

J.W. Johnson Letters

Camp near Murfusboro [sic] April 30th

[illegible] Cousin

I am going to talk to a short time this evening if you have no objection I [illegible] your good letter a few days ago I Started on home Day before yesterday directed [illegible] 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 [sic] dry now it will be very nice in dry weather but wont [sic] amount to anything in wet weather Orders Came to the Major that the enemy were advansing [sic] In large force and for him to have his regt [sic] ready to march at any minute Col Manderson went home last week Lieut [sic] Col Strother Came to the regt [sic] to day I suppose he will take Command until Col comes back I beleave [sic] I told our folks in their letter about a reconnotring [sic] party 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 [sic] 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 take Co B 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 Registrar came to day it is a welcom [sic] 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 Shiels is Still better but it will be some time 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 to my Cousin They are getting very strict the orders this morning were if anyone was caught standing on their [illegible] 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 on camp guard on picket I don't care how strict they are for I calculate to do my duty there up to the handle I received a letter to day from Clairra Horne She has had diphtheria but was better I suppose you are preparing to plant corn to day I think I can almost see you wouldn't I like to go over to your house this eve and hitch Jonnie in to your buggy and take a ride we would go to Bedford by the way of [illegible] Wont [sic] it be Joyful when the time comes when we will all be permitted to return to our homes and friends it is good to think about but untill [sic] that time comes God Sparing my life and health I think it is my duty to be a Soldier I enjoy myself first rate 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 TL and Jas Dobins and I went to preaching at the 100th Ill heard an ecellent [sic] Sermon in the evening at 6 quite a number of our Co went to the 30th Indiana [sic] to preaching when we got there we found they were going to administer the Lords [sic] Supper I suppose there were 75 or a 100 communed there were 2 preachers there I think they were Methodists 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 [sic] concience [sic] 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 [sic] of Something to remember our Savior by as I did then how apt we are to become carless [sic] in our Masters [sic] Service and how approrate [sic] the commemoration of his death an [sic] suffering to keep us in remembrance of him and of our duty how kind in 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 [sic] as long as we have and among those who almost care nothing about religion and would get among Christians [sic] 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 [sic] to be among carless[sic] 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 intrest [sic] in your prayers that I may be kept in the right path we are so apt to stray nothing but Gods [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] to have preaching in the way they are made is this they take an about 50 ft Square then plant Sedar [sic] trees as thick as they can Stand all around then where the first roe [sic] of Seets [sic] would be in our church they plant another roe [sic] about 6 ft short - and another at the other side Seets [sic] all through in regular order it is nice for they plant 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 too hard mind it wont [sic] pay I want you to caution Father about this tell him to just let time sit 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 [sic] looks [sic] brighter than it has done for Some time what is your oppinion [sic] on the matter

May 4th Dave is better but Still week [sic] 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 this eve with fevor [sic] we come here the wrong time in the year there are great many of the recruits Sick there is considerable talk about moveing [sic] yesterday orders were read on dress parade from [illegible] 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 [sic]- 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 look [illegible] did now the trees are all out in full leaf I wont [sic] tell you to write often for I know you will Give my love to Grand Pa and all the family

Camp near Murfiesbow [sic] May 27th 7½ o'clock PM 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 reported than I am So I kneed [sic] not say anything about that I mailed a letter to Mattie this morning I received one from you not long ago we Co 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 hate to drill as bad as we do we had battallion [sic] 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 either be on picket or 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 [sic] is getting very Scarce here the Springs are So low we have to dip it with a tin and it is no little watter [sic] we use the bugle is blowing for roll call So good night

Thursday 28th here goes for a few more lines I am on guard today at the Col tent have had a very easy time the Col dismissed the guard in the morning until tattoo to night clever in him wasn't it I tell you the 19th get out a nice guard now they 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 Cartridge box blacked in the best Style and his brass as bright as a dollar it looks nice but it takes almost to [sic] much work I never blocked my boots at home once for ten times I do here if we have not our Shoes Shinning [sic] every evening on dress parade we are made black them I tell you there is a difference in the looks of our guards and that of other Regts [sic] It has been raining a little this evening the first for a long time I do wish it would rain hard it is So dusty wouldent [sic] I hate to march now we are under Marching orders at the present Some Say we are going to fort Donolson [sic] 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 [sic] with one hand and them [illegible] the bite into our mouths or they will get in I don't know what make them So bad Co B is forming now for review 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 operations [sic] the watter [sic] is getting very Scarce I did my washing the afternoon Saturday is wash day we do not have any drill that day untill [sic] 4 oclock [sic] we have had considerable rain for 2 days past very heavy thunder to day but it is Still warm the review I Spoke of the other day was just our Brig it was to See how the men were supplied with every thing nessessary [sic] they had to have everthing [sic] with them they had after review they drilled an hour made 2 bayonett [sic] Charges I just wish you could hear them yell when making a charge I dont [sic] think I would like to see 2 or 3 thousand men coming at me with fixed bayonetts [sic] and yelling like mad Men I don't think there would be any fun in it at least [illegible] Shafer has applied to Gen Roseesans [sic] for furlou [sic] will know this evening whether it will be granted or not If he goes home I want you to see him Marshall I have not written a letter to anyone except you and our folks for Some time I cant [sic] 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 often I had one from Mary [illegible] written yesterday at our house Said you were there and Said you and Lizzie were talking about Some love Scrape but She did not understand it you can inform me what it was about as you know I am interested in 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 finish this letter I have just learned that OP Shafer has got furlow [sic] 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 [sic] of our fellow Soldiers Jas Mathews he died this evening disease dysentery Dear Cousin let us Strive to live So that when our Master Calles [sic] we may be ready how important that we live each day as though it were our last for we have no lease of our lives Co B has losed [sic] more men within the past 4 months then has the rest of the rest it appears when a man gets Sick he is almost Sure to die we have been lying very low at the present Jessie Smyth Our Chaplain came back and is to preach to night it is about time to Start he is acting Provost Mashall I fear he is not the right kind of a man although he is a man of good learning he playes [sic] chess with the officers but no doubt we can profit from his preaching Now Cousin write just as often as you can get [illegible] I have not had a letter from any of the Johnsons not more than a week Please excuse this uninteresting letter I cant [sic] think of anything to write any more Give My love to Grand Pa Uncle Aunt and [illegible] 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 in the long fix and I think you will write

Camp at Chatanooga [sic] 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, Huell, Walt [illegible] 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 [sic] 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 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 to [sic] much noise to suit me but still is a greatdeal [sic] 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 good than in the army but I fear many of them do not realise [sic] the responsibility of their situation. I am glad you have got Mr [sic] Bigham to preach for you I think he will come nearer filling our old Pastors [sic] place than any other man I know and I think will suit the congregation. I suppose Uncle Alex Wright can come to Bedford once in 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 Huell what kind of a man is he if I must wright [sic] I think Uncle Adair did not like him he had 3 appointments for to day 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 untill [sic] Tuesday. Tuesday 17th good morning Cousin I will write a short time this morning we were on picket yesterday had a very pleasant day seeing 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 kept up a a [sic] conanading [sic] from lookout I expect they think they are seiging [sic] 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 thousan [sic] times from there and they have killed but one man and one horse yet so you see they are waisteing [sic] their amunition [sic]. 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 consert [sic] 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 oppinion [sic] 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 [sic] again. I know we will or that is my oppinion [sic] and if they were not going to do that our recruiting officers would be sent back and I understand they are not coming back untill [sic] Jan. Have you seen Ron if so what do you think of him. I like him very well he is haveing [sic] 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 We are rather hard up for anything to eat to day we should have have [sic] drawn yesterday but did not our breakfast consisted of a little fried sowbelly and coffee had some beaf [sic] 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 [sic] until 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):

You wanted me to report about me being [illegible] in letter writing I have written to you shields since I came here I beleave [sic] I do owe Smith and M.E Porter a letter but I only have received one sins [sic] I wrote to her I owe letter to Almost all my correspondents letter but I think I will answer them soon for I do love to get letters

if they could only see into our hospitals they would not refuse to [illegible] out to them I was down to see Dave S today they were just giveing [sic] the sick their dinner had fruits of all kinds for them and if it were not for the [illegible] societies [illegible] would [illegible] them 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 things that are sent.

Give my love to GrandPa [sic], Uncle and Aunt [illegible] 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 Cousin 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 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 end

your Cousin J.W. Johnson

Camp Near Mrfreesboro[sic] Feb. 24th

Dearest Cousin Marshall

I received your good letter to day I cant [sic] 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 reg t[sic] is out forageing [sic] 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 [sic] disease here not dangerous at all. You musn't [sic] 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 haveing [sic] it on the road to Coitsville before this but I did Not feel very well then and put it away and have not seen it since but I feel well today the regt [sic] got in from forageing [sic] 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 makes 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 [sic] for a loaf that you would eat in one meal but when a man is sick he don't care any thing about money that is all the time I want to spend money and if I ever get sick I want 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 [sic] I think it will make high watters [sic] 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 droping [sic] in my face I covered my head up pretty sudenly [sic] 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 without altogether the day the regt [sic] was forageing [sic] Charlie Jacobs got 15 eggs paid 75 cents for them in Secesh money he asked if 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 back what 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 oppinion [sic] on this 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 I letter Did Flora Stewart speak any thing about getting a letter from me I wrote her one while at Cleveland I have looked a long 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 watters [sic] 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 [sic] it will be a fine thing for our men at Vixburg [sic] we have had no news for some time.

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give my love to Grandfather and Aunt Mattie and I am going to look for a long letter write on fool evry [sic] little thing is interesting to me good by your Brother Jim

[Small letter enclosed with main letter]

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 9th 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 [sic] wood and the fire had not got to the shell untill [sic] that time but we did not know that untill [sic] 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 attact [sic] We held the lines bravely untill [sic] we were releived [sic] I don't hardly think there was any one about some fellows shoot at anything they think is a man for my part I dont [sic] calculate to fire untill [sic] I know what I am fireing [sic] at. Bully for Ira Jackson he must be comming [sic] out it isn't kind for me to imagine the closeing [sic] scene of that party on you part Suaress [sic] 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 moveing [sic] along but you must be careful and not be out to [sic] late at night at this time of the year but I want to put this in the office this eve. Your Cousin JW

Aboard the Malmetto Jan 15th

My Dear Cousin

I am going to penn [sic] 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 Cincinatti [sic] last night about dark went 22 miles and

stoped [sic] 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 heavily [sic] loaded with quartermaster stores and other articles and then we toe [sic] 3 barges two loaded with [illegible]. Good By Your True Cousin JWD

Pontoon bridges and one with wagons to haul [sic] them on. The pontoons are made after the fallluer [sic] on a scift [sic] only a good deal longer I think they are about 20 ft[sic] long they lash 2 of them together then lay planks accross [sic] 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 [sic] Sunday eve. They were loading freight on the boat all day Sunday we will have no more of the quiet Sabbaths like they had at home untill [sic] we return I was at Church on the forenoon Cincinnati [sic] 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 [sic] they respect him we boarded most of the time we were there at the Soldiers [sic] home kept up by the Citizens I had no idea the Ohio River was so crooked as it is. We have road [sic] most of the way

on the hurricane [sic] deck it has not been near so cold as it was at Cincinnati [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] stop long enough for us to go to the hospitals. There are about 40 soldiers aboard for Nashville

we sleep where ever we can find a place they won't let us sloop [sic] 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 and he told sergt [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] and Louisvill [sic] on a boat No Never if I thought Nash would have command of Co B I would go into some other company he is a poor tool for a man he make a good officer. If they impose on us too 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

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 reallize [sic] that I have been at home I wrote when I was at Murfreesboro I went ahead of the [illegible] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] plain and they will likely want us vetrans [sic] to help the recriuts [sic] 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 [sic] 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 McFull reported to the Co this eve we have 59 men in our Co at present but it is getting to [sic] late to write I did not intend to write untill [sic] 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 ritchest [sic] blessings of heaven may ever rest of you and your Fathers [sic] family is the earnest [sic] prayer of your true Cousin

J W Johnson

Sabbath evening Camp Near Murfres [sic] Boro [sic] Apr[sic] 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 but 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 Lady were present at inspection he took to himself a wife when at home he has been promoted to a Brigadier has Command of our Brig at the presen [sic] Dr Failer and 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 [sic] it is that we are permitted to pray that we can ask for those things we kneed [sic] know [illegible] that our Father in heaven is willing to grant us all those Spirit [illegible] blessings we kneed [sic] 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 intrest [sic] 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 [sic] Miller is the leading man 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 [sic] 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 [sic] stand you kneedent [sic] say anything to him I like Mr [sic] 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 [sic] Col Manderron is going to take a job of clearing off Tenn at least part of it we have cleared of [sic] 3 or 4 acres infront [sic] of our parade grounds Most of it was Swamp but no watter [sic] 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 anything useful but as to clearing off swamps we are not particular about working put Soldiers to working on fortifications and they will work we had a battallion [sic] drill this 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 knap 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 [sic] 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 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 [sic] 9 PM then the first goes out and stays until [sic] three then go in and those that are at the reserve have to stand in line of battle until [sic] 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 isent [sic] 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 [sic] rack leaning up again the house it had hinges in the middle we thought we could Shread [sic] our oil cloth over it and make a good Shelter [There is a 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 didnt [sic] 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 [sic] 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 come back He looks well but his wound is not quite healed up yet I am afraid he left the hospital a little to [sic] Soon there were 26 commissions came to the 15th yesterday [illegible] that putting things through Sergt [sic] [illegible] out of Co B promoted to 2 Lieut [sic] and transfeered [sic] to Co C I am very sorry he is going to leave our co for he is a good fellow He neither drinks nor Swares [sic] and is a religious man M Anderson promoted to Col Stratten Lieut [sic]-Col Allen Major and the rest are 1 and 2nd Lieuts [sic] promoted to Capts [sic] and 1st Lieut [sic] and orderlies to 2nd Lieuts [sic] Tom Brierly to 2 Lieut [sic] that is all you know Jim Work is Still Capt [sic] 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

Sabbath 19 Well Cousin I have had quite a rest at writing last Thursday morning between 12 and 1 oclock [sic] 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 3 got to Stone [sic] river before daylight a distance of 7 miles we Stayed there untill [sic] yesterday evening at dark we got orders go back to camp which place we reached at 9 and orders one half an our [sic] ago to pack knapsacks and haversacks and be ready to march at any moment I have set mine [illegible] packed and thought I would finish this letter and send What we were sent to Stone [sic] 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 Stone [sic] river That Heavens [sic] richest blessing may ever rest on you and your Fathers [sic] Family is the earnest [sic] prayer of your Cousin J W Johnson

Dave has been sick but is quite better had a fever [sic] did not go to the hospital Jack Brownlee is in the hospital with fever [sic] We got 2 months pay today I am going to send a note and A [illegible] 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 [sic] River but it did me good to write often