

## James Renner Letters

February [sic] the [illegible] 1862 Mumfordsville [illegible]

Well all folks at home It is a Long time Since I Roat [sic] home I will tell you the Reasons We have Ben [sic] a marching for the past two weeks from one Place to another and Last night come to mumfordsville [sic] how Long we will stay I do not Know I am well at Present the Regiment is in good Health Better than I Ever [illegible words] before their [sic] has ben [sic] [illegible] good deal of Rain Latly [sic] [illegible words] know the wether [sic] [illegible] warm and Cloudy [next 2 lines are illegible]

General Petson is not in Command of our Division General Woods is our Comman[cut off] the man that [illegible] Sworn us in the Servis [sic] their [sic] was no other Regiments Come only the 17th the 15 and 50 Indiana will be here some time this week and the 35 [illegible]

their [sic] was as high as twelve Deaths in the 50th Indiana in one Day I will Give you a Description of Mumfordsville Lays on the North Side of Green River and we are [illegible words] South did it is quite a town about two thousand inhabitance [sic] the Cars Runs from Louisville Evry [sic] Day this town Lays on the Louisville and Nashville Rail Road the Bridge accrost [sic] the River is three hundred feet long and Eighty feet high built of iron here the Rebbels [sic] got whipt [sic] we can see the Battle Ground from our Camp our Paymaster has not Come yet [illegible] the Colonel days We will get our Pay here and [illegible] we will their [sic] will be a good Chance to [illegible] money off If we Leave here and go farther South I will Send home [illegible] Blankets Shirts and my Dres [sic] Coat in Express that is if I can Get over to town to do it our troops have Got Bolingreen [sic] in their Posesion [sic] the Rebles [sic] [illegible] Leave it for our troops was Getting the Devils in a fiery Hell what is the use of talking we will all be home to help to Do your harvesting I must Close Direct to [illegible] mumfordsville [sic] Kentucky 17th Reg Ind vol

Right [sic] Soon

JW Renner to John Renner

here is a Present for [rest of letter is illegible]

Boling [sic] Green Ky.

March the 5 Ky 1862

Kind Folkes [sic] 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 [sic] Green Came here on Sunday night at Dark and it took us till twelve oclock [sic] to Cross Baren [sic] River as the Secesh Burnt the Pike Bridge and the Rail Road Bridge also we had to Cross on a Pontoon Bridge and it Rained most awful all night Some of our waggons [sic] did not Cross till yesterday to morrow [sic] we Start for Nashville by foot I will give you a Description [sic] of Bolinggreen [sic] it is or was a nice town before the damd [sic] Rebbels [sic]

Burnt it they Burnt the Best of the Buildings and the Rail Road Depot Round house and Seven Engines and train of Cars it is Deserted of all its inhabitation [sic] there is not more than twenty Families [sic] in town at Present their Population in Bowling Green [sic] was about ten thousand inhabitation [sic] before we Came here Some of the Rebels [sic] Burnt and destroyed their own Property their [sic] is Lots of Dry Goods and in fact Evry [sic] thing left here Nashville is also Deserted [sic] also and so is Columbus Clarksville and Mufreesboro [sic] and all of Tennessee [sic] is in our hands the Rebels [sic] army are in full Retreat [sic] for Alabama [sic] Secessionism [sic] 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 Journal [sic] the Health of the troops is good as far as I know their [sic] is Evry [sic] thing Plenty here but Whiskey and that is Played out Coffee is one Dollar Per Pound Molasses is one Dollar Per Gallon the [illegible word crossed out] only thing that is Scarce is tobacco our Suttler [sic] is not here and hant [sic] been Since we Left Mumfordsville the weather is Cool at Present their [sic] was So much thunder here this week it Rained most Evry [sic] day for a week their [sic] was one man Drowded [sic] on Sunday night out of our Regiment he belonged to Company F

Well I must Close this Letter For this time As it is alm[cut off] Dinner Time and it is Rather Cool Wrighting [sic] as the Wind is Blowing Hard their [sic] is Regiment after Regiment Passing here all the Time I will Right [sic] you another Letter when we get to Nashville but I want you to Right [sic] when you get this Letter as I would Like to here [sic] from Home Direct to Nashville Tennessee 17th Regiment Indiana vollunteers [sic] Company D Enclosed you will find a few Secesh verses wich [sic] I found this is for Robert and I want him to Keep them Nothing more at present but Right [sic] Soon I remain your

JW Renner to John Renner and all the best [2 illegible words]

Nashville Tenn [sic] 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 Right [sic] much as we are going to march to morrow [sic] Whare [sic] I Don't [sic] Know I Sent you a Picture the other Day I [illegible] you one dollar for postage Stamps Send [illegible] in the next Letter [illegible] money to [illegible] from Lieutenant Owans [rest of page is illegible]

This is all at Present Direct to Nashville [illegible] 17th Reg Ind vol Company D

James W Renner to John Renner

Right [sic] Soon

June the 12 1862

Camp at Tuscumbia Alabama

Folks of Indiana I mean Steuben County in particular I am well at Least Should be if I hant [sic] You will find our Regiment at Tuscumbia in the State of Alabama in Camp on

the fair ground two miles from the tennessee [sic] River and on the Memphis and Charleston Rail Road it is a tolabel [sic] nice County Good Water and the weather is alfred [sic] hot in the day time and the nights is awful Cold their [sic] is only one [illegible] to find the Folks is all Secesh but the Nigger he is [illegible] 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 Coarce [sic] will Come to Camp and their Masters after them then the fun Commences their masters hant [sic] alloud [sic] in Side of the Guard Lines then [illegible] into [illegible] we Keep them Long Enough to Bother their masters and Let them Go I must Say Something about Corinth Some of the northern Papers Gives Halleck fits for Letting the Secesh get a way now I will Jest [sic] Say the aristocracy of the north are to [sic] Big Cowards to go to war but Stay at home and talk about Such things I will say if the War Department had of [sic] let Halleck alone he would of [sic] oferd [sic] Battle ten days before he did if our men had Come up and faced their Breast works our army would of [sic] Ben [sic] [illegible] all to Pieces all the way Corinth Could of [sic] Ben [sic] taken Would of [sic] Ben [sic] by our Seige [sic] guns and they Could not of [sic] Ben [sic] got nearder [sic] 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 on [illegible] Swamp their [sic] was Part of the Road that we Could not get through with an empty waggon [sic] But Let that Subject Drop the Helth [sic] of the troops never was Better their [sic] has ben [sic] but two men Died out of our Company Since they Left virginia [sic] whare [sic] we are going I dont [sic] Know but are working towards virginia [sic] Harvest is over and has ben [sic] Long ago Some wheat has ben [sic] Cut in May But it hant [sic] of much account it will not average five Bushels per acre Cotton their [sic] is not much Raised this summer 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 Evry [sic] thing the Secesh Raises we draw most Evry [sic] night Well I must Close now I want you to answer this Letter Jest [sic] as soon as you get this Wright [sic] all the news Direct your Letter to Tuscumbia Alabama 17th Regiment Indiana voll [sic] Company D 15th Brigade 6 Division [illegible rest of line and next]

I have not had a Letter from you Since I Sent that money home

Right [sic] Soon

Your in hart [sic]

Forkey to John Renner

We are Camped Near Steaveson [sic] Alabama Aprile [sic] the 15 1862

Mr [sic] Robert Renner I take this present oportunity [sic] of Droping [sic] you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and John allso [sic] we are a riting [sic] a parding [sic] letter to you for the first time we have bin [sic] marching for levin [sic] dayes [sic] with Out Resting a day And will for Eight Or ten dayes [sic] yet we are

Camped In the South part [crossed out] East part of alabama [sic] and a bout [sic] 45 miles from Chatinuga [sic] and we are going their [sic] and will Rest too [sic] Or three dayes [sic] and then we well go to [illegible word crossed out] Londen ten And the I guess we will be throu [sic] marching for some time I like Soldering [sic] very well If It wasent [sic] for the dam [sic] marching and Climing [sic] the mountens [sic] and waden [sic] the Rivers we have bin [sic] marching Over the mountens [sic] for to [sic] dayes [sic] and and have to [sic] more dayes [sic] marching yet to do before we git [sic] Over them Me and John stand it very well now but at first It went mity [sic] hard [illegible] Stand It very well It is very warm dayes [sic] and at night we dam [sic] near fries [sic] to Deth [sic] when we git [sic] up in the morning we are all wet with the Dou [sic] So as we Can Ring [sic] water Out Of the [illegible] Corn hear [sic] and the is [illegible] and Aprils [sic] a [illegible] hear [sic] and had beter [sic] believe when they [rest of line illegible] [illegible] yours truly From John [illegible] and John Renner

Write soon and Often Will Bring Every Man that Belongs to the Butternut and I think If they was out hear [sic] It would not be long till we would clean the South and I am In favor of Freeing the Negroes or any thing like that the President thinks will Put this Rebellion Down and then when we git [sic] through with the Present affaires [sic] we can Settle the Negro Question when this Is over If It kneeds [sic] any I think Probably It will For to have the Negroes to Live with us would never do I hope that Is not the [illegible] to Free them and let them stay with us This Is no time to [illegible] Politics or [illegible] about the Negroes Show them the musket has Become the general order of the day well It Is about [illegible] time So I will close my letter By telling you that a letter In answer to this would Be [illegible] Excepteful [sic] with me

Ever your Cousin

Barmer Sears

Direct you letter to Louden Tenessee [sic]

Loudnen

Murfreesboro Tenn [sic] April 18th 63

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 Right our Regiment was out at Readyville he was on Picket and I went and Seen him he Looks as Healthy as I Ever Saw him I Seen Bob and the Rest of the Skunk Hollow Boys Day Before yesterday they Say they like the State of tennessee [sic] Better than they Do the Servise [sic] the Wether [sic] is getting Most out Ragious [sic] Warm Yesterday it Was too Hot to Be out it was hard on our Horses When out Yesterday Some of the Scouts Met Some of the 90th Ohio mounted men and they Stopt [sic] in the Road and jest [sic] Exchanged two Shots at Each other all the Damage was done was one of the ohio [sic] Horses Got Shot Between the Eyes it was a Good Shot the Rider Run and Left his Gun and all Bully for him Morgans [sic]

Whole Force is at Lebanon [sic] and Liberty the 72 Ind. Mounted Infantry went out Day Before Yesterday and hant [sic] Ben [sic]heard of Since they went out With Woods [sic] Division the Division Came Back Last night and Gen Woods Sent them on an other [sic] road they was to report at Stone [sic] River bridge but Did not the opinion is they are Capturd [sic] Morgan has sent orders to Wilders that if he took any of his men Prisenors [sic] he would Show them no quarters Bully for morgan [sic] he will undoubtly [sic] carry his orders into Effect he will find that Col Wilders [sic] men can take as many Prisenors [sic] 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 Evry [sic] Horse they have got from the Rebel Citizens the Horses of our Regiment hant [sic] Cost uncle Sam one Read [sic] Cent the 98th Illinois has Drawn all their horses the [illegible] 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 the Rebs around here are Suffering for Some thing to Live on and Say they will Starve if Some thing hant [sic] Done to Relieve them they are as tired of the War as the People up North for My Part I don't [sic] Care if it Lasts ten years Longer it Suits my Stile [sic] of Living to a Gnats [sic] Eye Indiana is Coming [sic] 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 [2 illegible words] a Worst or in the Rear is Bad There is [rest of line is illegible] David Brigade for Desertion [illegible] and he Says his Copperhead Friends is to Blame for it they coact [sic] him off Nothing more at present But Don't [sic] get Sick of the War it is Bound to End this Summer answer Soon address Murfreesboro Tennessee 17th Regt Indiana Vol Company D

I Remain your

James W Renner

Undated Letter

[first page is illegible]

our Pontoon train is Comming [sic] up it will be here tomorrow When the attact [sic] is made here Wilders [sic] Brigade will Cross the Rivers I Front of town and try and take the River Fortifcations [sic] there is three large Barricades Standing on the Bank 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 [sic] our artillery Can Get to town is one mile I will Give you a Short Description [illegible line of text] all Sides but there is vallys [sic] to Each mountain and Evry [sic] mountain and hill and Rais [sic] of Ground is Fortified for Six miles from town on Every [illegible] and the Tennessee River [2 illegible words] there will Be a Great Loss of Life ore [sic] if a fight Comes off the General Opinion the Rebs will Fall Back to Atlanta Georgia a distance of one hundred miles if they Don't [sic] fight here

they will not fight Short of Richmond Virginia for Chattanooga is the only Strong hold they have in the South West

[illegible] any one that is at the Rebel Strong holds yet But we Can here [sic] Burnside's [sic] artillery Plain and also Rosecranses [sic] also there is no Firing Done Between are [sic] men and the Rebs We talk to one another and swim across [sic] to one another Evry [sic] thing Going on in this war for the Last [illegible] days Deserters is Coming [sic] over Evry [sic] Day and they say that all the Tennessee troops will Desert at Evry [sic] Chance it Looks hard for a Set of men to [illegible] and Be friends [illegible line of text] [illegible] afterwards the health of our Brigade [cut off] 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 grand way to Bring it one hundred miles When within five miles of Camp it is fettered [sic] on Pack Mules on Account of a Mountain that can not be drove with teams our Horses 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 [illegible] sure has been evry [sic] two weeks

I will Close for this time answer soon Direct to the [illegible]th regt Ind Vol [illegible]  
your in respect

Forkey

Camp near White Side Tenn [sic] on the mount in Georgia Nov 14th 1863  
Dear Brother Robert

I take this opportunity [sic] of Riting [sic] you a few Lines Stating that I am well at this time, only I have the Piles [illegible] quite Bad Jest [sic] now. But I am able for my Rations and Cold [sic] manage more than I get at Present. [sic] I have Established friendly Relations with my Springfiel [sic] Rifle once more. and am Doing a Soldiers [sic] 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 Pickett [sic] But their force is at [just a line drawn here] 10 miles off. we are in hearing Distance of Chattanooga. all is quiet. I Want to know if you Can Bye [sic] me a span of Coultts [sic] in the spring. Providing I send you the Cash. I want more coultts. [sic] and as good ones as Can Be Easily [sic] Bought. one year old in the spring an [sic] summer of 64 I care not for the Price. so they will make me a good team. I wold [sic] Expect you to Pay for them [illegible] about, one hundred Dollars. if you will Do this favor for me I will make your trouble sadesfactory [sic]. Let me know your opinion on it. and what you think the Prospect will Be. and I will make my Calculations accordingly.

I have half a notion to volunteer in the vetran [sic] Servis [sic] for three years Longer. and I hate to Stay away from my family So Long the government offers a Bounty of four hundred and two Dollars that wuld [sic] make our Pay \$870.00 I Beleve [sic] it is more than any [sic] farmer Can make By Renting a farm [sic]. I will not Be in [illegible] yet a while. I Beleve [sic] oscar [sic] Thrasher is Dead this is the Report any way. the

Boys hear [sic] is all well. Give my love to the family and friends. Direct to the 9th Regt.  
Ind. vol. Company "[illegible]" 7th Division 3rd Brigade 4th army corps.

Chattanooga, Tennessee

I Remane [sic] your Brother and Obt. [sic] Servant. David to Robert Z. Renner

Camp near Snake Creek gap Ga. October 17th 1864

Dear mother this to Let you know that I am yet alive and well and hope these Lines will find you the same I received your Letter of the [illegible] Sept a few Days ago. We have Been tramping after the Johnies [sic] for the Last 17 Days and are [illegible] Tennessee their Lines [illegible] a gan [sic]. they have failed to Capture any of our Supplies on the Rail Road and have Been severly [sic] whipt [sic] at Evry [sic] place of importance whear [sic] they have tried to take and now they are Beten [sic] and will Be obliged to Retreat Back to Jones borough [sic]. we have [rest of line is illegible] [illegible] for about 8 Days. the Rebs [illegible] Destroid [sic] the Rail Road from Racacca [sic] to Tunel [sic] Hill and it will be a job to fix it. we are halted now 22 miles from Lafayette [illegible] about 15 from Ringold we Past [sic] through [illegible] gap Last night and are in the Rear of the hole [sic] army. the 17th [illegible] is in front and the 15 [illegible] and the 14th next. they have gone on to Lafyett [sic] Ga. the 4 Corp [sic] is here with us Resting they crost [sic] over two Ranges of mounta8ins and got to the gap But Darst [sic] not attact [sic] the Rebel army as they was Pasing [sic] through. the Boys is all well. I saw [illegible] Closson to Day he is well and is Detaled [sic] with the Train I was over and took Dinner with Dave to Day. they are about half a mile from us. I am very glad to Know that evry [sic] money has got home Safe. I want Dad to Put it out to the Best advantage he Can. We are not suffering for aney [sic] thing to Eat. the Rebel army left Plenty of hogs and chickens and Sweet Potatoes and the fields here is full of corn and the Biggest [sic] kind we had good weather on the trip Since we Left marietta [sic] we went to Kingston and and [sic] to Rome and from Rome to Racacca [sic] and will Soon Be going Back to atlanta [sic] the 20thCorps is at atlanta [sic] tell Ellen that Dave is hear [sic] and is fat and sasy [sic] as a hog and a Dam [sic] Sight Dirtier. tell Jenny and family that uncle John is well and will kill all the rebels he can. When you Rite [sic] tell all the news and Rite [sic] often tell Forkey hear [sic] is the Place for a union man. not Back in that Secesh hole in the north well I must Close good by

I Remain your Son

John T Renner to Julia Renner

hear [sic] is my tickett [sic]. morton [sic] and Lincoln and Johnson

Chattanooga Tenn [sic] June 2 1865

Rose Renner

Your letter Came Some time Since I neglected to Answer till now Evry [sic] body and Evry [sic] thing is all Right Side up with care no news Directly of Being Discharged at

Present No Orders [sic] for this Department yet the Pay master here will commence to Pay off next week the Vetrens [sic] of the 44th We'll not be Discharged with the Regt at Least Such is the talk the 17th Indiana is comming [sic] through here in a day or So the Ballance [sic] of the Brigade came in yesterday they are Bound for Louisville to be Discharged there has been no Orders [sic] yet that is to the number of men to Be disbanded in this [illegible] yet Probably 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 homa 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 [illegible]

James W. Renner

I Received a Letter from [illegible] 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 ]2 illegible words] for [illegible] as Soon as I get out of this dam [sic] [illegible] to fight the french [sic]