ^{try and} finally finish this letter I have just learned that
O P Shafer has got furlow and is going to start home in the morning and I will Send this
by him We are called this evening to mourn the loss of an other of our fellow Soldiers Jas
Mathews he died this evening disease, dysentery Dear Cousin let us Strive to live So
when our Master ^{calls} ~~Falls~~ we may be ready how important that we live each day as though ^{had more men}
it ~~is~~ our last for we have no lease of our lives Co B has ^{the} rest of the rest ~~x~~ it appears ^{within the past}
when a man gets Sick he is almost Sure to die we have been lying very low at the present ^{4 months then}
Jessie Smyth Our Chaplain ^{was} came back and is to preach to night it is about time to Start he
is acting Provost Marshall I fear he is not the right kind of a man although he is a man of
good learning he playes chess with the officers but no doubt we can ~~profit~~ ^{profit (?)} from his
preaching Now Cousin write just as often as you can get ~~time~~ I have not had a letter from
any of the Johnsons not more than a week ^{please} ~~write~~ this uninteresting letter, cant think of
anything to write any more Give My love to Grand Pa Uncle Aunt and ~~the~~ tell her she
might pen a few lines to her cousin and put in your letters I would very much She would
and Uncle I don't want you to forget me in the writing line You know how anxious you
were to hear from some when you were West just think I am ^{up side:]} in the (long) fix

* [r-n-pg, in heading]

and I think you will write

Camp at Chatanooga

Nov 15/ 63

My Dearest Cousin

I received your welcome letter day before yesterday and will commence an answer this Sabbath evening it had been a long time since I had a letter from you and it has been a good while since I have written one to you. This morning was quite cool I did not go to bed after roll call it is at 4 o'clock I put on a fire and got breakfast had it ready before daylight we had Co. inspection at 10 o'clock. After Inspection, Meull, (?) Walt, Mures(?) and I went to the 35th Ill to hear the Rev Taylor preach he preaches at the old church at Mt. Jackson he has been to see us twice I wrote a letter to Uncle Adaire and sent with him he said they were anxious to hear from me I sent a letter for him to mail to our folks. He preached a very good sermon from the text - Christ is- all in all he appears like a good man it seemed like the most like home preaching I have heard for some time. The most of the preachers I have heard lately have been Methodist good men no doubt but they make too much noise to suit me but still is a great deal better than no preaching at all I think as far as my knowledge goes about Chaplains the Methodist are the most faithful our chaplain is not with us I do wish we could have a chaplain that would stay with us I think there is no place a preacher of the right kind could do more...(page 2)... good than in the army but I fear many of them do not realise the responsibility of their situation. I am glad you have got Mr Bigham to preach for you I think he will come nearer filling our old Pastors place than any other man I know and I think will suit the congregation. I suppose Uncle Alex Wright can come to Bedford once and a while now O' but I would love to be inside our church once more I don't think there would be any danger of me going to sleep. Taylor said if he was in Bedford after he went home he would go and see our folks I got pretty well acquainted with him he is very familiar he is acquainted with Meull (?) what kind of a man is he if I must write (?) I think Uncle Adair did not like him he had 3 appointments for today do you still keep up Sunday School yet I think you ought to this has been a clear pleasant day but is getting quite cool this evening I hope it will be warm tomorrow for we will be on picket and will not get writing anymore until Tuesday. Tuesday 17th good morning Cousin I will write a short time this morning we were on picket yesterday had a very pleasant day seen lots of Rebs I tell you a person marches on picket here this morning before sun up there was a pretty hard artillery fight up the river about a mile the Rebs were trying to cross the river but did not succeed we could see the flash of the guns plain from our post. Our men just more than let them have it they still keep up a (page 3)... a ^{gunnading} ~~connaering~~ from lookout. I expect they think they are seiging us but they will have to work a long time before they do much harm at this rate. There goes a gun from there now they have shot over 4 thousand times from there and they have killed but one man and one horse yet so you see they are wasting their ammunition. I received a good long letter from home yesterday and I hope I will get one from you this week it stated that Tommy was married that surprised me a little where will he live? So you are going to have a singing in Bedford I would like to be a scholar but I have a contract on hand which will occupy all my time this winter. Consequently cannot attend but I wish you all success and a good time generally. What is the idea of keeping close doors I am not in favor of that but I expect you will learn more. I think I will try and go home to the concert in the spring if I can only get this war settled in time. I have some notion of putting the thing through this winter. I think it has run on about long enough I want to have it settled again the Regt time is out for I don't want to stay after they are discharged. What is the opinion about that at home, do you think we recruits will have to stay 3 years? I am afraid we will if they fill up this regt again. I know we will or that is my opinion and if they...(Page 4)

Opinion

were not going to do that our recruiting officer⁵ would be sent back and I understand they are not coming back untill Jan. Have you seen Ron if so what do you think of him. I like him very well he is having a good long stay at home. The hardest of the winter will be over here again he gets back how does he carry himself at home? He will go in strong on apples and cider this winter I would like to have some of the cider you spoke of making just drink about a gallon for me some morning before breakfast. ~~evening~~ evening We are rather hard up for anything to eat to day we should have have drawn yesterday but did not our breakfast consisted of a little fried sowbelly and coffee had some beaf soup for dinner no bread at all but we are going to get hard tack for supper and all will be right again I don't know why we did not get yesterday if we could only get those scamps off Lookout then there would be none of these short rations for a week past we have been drawing 3/4 rations of bread and we have been doing very well they say we are going to get some soft bread I would rather have hard bread untill it gets plenty crackers will go farther than lite bread but I think we will soon get full rations I hope so at least. The first thing you know there is a good many mouths to feed here at present the horses and mules are beginning to look very bad.

(written upside down on previous pages is the following); Pg. 2
You wanted me to report about me being ~~(?)~~ in letter writing I have written to you shields since I came here I beleave I do owe Smith and M. E Porter a letter but I only have received one since I wrote to her I owe letter to Almost all my correspondents letter but ~~3-999~~ I think I will answer them soon for I do love to get [along margin] get letters.

As 2 If they could only see into our hospitals they would not refuse to ~~send~~ ^{like} out to them I was down to see Dave S today they were just giving the sick their dinner had fruits of all kinds for them and if ~~it were~~ ^{it were} ~~for the~~ ^{for the} ~~er) societies~~ ^{er) societies} and I know the poor fellows relish them of course there are some of them measured but that depends on the Dr. if he is all right the sick will get the thing that are sent.

Give my love to GrandPa, Uncle & Aunt ~~M~~ ^{Mother} and all the friends I suppose the copperheads will claim no friendship to a soldier any more and there is not much love lost I guess

Now Cousins, please write often and long letters. And I will try and do better, be a good boy don't forget to pray for me for you have no idea the temptations to which we are exposed to here. God grant ~~me~~ ^(energy) we may all live the lives of christians and meet at last around the throne of God to sing the praises of Redeeming love time with out and

Your Cousin J. W. Johnson

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Camp Near Mrfreesboro Feb. 24th

Dearest Cousin Marshall

I received your good letter to day I cant tell you anything about how much good it done me I have not had a word from home yet. I sent a letter today with Carol he left here on the 2 o'clock train he was not at all well I fear he will be sick before he gets home. This has been a beautiful day the regt is out forageing to day perhaps you will wonder why I am not along, well I am not very well I have the yellow jaundice it is a very comon disease here not dangerous at all. You musn't think if you hear that I am sick that I am bad for I am not. Feb 26th when I commenced this letter I intended having it on the road to Coitsville before this but I did

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not feel very well then and put it away and have not seen it since but I feel well today the regt got in from forageing at 9 they had a hard trip they went out 16 miles a good many of the boys were very near give out when they got in Jim B has not been well since I think he is taking jaundice, Ern Bentz has them I will be well again they get them right bad those that have them can't eat anything the very sight of crackers make them sick there was 5 days that I did not eat half as much as I eat in one meal before Dave went to town the other day and got me some soft bread. I can go that first rate they charge 10 cts for a loaf that you would eat in one meal but when a man is sick he don't care anything about money that is all the time I want to spend money and if I ever get sick I want

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to have plenty of it. It has been very disagreeable since yesterday noon it commenced raining then rained all afternoon and night hard and has been raining all day to day. It is now 2 o'clock I think it will make high matters we went to bed at dark last night to keep dry and did not get up until 5 this morning. I woke up once last night with the rain dropping in my face I covered my head up pretty sudenly they say we are going to get new tents I wouldn't make any objections but it will soon be warm weather then they say we will do with ^{out} altogether the day the regt was forageing Charlie Jacobs got 15 eggs paid 75 cents for them in Secesh money he asked if they they took that kind of money they said yes that was all the kind they used any place near here they are posted they won't take anything but green backs what

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do you think about the honesty of passing secesh money on the secesh here the boys all do it here they claim that anything they can do to injure a secesh is right, give me your opinion on the subject. Marshall I think I will embrace the opportunity you spoke of to enlarge my correspondence I have been thinking of writing to the friends that live a short distance above had ~~X~~ letters Ned Flora Stewart speak any thing about getting a letter from me. I wrote her one while at Cleveland I have looked along time for an answer but if she don't want to I am sure I don't care. I think I could have enjoyed myself with you on that visit to Brookfield. Well I can't think of any thing to write laying in camp here it is the same thing over and over again so you can't expect my letters to be interesting the report has just come that the high waters has swept away 2 bridges between this and Nashville. If that is so we won't get any mail for some time. O how I would like to have a good long letter from home

but I will get one sometime I know they have miscarried for I feel sure they have written it still rains it will be a fine thing for our men at Vixburg we have had ~~no~~ no news for some time.

top of page 1 -

give my love to Grandfather and Aunt ^{Mattie} Mollie and I am going to look for a long letter write on foolscap ~~one~~ little thing is interesting to me ^{said} by your Brother Jim
(50p) ^{good} every

(Small letter enclosed with main letter)

(9th) Saturday April 4th Brother Marshall I think you are about as nice a cousin as they generally make. I don't mean to flatter but there is just my sentiments. I received a good long letter from you today I have just got through reading it the 2nd time. I always learn them by heart or most of them. I came off picket this morning at 9 we had a little excitement at 1 o'clock last night I was on post at the time to the right of where I was standing there were 5 or 6 muskets fired and a few minutes after there was a shell exploded to my left those that fired the guns said they saw armed rebels saw their bayonets glisten it was a clear moonlight night I can't tell whether they saw any one or not the shell had been put in a hollow tree in the daytime and fire put to the tree by men who were howling wood and the fire had not got to the shell until that time but we did not know that until this morning

(reverse side of small letter)

it made me look sharp for a short time this morning before daylight the officer of the day come round and told us to be ready for any emergency and to hold the lines as long as possible if we were attacked. We held the lines bravely until we were relieved I don't hardly think there was any one about some fellows shoot at anything they think is a man for my part I don't calculate to fire until I know what I am firing at. Bully for Ira Jackson he must be coming out it isn't kind for me to imagine the closing scene of that party on your part. Suaress (sp) she is all right you know What about Maggie Allen. it will keep what boys that are at home to be up and doing to keep things moving along but you must be careful and not be out to late at night at this time of year but I want to put this in the office this eve. Your Cousin JW

My Dear Cousin

I am going to penn you a few lines and mail at Louisville just to let you know that I am still getting farther away from home. I have actually got away from the Dear old Buckey, you may bid the folks good by for me now for I think likely it will be some time before I get home again. We left Cincinnati last night about dark went 22 miles and stoped on account of heavy fog, the pilot could not see. Started this morning at daylight the river is high and we make pretty good time for the load we have the boat hardly is heavely loaded with quartermaster stores and other articles and then we toe 3 barges two loaded with

Good By Your True Cousin JWD
 (good) [CS] [cont. from page] lost

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pontoon bridges and one with wagons to hall them on. The pontoons are made after the falluer (sp) on a scift only a good deal longer I think they are about 20 ft long they look lash 2 or three together they lay planks across them there you see they have a bridge. I wrote a letter to our folks and mailed it Saturday. We expected to leave that night but did not leave untill Sunday eve. They were loading fight on the boat all day Sunday we will have no more of the quiet Sabbaths like we had at home untill we return I was at Church on the forenoon Cincinnati is the largest place I have seen yet and Columbus is the meanest place ever I was in. A soldier is a dog there and in Cincinnati they respect him we boarded most of the time we were there at the Soldiers home kept up by the Citizens I had no idea the Ohio River was so crooked as it is. We have road most of the way

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on the hurricane deck it has not been near so cold as it was at Cincinnati there is not half the snow on the ground that there was there. I have not heard anything from John yet only that he is severely wounded, if we stop at Louisville I want to go to the hospitals and see if I can find him Poor fellow. I am afraid our expectations about spending many happy hours together that time I fear will never come we can't tell much what tomorrow will bring forth I only hope I may see him some where if he is alive. How I would like to get taking care of him I am going to try if I find him. I saw a soldier a short time before we left that came from Louisville he said there were 2 boat load of wounded there all I fear is we wont stop long enough for us to go to the hospitals. There are about 40 soldiers aboard for Nashville

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we sleep where ever we can find a place they won't let us sloop on the cabin floor. This morning we were on deck and they tried to make us stay down stairs. We were not in the cabin only on the out side. The Captain of the boat complained to Nash (sp) and he told sergt Brierly to station a guard at the stairs and not let any one come up. Brierly said Captain I am not going to stand guard on this boat nor am I going to station any men. Very well the Captain I will do it, he named 2 and told them to stand they both spoke and said we wont do it, the Captain said we will see, but I don't think he did see for they did not stand neither are we going to Stand Guard on the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Louisvill on a boat No Never if I thought Nash (sp) would have command of Co B I would go into some other company he is a pook tool for a man he makes a good officer.

if they imp⁶se on us to much we will take possession of the Old Tub it is a chartered boat and we have a right to the best place on her we are pretty near Louisville so I will stop. Give my love to grand father and all the family. Write often tell Uncle Aunt and Mother to write. I have written this in a great hurry so excuse all mistakes.

(continued on bottom of first page) Good by your true Cousin JWD

March 25th

Camp Near Knoxville Tenn

Dear Cousin L.F.

When I ~~left~~ home I intended writing to you long before this but it is Such hard work for me to write that I have put it off until the present While we are back in the field again I can hardly realize that I have been at home I wrote when I was at Murfreesboro I went ahead of the ~~rest~~ and Stayed with Dave Shields 2 days I had a very pleasant time indeed Dave looks quite well and is having a good time We stayed but one day at Chatanooga Came on the Cars to Loudon and Marched from there here we were 3 days coming and had one very unpleasant day Snowed hard all forenoon again noon there was 3 inches of Snow on the ground yesterday it was pleasant but cool last night it Snowed and has been raining by Spells all day to day and is quite muddy in camp this eve It is not likely that we will remain here any length of time they Say we are liable to move at any time they are fighting in front to day we can hear the canonadeing plain and they will likely want us ~~vetrans~~ to help the recriuts drew guns today and we are ready now to do our part whenever Called on we are drawing 5 days rations this eve the hard tack goes as good as ever and I have a good appetite have got about over my cold and feel first rate I am very anxous to hear from Coitsville once more have not had a mail since we left home except an old one I got a letter from Anna Shields written the 1st of Jan Harman McTeel Fall reported to the Co this eve we have 59 men in our Co at present but it is getting to late to write I did not intend to write untill tomorrow and then write a long letter but I feared we might leave and I would not have a chance of writing for a Short time Again give my love to Grand Pa and the Family and please write often and I will just as often as I can tell Uncle to write a long letter like the one he wrote before I went home That the rithest blessings of heaven may ever rest on you and your Fathers family is the earnest prayer of your true Cousin

J M Johnson
W

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Sabbath evening Camp Near Murfreesboro Apr 12

My own Dear Cousin

I received a good long letter from you today and I don't think it will be wrong for me to talk to you a Short Time I have been busy all day we got word after breakfast that we were to have general inspection today we always have Co inspection on Sabbath that don't amount to much but on general inspection everything must be in the best order if they would tell us on Saturday we could have things all in trim but that is not the way they do business Gen Beatz ^{of lady (?)} were present at inspection he took to himself a wife ^{who} at home he has been promoted to a Brigadier has Command of our Brig at the present Dr Failer & Lady were present we put on our prettiest looks Cousin you asked an interest in my prayers I will pray for you what a privilege it is that we are permitted to pray that we can ask for those things we kneed know that our Father in heaven is willing to grant us all those Spirit blessings we kneed I sincerely pray that the work that has been going on at home may be genuine and that many more may be brought to seek an interest in Jesus we are going to have Prayer meeting to night - we have them Tuesdays Friday and Sabbath night or we had last week and I do hope they will be continued they are held on the parade ground Capt ^{Miller} he was well acquainted with John I had an introduction to him on the last evening of meeting I do wish we could have a Chaplain Marshall I got a letter today from Mr Bonnell and I tell you it was a good one it was altogether unlooked for I wish I had many such letters to read I got one from H C Carris the most of it was good Some of it was a little butternut like when I write he will get my sentiments in plain terms and if he don't like them he can just do the other thing butternut-ism is one thing I cant stand you kneednt say anything to him I like Mr Harris as a neighbor but if he is a butternut he is doing all he can against the Soldier and his country There we have to get ready for dress parade Monday evening after Sundown well Cousin I am setting on a cracker box outside of the tent and am going to have a little chat with you I have been busy all day I was detailed on extra duty today every man takes his turn at that I guess Lieut Col Manderron is going to take a job of clearing off Tenn at least part of it we have cleared of 3 or 4 acres in front of our parade grounds Most of it was Swamp but no water in it now I was working at that today there were about 20 of us Don't be concerned about us hurting ourselves for we take easy Soldiers are willing to work at any thing useful but as to clearing off swamps we are not particular about working put Soldiers to working on ^{for the} directions and they will work we had battallion drill ^{this} the eve after dress parade We are under marching orders but that is nothing new but still we may move the pickets have to take their ^{knapsack} [lunch?] sacks with them now so as to be ready to move at any time this is most a Splendid evening just warm enough to be pleasant we took the things all out of our tent today and threw it open and let it dry out but it is to dark to see to write any more to night

Wednesday eve well Cousin I will give you an account of what I have been doing yesterday and today Started on picket at 8 it was raining when we started and continued to rain all day and night I was on the 1st relief consequently did not get any sleep of any account but perhaps you do not know the difference between the 1st and 2nd relief So I will tell you we have a station outpost and picket the out posts are relieved every 6

is the leading man

hours and the pickets every 2 hours. The first relief goes out at 9 and stands until 3 then we go to the station and stay until 9 PM then the first goes out and stays until three then go in and those that are at the reserve have to stand in line of battle until daylight from three and our out post when we are not on picket we are not allowed to Sleep any so you see this thing of being in the first relief ^{is not} funny but it was so wet we could not have slept much if we had the chance C Jacobse and I when we come off the first time we went to a large plantation house and there was a close rack leaning up ^{against} the house it had hinges in the middle we thought we could Shred our oil cloth over it and make a good Shelter [There is roll call So I must go and answer to my name] So ^{we} concluded to take it there was a darkie Saw us come out - we told him we thought it would make a good Shelter he Said he did not think ^{the} boss would like it we asked him if the boss was a white or black men he Said he was white we told him we ^{didn't} know as it made any difference to us whether he liked it or not ^{So} we took it and it served us a good purpose we milked his cow in the evening and got cream for our coffee that was yesterdays work this morning as soon ^{as} we were dismissed from line of battle which was at daylight Charlie took 2 canteens and went to one plantation house and I took a canteen and coffee pot and went to another to get milk Charlie got about 2 canteens full I hunted in every lot and Shed in the whole plantation but could find nary a ^{cow} but Charlie got enough for us both So you see if it was wet we lived well we were relieved at 9 this morning get to camp at 10 has been raining all afternoon we had a long dry Spell and from the looks of things we are going to have it wet for a while J K Barly was here when we ^{came} back He looks well but his wound is not quite healed up yet I am afraid he left the hospital a little to Soon there were 26 commissions came to the 15th yesterday and that putting things through Sergt ^{of} ~~Tunhamer~~ of Co B promoted to 2nd Lieut and transferred to Co N am very sorry he is going to leave our co for he is a good ^{one} He neither drinks nor ^{swears} and is a religious man M Anderson promoted to Col Stratten Lieut-Col Allen ^{and} the rest are 1 and 2nd Lieuts promoted to Cpts and 1st Lieut and orderlies to 2nd Lieuts Tom Brierly to 2 Lieut ^{that} is all you know Jim Work is Still Capt of Co B I hope when he is promoted it will be to the ranks Dave and Al are both unwell Dave is better Alee is quite unwell but I must stop and eat my Supper we drew beef today

15? Sabbath 9 Well Cousin I have had quite a rest at writing last Thursday morning between 12 and 1 o'clock we got orders to pack knapsacks have 3 days rations in our haversacks and 100 round of cartridges and be ready to march we got ready and started at 2 got to Stone river before daylight a distance of 7 mile we Stayed there until yesterday evening at dark we got orders go back to camp ^{which} place we reached at 9 and orders ^{came} half an our ago to pack knapsacks and ^{haversacks} and ready to march at any moment I have set mine ~~mine~~

^{be} [along margin] packed and thought I would finish this letter and send

What we were sent to Stone river for is more than I can tell you

Some Say they feared an attack from Morgan Cousin I would like to talk an hour to you but have not time now I will write if we leave we drew Shelter tents before we went to

That Stone river Thank Heavens riches blessing may ever rest on you and your Fathers Family is the earnest prayer of your Cousin ^{J. W. Johnson}

Dave has been sick but is quite better had a fever did not go to the hospital Jack

Brownlee is in the hospital with fever We got 2 months pay today I am going to send a

note and A ^{Brown} to Father in this letter I gave him my money to pay the boys that he got
money from to pay for James Coffin I got a good long letter from home while at Stone River
and -- but it did me good to write often