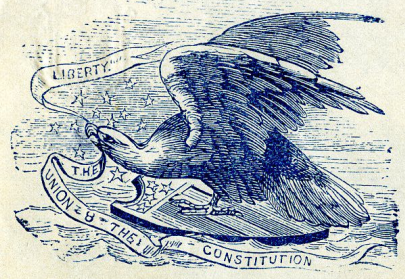


in the last letter I spoke of Joseph being in the hospital he is now out and was drilling with us today, all of our company are well for anything that I know and there is but 1 of the regiment that I know of. I am enjoying the blessing of good health and do sincerely hope this will find you all the same my love to all enquiring friends

believe me ever to remain yours affectionately
Brother James F. W. Col.

P.S. if you wish to write to me you will please to address your letters to James F. W. Col Co H 22nd regiment Wisconsin Volunteers via Cincinnati



HEAD QUARTERS,
22d REG'T WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS,
Camp Brookwood
Kentucky Thursday Sept. 25th 1862.

Dear sister

I now write to you and send you my picture which I had taken in Cincinnati. I sent 1 to father the last time I wrote which was last Tuesday. we were then about 1 1/2 miles nearer Cincinnati. when we arrived on Monday last after dark. we left Cincinnati about 3 o'clock and crossed the pontoon bridge into Covington where we met the Cavalry scouts with two rebel prisoners the 1 a captain the other a lieutenant. and since that they have taken two more rebels from a cornfield. the first ^{after we came here} night the rebels were 1 mile distant. and now we have moved to about where they were if in this direction. we are now about 6 miles from Cincinnati in one of the best camping grounds there is. so can see for 10 or 2 miles

in front of us. we ~~have~~ have just been out
on drill for an hour and we marched to some
of our fortifications where the men were at
work. there is 1.20 pounds in one of the fortifications.
I will suppose that you have heard my last
letter read and I will not repeat what I wrote
to father. since I stopped writing for dinner.
I received a letter from Martha which surpri-
sed me. not expecting one until I had given the
address I have written 7 letters since I left
Bacine and this is the eighth but I should
have written to you before had I not thought
that you would hear from in writing home.
it rained here the night before last for
the first time in two months and I was on
guard but I did not get wet for I spread
my napsack over my back and I had an oil
cloth cap we had no tents nor have we yet
but expect them soon. I have built with two
others a small tent against a which is made

of corn stalks and brush which answers the
purpose very well. two of our companies have
gone on piget duty today. our orderly sergeant
has lost his office and one of the others has taken
his place. Martha wishes to know if we were
thrown off the track, and if the regiment killed
two rebels, and had to walk 15 miles after we left
the cars, and that if we expected a battle on
Saturday, we did not get thrown off the nor did
we kill two rebels but the engine killed 1 cow and
threw off of the track 4 hogs, and we had but
three miles to walk after leaving the cars, nor
did we expect a battle on Saturday, but we
slept on our arms expecting to leave some time
in the night. we have have good victuals and
water and the men are growing fat already and
we have no more fear of the enemy than when
we were in Wisconsin. you will please tell our
folks that you have received the other
picture which I spoke of in the last letter.

The boys then began to search the house they found ~~nothing~~ of the kind. the folks were at home and said that there was nothing of the kind there. they then searched the cellar but nothing yet found. one of them thought the floor sounded hollow so they took up some of the boards and there found, 19 blankets, 130 pairs of drawers, 5 dress coats, 6 woolen shirts, a box of soap, and a box of candles, also a dress trimmed with the buttons taken off of coats that had been sold to negroes. a wagon and 8 guards were sent after these things and brought to this Reg. The last time we were on battalion drill the right and left wings of the battalion marched off and met at bayonet charge the first time I ever saw two different bodies of men meet at bayonet charge. I have been excused from duty the 3 last times that it came my turn on guard, because I was the cleanest and neatest one on duty from this Co. Philip Smith got a box from home yesterday. the boys in the next ~~got~~ also got a box containing 2 pails of butter and ~~some~~ cheese. William Burt & Joe are well. I too am enjoying the same blessing thank God. remember me to all. Park and other enquiring friends. ever true, J. W. Cole.

Head quarters 22nd Reg. Wis Vol.
Camp Colburn. Wg.
Nov. 3rd 1862.

Dear Sister

I received your very welcome letter yesterday just as we were preparing to go to the funeral of Nicholas Shuck. He died the night before of Typhoid fever. We buried him according to military rule. the Chaplain on horseback lead the way to the cemetery. the 8 guards next then the band of music, then the hearse and 6 barriers, the remainder of the company following in rear, refer to the record for the names. Nobles, Smiley & Shuck, they 3 are dead, their soldiering in this world is ended, also that of 2 other boys of this Reg. one died last night in the regimental hospital. Oscar Balsley is well again he left the hospital last Saturday. Alex. Mahaffy is still in the hospital but gaining slowly. John Scott also is in the hospital. the 6 names mentioned are

the names of boys that lived in the same
tent that I do, It seems to me singular
that the largest men cannot stand soldiering
so well as the smaller ones. the 3 now dead and
the 3 that were sick were the largest men
in our company. I am all right as
yet thank God and hope I shall remain
so. we have had wet weather lately,
and sleeping on the ground with but
a little straw under us I think is the
cause of so much illness. As you was home
the day before you wrote, I suppose you
read my last letter so that there is no new
camp grounds to name this time as we are
at the same camp from which I wrote
last. It is thought by some that we ~~will~~
make this our winter quarters but I think
as Burnside's division is moving onward
they intend to do something this winter
and I wish that if this war is to be ended
they would let us fight and do it this
winter. I expected from what was said by
the citizens of Cincinnati that we should

have been in battle a month ago. but
there is no signs of a battle as I see.
many of our soldiers think that the
war will be ended now by compromise
instead of fighting. It must be that
we do not hear of the movements of the
army for I cannot believe that it is idle
all this time. I see by papers sent to the
boys, that our Reg. is thought to be the
most serviceable to the government of
any yet on account of our Col. acting as
he does about the Negroes. a degen told
^{on piquet a few days ago.}
some of our boys that if they wished he would
tell them where they could find some Gov.
stores captured by the rebels which they
could not take with them. they went where
he told them and while making preparations
to search the house (which liberty they had
got from Col Utley) one of them happened
to look through a crack into a mill close
by and there saw 7 Gov. blankets, the door
being locked they forced off a board and
got the blankets, they were all marked 111.

I think I shall be able
to do duty next time it is my
turn, as there are so many sick
now the boys have to stand guard
about every 3 or 4 days. Philip
Smith is dead he was not expected
to live when I left the hospital.
Lungard also is dead.

John Scott is sick in the hos-
pital, his father has arrived.
he heard that his son was very
sick so he came to try and take
him home. Alex. Okahappy is
said to be getting better but he
is deaf therefore he will get a dis-
charge. Charles Mountain has got
a discharge and gone home, so I heard,
and as you say he is home I suppose
it is so. We draw rations of whiskey
tomorrow for the first and then every day
half gill with quinine in it. William
Burt is as well as ever, my love to all
and a good share for yourself from your
affectionate brother James H. W. Cook. Happy
X.M. I wish you a merry Christmas and new year.

Camp at Danville
Vt. Sunday Dec. 31st 1862.
Dear Sister,

I received your very
welcome letter of the 14th Inst. last
night at roll call. am glad to hear
that you are all well, and that the
children are learning so fast. I
hope they can go to school this win-
ter, but as I am gone I fear Caroline
will have so many chores to do that
she cannot go regularly. Please let
me know next time you write who
is teaching the Canada school this
winter. I received a letter from
Sarah last Tuesday morning
they have had the ague again
but are better now. I should
think they would leave there
as it is such an agreeable place.
Joseph and Davis got a box
they heard it was at the express

office and when they went for it, it was gone. It was valued about 30 dollars. and they were about making the express Co. pay for it when they heard it was there again, that it had been taken by mistake by some of the 19th Michigan Reg.

Oscar Babler has received a box about 4 times as large as mine, there were 3 cooked chickens, a loaf of bread, half a cheese, a large roll of butter, a cake from many of his neighbors, a number from his own folks a lot of hickory nuts, one paper full already picked out, Joseph Wright and James Dame got a box the fore part of this week, with cloths and many ~~many~~ eatables among the rest were sausage, cheese, cakes, pies, preserve, dried fruit, butter, a can

of pickled cabbage, another of souscrowt, another of strawberry preserve, and another of tea.

Oscar's box weighed 75 lbs. the other 175 lbs. the boys of our tent have now I think each one had a box from home, there are 3 here now and each one gives the rest a piece of something, when they get their box so that we live very well now, as there is some talk of our marching this week the boys are trying to empty their boxes so that they will not have to carry any eatables on the march more than their haversacks full.

Those cakes and pies are very good I am getting so that I eat nearly as much as ever, and am eating my box empty. I fell firstrate. I have been on dress-parade last evening and this.

Camp at Danville Ky.

Thursday Dec. 25th 1863.

Dear Sister.

I received your very welcome letter of the 18th Inst. last night at roll call containing the good news that you are all well. your hopes are not in vain, I am better, indeed I may say that I am well for I eat as much as ever and I helped sweep the street this morning, and I have been on dress parade several times since I came back to the Reg. you say that there are things in the box that will help me. I know it for I have tried it. the blackcurrent preserve did help me in the hospital, and the bag of camphor gum kept me from feeling faint with the smell of the medicine. you say you wish you were here, I suppose to take care of me, and hope I have good care. I have the best of care, because thank God, I am well enough

to take care of myself. The mustard warms
me, and the tea strengthens me. I received
a letter from Sarah, they have had the
agone again, but were better when she
wrote, but I think I mentioned it
in the letter that I wrote Sunday.

I stopped here to go on dress parade
and there the order was read to the
officers that we march tomorrow. I
am well enough so that I will try to
march with the Reg. if nothing happens
to prevent it, we have had a Christmas
dinner today it being Christmas. I have
eaten all my cake but a small piece of
the Christmas pudding, that is left after
giving each one in the tent a piece, and
William Burt, and a few others, that I
put in my Haversack for the march. you must
excuse this being short for I am busy
packing away the things out of my box.
you will tell father that I heard of this
march after I had put his letter in the let-
ter box. you will see the letter that I wrote to
father, ~~and~~ I send these tracts to the children to ^{show} them
my love to all and a good share for yourself.
from your affectionate brother James ¹⁸⁴ 31. 18. D.
St. W. Col.

I have heard that Maggie Higgin
is married also Susan Calzen.
I can only wish them a happy life.
You wished to know the shape of those
shells that I spoke of. they were round
appeared to be made of iron with tin
bands round them, and to weigh about
12 pounds.

Joseph and William are
well as also me and my old friends.
George McHuron and Henry Lytle
of Mt Pleasant, that stay in this tent
have got the measles.

I thank God stood the
march much better than I expected.
and came through ~~it~~ all right with
the exception of sore feet which I cured
by putting my whiskey rations on my
feet instead of drinking it. we draw
whiskey rations now one peck day with quinine
in it. P.S. I think you might now
direct your letters via Louisville, instead
of Circinnati. My love to all from your
affectionate brother James. F. W. Cole.

Camp near Louisville ^{5th}
Jan. 31st 1842

Dear Sister,

I have just received
your kind letter of the 21st also one from
Charles Fountain. I am glad to hear
that you are all well, and now intend
to give you a description of our march
to this place. we were but 4 days and $\frac{1}{2}$
coming here ^{our knapsacks & were carried} ~~we~~ ^{our} ~~knapsacks~~ ^{knapsacks} ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~carried~~ ^{carried} ~~South~~ ^{South} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~weapons~~ ^{weapons}.
The marched 15 miles the
first day 17 the second 18 the third 20
the fourth and 13 the fifth and last
day. making a march of 85 miles
from Danville to Louisville.

We got into camp by 2 o'clock yes-
terday but our Co. was rear guard of
the Reg. and our Reg. the rear of the
brigade. so that the head of the brigade
went into camp at one o'clock.

We left Danville last Monday
morning. 3 brigades. ours the rear.
The fourth day we went ahead of the

second brigade. It rained the first and second days. snowed the third 2 inches deep. then cleared off and we had 2 pleasant days for marching.

The principal towns (and they are but villages) are. Harrodsburg 10 miles from Danville. Salvisa. Lawrenceburg.

Rough & Ready 50 miles from Louisville. Haddensburg. Savilla. Shelbyville. Dimsomsville. Boston. Middletown. 11 1/2 miles from Louisville. We passed the place where Gen. Floyd was defeated by the Indians, 1812. and we crossed 2 rivers or the same river twice. one was said to be the green river and the other the Fly.

We are the only Reg. left here in camp of this brigade. the other 3 went on board steamers this morning. and we should have went but the Col. thought it better for to keep his men on land as long as we stay here as we will be crowded on the boats. so he told the Gen. that his men would not desert and gained per-

mission to stay on land. until more boats arrive for transportation. Joseph came into the tent today and said that we might not go on the boats at all. but march back to Ashville to guard a lot of pack mules that are to be sent there. Some say that we are going to Ashville by river & some that we are going to Vicksburg. We will not starve here on hard crackers for there are pedlers here all day with plenty of good bread and pies right hot from the bakery which they sell quite reasonably. and we have good coffee now. that with the bread a little butter fresh beef and pie for a desert makes us feel more satisfied and more like home.

I received a letter from Cecelia and one from Mrs Stewman at Danville they were all well when they wrote. Cecelia said but except the children they had the whooping cough. She said that Richards folks were well.

enough to make our beds at night. in
a place fit to sleep it was so cold outside
the cabin and that was occupied by the officers
and two companies. the companies changed
about that they all might have a chance to
sleep in the cabin. I was very glad when we
left the boat. I do not like such a trip
as that was. The weather here is very changeable
yesterday and day before we had quite a rain storm
today is clear warm and pleasant. the Reg.
has been drilling since we came here drill twice
a day yesterday battalion drill and brigade drill
today battalion and company drill. I think that
I can march tomorrow if I can get my knapsack
carried. you will please tell father that the Reg.
is to move on tomorrow 8 miles. I believe in a
Southernly direction. Joseph is well and wants to
know why you do not answer his letter. Wil-
liam Dupt and Oscar are well. These evergreens
I picked in the yard of a Rebel who has
deserted and left a fine mansion finished
off with marble and all sorts of evergreens
in the yard. Good by for this time.

my love to all. from
your affectionate brother
James G. W. Cobb.

Camp near Nashville Tenn.

Feb. 20th 1862

Dear Sister.

Yours of the 12th Feb. came
to hand this afternoon and as we have got
orders to march tomorrow I will answer
immediately. I am glad to hear you are
all well but I cannot say that I am well.
for yesterday morning when I got up and
before I shook as if I had the ague and I
had a severe headache all day and did not
eat a mouthful and last night it seemed
as though I was awake all night for just
dosing. I could not sleep for the headache
and fever. I drank cream tartar and water
yesterday which kept my mouth and cool
and this morning I felt better but the
boys told me that I had the fever and I
thought so and I went to the hospital
and got some powder and I have eaten some
and feel much better now and think that
I shall be all right in a few days. I have
received a letter from father since we came

to this camp and he said that they were none
of them to say well. I am glad there is such an
improvement in their health. I think I
wrote you last from Louisville. We went on
board the boat Sunday Feb. 1st at 4 o'clock
P.M. started down the Ohio river Monday
4 P.M. Wednesday morning when we awoke
the boat was just running into the Ken-
derland river. and at 10 o'clock that night
we arrived at Fort Donelson where the
fleet ~~consisting~~ of about 60 steamers and
6 gunboats lay that night the next day and
next night. The 13th Wis was in camp near
there and came to the boatside to welcome
us. Col. Sevon then marched his Reg.
to camp and we went over the battle ground
of Tuesday Feb. 3rd the day before we arrived
there but the ground was covered with
snow 3 inches deep or we should have seen
more dead horses and mules lay in every
direction. the bodies of the men were nearly
all picked up and buried. I saw two dead
Rebels, also the grave of the Rebel Col. Mc

Casey of the 1st Tenn Cavalry. Col. Coffee
was killed another Rebel and I saw some of
the prisoners and a house where some Rebels
hid and our boys fired at it and completely
filled it full of bullet holes. Our force was
but 6000 Infantry a battery of artillery
and a company of cavalry. while the
Rebel force was about 5000 but our boys
defeated them and lost but 13 killed 30
wounded and 3 or 4 prisoners. and the Rebels
lost between 2 and 300 killed 1 to 200 wounded
and 40 prisoners. I saw ⁴ dead union men who
died of their wounds after the battle.

I hear that they intended to take the
Fort. and fire on the fleet as it came up
the river. but they were disappointed.

We left the Fort Friday morning and
arrived at Nashville 5 o'clock Saturday P.
M. Unloaded the boat by 4 o'clock next P.M.
then marched 3 miles to camp and carried
our knapsacks which made us very tired after
being idle on the boat so long. We were so crowded
on the boat that we could hardly find room

entirely secured him. We left camp near
Nashville Feb. 20th marched 9 miles and
got into camp and tents pitched just
as we had a heavy Thunder shower, the
ground was covered with walnuts on which
the boys that were well feasted I suppose
until they were all gone. I ate but one and
was sorry I ate that. I marched all the way
which I ought not to have done. here I went
to the hospital. the house is but 80 rods
from the railroad so that we could see the
reinforcements pass here also the wounded
going to Nashville. since the Reg. came back
the boys had to sleep on their arms one night
for the guerrillas were but 15 mile from camp.
they have cut down trees and hauled around
camp as fortification now. There is some talk of
our going to Madison as we are so badly cut up and
the 20th W. come here in our place. I hope it is
true. it is lonesome in camp now I think I shall
stay here until I am well, which will be in a few
days, if I gain as fast as I have done. I think my going
to the Reg. so soon before, is the cause of my being sick
this time. we have had a few days of fine weather lately.
Our chaplain has got back to the Reg. and will deliver a
sermon in the church here at Brentwood. I am on
the gain. my love to all. Ever to remain your
affectionate brother James H. ³⁷ H. Cook.

Brentwood Tenn.

March 15th 1863.

Dear Sister.

I received your very kind
letter dated March 6th yesterday Joseph
brought it to me. I am glad to hear that
you are all well, and I thank God I am
now almost say as much of my self. but
I have been very sick with mumps in
right side, so that I could not draw a long
breath. Joseph was very attentive to me. he
left his work in camp and came to this
house about a mile from camp for milk
and chicken broth every day while I was in
the hospital. the first day that I got up
and dressed, the brigade was ordered
to Franklin where they have had a battle
with 30,000 Rebels, and were nearly all taken
prisoners. William Burt and Oscar Babbly
are among the prisoners or wounded. if
among the prisoners he will soon be in
Ohio, as I hear they have been paroled.
I heard that Gen. Colburn has made his

escape with 400 men. Our Sient Col. and Major are the only field officers that were not taken. I heard the booming of cannon the day of battle. Tomorrow will be two weeks since I came here. Joseph got me this place. I should have been sent to Nashville if Joseph had not been there the day the other sick boys were sent. he said that I had better come to this house as the woman said she would take me in. her name is Atkinson she is a Union woman and has a certificate showing that she is Union. her brother and his family are living here. she will divide the last thing with the soldiers, and they have robbed her of every thing that they could get. three of us board here. two boys of Co. G. and myself. Mrs. Hall plays beautifully on the piano whenever we wish to hear it. and we have a good assortment of reading. and negroes to wait on us. good clean beds. and clean victuals. before we came here they must of lived on corn bread potatoes and what milk they get from

one cow. I tell you Sister you cannot realize how the Union people and even the secesh. I indeed you may say the people of the South. wherever the armies have been have suffered. We draw our rations and have them sent here. and they are cooked up very nicely and enough to feed the old lady and ourselves. a sister in law of the old lady is here with two daughters. they also play on the piano. they arrived from Nashville two days ago. What there is left of the 92nd are in camp $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile distant. under command of our Sient Col. I walked to camp and back once yesterday. 4 times the day before. and 3 times day before that. I have written 4 letters since my recovery. The old adage is a true one that a good turn is never lost. for Joseph got things that helped me. and since he came back here again he has been so weak with the diarrhoea that he could walk but a short distance. and I carried him in the hospital. scalded milk and sweet briar root tea which he says has

all the medicine I am taking, I have taken no medicine for the last three weeks, and I feel as well as ever I did with the exception of weakness if I walk far. I got a pass to go down town yesterday. I am on guard today.

One load, that is an ambulance full of wounded soldiers arrived at this hospital today, one yesterday and 3 or 4 one day last week. I have seen so many now, and so many sick and dead that I do not care so much about it.

Charles Fountain says that he has not seen any of my sisters since he got home. That he is sick one day and well the next and talks of enlisting again.

I think the young Hoases have not much patriotism from what you say.

Ever the same

James G. W. Cole.

General hospital No. 13.

Nashville Tenn. April 1st 1863.

Dear Sister

Yours of the 23rd came to hand yesterday. I am very thankful for that money you sent me, as I have not yet paid my board bill, and we have not yet been paid by the Gov. there is 5 months wages due today. I received a letter from Charles Fountain today, in which he enclosed 3 postage stamps, and one day before yesterday from father containing three dollars and 16 postage stamps, and I expect we will be paid today, the pay master is here. he paid the females and Negroes that work in this hospital yesterday.

Therefore I shall have enough now to last me a while. I expect the box here every day now as father said if Lewis Willis did not come the next day after he wrote, he would get a box and send my things. I hope he will, for I am the only one ^{left} likely to get any thing in it.

Since I wrote you before the Reg is
all taken prisoners but 8. I thank God
am one of that number. 4. wounded
and 4. sick. one of them wounded him-
self through the knee in the act of break-
ing his gun, which loaded. he died the
night that we got here. while the surgeons
were taking off his leg.

The Rebels attacked the 19th
Michigan Reg. which was 2 miles distant
early on the morning of the 25th with
2. 000. Cavalry and mounted Infantry.

They surrounded our boys and took
them all but the wounded, and Surgeons.
they made the Surgeons pledge themselves
to parole the wounded. Davis of Raymond
happened to be boarding a private
house, and the Rebels in their hurry to
get away before our reinforcements came
up, did not search all the houses.

The afternoon of that day a train
came out with two cars to come back to
Nashville and the rest went on to Franklins

On the two extra cars, the Surgeons
put their things, and ordered us boys
to get on. the cars then started for Ash-
ville where we arrived about 7. o'clock
and had to sit in the cold cars until
about 8. o'clock, when an ambulance
arrived to take us to the hospital.
We arrived here at bed time, and had
to go to bed without any supper.

Wisconsin boys of the 10th, 15th
and 24th and 42nd Regs. are here
at this hospital some of them only
waiting for pay, then they will go
to their Regs.

I expect soon to be ordered
to Wis. as the prisoners are to be exchan-
ged soon, the Reg. will then reorganize
I suppose and stay at Madison.

I was surprised to see how
neat and clean every thing in the
hospital is kept. The doctor
prescribed a le for me, which is

I had a good time before
the Reg. came here that is
an easy time I was on picket
but a few times and on guard
three times. Now the pet bird
is together again I expect
the Regs will try to get it.
but they will have a sweet
time. I am glad to hear in
your last that William
and Charles are doing well.
I am well. Give my love
to our folks reserving your share
My best respects to Dr
Park. ^{P.S.} and please remem-
ber and tell father that I
have sent \$100.00 home by
the Adams express Co.
James H. W. Hill

Franklin Tenn.

June 26th / 63

Dear Sister.

The 22nd is here
and the boys look hearty and
strong as ever with the excep-
tion of a few. William Burt
looks and feels miserable.
but few of our Co. has been
home. The day the Reg. came
nearly all the troops that were
here left for Triune. leaving
but three Regs. of Infantry
and cavalry. Col. H. E. & Co are on
Proprs know the remainder
of the Reg are near fort Bran-
gier. Joseph looks well and
was well when he gave me

your letter. I have seen him
but once, on account of the Reg.
dividing. We have had rain for
the last 3 days steady. this morn-
ning the River was so swollen
as to wash away the Railroad
and foot Bridges but not
until the relief pickets had
gone over consequently there
are two relieves of pickets that
cannot get to camp. The Rebs.
were seen yesterday evening two
miles distant. a small squad
with two wagons trying to draw
out our canal but as there is
none here of course they did
not go. It is reported that
Crangier is in the rear of the

Rebs at Spring Hill. we are daily
expecting an attack here then
Crangier will advance and place
the Rebs between two fires.
James Ingersoll and myself
having been on the watch before
are again detailed while we
stay here to watch through the
telescope the signal movement
at Trinne. We have no pick-
eting to do and only to watch
& show every day. There being 6
relieves. James Barnes is
now promoted to 2nd Lieut.
I think Lieut Cole will now
come back to the company.
Capt. Gannings has not
yet arrived.

be over by spring. Oscar is
well. To heard from Jerome lately
and says that Jerome has cut his
leg & badly the doctor thought
he should have to lose it at one
time. but it is so that he can get
about again now. Will. Burt
is well. Joseph is not to say well
but is on the gain. Sam well.
good by.

Accept this with
much love from your
affectionate brother
James F. W. Cole

and as I have
fathers I thought
wait until I
answer yours. I
glad that you
William and
me his address
write to him
direct the answer
he send it to me
to have another
from that to
hope he will send
letter for I
much to see it

I got a
and one from
week. they were

You wish to know if it is much warmer down here than where you are. it is indeed, at times the Sun is so powerful as to cause men while on drill to be sunstruck but at present it is cool and cloudy. The nights especialy are so cool that we are glad to get under the blankets.

There is one consolation, that is that the nights have all summer been cool, affording us poor wretches a comfortable sleep and rest for our weary and tired bones at night. The only comfort we get.

The Reg. is on picket to day. I am now fit for duty again and should have gone on picket but the orderly said that as there was not enough left for camp guard as I had been sick I might stay so you see I have a good opportunity to write.

There is but one brigade here to do all the picketing therefore the Reg. comes on every four days. The Rebels took four of our cavalry pickets and shot one of the infantry a few nights ago. I suppose they were bushwhackers. There are quite a number of deserters coming into our lines who say that the deserters of the Rebel army outnumber the conscripts, and that Bragg has some Reg. that he dares not trust on picket for fear they will desert. It seems that as fast as we go south of a Rebel soldier's home just so fast they desert, and come to our lines. The Reg. has been

mustered again for pay, the first of this month being pay day. I hope we shall get it soon for I am just out, having spent all I had left for milk while sick, at 20 cents per quart.

Well Sister we have it pretty hard
on picket every other night but
I feel thankful that we have not
been in that battle although I
should like to see another before
I go home. If it is my luck to
be in a battle I shall do the
best I can. I am well. write soon
From your affectionate brother
James J. W. Cole.

Murfreesboro Tenn.
Oct. 2nd 1863.

Dear Sister

I received your
kind letter last Monday but
was too busy cleaning up for
inspection to answer. I then
had to go on picket and yester-
day we fixed up the tent a little
for cold weather. I am glad to
hear that you are well. I got a
letter from Alfred last week.
they were all well then. I have not
heard from Cecelia for two months
until you told me about her.

I have just received a letter
from father today he did not send
the picture. he was not aware that
you had sent it to him or I might
have the pleasure of seeing his
face today. What is the cause of
your leaving Mrs. Strong. I
think that father had better

take the money you sent to get
the grave stone. for I cannot pay
him the money here and I do
not think it safe to send it now.
howeuer I shall ^{write} again to father
in a day or two and try to persuade
him to take it. and if he will
not you will have to pay for. or
send the money to me.

Since I wrote to you last
The Reg has moved inside the
fortifications. when we moved there
was one Negro Reg. camped inside
but they have gone to Nashville
leaving us and the 19th Michigan
to do the picketing and there is
4 companies of each Reg. on guard
along the Railroad. so that we
are on picket every other day.

The last time that I was on
picket the fourth Tenn cavalry
was out scouting and were attacked
by three hundred guerrillas.

who killed one and wounded two
or three of our boys then another
company came and our boys broke
their line three times killing several
then they got reinforcements and
turned on our boys and made
them skedaddle. The cars every
day pass loaded with soldiers the
wounded from Chattanooga go to
Nashville and Bigel Corps is going
to reinforce Rosecrans. The boys
all feel confident of success and
that this will be the last big battle
some of them think that we will
be home at the end of three months.
The weather is cool it rained
right smart yesterday (as the Tenn
folks say). We had quite a hard
storm a few days ago and the
wind blew over the Butcher tent, the
hospital tent, band tent and one
of the Capt tents beand several
of the dog tents.

fence to keep them away, and unless they make another raid through this part of the country we shall be safe enough or if they do and we get some artillery we can hold them off until we get reinforcements.

The weather is cool here. The boys are pretty healthy now a days, only one of our company in the hospital at present. write soon

I am well. my love to all.

From your affectionate
brother. James F. W. Cook.

11
10

Wm

Wm. Virginia St. Col.

Murfreesboro Tenn
Nov. 5th 63.

Dear Sister.

I received yours day before yesterday. am glad to hear that you are all well and that you are so well satisfied with your place. We have moved again since I wrote you last companies H. & I. of the 22nd and three companies of the 31st. We are three miles from Murfreesboro guarding a bridge. We have good times here on picket once a week and the rest of the time we go hunting and fishing or make rings to pass away the time which does not seem year so long as it did when we first enlisted.

Soldiering has become a second nature to us, we know now what to do and we do it. yesterday Oscar James Ingersoll myself and some

half dozen other boys went out
about 4 miles from us took our
guns with us one shot a rabbit another
a hog which we dressed and brought
into camp after dark and I shot
two squirrels and one that I did
not shoot. well we eat the squirrels
for supper and the rabbit for break-
fast, and Oscar is cooking some of
the fresh pork for dinner.

A soldier has to look after no
one, and we can do so if any body
can. I have not yet seen
Joe since we left the Reg, but
when I do I will tell him. he is well
so Bill Burt says he saw Joe a few
days ago. The 31st W. came here
two weeks ago. Walter Scott of Ray-
mond and John Blackledge
are here in Co. D and Richard Cat-
eater is left at Louisville Ky. sick.
I got a letter from Charles Foun-
tain a few days since. he has enlisted

again, in a battery of heavy
artillery, he is inspecting corporal. in
the Co. of which Fred Pullman is Scient.
He was in Milwaukee when he wrote
the letter but some of the boys saw
that company pass this place yester-
day bound for Chattanooga. He said
in his letter that he expected soon to
leave the state. Our Scient. Col. took
dinner here today for the last time
I understand that he is dismissed
from the U.S. service and about to
leave for his home. Col. Utley is in
command of it at Muspersboro.
The boys have been hard at work
since we came here, carrying boards
and making houses, and we have
now got things more comfortable
than we had in the Reg. and if the
Rebs do not gobble us again we shall
enjoy the benefit of the country air.
five men from each company are
detailed every day digging and making

Muskegon Tenn.
Dec 6th 63.

Dear Sister.

I received yours day before yesterday am glad to hear that you are all well and hope this will find you still enjoying that great blessing.

Today being Sunday we have had inspection of arms. This forenoon which went off all right with the exception of two boys who had rusty guns for which they got an extra days guard.

I have not once been on extra duty since we came out. It is a pleasant day and the boys feel first rate. I presume one reason is that the cars that pass ~~now~~ nowadays are loaded with Rebel prisoners from the front. I know that I like to see them go by that way as they cannot hurt us and it makes us so many the less to fight in front. I got a letter from Charles Fountain a few days ago. he is at Chattanooga and says that a Rebel Captain deserted the day before

he wrote the letter The Captain says
that the Rebel army is starving to
death and that they are dying off very
fast with the small pox.

you wish to know about thanksgiv-
ing and the squirrel. well I do not
now remember exactly how I did spend
thanksgiving but I notice it made no
difference with our duty. The squirrel
was very good we can eat most any thing
now. Looking at your letter I see that
you wrote it the day that I was on picket
and I got it when I was on picket
last I have indeed enjoyed my box
or rather the things that came in it.

What did you mean when you
wrote me for to tell you that you had
given the money to father. did you in-
tend for him to send enough more to
get the grave stone. or for me to pay him
for you the amount he had already sent.

We have not yet been paid and there
is no signs of it yet. I have thought
some of enlisting again into the veteran corps

If I do I shall get a furlough of 30 days
but will have to stay three years from
the time that I enlist. I have the choice of
soldiering whether to go into artillery or cavalry
or any thing else. and get \$4 a month
till father and let me know what he
thinks of it. I would have to stay in
the service about 15 months more than
I now shall our fortifications are
almost strong enough. I suppose when
we get them done we will have to drill.

There is some talk of sending home a recruit-
ing officer for our Co. and one from each of
the others in the Reg. Who is preaching at
A Seneca church now. I have got a new
suit of clothes all through. The weather
is cool My love to all. From.

Your affectionate Brother

James F. W. Cole.

P.S. I was making a ring for you yesterday
and was finishing it this morning and broke
it. The mail does not go until tomorrow and
if I can finish one before that time I will send it
if not I will next time I am making a likeness case
which I will send you when I finish it by mail
about four days after you get this you can expect the
other.

for the rainy season is coming on.
I am well and hoping that
this will find you all the same
I close. From your
affectionate brother,
James F. W. Cole.

P.S. This ring is for you and
the star for Caroline. and when
I send the basket I will send
those things that the children
sent for. Good bye.

Yours
J. F. W. Cole

No. 9
Droves City

Wm. Virginia A. Cole

Murfreesboro Tenn.
Feb. 26. 1864.

Dear Sister,

The cause of my long
delay is merely this. That we have
been expecting to move in a few days
ever since I received yours last and was
therefore waiting until I could inform
you where we were gone to. but we have
not yet gone and it is reported that
when we do go that we will go to Wash-
ville an account of the officers. they are
so quarrelsome with each other that
I fear they cannot be trusted in the field
I do not know that it is the case but
judge from appearances. another cause
for my delay is that you should hear from
me more frequently. I try to make the
time between letters as equal as I can
and as I wrote to father about two
weeks ago I thought that I would
wait a while before answering yours.
you speak of sending the size of ring
that you would like but you must

forgot to do so for I found none.
But have made a ring that I think
will do if not give it to Caroline send
one your size and I will give you
another. I cannot say this time when
I shall send Martha's book for I
do not get much spare time lately
we drill twice each day besides dress-
parade but I will inform you in
father's next answers.

Three more recruits arrived for our
Co. day before yesterday. There are now
five here already and more on the
road this is I think the cause of
our drilling so much. but it will
not hurt us for many a soldier
has died for the want of exercise in
time. Tell our folks as soon
as possible that the Rebels on the
raid that I spoke of in my last
were stopped soon after crossing the
Tenn. river and repulsed with con-
siderable loss. so that they will not
feel uneasy on that score.

Our Lieut Col. has come back
from Wis. I have not yet
learned whether to take command or
not. but it is certain that the
two Colonels cannot agree in the
same Reg. several of the line
officers have resigned and I think
that the rest will be obliged to do
that we shall have a new set of
officers all through one of the Col.
excepted. The three Surgeons that
came out with the Reg. have gone
home for good also the Chaplains

It was thought at one time
that the Reg. would go on to Madison
Wis. when started that way nothing
would please the boys better.
It is doubtful now which place
we stop at. but do not place any
reliance upon my coming. for I
fear there is no such luck in store
for me. I was on picket last
night. The weather here is beauti-
ful. But will soon change.

~~This ring is for Edgar~~

the heart.

P.S. the ring is for Edgar
and the heart for
Betty.

Washville Tenn
March 6th /64.

Dear Sister

I received yours this morn-
ing am glad to hear that you are
well and I do not see how it is
that you should work at a trade any
more now since father has sold some
of his land. We have moved as
you will see by the heading of this
letter to Wash. we were three days
marching the distance of thirty miles
which would be considered but a
trifle. nor would it be, but we had
~~staid~~ staid so long in our place ~~th~~
and had such light dring that it came
harder on that account though we came
through all right I was a little foot
sore but otherwise I stood the march as
well as any of the boys. since we came
here it has been very bad weather.
we have had another snow about three
inches deep which when it melted made
it very muddy.

The Reg. is doing all sorts of duty.
It is thought by some that we will do
the provost duty and relieve the 18th Mich.
which has been here about eight months
and there is no knowing how long we
shall stay probably until the end of
the war. which I do not think will
be a great while. for I think that
next time our army makes an move. it
will be to end this cruel war.

Since we came here I have been
detained and am now detached from
the Reg. on guard duty at the military
prison. there are some pretty hard custom-
ers in the prison. I was on guard from
two till four this P. M. perhaps you were
in the church at that time. I came
down here to the prison yesterday morning
I do not know yet how I shall like
it. but if I do not. I can trade with
some of the boys. however I am super-
numerary. which means an extra man on
the relief. I have to take the place of
those boys that are on my relief, if any
one is absent.

There are a great number of
recruits come to the Reg. last
week. and John Scott that came out
with us has enlisted in company D.
Our orderly sergeant had not yet to
the Reg. this morning when I was there
The Lieut Col. is in command of
the Reg. at present. I believe the
Lieut. is going home.

There are about 25 thousand troops
here at present. I would like to have
the picture of this city and the camp
grounds. at night when the tents are
lighted up.

Father spoke of sending me
a box last time he wrote. if it is not
sent get just tell him ^{be sure} ~~to~~ ^{to} send some ^{put}

I am well. From your brother
James F. W. Col.

From your affectionate
brother James F. W. Cole.

Miss Virginia A. Cole.

Racine City

Wis.

Knoxville Tenn.

March 27th 1864.

Dear Sister.

I received yours last week and as I had just written to father thought it better to wait a week or two. I am sorry that you and the old folks cannot agree or it may be from some other cause that you wish to leave home soon. We have not yet taken the place of the 18th Mich and I can not say yet whether we will or not. I heard yesterday that our Reg. was going into the City and that part of the 18th had gone out but as I am not with the Reg. I only get this by hearsay.

Our Col. is home now on furlough. It seems to me very strange that our privates cannot get furloughs. There were about forty furloughs sent to the front from our Reg. for the signature of the Com. in command and all
came back discharged

Our Reg. will soon have a chance
to enlist as a veteran Reg. and
I have been thinking that I should
enlist with the rest and by so doing I
get a fur lough of thirty days.

I wrote to father a few months ago
to ask him what he thought of it and
he said that if I could better my
situation enough by it that he could
say nothing against it. It will
bind me for three years more, but as
I have began the life, and now
that I came out to ~~put~~ help put
down this rebellion I think that I
may as well see it through if possible
and that I may as well get so much
more money as any one else. I think
that all of the hard fighting will be
done within our present term of en-
listment and that the veterans are only
for garrison of Forts. and ^{to} wind up the
war, or that the Gov. intends to take
Canada or Mexico and wants us to
do the fighting.

However you can tell our Parents
of this and let me know what
they think of it.

I received a letter from Wm
Rathburn last week, he was at
New Orleans La. when he wrote, he
says that he likes soldiering very well,
but would like better to be at home
with his family. He says that the
Battery he is in has enlisted as a
veteran Battery. I got the box all
right, you did not say whether you
got the ring and heart that I sent
in my last letter to you. I may be mista-
ken, but I think they were in that letter.

Today is Easter Sunday. Do you remem-
ber where we were two years ago today.

One year ago ~~the~~ day before yesterday
the remainder of the Reg. was captured
at Brentwood, and I poor down
spirited soul thought any time had come
but Providence preserved me and
I am now well and tough as ever thank
God. The weather is changable here

Bridgport Ala.
April 29th 64.

Dear Sister.

I received yours at Nashville but as I had to write to father about the box we sent, I thought that I would wait until we got on the march before I answered yours, and have not had a chance till now to write as we have been on the march every day since we started and I have felt too tired but to night I have had a good swim in the Tenn. river and feel very much revived we marched 13 miles today and the Reg. drew rations this P.M. we are camped to night on an Island in the Tenn. river, and I have just had a good swim in the Tenn. We are 123 mi. by R.R. and 126 by dirt road from Nashville. / Hookout Valley Tenn. May 2nd 64.

It took us about one days march to cross the Mts. and we have not got out from among them yet. The trees and herbage through the valleys look like it does in Wis in summer, but on the Mt tops the trees are but just budding their buds. We passed Nicksjack cave day before yesterday, it is thirteen miles long, two soldiers went into the cave and have not been heard of since. I have got some shell work that is not quite finished but I shall not have a chance to finish it now so I will send it to father as it is and write inside to state what it is for. Joe has got my knapsack carried two or three day on the march, he is well and sends his best respects to all. William Burt is well and is gradually rising in the line of promotion. We have been mustered again for pay. I am well, my love to all.

From your affectionate brother
Write soon. James F. W. Cole.

I had not time at Bridgeport
to finish this and we are now 30 mi.
from that place. We have been 13 days
on the march, have marched every day
and now we get one day rest. Tomorrow
we go on toward the front, we are in
sight of Lookout Mt. it is 20 miles
long, we have come up to the rest of our
Brigade that is out. The 33rd Ind is
on the road now they have been home
to recruit as veterans we have now
five Regts in our Brigade, the 20th
Connecticut is in our brigade. When you
hear of the 2nd Brigade of the third
division of the 20th Army Corps being
in a fight you will know that it is
our Brigade, for that is our number.
I think there will be a move here soon
for a fight, the 21st Wis. is on Lookout
Mt. and the 26th is here or was this
morning but I hear that they have started
out. I have stood the march first rate
indeed all the boys have, and those that

came out with the Regt. calculate
that nothing but the Rebel bullets
will kill them. This march will just make
the boys tough again after laying so long
at the rear. Our Major is somewhere on
the road with over a hundred recruits for
our Regt. those who were with the Regt.
stood the march very well... the teamsters
have turned over some of the blankets and the
officers will now have to carry their clothes
as well as the privates, and will have to eat
hard crackers and salt pork and live in dog
tents which will come pretty hard on them
at first but they are no better than the
privates, and I think it no more than
fair that they should live as we do.

We are five miles from Chattanooga,
waiting for further orders. We are under
Gen Hooker's command, and as he is a
fighting man we expect something to do
soon and are ready to do it when he says
go. We have passed over some very rough
country on this march.

We are having some very wet weather here at present. It has rained the last four days. The Rebels heard that Hooker's Co. was here and one of the Rebel Co's thinking Joe was only a captain took his Regt out to gobble old Joe but what was his surprise when he found his own Regt gobbled, and that Hooker commanded a corps instead of a Co. We have marched 200 miles since I last wrote you, and have passed over some of the prettiest country that I have seen while in the service.

As fast as we advance we build breast works and I do believe that if the whole army has built as much accordingly as we have the past month, were it all in one straight line that it would more than reach to Wis from here. Skirmishing is still kept up we are getting so used to hearing it all the time that we hardly notice it now, and think it lonesome when we do not hear it. William Burt is still at the hospital Joe is well, and I too, thank God am all right yet. My love to all your affectionate brother James F. W. Cole. P. S. direct as usual with this addition
2nd Brigade, 3rd Div. XX Corps, Dep. of the Cumberland.

Camp in Georgia.
June 5th 64.

Dear Sister, Yours came to hand nearly a week ago, but we have been moving every day since till today. We are now on the left wing of the army. It is reported that the enemy have gone. I do not know how true it is, but if it is true I think they will move us again in the morning. Since I wrote you last we have been in two battles, but as I told father about the first I need only speak of the second this time. On the 25th of last month after marching all day our corps went in to the fight, but fortunately for the 22nd night closed the battle and the Rebels fell back so that we became the front line. I think there were 60 of the 22nd wounded that evening. The next day our Regt was in front of the brigade and had to send out a line of skirmishers in which we lost over 20 men more of Co. K. this time, two got hit with spent balls.

Camp Near Marietta Ga.
June 19th 1864.

Dear Sister

To be as good as my word I take this opportunity to inform you that I am still alive and well. our army is advancing slowly but surely and from the appearance of things I should judge the Rebels can hold out but a few days longer. our brigades pickets brought in five prisoners this morning they say that Johnston is again on the retreat and that he calculates to make one more stand on this side of the river.

Last Wednesday we packed up and left the camp where I answered fathers letter since that time we have marched about six miles most of which we moved in line of battle. Wednesday night we advanced right under the enemys works but was obliged to fall back on account of the position being such as that the Rebels had a cross fire on us and could rake us behind our works which we built before moving back.

Then we built another line which took all the men all night none of them getting any sleep. at three in the morning I was detailed to go on the skirmish line where I remained until noon without any thing to eat after the supper the night before, our rations having run out the night before ~~and~~ these works were built under a heavy fire from the rebel sharpshooters. our Regt lost 22 men killed and wounded three killed one of Co. G. James Le Reed fifth sergeant ~~at~~ at night the enemy retreated in the morning our forces passed through the rebel works which were very strong and been built a month at least we advanced to our present position here we built the best works that we have built it will stop shell all along the line, and it is thought by those that ought to know that it will stop solid shot.

Yesterday our line kept up a very heavy skirmish and cannonading, which it seems caused the rebels again to retreat.

for our skirmish line is now almost a mile further than it was yesterday heavy cannonading at the present moment and by stepping out side the tent we can see the shells burst among of them.

our Regt. lost three men yesterday, one of Co. H. corporals got slightly wounded, got a piece of one of his thumbs shot off. one of Co. G. sergeants got wounded in the leg. one of Co. C. corporals was killed on the spot. The weather has been raining for the last three days, and we are now camped in a mud hole, and the only way that we could keep out of the water yesterday was by ditching.

I can't close for this time going out. so good by for this time I am well my love to all.

From your affectionate
brother James F. W. Cole.