Letters from James W. Renner aka Forkey

Date	Where from	Addressed to	Pages	Content
10 Jul 1861	Camp Haskell West VA	Father & Mother	4	This letter was written eleven days before the first Battle of Bull Run. Based on the dates and information in subsequent letters, James W. is in the Indiana 17th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This Regiment mustered in at Indianapolis on June 12,1861 and left Indiana for Parkersburg, W. VA on July 1. 1861. This letter seems to be his initial letter home since he enlisted. The letter is written in pencil and James laments that he has " no pen, ink, or table to write on". The letter is expansive and full of optimism about his role in the War. Some of the highlights of the letter: • His housewares consist of a frying pan, coffee pot, and a single spoon, knife, fork, tin cup and pail. His bed consists of one woolen blanket- like Robert's horse blanket- and one oil cloth. • He is not complaining about his decision to enlist and thinks he is well suited for the soldier life. • He will be payed on the 14th and will send money home. He doesn't need it because he can steal all he needs and enough for half the company. • Tobacco and whiskey are all the boys want to live on along with a small ration of pork and beans, bread, coffee, and sugar. Tea is impossible to get. • Talks about the large number of troops assembled here and describes how troops are being loaded on railroad box cars for transport to near the battle front. Notes how stifling hot it is. Thinks it will be a bloody battle. • When James kills his first Rebel he says he will l scalp him and send him a letter. (Apparently with a piece of the scalp) • Saw "Flave George" (apparently a neighbor) leaving with a cavalry group. Flave said to say hi to his folks and friends. • Describes black women as thicker than fiddlers in hell and blacker than damnation. Lips thicker than stove pipes, eyes bigger than walnuts. • Says to tell Madison (likely his neighbor at home James Madison Crain) that he will send him a letter. • Wants to know how Cousin (?) John is getting along with his true love. (Not sure who this is. It could be neighbor John Crain who marries Rose in 1867, but Rose is only 11 years old in 1861.)

Date	Where from	Addressed to	Pages	Content
Aug? 1861	Great Mountain Pass, VA	Robert G. Renner	4	The date is not clear on this letter but it appears to be written a few weeks after the initial battle at Bull Run. It is written on yellow paper. James comments that he is alive but has not been well for the past four days. He is not down.and is not taking any medicine. Highlights of the letter: • His Company (D) was called out at 11 pm to march to the top of mountain 15 miles away to rescue the 14th Pickets from the Rebels. They took six canons with them but didn't get to use them as the Rebels fled. • Captured three Rebel cannons, three Rebels, and an Iron grey Virginia race horse that James admired greatly. • Said that it would take three union men and six greyhounds to catch one Rebel in these mountains. Mentions that Union Cavalry captured two Rebel Captains and a youngster who deserted. (Not clear if the Rebel Captains also deserted) • The Indiana 17th is being replaced by the Ohio 24th and 6th. They are headed for Parkersburg tomorrow morning. They will march 95 miles and take the railway the rest of the way. • From Parkersburg he says they are going to Indianapolis. Notes that the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Regiments were sworn in for three years and it turns out that was not lawful as it should have been for a three month enlistment. The Army can't hold them and James expects that a large number of the boys will not reenlist, but he will. He expects to be home for a while until enough replacements are found for the 17th Regiment. Tells Robert to kill one of his biggest and best Shanghai chickens and he will be home to help eat him. • Gives Robert some brotherly advise about the wisdom of renting heavily wooded farmland.

Date	Where from	Addressed to	Pages	Content
5 Mar 1862	Bowling Green, KN	John Renner	4	There is 7 month gap since the August 1861 letter. James is still with the Indiana 17th. He is well, and has just arrived in Bowling Green, Kentucky and is headed for Nashville. Their arrival in Bowling Green is memorable: He believes the Rebels are beaten and the war will soon be over. • James writes that they arrived late Sunday night and that it took to twelve oclock to cross the Barren River. They had to cross the river on a pontoon as the Rebels had burned the Pike's Bridge and the railroad bridge. The crossing was made in pouring rain. • He is dismayed at how the Rebels burned down the city of Bowling Green-best buildings, railroad depot,and seven train engines and cars. (Note. Some of this devastation may have been caused by Union shelling before James arrived. The history books say that the Texas Rangers burned Bowling Grren down when General Johnston evacuated Bowling Green.) • The city is deserted. Whereas there were 10,000 inhabitants in Bowling Green , there are now only about 20 families. • James says that Nashville is also deserted and all of Tennesee is in Union control. He thinks the Rebels are in full retreat and about played out. • There is plenty of everything here except whiskey. Coffee is one dollar/pound and molasses one dollar/gallon. • The weather has been cool . It has rained almost every day and there is a lot of thunder.
2 Jun 1865	Chattanooga,TN	Rose Renner	2	There is a 39 month gap since the March 1962 letter. James is responding to Rose's letter. He is now in the Indiana 44th and nearing discharge. The War is won. Lincoln is dead. • Talks of pending discharge and about sending clothes home to Waterloo. • Mentions that brother David sent him a letter. David is well and was at Nashville. David is going to Louisville and sends a message to Pap –Don't look for me at home soon • James says he going to fight the Frenchies (in Mexico) after his discharge.

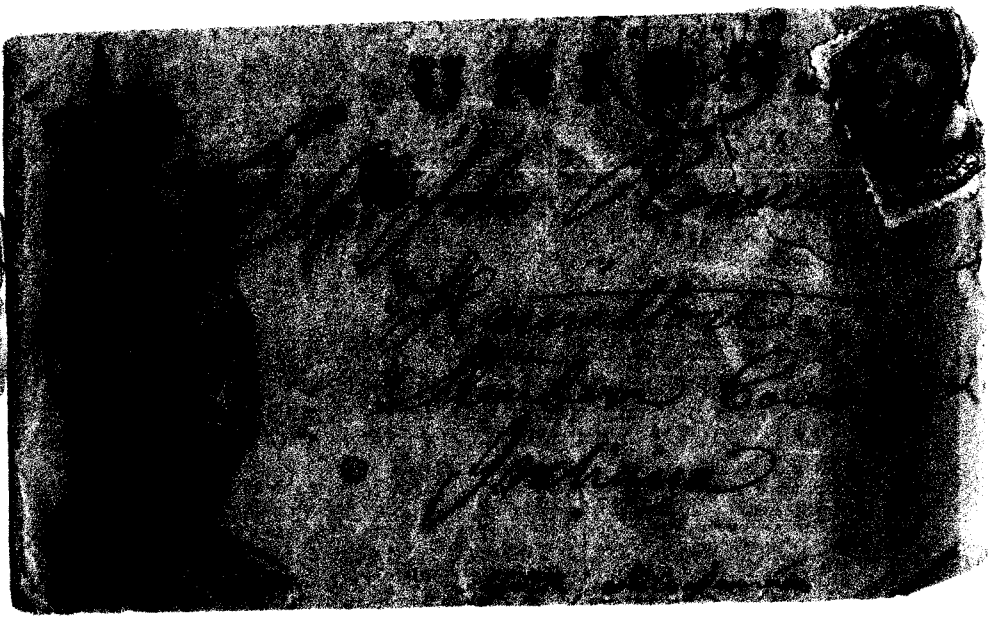
Family Group Sheet

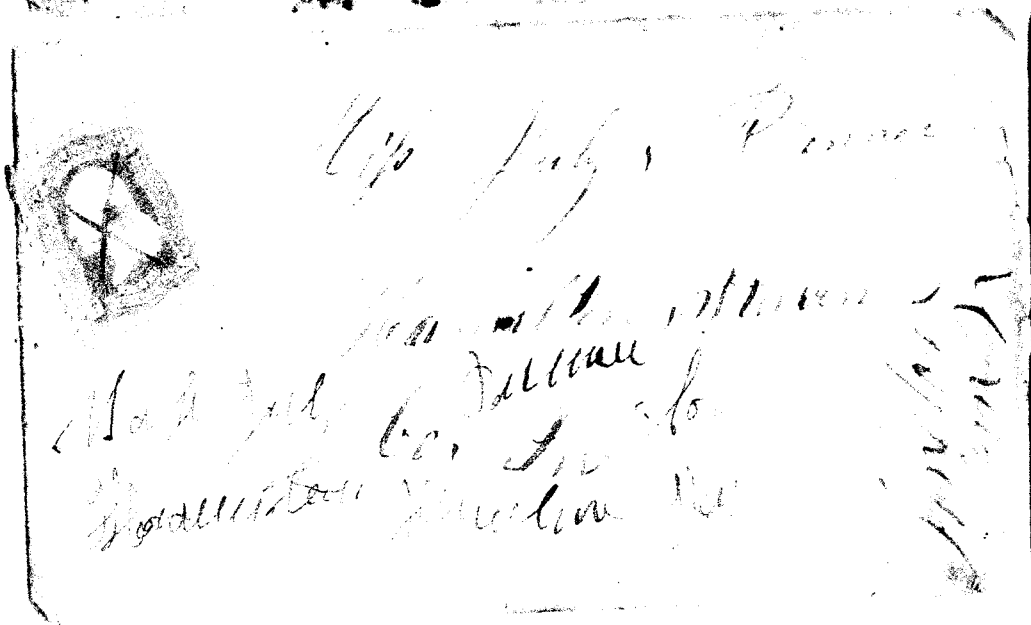
John Renner Sr. & Julia Bowersox

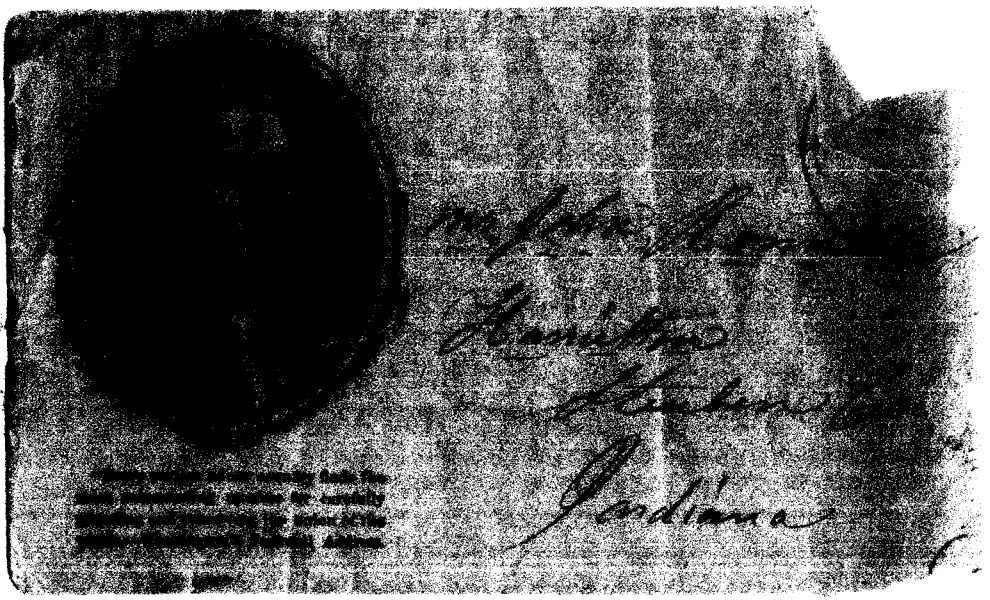
FATHER: John Renner		
Born:	19 September 1803	near Lewisburg, PA
Married:	17 April 1834	PA. Most likely Union Co.
Died:	29 October 1889	Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN Buried in Hamilton Cemetery
Father:	Henry Renner. Born about 1762	PA
Mother:	Unknown	
MOTHER: Julia Bowersox		
Born:	20 May 1808	PA*
Died:	30 Sep 1891	Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN
* One census record says birthplace was Germany		Buried in Hamilton Cemetery
Father:	Unknown	
Mother:	Unknown	

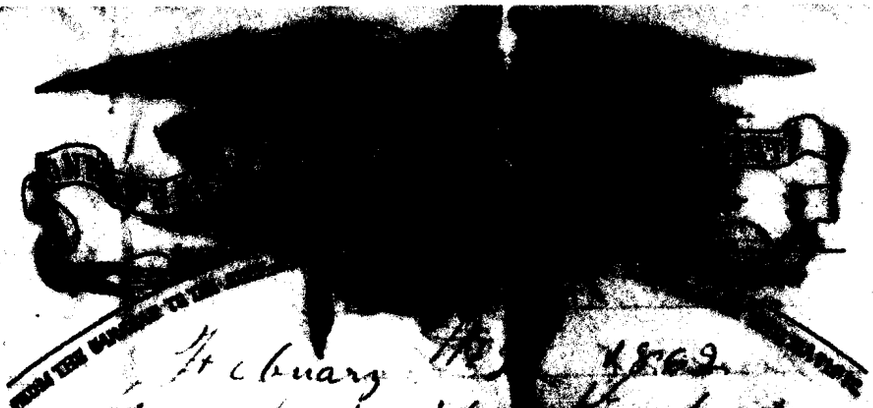
	Children	
1 M	**James W. Renner** Born: 1835 No record of marriage found Died: > 1871 < 1891 44th REG. IN VOL INF	PA Burial place unknown. Unsubstantiated claim that he was killed at Little Big Horn in 1876.
2 M	**David H. Renner** Born: 21 Dec. 1837 Married: 1857 to Ellen J. Ruthrauff Died: 2 Dec 1925 9th IND INF	Lewisburg, Union Co., PA PA Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN. Buried in Hamilton Cemetery
3 M	**Robert G. Renner** Born: 25 July 1840 (Cemetery record says 1839) Married: 1 May 1864 to Loueasy C. Greenamyer Died: >1925 <1931 29th IND INF	Lewisburg, Union Co., PA Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN Buried in Hamilton Cemetery
4 F	**Margaret Renner** Born: 1842 Married: 10 April 1870 to James M. Crain Died: 9 or 10 Sep 1885	PA Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN Buried in Hamilton Cemetery
5 M	**John P. Renner JR.** Born: 30 Jan 1847 Married: 6 Jan 1872 to Rosealtha Abbey Died: 14 Oct 1931 Angola, IN 129th IND INF	Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN Steuben Co., IN Buried in Circle Hill Cemetery Angola, Steuben Co., IN
6 F	**Rosanne (Rose) Renner** Born: 20 Jul 1850 Married: 22 Dec 1864 to John M. Crain. Died: 1 March 1837 near Crooked Lake, Angola, IN	Hamilton, Steuben Co., IN Steuben Co., IN Buried in Hamilton Cemetery

Sources:
1. Obituary for John Renner: The Steuben Republican. November 13,1889
2. Obituary for Julia Bassocks (Bowersox) Renner. The Steuben Republican. October 7, 1891.
3. Biographical Sketch of David H. Renner. History of Northeast Indiana, Vol II p.109. 1920.
4. The Renner Family. Hamilton Retrospections, Hamilton, IN. pp 75-76. 1983.
5. Obituary for David H. Renner. The Hamilton News . December 11, 1925.
6. Obituary for David H. Renner. The Steuben Republican December 9, 1925.
7. Biographical Sketch of Robert G. Renner. History of Steuben County. 1885.
8. Obituary for John. P. Renner. The Angola Herald, October 23, 1931.
9. Death notice for Mrs. Madison (James M.) Renner Crain. September 16, 1885
10. U.S. Census Records: Steuben County, IN, Otsego Township, 1850,1860,1870, 1880; OH, Wayne Co, Congress Township, 1850.
11. Renner family cemetery records in Steuben Co. IN. Personal communication from J. Pedigo. April 2001.
12. Observations, photographs of Renner/Crain headstones in Hamilton IN Cemetery. 1997, 2003. P. Crain.
13. Letter from Elizabeth Renner Beidleman, Congress, OH to John Renner Sr., Feb.16, 1865. D. Patterson.



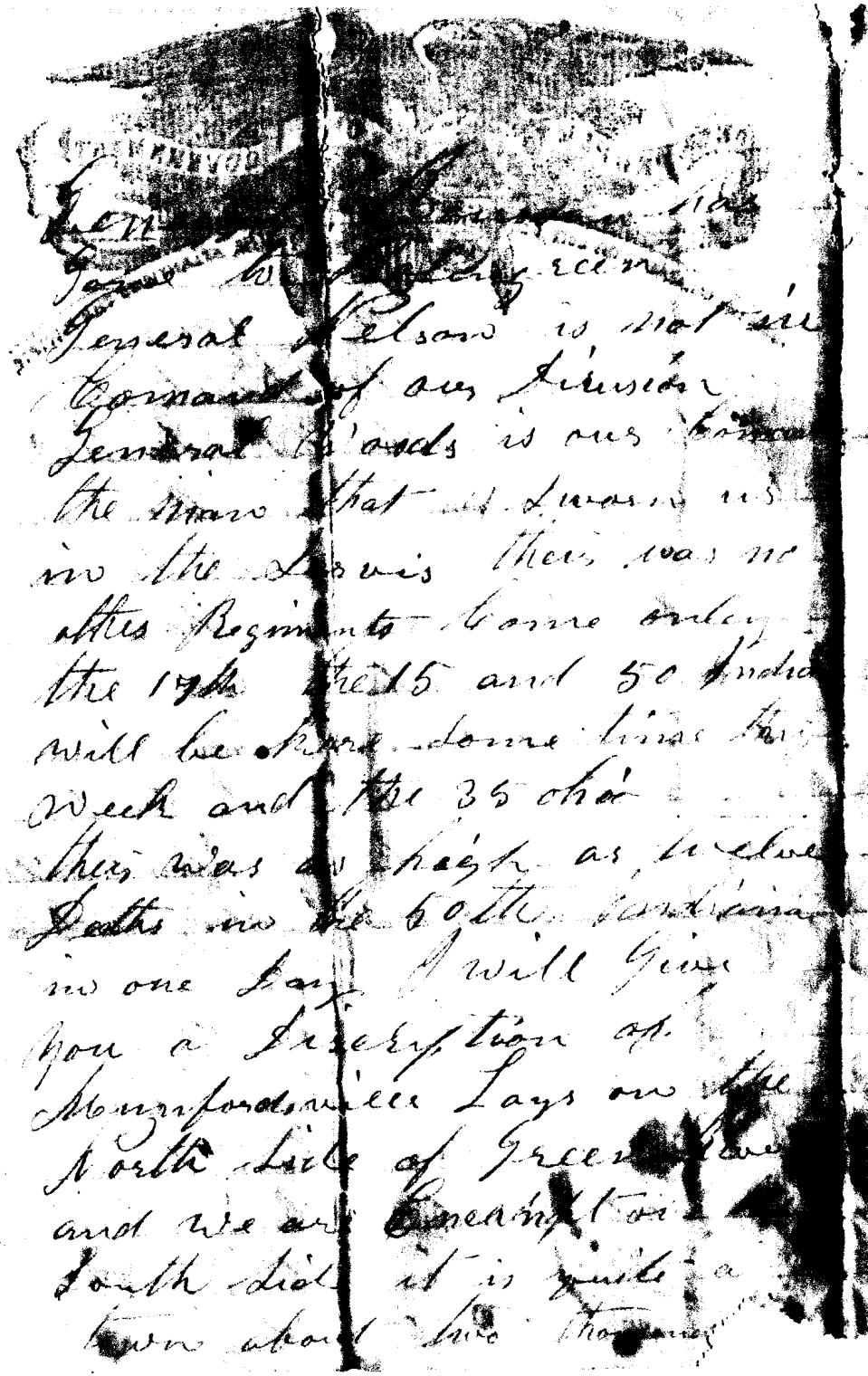






my Over Coat in Express
that is if I can get over in
town to do it our troops
Got Bolingreen in their
Posesion the Rebles [illegible]
Leave it for our troops. Was
Getting the Devils in a Pen
Hell What is the use of
talking we will all be home
to help to Do your harvesting
I must Close Direct to
Munfords ville Kentucky
17th Reg Inst vol
Right Soon
J M Kenne to
John Kenne
here is a Present for
Margret [illegible]
the American [illegible] on [illegible]
I will mark [illegible] so they [illegible]
tell them [illegible]

February [illegible] 1862
Munfordsville Kentucky
Well all folks at home
it is a Long time Since
I Roat home I will tell
you the Reason we have
been a marching for the
last two weeks from one
Place to another and Last
night Come to Munfordsville
how Long we will Stay I don't
Know I am well at Present
the Regiment is in Good
Health. Better than I Ever
[illegible] it before their has been
Good deal of Rain Lately
but no snow the weather
is warm and Cloudy [illegible]



Gen[illegible] has
Gone to [illegible] Green
General Nelson is not in
Comand of our Division
General Woods is our Comand
the man that [illegible] sworn us
in the Servis there was no
other Regiments Come only
the 17th the 15 and 50 India
will be here some time this
week and the 35 ohio
there was as high as twelve
Deaths in the 50th Indiana
in one Day I will Give
you a Description of
Munfordsville Lays on the
North Side of Green River
and we are Encampt on
South Side it is quite a
town about two thousand

inhabitance the Cars Runs
from Louisville Every Day
this town Lays on the
Louisville and Nashville
Rail Road the Bridge accrost
the River is three hundred
feet long and Eighty feet
high Built of Iron
here the Rebbels Got Whipt
we Can See the Battle
Ground from our Camp
our Paymaster has not Come
yet but the Colonel Says
we will Get our Pay here
and I hope we will there
will be a good Chance to
[illegible] money off I [illegible] we
Leave here and go farther
South I will send home
[illegible] Blankets Shirts and

Well I must Close this
Letter For this Time As it is alm
Dinner Time and it is Rather Cool
Wrighting as the Wind is Bloing
Hard there is Regiment after Regiment
Passing here all the Time I will
Right you another Letter when
we Get to Nashville but I want
you to Right when you Get this
Letter as I would Like to here
from Home Direct to Nashville
Tennessee 17th Regiment Indiana
vollunteers Company D Enclosed
you will find a few Secesh verses
wich I found this is for Robert
and I want him to Keep them
Nothing More at Present but
Right soon I Remain your
J W Renner to
John Renner and all the Rest
in General

LIBERTY AND UNION
NOW AND FOREVER!

Boling Green Ky
March 5th Ky 1862
Kind Folkes at
Home and all
the Rest in
General This is to Let you Know
That I am well at this time
at Last we are in Boling Green
Came here on Sunday night
at Dark and it took us till
twelve o'clock to Cross Baren River
as the Secesh Burnt the Pike
Bridge and the Rail Road Bridge
also we had to Cross on a Pontoon
Bridge and it Raind most awful
all night some of our waggons did
not Cross till yesterday to Morrow
we Start for Nashville by foot
I will Give you a Description
of Bolinggreen it is or was a nice

town before the dasted Rebbels
Burnt it - they Burnt the
Best of the Buildings and the
Rail Road Depot Round house
and Leven Engins and train of
Cars it is Deserted of all its
inhabitance their is not more than
twenty - Familys in town at Present
their Population in Bolinggreen was
about ten thousand inhabitance before
we come here some of the Rebbels Burnt
and destroyed their own Property
their is Lots of Dry Goods and in fact
Every thing Left here Nashville is also
Derserted also and so is Columbus
Clarksville and murfreesboro and all
of tennessee is in our hands the Rebbel
army are in full Retreet for
alabama Secessionism is about
Played out we will be at home
before two months the ninth
Regiment - Came down the
ohio River on the 21 of last
month so says the Louisville
Jornal the Health of the troops
is Good as far as I Know
their is Every thing Plenty here
but Whiskey and that is Playd
out - Coffee is one Dollar Per Pound
Molasses is one Dollar Per Gallon
the ~~Sugar~~ only thing that is scarce
is tobacco our Suttler is not here
and hant been since we left
Humboldt ville the weather is Cool
at Present - their was So much
thunder here this week it Rained
most Every day for a week their was
one man Drowned on Sunday
night - out of our Regiment he
belongd to Company F

March the 20 1862

Father and mother
and all the rest of the
family This is to let
you know that I am
well I have not time
to write much as we
are going to march
to morrow When I hear
from you I sent you a
picture the other day
I want you one dollar
for postage stamps
when you receive
this money I have
from Lieutenant Owens

[illegible] 1812
[illegible]

This is all at Present
Direct to Nashville
Tennessee 17th Reg Ind
vol Company D
James W Renner
to
John Renner
Right Soon

[illegible]

Flave Gorge Shot him self
his Gun went off and
Shot his fore finger on his
left hand the Doctor took it
off at the upper Joint he is
getting along very well we live
fine here Plenty of Fresh Pork
Chickens Beef Garden trash
and in fact fact Every thing
the Secesh Raises we Draw most
Every night Well I must
Close now I want you to
answer this Letter Just as soon
as you Get this Wright all
the news Direct your Letter
to Tuscumbia Alabama
17th Regiment Indiana vall
Company D 15th Brigade
6 Division [redacted]
[redacted]

I have not had a Letter from you
since I sent that money home
Right soon
Your in Part
Forkey to
John Renner

June the 17 1862

Camp at Tuscumbia Alabama
Folks of Indiana I mean
Steuben County in Particular
I am well at least Should be
if I hint You will find our
Regiment at Tuscumbia in
the State of Alabama in Camp
on the fair Ground two miles
from the tennessee River and
on the Memphis and Charleston
Rail Road it is a totabel nice
County Good Water and the
Wether is alfied hot in the
day time and the nights is
awful Cold their is only one
Fault to find the Folks in all
Souch but the Nigger he is vermin
this is the first time our Regiment
has been Bothered so much with
Slaves our Boys Gets the nigger
to Run off from his master and

of Coarse will Come to Camp
and their Masters after them
then the fun Commences their
masters hant allowed na Side of
the Guard Lines then ned is to Pay
we Keep them Long Enough to
Bother their masters and Let them
Go I must Say Something about
Corinth Some of the northern
Pakers Gives Halleck fits for Letting
the Secret get a way now I will
Jest Say the aristocracy of the
north are to Big Towards to Go
to war but Stay at home and
talk about Such things I will
Say if the War Department had
of Let Halleck alone he would
of opend Battle ten days before
he did if our men had Come
up and faced their Breast works
our army would of Ben Cut
all to Peeris all the way

Corinth Could of Ben taken
Would of Ben by our Seige Gun
and they Could not of Ben got
nearder than two miles of the
Place on account of the Roads
and then we Could not see the
Place at all on account of the
Woods or Rather Swamp their was
Part of the Roads that we Could
not get through with an empty
Vaggon But Let that Subject
Drop 3 the Helth of the troops
never was Better their has ben
but two men Died out of our
Company Since they Left virginia
Whare we are going I dont Know
but are Working towards virginia
Harvest is over and has bin Long
a go Some wheat has ben Cut
in May But it hant of much
account it will not avrige
five Bushels per acre Cotton
their is not much Raised this
Summer

We are Camped Near
Stevenson Alabama
Aprile the 15 1862
Mr Robert Benner I
take this pesent Opportuni
of Hoping you a [illegible]
to let you know that
I am well at pesent and
John allso we are a riting
a parding letter to you
for the first time we have
bin marching for levin dayes
with Out Resting a day
And will for Eight Or ten
dayes yet we are Camped
In the South ~~part~~ East
part of alabama and a bout
45 miles from Chatinuga
and we are going their and
will Rest too Or three dayes
and then we will go to

~~Louden~~ Louden ten
And the I guess we will
be throu marching for some
time I like Soldering very
well If It wasent for
the dam marching and
Chining the mountens and
waden the Rivers we have bin
ma[illegible] Over the mountens
for to dayes and and have
to more dayes marching yet to
to do [illegible] git. Over them
Me and John Stand [illegible] very
well now but at first It
went mity hard [illegible]
Stand It very well It is
very warm dayes and at night
we dam near fries to Deth
when we git up in the mo[illegible]
we are all wet with the
Doo So as we Can Ring
[illegible] water Out Of the [illegible]

Corn hear and the is
[illegible] and Appl's a
[illegible] hear and [illegible]
had beter believe when
they [illegible] they [illegible]
Sup[illegible] Yours truly
From John Greenamyer
and John Renner
Write Soon and Often
Direct you letter to
Louden Tenesee

Loudnen

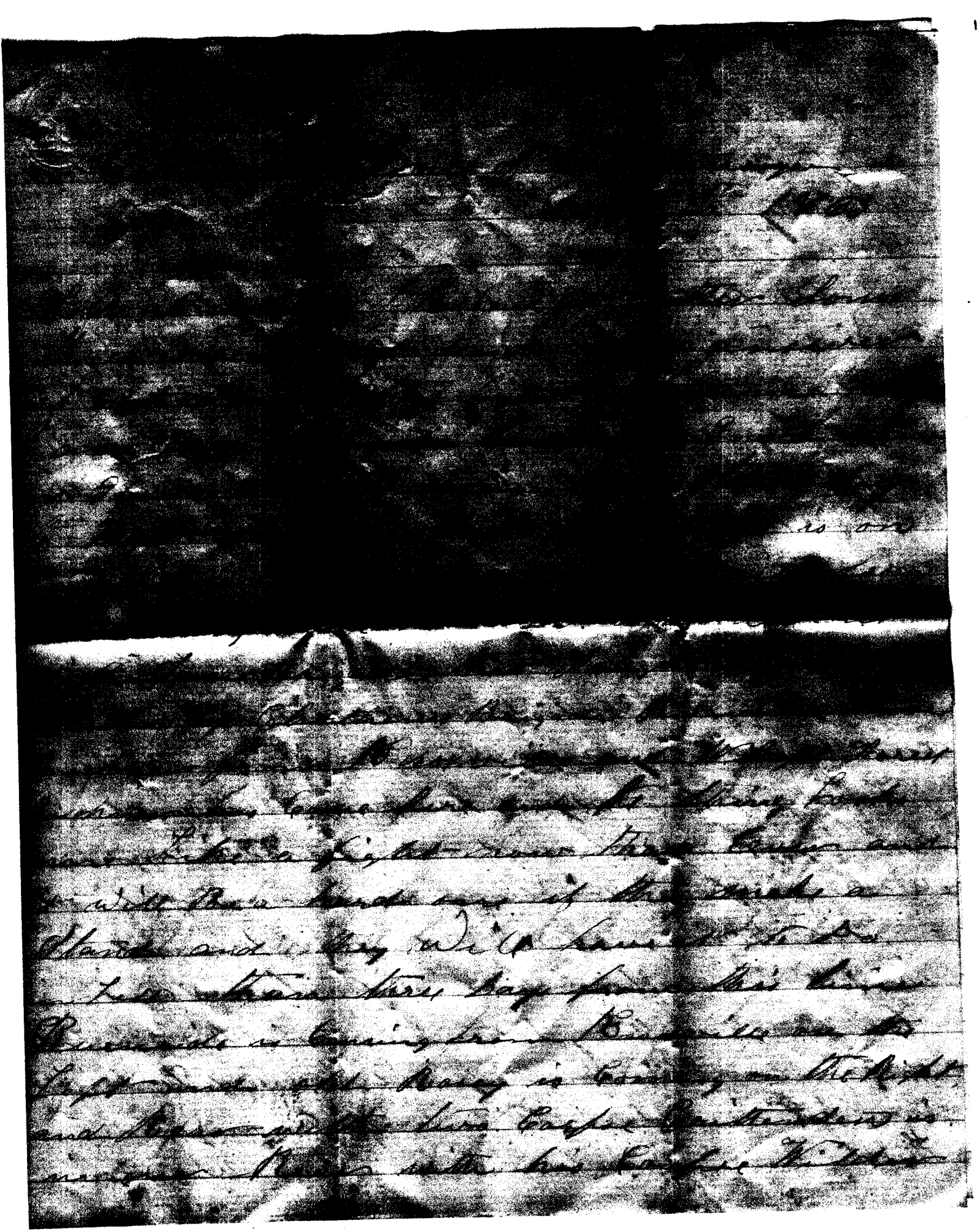
the Rebs around here are
Suffering for Some thing to
Live on & say they will Starve
if Some thing hant Done to
Relieve them they are as tired of
the War as the People up North
for my Part I dont Care if it
Lasts ten years Longer it
Suits my Stile of Living to
a Gnats Eye Indiana is Comming
all Right again I see by the Papers
that the Copperheads got Defeated
Indiana was for a While Worst
than South Carolina this thing
of having an army to fight in
[illegible] and as Worst [illegible] in the Rear
is Bad there is to [illegible] in
Davids Brigade for Desertion [illegible]
and he Says his Copperhead Friends
is to Blame for it they Coast him off
Nothing more at present But
Dont get Sick of the War it is Bound
to End this Summer answer Soon
address Murfreesboro Tennessee
170 Reg Indiana Vol Company
I Remain your
James W. Renner

Murfreesboro Tenn April 18th 1863

Folks at Home

I Drop you a few lines this morning
to Let you Know that all
the Renners are Well I Seen
David yesterday he was all Rig=
=ht our Regiment was out at
Readyville he was on Picket &
I went and Seen him he
Looks as Healthy as I Ever
Saw him I Seen Bob & the
Rest of the Skunk Hollow Boys
Day Before yesterday they Say
they Like the State of Tennessee
Better than they do the Service
the Wether is Getting Most out
Rapious Warm yesterday it
Was too Hot to Be out & was
hard on our Horses When
out yesterday Some of the Scouts

Met some of the 90th Ohio mounted
men & they Stopt in the Road
& Jest Exchanged two Shots
at Each other all the Damage
Was done Was one of the Ohio Horses
Got Shot Between the Eyes it
Was a Good Shot the Rider Run
and Left his Gun and all Bully
for him Morgans Whole Force is
at Lebenon & Liberty the 72 Ind
mounted Infantry Went out Day Before
Yesterday & hant Ben heard of since
they went out With Woods Division
the Division Came Back Last night
and Gen Woods Sent them on an
other Road they was to Report at
Stone River Bridge but did not
the Opinion is they are Captured
Morgan has Sent orders to Wilder
that if he took any of his men
Prisenors he Would Show them
No Quarters Bully for morgan
he will Undoubtly Carry his
orders into Effect he will
find that Col Wilders men Can
take as meny Prisenors as Sir
Lord John Morgan Can and he
may Do his Best he has more Spite
at the 17th than at the other
Regiments for the 17th has Stolen
Every Horse they have Got from
the Rebel Citizens the Horses of
our Regiment hant Cost Uncle
Sam one Read Cent the 98th Illinois
has Drawn all their horses the
72 has taken Some few there
is not one Good Horse With in
thirty Miles of Murfreesboro
Except Where the Enemy is
and that is South of us
the Army is Laying Still
Except the Scouting Parties
the fortifications is about
Finished the Magazines have
Some more work about them
to Be Done mostly Carpenter
work



our Pontoon train is Comming up it will
be here tomorrow when the attact is made here
Wilders Brigade will Cross the River in
Front of town and try and take the River
Fortifycations there is three large Baricades
Standing on the Banks of the River that will
have to Be taken and Wilder says his men
Will have it to Do or try it and we have
to Do it on Horse Back if this is the Case
Some of our Boys Will never Go in a Battle
again the Closes our artillery Can Get to town
is one mile I will Give you a Short Description
[illegible]
all Side but there is vallys to Each mountain
and Every mountain and hill and Rais
of Ground is Fortified for Six miles from town
on Every Side and the Tennessee River on the
Front there will Be a Great Loss of Life here
if a fight Comes off the General Opinion is
the Rebs will Fall Back to Atlanta Georgia
a Distance of one hundred miles if they Dont
fight here they will not fight Short of
Richmond Virginia for Chattanooga is the
only Strong hold they have in the South
West

to any one that is at the Rebel Strong
holds yet But We can here Burnsides
artillery Plain and also Rosecrances also
there is no Firing Done Between our men
and the Rebs We talk to one another and
Swina across to one another Every thing is
Going on in this way for the Last three
days Deserters is Coming over Every Day &
they say that all the Tennessee troop will
Desert at Every Chance it Looks hard
for a Set of men to Talk and Be friends
[illegible] and [illegible] may be in one
hour afterwards the health of our Brigade
is since here is but one on the Sick List in
our Company and but Few in the Brigade
We have Plenty of Grub and a good ways
to Bring it one hundred miles When
With in five miles of Camp it is fetched
on Pack Mules on account of a Mountain
that Can not be Drove with teams our
Hosses are Getting Fat once more there is Lots
of Corn in this Country and Some of the Largest
Corn I Ever Saw it is hard Enough to
Feed and has been for two Weeks

I will Close for this time answer
Soon Direct to the [illegible] Regt Pond [illegible]
Co D

Your in Respect

[illegible] Forkey

Camp near White side Tenn
on the Mount in Georgia
Nov 14th 1863

Dear Brother Robert

I take this opportunity of Riting you a few Lines. Stating that I am well at this time, only I have the Piles quite Bad at present now. But I am able for my Rations and Cold manage more than I get at present. I have Established friendly Relations with my Springfield Rifle once more, and am Doing a Soldiers Duty in the Company, the weather is Pleasant and Warm, we have had But very Little frost yet. the Rebs is about 3 miles from us on Picketts But their force is at — about 10 miles off. we are in hearing Distance

of Chattanooga. all is quiet.
I Want to Know if you Can Rye me a Span of Coults in the Spring. Providing I Send you the Cash. I Want Mare Coults. and as good ones as Can Be Easly Bought. one year old in the Spring an Summer of 64 I Care not for the Price. so they will make me a Good Team. I Wold Expect you to Pay for the Span about. one Hundread Dollars. if you will Do this favor for me I will make your trouble Sadesfactory. Let me Know your opinion on it. and What you think the Prospect will Be. and I will make my Calculations accordingly.
I have a half a notion to Volunteer in the vetron Servis for three years Longer. ones I hate to Stay away from my family So Long. the Government offers a Bounty of four hundread and two Dollars That Would make our Pay $870 I Believe it is more than any farmer Can make. By Renting a farm. I will not Be in that yet a While. I Believe oscar Thrasher is Dead This is the Report any way. the Boys here is all well. Give my Love to the family and friends, Direct to the 9th Regt, Inft, vol, Company 'B' 1st Division 3rd Brigade 4th army Corps.
Chattanooga, Tennessee
I Remain your Brother and Obt. Servent. David to Robert G. Rennel

tell Ellen that Dave is
hear and as fat and sassy
as a hog and a Dam sight
Dirtier. tell Jenny and frank
that uncle John is well and
will kill all the Rebels
he can. When you Rite tell
all the news and Rite often
tell Jorkey hear is the
Place for a union man.
not Back in that Sesesh
hole in the north well
I must Close good By
I Remain your son
John L. Renner
to Julia Renner
hear is my tickett, morton
and Lincoln and Johnson

Camp near Snake Creek gap
October 17th 1864

Dear mother this to Let
you Know that I am yet
alive and well and hope
[illegible] find you
the same. I [illegible] your Letter
of the 12th Sept a few Days a
go. We have Been [illegible] after
the Johnies for the Last 17 Days
and are now Turning their
Lines with a gun. they have
failed to Capture any of our
Supplies on the Rail Road
and have Been severly whip
at Every place of importance
whear they have tried to take
and now they are Beten and
will Be obliged to Retreat
Back to Jonesborough. We
have had no Communications from

nashville for about 8 Days.
the Rebs has Destroid the Rail
Road from Racacca to
tunnel hill. and it will
Be a job to fix it. we
are [illegible] now 12 miles from
Lafyett [illegible] about 15 from
Kingold. we Lost through
Snake Creek Gap Last night
and are in the Rear of
the hole army. the 17th Corp
is in front and the 15 next
and the 14th next. they have gone
on to Lafyett, Ga. the 4th Corp
is hear with us Resting they
Crost over two Ranges of
mountains and Got to the
Gap But Darst not attact
the Rebel army as they
was Pasing through.
the Boys is all well. I saw

Closson to Day he is well
and is Detaled with the Train
I was over and took Dinner
with Dave to Day. they are
about half a mild from
us. I am very Glad to
Know that my money has
got home Safe. I want Dad
to Put it out to the Best advantage
he can. We are not Suffering
for any thing to Eat. the Rebel
army Left Plenty of hogs and
Chickens and Sweet Potatoes
and the fields hear is full of
corn and the Bigest Kind
we had Good Weather on this
trip since we Left marietta
we went to Kingston and
and to Rome and from
Rome to Racacca and will
soon Be going Back to Atlanta
the 20th Corps is at Atlanta

Chattanooga Tenn

June 2 1865

Rose Renner

Your letter Came Some time Since I neglected to Answer till now Every body and Every thing is all Right Side up With care No news Directly of Being Discharged at Present no Orders for this Department yet the Pay Master is here Will commence to Pay off next Week the Retrens of the 44th Will not be Discharged With the Rest at Least Such is the talk the 17th Indiana is comming through here in a Day or So the Ballance of the Brigade come in Yesterday they are Bound for Louisville to be Discharged there has been no Orders yet that is to the Number of men to Be Disbanded in this Part yet Probaly Will be in a Day or two

I am Going to Send a Box
of Clothing Home next Week Some
Day I Will let you Know by mail
When I Send it or When any
of the Folks Goes to Waterloo Let them
Fetch it home and When it Comes
Write and let me Know I
must Stop Writing and
Go to the City Answer
Soon Send Best Wishes
to all Enquiring Friends
Yours
Affectionately

James W. Reeves

I Received a Letter from Daniel
yesterday he was at Nashville
and Well he is Going to go
to Louisville So he thought
tell Pap he need not look
for me at home all all for
Sert as Soon as I get out of this
I am going to fight the French