

## Timothy A. Rardin Letters

### 129th Indiana Regiment

#### Editor's Notes

In more than one of his letters Timothy A. Rardin mentioned to his father that he was writing a letter to him at least once a week. This collection of letters, therefore, cannot be all the letters he wrote. There are enough, nevertheless, to give a rather thorough story of his army career. Before depositing the originals with the Indiana Historical Society I have attempted to reproduce the collection so that his posterity and other interested persons could have the benefit of being able to read them. This collection was in the possession of Mrs. Henry McCarty, nee Amelia Dale Rardin.

A few comments are in order. One is that I have corrected the dates on one of them from December 1865 to 1864, because it obviously was written before his discharge in August, 1865. I failed to correct the dates on the first two letters, which should be 1864 instead of 1863, inasmuch as he did not enroll until August, 1864, according to his discharge. This misdating is understandable; I have often made the same mistake.

I have not attempted to edit these letters, considering that they have more linguistic value, and are more interesting, as they are written. In some instances I have double spaced where I thought sentences should be divided. In a few instances, no doubt, I have failed to read correctly, and in some I have made typing errors. I have not attempted to correct the spelling. Lest anyone be amused at the spelling, he should remember that Samuel Johnson tried to establish a uniform system of spelling into the English language in 1755, and it is not to be marvelled [sic] at that his system was less than successful a century later. Timothy A. Rardin was not illiterate. His mother was a schoolteacher and he must have learned something from her. He simply wrote in the koine of a century ago as it was spoken in the Hoosier state.

The J. F. mentioned in the letters is the same as Findley or Fintley, brother to Timothy. He died in the service. According to Mom (Amelia) and Uncle Ben Rardin, I had the impression that he died in a prisoner of war camp. The letters say nothing about this.

The letters have historical as well as sentimental value. They give little side-glances into the human side of the war. I could comment at great length on that. In two of the letters he mentions foraging for food. My grandmother Rardin, when she was living, related what this was like. The soldiers would go to a farmhouse, enter the farmer's smokehouse, and take out all the meat. They would select the best hams and bacons, then destroy the rest. They would go to dry goods stores and ask for groceries. When the merchant would apologize for not having that kind of merchandise, they would pretend to be angry, then run their bayonets through his bolts of cloth so as to destroy them. It is no wonder that they still call us "damn Yankees" a century later, and have

only partially forgiven us. In spite of all the bitterness, however, it is significant that the Union soldiers could attend a party with Confederate soldiers home on furlough.

There are a few other letters, bearing dates up to 1880, which I have not reproduced here. They also have historical value, but not so much as the letters written during the war. These are with the war collection, and are available to anyone who wishes to examine them.

#### Biographical Information

John Rardin (Reardon), born in Ireland. Came to United States in early Eighteenth Century. Settled in western Pennsylvania. Married in Ireland to a Miss Stewart. children: Thomas and John, Jr. Second wife, Anne Freeland, married about 1760. Issue: William, Moses, Timothy [Veteran of Revolutionary War], Jacob, Anne.

Second Generation. Timothy Rardin, born May 21, 1772, Pennsylvania, died January 18, 1858, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Permelia Smith August 16, 1792. Issue: David, William, Mary, Moses, James Timothy, George, Jonathan, Permelia. Timothy and wife Permelia (born Oct. 3, 1776, died March 10, 1824, daughter of Methodist minister) came down the Ohio River about 1794, settled in Campbell County, Kentucky. He is listed in the 1794 Campbell County tax list. About 1806 he moved to Clermont County, Ohio, where he cleared 240 acres of land. It was called "Franklin Farm," and was in Monroe Township. Timothy was a member of Captain John Shaw's company during the War of 1812. He served on the Grand Jury in 1828, was Monroe County treasurer in 1839, and Justice of the Peace in Clermont County for 35 years.

Third Generation. Moses Rardin, born June 6, 1803, died 1868. Married Rebecca Herron (Her father had come from Ireland). Issue: Sarah A, John, Timothy Andrew, and Permelia Rebecca.

Fourth Generation. Timothy Rardin, born May 15, 1843 (some reports say 1839) died November 29, 1895. Married Mary Angeline Myers (born June 3, 1852, died November 7, 1940) May 16, 1883. Issue: Jesse Hill, Byron Earl, Cecil Andrew, Amelia Dale, Benjamin. Timothy was a farmer, served in the War between the States with Captain Benjamin Morgan, 124th Regiment, Indiana Infantry Volunteers. (This information was compiled by Mrs. Robert E. Smith, nee Maxine Marie McCarty, granddaughter [sic] of Timothy A. Rardin.)

April 9th Greenville

Dear father i [sic] take this opertunity [sic] to write you a few lines hoping they will find you well i [sic] am well wee [sic] have had a verry [sic] hard march from Raly [sic] to greenville [sic] over 83 and wee [sic] marched it in 4 days wee [sic] are in camp here now wee [sic] will not start the long [illegible line of text] N. C. in a few days Ruse Jeffers started on this and to home i [sic] send too [sic] [illegible] songbooks with him Cousin

**Commented [KG1]:** The rest of this letter is later on but I left it as a duplicate as they each say a few different things.

Slave Drake was with me last nite [sic] and today he is in the 63 Ind. the weather is cool here corn is large enough to work wheat is a heading aples [sic] and peaches is plenty cherrys [sic] is ripe and the things is verry [sic] plenty here woman in every direction a runing [sic] after yankes [sic] for they say they want to go north the war is plaid [sic] out and if the boys hast [sic] money plenty there wood [sic] be some pleasure a soldier now

Nashville Tenn April 12 1863 Soldiers [sic] home

I have got here last nite [sic] at six o clock [sic] i [sic] left Ind on Saturday nite [sic] at nine o clock [sic] and got to louisvill [sic] at four in the morning a Sunday [sic] and stayd [sic] there til [sic] monday [sic] at seven o clock [sic] and started here and got here at six in the evening some of the boys sais [sic] wee [sic] wil [sic] start for chatanuga [sic] at too [sic] this evening there is four of my Reg left Ind with me the Reg is 20 miles from knoxvill [sic] the weather is not so verry [sic] warm here the peach tres [sic] is in bloom there is some corn planted here this is a verry [sic] nise [sic] plase [sic] this day is verry [sic] cloudy and looks some like Rain [sic] i [sic] feel verry [sic] well at this time and think when these few lines come to hand they will find you well i [sic] believe that i [sic] have nomore [sic] to write at this time you can tell all that wants [sic] to know where i [sic] am that i [sic] am in tenn [sic] From Tim A Rardin to Moses Rardin

Chatanugor [sic], tenn. [sic] April the 14 1863

I am in this plase [sic] now we tried to get to start to the reg this morning the cars ware [sic] full there is some of my co here Fintley is well i [sic] have had no truble [sic] in getting a threw [sic] the reg is a going to stop and drill a bout [sic] 40 miles from here there is a great many of the boys has give out on the march i [sic] staid [sic] one night in alabama [sic] i [sic] have not slep [sic] over too [sic] hours since monday [sic] night the weather is cloudy here and the nites [sic] verry [sic] cold this is a verry [sic] poor hilly country there is some nise [sic] land in alabama [sic] i [sic] crosed [sic] one corner of the state the talk is that the war wont [sic] last long i [sic] believe that it wil [sic] come to a close i [sic] am wel [sic] and J. F. is to [sic] i [sic] have not seen them i [sic] past [sic] the [sic] reg tuesday [sic] nite i [sic] did not now [sic] it tho [sic] there was some of the boys got apon [sic] the cars i [sic] hope these few lines will find you well T. A. Rardin To Moses Rardin

April the 20 1864

Dear father i [sic] take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know where i [sic] am and that i [sic] am notvarywell [sic] i [sic] have not got very stout and the river water does not a gree [sic] with me it is as cold here as it was in ind [sic] when i [sic] left there there is one hundred of the Reg camped here and it is a verry [sic] dangerous place Wee [sic] marched from louden [sic] last Sunday evening here wee [sic] are stationed on the rail road six miles from loudin [sic] wee [sic] marched here in too [sic]

hours i [sic] give [sic] out in half a mile of this plase [sic] we ware [sic] called in line last night and stood in line for too [sic] hours the rebs [sic] did not come we are fixed verry [sic] well here for wee [sic] have rifle pits all aroun [sic] the camp the rest of the Reg is at Chatanuga [sic] or was there on Sondag [sic] there is a batle [sic] a going on soon and they will not bee [sic] here for some fifteen days yet for the is between them and us there is none here ondy [sic] them that give out on the march there is one devison [sic] a marching a threw [sic] they are ashiping [sic] the soldiers from knoxvil [sic] there as fast as they can wee [sic] donot [sic] no [sic] when wee [sic] will bee [sic] attackted [sic] here and there is no troopes [sic] nearer than six miles of us but wee [sic] will give them half for nothing unles [sic] than 1000 can do much with us guard duty is verry [sic] heavy for we have to keep out verry [sic] strong pickets iw as [sic] on picket last monday [sic] and have to go on in the morning wee [sic] stand 24 hours too [sic] on and four off there is none of the boys that lived clost [sic] that has give out there is ten of Morgans [sic] co here and he is with them he is not verry [sic] well and looks verry [sic] bad he is in com of the boys that is here wee [sic] have plenty of hard tacks and fat meat to eat coffe [sic] and shugar [sic] and beens [sic] some of the boys went out and kild [sic] a beef yesterday there was as heavy a frost asever [sic] i [sic] seen in oct in Ind this morning wee [sic] eat some fish here things verry [sic] high here tobacco is too [sic] dol a pound and not verry [sic] plenty at that prise [sic] there is agreat [sic] many people comes in camp mostly [sic] woman [sic] they are not verry [sic] sharp they wont [sic] believe that there is anyplases [sic] like this they like to live in the hils [sic] and mountains i [sic] would not live in tnes [sic] part of the contry [sic] for the state and be compeled [sic] to live in it with these few lines i [sic] will come to a close saing [sic] write soon direct to the 124 Reg Ind Vol Co E care of Capt [sic] W. S. Morgan. By the way of Nashvill [sic] Tim. A. Rardin to Moses Rardin

Nash Vill [sic] ten [sic] May 27 1864

I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know how i [sic] am and where i [sic] am at the convalesent [sic] hospital here now i [sic] left the reg last sonday [sic] i [sic] could not stand the marching as well as J. F. he was well and all the rest of the boys wee [sic] seen some hard times when the battl [sic] was a going on wee [sic] ware [sic] in hering [sic] of the canon [sic] and musketry for too [sic] weeks and then wee [sic] had them all most [sic] surrounded and was agoing [sic] to go for them on the next morning but they scedadled [sic] that nite [sic] and wee [sic] run them twenty miles when i [sic] give out wee [sic] have done with out [sic] any thing [sic] to eat or drink and got up from sleep and went 20 miles in six hours and ther [sic] was a great many give out on the force march in following the Rebs Wm Det Dave A is wel [sic] Robert A was struck in fact with a rock from which there was a shel [sic] struck the shel [sic] did not burst of it would of kild [sic] a great many there was a man kiled [sic] in co A. that stod [sic] by Wm brite [sic] Capt [sic] was hirt [sic] some by the shell striking the rock if he had been standing

stil [sic] he would of [sic] been kiled [sic] one pees [sic] struck J. F. on the shoulder it did not hurt him and wee [sic] ware [sic] not clostenof [sic] to them to hit them with our guns wee [sic] ware [sic] too [sic] miles off then wee [sic] ware [sic] on the left wing of there [sic] force wee [sic] started and marched to the right wing with out [sic] any rest 15 [sic] miles before we got there they fell back and wee [sic] did not get in the fite [sic] with these few lines i [sic] will bring my letter to a close hompin [sic] that it wil [sic] find you all wel [sic] they may talk of starving the rebs [sic] it is fals [sic] for i [sic] never seen iny [sic] beter [sic] crops than is in georgi [sic] from dolton [sic] 40 miles south to wards [sic] of atlanta [sic] the crops are good and every house wee [sic] go in wee [sic] get all of every thing [sic] that is for to eat and plenty of good brandy to [sic] and they have good guns and are all ways [sic] [illegible line of text]

if they had the army that wee [sic] have they would not run they kild [sic] as many of our men as wee [sic] did of thers [sic] wee [sic] took about 1000 pris they only had 40 thousand and wee [sic] had one hundred and fifty and wee [sic] kiled [sic] only about 6000 of them and wee [sic] lost as many the son [sic] is verry [sic] hot in georga [sic] the dust is verry [sic] bad in marching it is shoe mouth deep there is the nisest [sic] farms that i [sic] ever seen the land is level and rich soil it is the color of the prairie land with these few lines i [sic] wil [sic] close for the doctor is in he sais [sic] that i [sic] wil [sic] go to louisvil [sic] this evening or to morrow [sic] the measels [sic] they tell me that i [sic] must not ror [sic] cant [sic] go any more to the reg til [sic] i [sic] get stout and the doctor here ways [sic] i [sic] wil [sic] not [sic] soon for it is the measels [sic] that is settled on my longs [sic] this is a nise [sic] clean plase [sic] here and i [sic] would rather stay here than go to louisvil [sic] if i [sic] go there i [sic] mite [sic] not get in as good a plase [sic] as this is Father i [sic] am in hopes that you are geting [sic] stout for i [sic] now [sic] you must suferda [sic] great eal [sic] i [sic] know what it is to bee [sic] sick i [sic] have not heard [sic] from you for some time as soon as i [sic] now [sic] where i [sic] wil [sic] bee [sic] for some time i [sic] will write to you a gain [sic] and i [sic] want you to write to me for i [sic] have not got a leter [sic] since i [sic] have been in the army and i [sic] am going to write but verry [sic] few more i [sic] have wrote to nearly all of the people i [sic] was acuaunted [sic] with and got no ans [sic] and i [sic] wil [sic] write no more to them i [sic] wil [sic] bring my leter [sic] to a close for i [sic] wil [sic] write you another soon Tim A Rardin to Moses Rardin if there is any one in quires [sic] where i [sic] am or where to write to me tel [sic] them i [sic] am at the Cumberland hospital 4 devision [sic] nashvil [sic] Tenn

Cumberland Hospital Nashville [sic] Ten [sic] May 31. 64

I take this oportionity [sic] to write you a few lines to let you know that i [sic] am at nashvil [sic] and wil [sic] not go to lewisvil [sic] for too [sic] weeks sow [sic] i [sic] want you to write to mee [sic] as soon as you get this leter [sic] for i [sic] am verry [sic] eager to here [sic] from home i [sic] have not got a leter [sic] since i [sic] started to the army J. F. got one a bout [sic] a month a go [sic] from you wee [sic] have had now [sic] chance to write for too [sic] weeks and yon [sic] need not look for a leter [sic] from Findley until

the Reg stops marching for they cant [sic] send a leter [sic] from the front there is no mail there nor will not bee [sic] til [sic] after the fight at atlanta [sic] we have a good colonel in the Reg. Burges is his name wee [sic] are in a hospitl [sic] divis com by Jene [sic] Hovey ist [sic] division 23 army chor [sic] there is a great many sick in this plase [sic] and some few wounded wee [sic] have verry [sic] good grub to eat ther [sic] i [sic] am not verry [sic] wel [sic] at this time thee [sic] doctor sais [sic] that it is the anuma [sic] from the measels [sic] caused by the measels [sic] and exposure tell uncle Wm that the reason that i [sic] did not pay the postage on the leter [sic] i [sic] sent him was be cause [sic] i [sic] had no stamps nor money wee [sic] have not drawn in the Reg yet nor want [sic] until the fight at Atlanta is over then i [sic] dont [sic] now [sic] whether i [sic] wil [sic] not bee [sic] with the Reg. if i [sic] do not get stout i [sic] am in hopes that you are all wel [sic] when these few lines will come to hand with these few lines i [sic] wil [sic] bring my leter [sic] to a close you must write to me as soon as you get this leter [sic] dont [sic] wait to [sic] long for i [sic] may not bee [sic] here verry [sic] long there is talk of us a going to lewisvill [sic] ky [sic] and then bee [sic] sent to the States where we belong for the hospitals are all full now write soon direct to Cumberland Hospital 4 div. Nashvil [sic] Ten. tell Uncle Wm to write too to me if he can soon for i [sic] will like to here [sic] from him.

Jeffersonvill [sic] Ind June 17th 1864

Dear father I [sic] take my pen in hand to mite [sic] you a few lines to let you know that i [sic] am in hoosierdom once more i [sic] feel beter [sic] all ready [sic] for i [sic] can get some thing [sic] to eat here that is fit to eat i [sic] have not heard from J. F. for too [sic] weeks he was well they are after Jonsons [sic] army under shearman [sic] in the 23 army chorps [sic] and hovey [sic] the div. Tim A. Rardin Old Abe and A Jonson [sic] of East Tenn for vise [sic] president for the union now or never hurraw [sic] for them write [sic] or wrong the write [sic] is on our side for ever

July 1st 1864 Joe Holt Hospital Jeferson [sic]

Dear father and mother and sister i [sic] take this oper tunity [sic] to write to you and to let you know how i [sic] am a geting [sic] a long [sic] i [sic] an [sic] so as to get a bout [sic] i [sic] am verry [sic] weak I have verry [sic] litle [sic] use of my arms and legs they are sow [sic] week [sic] J. F. is some where [sic] beteen [sic] here and knoxville [sic] i [sic] heard from him last satur [sic] week he was not verry [sic] bad he was geting [sic] beter [sic] ... as for my pay i [sic] know not any thing [sic] a boutit [sic] there is some talk of us of drawing it here by the tenth of the month any descriptive roll has not come yet and i [sic] cannot draw til [sic] it comes i [sic] have a good deal to send home there is about one hundred and forty dol [sic] doe [sic] me i [sic] am not verry [sic] satis fied [sic] with the fair [sic] here it is not verry [sic] good and i [sic] have had to ware [sic] one shirt ever since i [sic] come here for i [sic] cannot get any clean one the shirts wee [sic] ware [sic] is white coton [sic] they are for the hospital and we cannot ware [sic] our other

soldier shirts in the hospital here ... i [sic] wish i [sic] was with J. F. for i [sic] am lonesom  
[sic] here if milton [sic] whelar [sic] and john [sic] wyatt [sic] was not here there would be  
no one that i [sic] knowed [sic] m whelar [sic] is from my co. he left the Reg in the altono  
[sic] mountains in ga [sic] Tim A Rardin

Jefferson Ind Joe Holt Hospital Aug 2nd 1864

D Father mother and sister i [sic] set down to write you a few lines i [sic] am not verry  
[sic] well yet i [sic] hope when these lines comes to hand they will find you well i [sic]  
was verry [sic] sorry to here [sic] of J. F. death but wee [sic] all have to die some time  
[sic] or other wee [sic] know not when nor where wee [sic] will bee [sic] caled [sic] off i  
[sic] would like to of [sic] been with him but it was no that i [sic] was sent one way and  
him the other you wrote to me to know my opinion on bringing him home i [sic] do not  
know what is the best thing to do a bout [sic] it will cost some one hindred [sic] and 50  
dolars [sic] to go after him and bring him home you and uncle [sic] wm [sic] can doo [sic]  
what you think best i [sic] know that wee [sic] would fel [sic] beter [sic] satisfied if he was  
bueried [sic] at home for my part if it falls my lot to bee [sic] called of [sic] sofar [sic] from  
home i [sic] dont [sic] want you to bother sending after me for i [sic] think that it does not  
make any diference [sic] where a persons [sic] body lies so they are bueried. [sic] all  
thou [sic] if you are a going to send after J. F. as soon as i [sic] can get my money i [sic]  
will pay the expenses for i [sic] have got a good lot of it a coming to me i [sic] think if you  
do send that Uncle Wm. Herron had best go ... i [sic] dont [sic] think that you need to  
bother your self [sic] about me agoing [sic] to the front for i [sic] can not walk half a mile  
to do my best i [sic] will either get a discharge or bee [sic] put in the invalid Corps in the  
corse [sic] of too [sic] months i [sic] think that this soldiering in the hospitals will do me  
for i [sic] have been in them till i [sic] get tired of hering [sic] of them if i [sic] would alow  
[sic] myself to get homesick i [sic] would not bee [sic] able to go about i [sic] have seen  
some so i [sic] do not let nothing trouble me all though [sic] i [sic] was verry [sic] sorry  
when i [sic] heard of the death of J. F. but i [sic] could not help it and think he is beter  
[sic] off for he is out of this trouble some [sic] world of sorrow and in a few days wee [sic]  
will al [sic] have to go and we now [sic] not when nor where wee [sic] will bee [sic] when  
wee [sic] are caled [sic] to dy [sic] if you go after him and pas [sic] clost [sic] to me i [sic]  
want to see you if you have time to stop.... Tim A Rardin To Moses Rardin and R.  
Rardin

Joe Holt Hospital Jeffersonvile [sic] Ind August 9 1864

Dear mother father and sister i [sic] wonce [sic] more set down to write you a few lines  
... as for my health it is verry [sic] good except loss of the use of my self [sic] ... i [sic]  
am verry [sic] weill [sic] fixed if i [sic] could get the grub that sooted [sic] me the grub  
that we have to eat is coffe [sic] bread and strong buter [sic] for breakfast diner [sic]  
water bread beef and soop [sic] for super [sic] tea bread and apels [sic] ... i [sic] am  
gaining strent [sic] now for i [sic] have got a verry [sic] good apeteite [sic] to eat if i [sic]

had some corn bread and milk and mush and milk with this kind of grub i [sic] think that i [sic] am gaining strength ... Mother you must not trouble your self [sic] to [sic] much about J. F. for he is out of this troublesome world [sic] and where there is now [sic] more trouble in a land of peace and where sorrow is no more you wrote to me to know if he was discouraged when i [sic] left he was not for the last words he told me was not to be [sic] thinking of home when i [sic] left the reg.....he told me he would not ask for money he had some and told me that he had lent all that he would he had one dollars [sic] worth of stamps for he let me have five and told me that i [sic] mite [sic] have more and he said that none of the boys knowed [sic] he had them and i [sic] told him not to let them know it for they would want some of them he said he would not for they cost five cts [sic] a piece [sic] down there he wanted me to take some money i [sic] did not for he had only a do. [sic] he let me have his pocket ink stand and took mine for his had red ink in and he wanted black ink and when i [sic] get a chance to send it home i [sic] will if father comes i [sic] will send it with him and some of my close [sic] and one pair of socks of J. F. that I [sic] got in my nap [sic] sack they are good yet i [sic] never ware [sic] them for wee [sic] get sox [sic] here and i [sic] have one pair of my own with me....

Madison Ind, August 24, 1864

Dear father i [sic] am beter [sic] than when you left me i [sic] have not heard from you since you left me i [sic] hope that you got home saft [sic] and al [sic] the rest was wel [sic] ... i [sic] am beter [sic] satisfied here than i [sic] was at Joe Holt and the grub is beter [sic] ... i [sic] can get a furlow [sic] the first of Oct to go home to vote the doctor wants to put milt [sic] wheeler [sic] and me in the Invalid Chorps [sic] but we wont [sic] go in i [sic] am going to keep out of it as long as i [sic] can for they put on too much stile [sic] to soot [sic] me Sis i [sic] will send you some thing [sic] it will do to look at...Tim A, Rardin U. S. Hospt. [sic] Madison Ind Sec too [sic] ward four

Madison Ind Sept lest 1864

i [sic] started to write you a leter [sic] yesterday but i [sic] did not get it finished for wee [sic] had to muster for pay if they dont [sic] pay of [sic] here for thee [sic] weeks i [sic] will get my descriptive list i [sic] have sent after it and i [sic] think that it will come here this month if it does and i [sic] get my money i [sic] will have you come here and i [sic] will send it home with you i [sic] think that i [sic] will bee [sic] at home this fall for they wont [sic] have me in the invalid chorps [sic] for they say that i [sic] am not fit for any duty and the doctors thinks that i [sic] never will bee [sic] fit for any servise [sic] they say that i [sic] will have to ware [sic] this fever out of my bones for medeson [sic] will do no good i [sic] say that it is the medisan [sic] not feavor [sic] ... i [sic] wrote ten diferent [sic] people since i [sic] have been here i [sic] think that i [sic] will get a leter [sic] from Wm Brite i [sic] wrote him one last week TAR



Madison Ind Sept 8th 1864

Dear Father i [sic] take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know how i [sic] am i [sic] am some stouter than i [sic] was when you ware [sic] to see me ... i [sic] dont [sic] know what is the reason that Uncle Wm dont [sic] write to me once a month or oftener i [sic] have not got one leter [sic] from him since i [sic] left home and i [sic] have wrote him 5 or 6 ... i [sic] asked the doctor for a pas [sic] the other day and he said that i [sic] had beter [sic] wait til [sic] the first of the month and then go home for 30 days ... write how the democrats likes mcleland [sic] for presedent [sic] i [sic] think there is more prospect of this war coming to a close now than ever has been the rebs [sic] has lost three of there [sic] best generals and John Morgan makes four in the last too [sic] weeks i [sic] wish that the draft hadof [sic] went of [sic] this week so that there would of [sic] been some of the buter [sic] nuts drafted i [sic] wrote louis [sic] F. a leter [sic] two weeks ago and have not got no ans [sic] ... i [sic] onley [sic] have got one leter [sic] that was from Jane Herron Tim. A. Rardin Write to me if sis got that liberty tree i [sic] sent hur. [sic]

Madison Ind Nov 23rd 1864

... i [sic] will send you 5.00 dolars [sic] at a time so that it wont [sic] bee [sic] much lost if it is lost ... i [sic] drawed [sic] to [sic] months pay here last friday [sic] there is lots of the boys a going front this evening they are thined [sic] out there in the hospt [sic] they send them to the front and to the R. V. core everyday [sic] Tim A. Rardin

Dec 12th 1864

Dear Father I am well and hope you are all well we have had some hard marching but are now in camp close to the Tenn River now we are a waiting for transportation wee [sic] are a going to corrinth [sic] to see if corporal Hood is there the Rebs [sic] sais [sic] he is on detached duty now i [sic] get a long [sic] verry [sic] well i [sic] am on brigade provo [sic] guard and will get my knap sack halled [sic] when we march Wm. Donham is well it is night and i [sic] write by fire lite [sic] on my knee i [sic] have not got only leter [sic] from you this month wee [sic] will get mail to morro [sic] write soon and often wee [sic] will draw pay soon i [sic] have money yet T. A. R.

Dec. 13 1864

Dear Father I am well and there is a chance for a fight here the rebels is a going to fite [sic] the cannon is a playing yankee [sic] dodle [sic] with these few lines i [sic] will close Nashville tenn [sic] T. A. Rardin i [sic] hope you are well i [sic] sent a box to brazille [sic] to you

head quarters Columbia Tenn Dec 27 64

Dear father i [sic] thought i [sic] would write you a few lines to let you know that i [sic] am well and hope that these few lines find you all well i [sic] got a leter [sic] from you dated the d2 [sic] of dec and was glad to here [sic] from you well i [sic] will tell you how i [sic] spent Christmas it was a marching from Springhill [sic] here and i [sic] got here on Sunday [sic] nite [sic] and found the boys all well and in good spirits wee [sic] are a doing provo [sic] duty now will [sic] donham [sic] is well D. A. is not here nor lewis [sic] or bob [sic] Donham Cap is back sick he is a going to resine [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] know when i [sic] will draw any pay it wont [sic] be long i [sic] dont [sic] think wee [sic] are about 30 miles from the front lines now with these few lines i [sic] will close Tim A Rardin Co E 124 Regt third division 2 brigade 23rd Army Chore [sic]

January 15 1865 Camp in the field near clifton [sic] Tenn

Dear Father I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that i [sic] am well and hope these few lines find you all well i [sic] have not got only one leter [sic] from you since i [sic] left madison [sic] the word is that we are a going to Stoneman we are a waiting for the boats now we will go around by New York we will have a long ride on the watter [sic] i [sic] am in hopes this war wont [sic] last longer than next summer but i [sic] think the hardest fiting [sic] will bee [sic] next spring at Richmond the army i [sic] dont [sic] think will ever come back in tenn [sic] for hood [sic] was cut all to pieces and cant [sic] raise enough to fight any more T A Rardin

Feb 7th Camp Stoneman near Wilmington City

Dear father I take my pencil in hand to Write you a few lines to let you know that i [sic] am well i [sic] got too [sic] leters [sic] from you yesterday lafe [sic] donham [sic] got one dated the 29 said Uncle Wm was dead i [sic] was sorry to here [sic] that when i [sic] was at Uncle Josephs [sic] i [sic] got a leter [sic] from home william [sic] red [sic] it he said that he did not think that Uncle Wm would live long for he was like Uncle J F A was where wee [sic] are now is a verry [sic] cold place but wee [sic] are dressed warm i [sic] ware [sic] too [sic] pair of trousers to [sic] shirts and a dres [sic] coat and over coat [sic] Wee [sic] are not a going to stay here long wee [sic] ware [sic] 13 days a coming from clifton [sic] Tenn here i [sic] am a keeping a memorandum of the cuntry [sic] i [sic] travel over since Jan 1st 65 the health of the boys is good i [sic] am still at Brigade head quarters doing prove [sic] duty wee [sic] are in the first Reg. first division 23 A. C. dave [sic] altman [sic] is here you write that you wanted to know what wilson [sic] said about J. F. he is not with the camp i [sic] wish that i [sic] had my money to send home wee [sic] are a looking every day to get payed [sic] off wee [sic] are camped on the Bank [sic] of the Patomic [sic] River four miles from the city Washington city is not a nice plase [sic] ... i [sic] seen a man from close to Uncle George Rardins [sic] ... i [sic] staid [sic] one nite [sic] at Uncle H when wee [sic] come throe [sic] Cincinati [sic] Wm and i

[sic] went to church [sic] and we had a good time the river was froze [sic] at cin [sic] and we had to take the cars they was box cars and no fire in them and was very cold a soldier has hard times in the winter ... my wate [sic] is 170 pounds you would not no [sic] me [end of letter]

March 10th near Kingston N. C.

Dear father i [sic] am well wee [sic] have been fiting [sic] three days and have gained the ground our regt [sic] was on the lines all the time Tom Deeter Abe Loudermilk Thomas Bilderbac Asker veach [sic] Wm Bright and Frank Morgan was wounded Joseph Cox was killed [sic] out of Co E Margan [sic] and Briten [sic] is not only slite [sic] they never left the field they charged our lines three lines deep wee [sic] only had the first div engaged in the fite [sic] the rebel prisners [sic] sais [sic] they was whooped bad and had a heavy los [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] think they will make a stand near here this is a nise [sic] day i [sic] i [sic] have not got much to write now write soon Tim A Rardin 1st Brig 1 Div 23AC Co E 124

Golsburrrow [sic] N. C March 23 1865

Dear Father mother It is with pleasure that i [sic] write you to let you know that i [sic] am well ..i [sic] have not got a leter [sic] since the one dater [sic] the 23 of Feb. wee [sic] had a verry [sic] hard fight the 8,9,10 of this month at kingstone [sic] wee [sic] cleaned them out though but wee [sic] lost a great many men Tom Deeter and Joe Cox was killed out of my co. Abi loudermilk [sic] Oscar veach [sic] and Tom Bilderbae wounded verry [sic] bad there was some more wounded slite [sic] wee [sic] are camped here at this time Shearmons [sic] army is here and wee [sic] will lay here till the army gets suplied [sic] with close [sic] and some thing to eat and amunition [sic] then wee [sic] will march for Richmond wee [sic] will clean every thing before us when wee [sic] start the rebels cant [sic] stand there [sic] ground longer than this summer i [sic] dont [sic] think for they dont [sic] stand fire verry [sic] well now whey [sic] will run and i [sic] dont [sic] find any objections to that wee [sic] did not have to fight any at this place Shearmon [sic] will bee [sic] a round [sic] our lines this evening wee [sic] will draw pay here they think if wee [sic] do i [sic] will get mine this time and i [sic] will send home a bout [sic] 2.50 or 300 and i [sic] want you to use it if wee [sic] dont [sic] have to leave here for some i [sic] will get some mail to [sic] and get to here [sic] from home i [sic] am not out of money and have plenty of close [sic] and tobacco if you have not sent that comb you need not send them Wm D and D A is well the bois [sic] is all well and in good spirits wee [sic] are in a land where things is plenty there is no end to sweet potatoes and fat hogs and corn meall [sic] the forage is verry [sic] plenty here tobacco by the box and that what is good wee [sic] have no chance to get mail here verry [sic] often for the railroad is not fixed up to Newburn yet it will bee [sic] fixed this week and then wee [sic] can get maill [sic] with these few lines i [sic] will bring my leter [sic] to a close write soon Tim A Rardin

Mosert Hall March 26 1865

i [sic] am well i [sic] got too [sic] leter [sic] from you to day [sic] i [sic] am on safe guard at a rebels [sic] house there is a gay gal here and she sings the bonny blue flag she is full of fun and good looking She is not a fraid [sic] of the yanks She is a going north when the war is over there is a going to bee [sic] a party here to nite [sic] and the yanks is a going to have a good time i [sic] am some distance from camp i [sic] went to camp this morning the boys is well Writhe [sic] soon Tim A Rardin

Mosart Hall N. C. April 1st 1865

dear [sic] father i [sic] set down to write you a few lines hoping they will find you all well i [sic] am well except my legs i [sic] got three leters [sic] from home last week i [sic] got them combs you sent me i [sic] had got me to [sic] but they will bee [sic] of use some time [sic] there is strong talk of peace in the army at this time i [sic] think that it is more talk than any thing [sic] as wee [sic] had some hard marching and fiting [sic] times looked verry [sic] hard at the batle [sic] east of kington [sic] there was only too [sic] Brig of our Div in the fight and wee [sic] was surrounded at one time for a few minutes there was 28000 of the rebs [sic] and only 300 of our men Thomas Peter is dead from his wound the rest of the boys is a geting [sic] a long [sic] well Wee [sic] are in camp at this time i [sic] am saft [sic] guard at a rebels [sic] house there is a gay gal here she is a going north when this war is over she is verry [sic] much atached [sic] to some of the Yanks She thinks they are clever people the doctor is a going to send me to the hosp [sic] as a nurse when wee [sic] leave here i [sic] think that if this war was over now that i [sic] would not bee [sic] satisfied at home wee [sic] have joined Shearman [sic] and will get to rest at this plase [sic] sometime there will be a verry [sic] good chance for a man to make a fortune here when the war is over and i [sic] will try it i [sic] think i [sic] will go home first tho [sic] and see how things looks there... [end of letter]

April 9, 1865 Greenvil [sic] N. C.

...i [sic] am well wee [sic] have had a verry [sic] hard march from Raly [sic] to greensvill [sic] now of 85 wee [sic] marched it in 4 days wee [sic] are in camp here now wee [sic] will not stay here long we are a going to Charlot [sic] N. C. in a few days Ruse Jeffers started on the 2and [sic] for home i [sic] sent too [sic] Reb song books with him cousin dave [sic] Drake was with me last nite [sic] and to day [sic] he is in the 63rd. Ind The weather is cool here corn is large enough to work wheat is a heading aples [sic] and peaches is plenty cherrys [sic] is ripe and the things is verry [sic] plenty here woman [sic] in every direction a runing [sic] after yankes [sic] for they say they want to go north the war is plaid [sic] out and if the boys had money plenty there would bee [sic] some pleasure a soldiern [sic] now Aaron Flowers of my Co was marid [sic] last week to a woman the reb [sic] soldiers says that they dont [sic] want the yanks to leave her [sic] for they dont [sic] know what the gals would do for sweet harts [sic] there is talk that

wee [sic] will go home by way of Tenn and get on the cars at knoxvill [sic] and get home July 1st and that wee [sic] will get mustered out here in this state our pay roll [sic] is all made out to sign for pay and the talk is that wee [sic] will draw in a few days...ps wee [sic] start in the morning for Charlot [sic] wee [sic] go on the cars the distance is 50 miles

April 19th Raleigh N. C.

...we are in raleigh [sic] now a doing garrison duty there is a great many of lees [sic] men a geting [sic] home on paroll [sic] Johnson has not surrendered yet Sherman gave him five days to give up in and then if he does not wee [sic] will take them they are surrounded on all sides by the yanks as wee [sic] are called the Southern gals says the only chance for them is to marry a yanke [sic] for there is not one man to ten girls in the South i [sic] think the war is plaid [sic] out it is reported old abe [sic] was killed on the twelfth it is only a rumor this place is not half as large as Terre Haut [sic] the state house is not as large as the court house in our county seats....

Near Raliegh N. C. April 22 1865

Dear Father I take my pencil in hand to write you a few lines I supose [sic] you have herd [sic] the fiting [sic] is over Jeff Davis is captured and has surrenderd [sic] all the army between Richmond and the Riogrand [sic] wee [sic] are a laing [sic] in camp a waiting [sic] word from Washington what to do the word is abe [sic] is dead wee [sic] will start for Washington in the course of ten days or three weeks the officers [sic] say wee [sic] will bee [sic] at home the 4 of July i [sic] put it off till the first of Sept i [sic] will have plenty of money then to go in to [sic] some thing [sic] i [sic] will sow about 20 acors [sic] of wheat if i [sic] get home in time wee [sic] will be apt to bee [sic] mustered out at Washington wee [sic] have to march through to Harpers [sic] ferry [sic] via 200 miles Wm Herron is well Early (Iskit) got a leter [sic] said the small pox was verry [sic] bad at high land i [sic] want you to sell out and go to Ill there is so much beter [sic] land there and the prairie is sonise [sic] to farm in i [sic] think that farming will soot [sic] me the best of any thing els [sic] i [sic] know that i [sic] wont [sic] bee [sic] content at any thing els [sic] write soon Tim A Rardin

April 26 1865 Raleigh N. C.

...wee [sic] here [sic] a great eal [sic] of the war being over but this morning wee [sic] had orders to march on Jonson [sic] the order was countermanded and wee [sic] still stay in camp wee [sic] will not stay here long Grant is here with Shermon [sic] i [sic] seen him yesterday the word was that everything was surrendered up to us but wee [sic] here [sic] so much that wee [sic] dont [sic] believe only what we see and only half

of that...I think wee [sic] will bee [sic] at home in too [sic] or three months the boys is well Tim A Rar [sic]

May 28

...i [sic] am heartier than i [sic] ever was before my weight is 170 lbs [sic] i [sic] have no effect of weaknes [sic] in my bones nor havent [sic] had for some time the doct [sic] sais [sic] i [sic] never will bee [sic] troubled with them any more [sic] wee [sic] have not got any going to do here only a little guard duty wee [sic] have a nise [sic] camp and plenty to eat but not much money ...wee [sic] will not draw till wee [sic] are musterd [sic] out i [sic] dont [sic] think this is a nise [sic] place here and i [sic] think that if the people would farm here like they do north they could raise as much wee [sic] have green peas and strawberries [sic] and cherrys [sic] here peaches will be ripe in two months or les [sic] time.. (Charlotte N. C. May 28 1865 continued) Wm H. has gone to Washington the 14th 17th 15th and 20 corps have gone to Washington the 23rd and 10th corps is left in this state till civil law is in force that wont [sic] bee [sic] long the election has went of [sic] wee [sic] will get home this fall wee [sic] are ordered to washington [sic] next month there wee [sic] will have a grand review and bee [sic] musterd [sic] out the four corps that left us at Raliegh will have a grand review in Washington the 30 of this month i [sic] have not got much to write now tell all of the folks that wee [sic] are all in a hurry to get home Wm Donham is well Tim A Rardin

June 17

...i [sic] sent you a letter for you to send me some money if you can send me some 2 or 3 dol. it will bee [sic] of a great eal [sic] of use to me for wee [sic] wont [sic] draw any till wee [sic] are mustered out that will be in too [sic] or three months they are a dischargen [sic] all that is at the Hospt [sic] and all that there [sic] time is out and then it will come our turn next as for the regulars none of the boys is a going to join them Capt [sic] R. F. Morgan is a going in the regular army but none of the boys likes him well enough to go with him he is so cros [sic] that he is a fraid [sic] to go home he has had some of the boys cortmartialed [sic] and 16 dolars [sic] of pay taken from them there is six in the Co.... [end of lletter]

June 25th

Dear father i [sic] thought i [sic] would write you a few lines this lonesom [sic] day wee [sic] are in camp and nothing to do time pases [sic] a way [sic] verry [sic] slow here i [sic] dont [sic] feel verry [sic] well at this time wee [sic] have not got exercise enogh [sic] for good health I got a letter from you June Sixth i [sic] look for a nother [sic] soon i [sic] sent for some money if you have not sent it with arthur [sic] deeter [sic] when he comes i [sic] want you to write often for i [sic] like to here [sic] from home every week or too

[sic] i [sic] rite [sic] one letter every week sometimes too [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] think that wee [sic] will get mustered out or draw any pay before winter for there is so many to pay that it will take some time and wee [sic] will bee [sic] the last mustered out i [sic] think that the offisers [sic] is a triing [sic] to keep us in the servise [sic] the 120 and 124 in our Brig has got the 65 and 63 Ind Regts [sic] atached [sic] to them Cal Orr wont [sic] have any put with ours our regt [sic] no 300 men he is a triing [sic] to get is [sic] mustered out on account of co C being taken prisner [sic] and home on parol [sic] he commands the Brig and will do all he can for it i [sic] believe...wee [sic] have no chaplin [sic] with us now he went home his family was sick and 2 of them died and he resined [sic] he give us a good lecture the night before he left us he talked verry [sic] nise [sic] to the boys wee [sic] got squad passes to go to town to church with a sargent [sic] with us every Sunday [sic].... [end of letter]

June 27

..Dear Father i [sic] received too [sic] letters from you there was too [sic] dol. in one of them i [sic] was verry [sic] glad to get it i [sic] am well at present i [sic] felt some unwell last week but have got all right [sic] a gain [sic] wee [sic] have good times here black berries is verry [sic] plenty here and wee [sic] draw flower [sic] and have lite bread and plenty of grub i [sic] think that wee [sic] will get mustered out sometime [sic] thisfall [sic] for wee [sic] are of no benefit to the government now there is no fiting [sic] to do and the garden [sic] amounts to nothing it has been verry [sic] warm here but is some cooler now harvest is over apples and black berries is ripe and pairs [sic] and plumbs [sic] corn is in the tostle [sic] and silk wee [sic] will soon have green corn here as for health it is good there is only about 250 sick in the Hosp out of our Div there is 18 regts [sic] in the Div wee [sic] have good water here it is Spring watter [sic] and plenty of it there is some men a getting discharged now Sam Downy and Wm Cox out of our Div has aplid [sic] when i [sic] go home i [sic] want to go with the regt [sic] for wee [sic] have nothing to do now only government rations and draw pay wee [sic] draw 20 per month since the first of March and that is good pay and do nothing ...you need not send me any more money now for this will do me some time... Tim A. Rardin

July 5

...Dear Father...we had a verry [sic] dry 4 here wee [sic] went to town and marched a round [sic] town from 8 to 12 and then wee [sic] went to camp and got our dinner and at nite [sic] the boys had there [sic] fun they shot away 80 rounds of cartriges [sic] to get shut of carraing [sic] them in there [sic] boxes there is not any prospect of going home soon i [sic] wish that wee [sic] would draw some money soon i [sic] dont [sic] think wee [sic] will get home before wintr [sic] or spring.... Tim A. Rardin

Camp near Charlot [sic] N. C. July 7th 1865

Dear Father i [sic] take this oportunity [sic] to write a few lines hoping they will find you all well this is not a verry [sic] pleasant time here for the weather is warm wee [sic] roast eggs in the son [sic] i [sic] got a letter from you June 28th i [sic] have got a dol and 10 cts [sic] in letters the money come in good for money is verry [sic] scarce with us now wee [sic] are a going to leave this place soon i [sic] think wee [sic] will start for the north there will bee [sic] some thing done soon with us to pay us off or to start us home ...i [sic] dont [sic] know whether you can read this or not for i [sic] have been a running around to day [sic] with some of the rebs [sic] in the contry [sic] and you wont [sic] be gon [sic] long till the womans [sic] will bee [sic] a running after them to get them to go and take supper with them and then to stay all night or a part of it this is a verry [sic] great place for woman [sic] there is ten to one man and they are as dark as negroes and mallattos [sic] .....

Greensburrow [sic] N. C. July 23rd 1865

Dear Father...wee [sic] have left Charlotte and are now in camp here our Regt and the 120th is a doing duty here wee [sic] will bee [sic] the last out of the service there is six Ind Regts [sic] that will stay in this department till civil law takes effect that is the first of Sept. then wee [sic] will get to go home the rest of our corps is all mustered out only the 120, 123, 124, 128, 129 and 130 Ind Regts [sic] is all that is left of the corps wee [sic] are all scattered i [sic] have not been with my co for over one week i [sic] am detailed for train guard from here to Raliegh to guard the canon and amunition [sic] wee [sic] have lite [sic] dute [sic] the weather is verry [sic] warm here peaches is ripe wee [sic] have plenty to eat [end of letter]

August 12

..father i [sic] dont [sic] see any prospect of getting home before our time is out the officers wants [sic] to make money and they are a living better than they were when they was at home i [sic] have not got a letter from home since H. Fisher come back from home and the cars cant [sic] run through for one or too [sic] days yet...

August 13th (same sheet of paper)

I have got a chance to send you a letter by Gradford Holland bac [sic] he is the fifer in our Co. he lives in Terrehaut [sic] he is a going home...there is too [sic] regts [sic] a doing duty here now the 120 and 124 Ind the boys is verry [sic] hard here every [sic] citisen [sic] that comes in with any thing to sell they set a price on it and if they wont [sic] take it wee [sic] go for there [sic] things and then the next time they come back they will take what wee [sic] ask for them... [end of letter]



August 15

...Kurnelis Nosby out of our co has gone home on a furlow [sic] he lives in vigo [sic] close to Olie greens [sic] ...there is some talk of us a going to texas [sic] but there wont [sic] bee [sic] any of the boys get there they will all run of [sic] and go home there is a great many a going home now there will bee [sic] nothing done with them that rinn [sic] of [sic] only loose [sic] there [sic] pay...[end of letter]

Aug 25

...wee [sic] are ready to bee [sic] mustered out now the Rolls [sic] and discharges is made out and wee [sic] are a waiting for the mustering officer to come and the pay master... You need not ans [sic] this for i [sic] will be on the Road [sic] home when you get this T. A. Rardin

Discharge

Timothy A. Rardin private, of captain Benjamin F. Morgan Company E 124th Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers. Enrolled 28th of August 1863 to serve three years or during the war. Discharged 31st of August 1865 at Greensboro N. C.

Said Timothy A. Rardin was born Clay County Indiana is 22 years of age. 5'11" tall. fair complexion blue eyes, light hair, enrolled as a farmer.