

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF



TOWN OF

Vicksburg

I, Francis Murray born in

in the State of Canada aged 21 years,

and by occupation a Farmer Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have

volunteered this twenty ninth day of February 1864,

to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the

period of THREE YEARS unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also

agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, estab-

lished by law for volunteers. And I, Francis Murray do

solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States

of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their

enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of

the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over

me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Vicksburg MS this 29th day of Feb 1864 before McCreath Capt 18th Regt MS Inf

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

John Korman Surgeon 17th Regt MS Inf and F Murray EXAMINING-SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer

previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my

judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties

of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.

This soldier has Brown eyes, Black hair, Black complexion, is 5 feet

6 3/4 inches high.

McCreath Capt 18th Regt MS Inf 27th Regiment of MS Inf Volunteers, RECRUITING OFFICER.

the 1st day of March 1864 at Vicksburg MS Mustered into the service of the United States, in Company D 17th Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, on

Vertical handwritten notes and signatures on the right side of the document.

NOTE 1.—This blank will be used for both enlistments and re-enlistments—enlistments of veterans, &c., &c., in the volunteer service. They will be made out in duplicate in all cases—one to accompany the recruiting return of the superintendent (not the recruiting officer) to the Adjutant General, and one to accompany the accounts of the officer who pays bounty, &c. The Regiment and Company in which the soldier last served should be given on the back.

NOTE 2.—An enlistment holds to service. A muster-in must, in all cases, precede payment of pay, bounty, pension, &c. A muster-in roll must, in all cases, be filed in the Adjutant General's Office as evidence of muster-in. The mustering officer, commissary, or assistant commissary of musters, as the case may be, will countersign both enlistments as having mustered the soldier into the service of the United States before either of them is given to the disbursing officer.

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, Francis Murray desiring to VOLUNTEER as a Soldier in the Army of the United States, for the term of THREE YEARS Do Declare, That I am 21 years and \_\_\_\_\_ months of age; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for three years.

GIVEN at Nicksburg N.Y. the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February 1864

Witness: S. J. Kane Francis Murray

No. 16

Francis Murray  
Volunteered at Nicksburg N.Y.  
February 29<sup>th</sup> 1864.  
By Wm. Smith  
1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Mis. Inf.  
1<sup>st</sup> Regt of Mis. Inf.  
Discharged Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1864.  
1195

CONSENT IN CASE OF MINOR.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Do CERTIFY, That I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; that the said \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age; and I do hereby freely give my CONSENT to his volunteering as a SOLDIER in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES for the period of THREE YEARS.

GIVEN at \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT

STATE OF Mississippi TOWN OF  
Vicksburg

I, Francis Murray born in -----  
in the state of Canada aged 21 years,  
and by occupation a Farmer Do hereby acknowledge to have  
volunteered this twenty ninth day of February 1864,

...  
Sworn and subscribed to, at Vicksburg  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of Feb 1864  
Before P McGrath 1<sup>st</sup> Lt 17<sup>th</sup> Wis Infty  
Rect Officer

...  
H McKennan  
Surgeon 17<sup>th</sup> Wis Infty

...  
This soldier has Brown eyes, Black hair, Dark complexion, is 5 feet  
6 3/4 inches high.

P McGrath 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Wis Infty Volunteers

[sideways on page]

Musterd into the service of the United States, in Company, C, 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Wisconsin  
Volunteers, on  
the 5 day of march, 1864, at V'Burg Miss.

J. B. Eyal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. 13<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infty  
A. C. M. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 17 A. C.

Declaration of Recruit

I, Francis Murray desiring  
to volunteer as a Soldier in the Army of the United States, for the term of three years  
Do Declare, That I am 21 years and \_\_\_\_\_ months  
of age; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by  
sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no  
impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for three years.

Given at Vicksburg Miss  
the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February 1864  
Francis Murray

Witness: Lt. S. Kane

[sideways on page]

No. 16

Francis Murray

Volunteered at Vicksburg Miss

February 29<sup>th</sup> 1864

By Lt. McGrath

17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Wis Infty

2<sup>nd</sup> enlistment; last served in Company C

17<sup>th</sup> Reg't of Wis Vol Infty

discharged Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1864.

CIVIL WAR LETTERS.

By

FRANCIS and JOHN MURRAY

Copied, as written, from the original letters

By

MARY BRENNAND PEDERSON (Grand daughter of Francis)

and

JOANNE PEDERSON ANHALT (Great-grand daughter of Francis)

# Certificate of Service



**Francis Murray**

The Official Record: ENTERED SERVICE FEBRUARY 28, 1862. ENLISTED INTO COMPANY C SEVENTEENTH WISCONSIN VETERAN INFANTRY FROM FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN. VETERAN, CORPORAL; MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE JULY 14, 1865.

### ENGAGEMENTS

SIEGE OF CORINTH, MS  
CORINTH, MS  
WATERFORD, MS  
CHAMPION'S HILL, MS  
SIEGE OF VICKSBURG, MS  
FORT BEAUREGARD, LA  
ORANGEBURG, SC  
COLUMBIA, SC

FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
BIG SHANTY, GA  
KENESAW MOUNTAIN, GA  
CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER, GA  
SIEGE OF ATLANTA, GA  
JONESBORO, GA  
LOVEJOY'S STATION, GA  
SIEGE OF SAVANNAH, GA

Seventeenth Infantry. The Seventeenth Infantry regiment was organized at Camp Randall, Madison, Wisconsin, and mustered into the service of the United States on the 15th of March, 1862. The regiment left the State March 23, going directly to St. Louis, and from there on April 10 to Pittsburg Landing, TN, disembarking there on the 14 day of April. It took part in the advance on Corinth and the siege which followed April 29 to June 10, 1862, and in the Battle of Corinth October 3-4, 1862. Early in November it reported at Grand Junction, TN, to take part in the contemplated advance upon Vicksburg. Until January it was actively engaged in various movements in western Tennessee. In the latter part of the month it proceeded to Memphis, TN and embarked down the Mississippi River reaching Young's Point, LA, on the 25 of January, 1863; it encamped there and at Lake Providence, and on May 12 it crossed the River at Grand Gulf, joining the army under Grant which was actively engaged in the campaign. Taking part in the battle of Champion's Hill, May 16, and on the 19 of May took its place in the trenches at the beginning of the siege of Vicksburg, May 19-July 4, 1863, and participated therein until the surrender. On the 14 of July with other troops it proceeded to an occupied Natchez, MS, where the Seventeenth remained until the latter part of October 1863, when it returned to Vicksburg. During its stay at Natchez it participated in a large number of scouting expeditions and skirmishes. On the 5 of May, 1864, the Seventeenth was assigned to the Third Brigade, Third Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps Army of the Tennessee, of Sherman's Army, and as a part of such organization participated in the Atlanta Campaign, May 1 to September 8, 1864. Participating in the battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahochee River, Jonesborough and Lovejoy Station. Also in the "March to the Sea", November 15 to December 21, and in the Campaign of the Carolinas, January 1 to April 26, 1865. The Seventeenth participated in the Grand Review at Washington, May 24, 1865, and was sent to Louisville, KY, and at that place was mustered out on July 14, 1865. The regiment reached Madison on the 17 of July, and was soon thereafter disbanded.

Madison March the

12, 1862

My dear parents I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present hoping that these few lines may find you in the same way dear parents I received your letter then of March which gave me great pleasure to know that yours are all well and in good as this leaves me in at present - Thank be to god for his mercy to us all the 16th regiment is going from here on the Thursday of this week and they say that we will soon go south But I cannot tell exactly when we will go I wish you to answer this letter and I will write again before I leave this place and tell you all that we will know about it We have gotten our arms and we drill with our guns 2 times each day and I like to very well seventeen of us sleeps in every tent we go to bed at one half past 9 O'clock at night and get up at 5 O'clock in the morning and roll call and get ready for breakfast at 6 O'clock - We drill about one hour and a half at a time the Balance of the time we amuse our selves as well as we can - for it is not very comfortable to sit down in a bundle of straw It is easier to walk round and a great deal more comfortable It is raining still we can pass time very pleasantly through the whole we are quite comfortable more so than you would think We have had our election and we are well satisfied with our officers - They are very humane and obliging - Everything that we trouble them for

I must conclude by bidding you good By for the present as I must go to dinner and I cannot attend to two things at once

Write as soon as this comes to hand and let me know all the news about home

no more at present

Butt remains

your true and affectionate

sons until death

Francis Murray

John Murray

Madison March 18  
1862

2

My dear parents I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are going south next thursday if nothing hapins we are going to Chigo or else where I cannot tell at present where but I will write as soon as we land our ofisers had a little trouble today they wanted the boys to go south without there pay but they said they would dy first thats all about it this time the boys is all well at present thanks be to god for his mercy Mr roseder sends his best respects to you and to all friends he was glad to here that all is well we did not go to the priest yet we have a good intention on it Our priest is going to preach in side of the camp ground Confess to him he will (obey his orders give his curs to all that would

thats all at present

camp randel 18 1862

so good by friends

you need not write untill i write a gaine thats all at present



March the r y th 1862

My dear Parents

I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are well. Hoping those few lines will find you in the same way- We left Camp Randall without our pay we arrived at St. Louis on Saturday last we expect to get paid in a couple of days- the night before we left the barracks took fire and Burned two men one of our Company and two more badly butned- the climate is a warm here now as in Friendship in June

The 14th Wis regiment left St Louis the next day after we went there we seen William Hern the evening we went there and he started off next day to New Orleans the Milwaukee Cavalry came in to St Louis last Wednesday and we know a good many in that Reg we don't know how soon we may leave here- in our camp ground there is about 350 acres of ground covered with Soldiers there is room for 20000 men yet we drill about Eight hours a day we like to well enough yet but do not know how it will turn out We are about 240 miles from the fight now- they have a great fight at Island number 70 they are fighting about a week now - We expect to go to New Mesinco when we leave - we have a Priest with us all the time we had a lecture on Thursday and Mass every Morning - give our best respects to all the neighbors - James Galagher and all the Boys Sends their best respects to all the Friends inquiring - I have no more at present but remain your affectionate sons John and Francis Murray.

In Camp Near Corinth  
June 20th 1862

4

Dear Father and Mother

We yesterday receives your letter of 8th June and were truly happy to hear that you are all still in the land of the living and enjoying that greatest of all temporal blessing of which I am sorry to say that not all the boys now in the army can boast A good many have been laid in their last resting place on earth and many more have contracted diseases which will cling to them throught life. while some have had simple sick spills such as diarrhae cold and but a very small portion have been fit for duty all the time We are both afoot and well thanks be to God, we are now encamped in what we call good quarters about a mile from Corinth, it is supposed that we will stay here all summer as the summer season is set in and it would be too hot for us in fact we could not stand it down South we have not had it much if any hotter here than at home and the nights are generally Cool- I never felt such cold in Wisconsin at this season a I experiences last night it was as cold as a November night you seem to have an idea that we will soon be sent home we don't expect it; for although the rebels are now driven out of their strongholds (we have a report this morning with some appearance of truth that Richmond is taken with a multitude of prisoners) still they are far from being subdued and will yet cause a great deal of trouble and hard fighting- but so far as regards our being disbanded or sent home, we can only hazard a guess - we don't know anything about it you can tell us as much about it as we can you have a better chance to see the news than we have Dan Mc Glaughlin is still teaming with six mules he has been laying off the last three days sick of diarrhoea but he will soon get over it, give his respects to all the folds, James Gallagher is

also down sick of diarrhoea, he went with his team to the landing last week and had to be left there - we have just heard by the man who took his team that he is better and will probably be here tomorrow Barney Harkins is also off duty with diarrhoea he has but a slight attack, John Carmichael is quite well he has done duty all the while John Stoddart came back the other day he was in hospital at St. Louis he is well, Charles Carberry is on duty all the while, he sends his respects to you all give our kind love to all yours

affectionately

Francis and John Murray

Co. C 17 Reg Wis vol

Corinth

B. R. Mississippi

In Camp near Corinth  
June 24th 1862

Dear Father and Mother

We write you a letter last week to let you know how we get along. I now write you again to let you know that we got two month's pay the other day, and as our Quartermaster is going home to morrow we will send you by him Twenty dollars apiece he will Express it to you from Madison or Milwaukee so you may as soon as you recieve enquire at the Express Office for Forty dillars sent by Mc Gee from either of the above mentioned places We are in hopes that we will again receive two month's more pay early in July when we will send you Forty dollars again - You are free to use it just as you please and welcome, I have made a mistake in telling you how we send it, a number of us will join together and send all to John Mc Glaughlin who is acquainted with Mc Gee and you may go to John's and get it You will please write as soon after getting the Cash and let us know that it is all right

We are all well and I told you in our last that James Gallagher had been sick he has got back quite well Dan Mc Glaughlin is also nearly quite well in short the boys that is our boys are all afoot We don't yet know anthing about our going or staying but don't be thinking we will be sent home this summer - instead of Richmond being taken we hear that our army is getting rather the worst of it and it is very likely we will either be put in garrison here or sent to garrison some Southery City

I will now conclude

Your affectionate Sons

Frank and John Murray

In Camp near Corinth  
July 1st 1862

7

Dear Father and Mother

We wrote you last week to tell you that we had sent you Forty dollars by Mc Gee our Quartermaster who is going home, he intended to leave here the day after we wrote you, but he did not get away till this morning, you may possibly be uneasy about it if you get our letter in good season, but now that he has gone away we hope it will yet be all right, we are now only sorry you will not get it before the 4th of July, our Muster rolls are made out, and we have been mustered for another two months pay, which we expect to receive within 10 days when we will send you some more. We are all well as when I last wrote, We are under marching orders - it is supposed for Washington or Richmond. We will probably leave here in two or three days - but you may still adress you letters here.

We have to take our turn with other Regiments to go picketing in the woods, we have been out several times but have never seen any successionists yet, we were out the other night, when Frank halted something which proved to be a pig which we confiscated and with some new potatoes had quite a feast prepared in the woods without a great lot of fixins

Danl Mc Glaughlin would have written home only he thinks this letter will do for all at present, he will not write till he knows where we will move to. he sends his respects to all. Barney Harkins also desires to be remembered to all. and James Gallagher does not want to be forgotten. James Rossetter also and John Carmichael and John Stoddart asire to be remembered all at present from

Your Affectionate Sons

Frank and John Murray

8  
July 20 1862

Camp Near Corinth Mississippi

Dear Father and Mother we received your kind and welcome letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> stating that you were all well Excepting mothers foot hoping these few lines may find her better as these leaves us in good health thank God we would have answered your letter two days ago but we were just going out on picket and returned this day (20) without having anything of importance to report we took two prisoners thats all- we were uneasy on account of not hearing from you before we thought you had forgot us but better late than never we were glad you received the money safe and we very glad that Mc Gee was so kind as to forward the money to you. You stated that you would lay out the money what ever way we wanted and that you would use some of it you self all we have to say is that you use it to the best advantage to what ever way you think best yourself You will please write often and let us know all about the crops and how you get along with your harvest - we have not much to say about the war as you see more in the papers then we could tell you we understand the are going to rase 300 000 more men and in order to get that number of men they are going to draft- Everything here is very high, butter milk is 20 cts per qt adn Everything in'prepartion John Carmichael got transfered to another company B Harkin is better James Gallagher Dan Mc Glaughlin and Charles Carberry are well the weather is pretty hot here we have no signs of peace you see by the papers our grand army is kept in check at Richmond but we guess if the 17<sup>th</sup> goes down to Richmond we will make them either runn or fight as the died at Corinth - give our love to all the childeren hope the will be all good till we return and attend school well till the war is over and we will bring them something nice give our love

9  
to all enquiring friends give our best respects to Lorenze Lay tell  
him we like   ?     ?   first rate. Charles Carberry received  
a letter from his family this day. Write as soon as this comes to  
hand No more from your sons

Frank and John Murray

John Dougherty and James Rosseter are well and s sends yous  
their best respects

10  
Camp Near Corinth Mississippi

August 22 1862

Dear Father and Mother

We received your kind and affectionate letter of 13th which gave us grate pleasure to hear that you were all well thank God for his kindness to us all As we are in the same state of good health Frank and me sent home \$35 to you by Express and has not heard from it yet. no doubt but you have heard from it before this The are grate news here about drafting and recruiting in wisconsin and all over we are told that thirty five has been Enlisted out of our Town if so we would like to know their names and who the are Frank is down on guard at the Hospital I have not seen him for this last week but he has good times of it we had quite an alarm the other night Our pickets was attacked by some rebles and one of our men was wounded in the head by being hit with three buck shout so we had to stand to our arms all night but after firing a few shots in the dark he took too ther heels, our buisness for present is standing picket Every other night our boys is all in goodSpirits and will not flinch but wish for the fight we think when this new army comes in tho the field that the will soon put an end to this wicked rebellion so the sooner the come on the better we are well used at present plenty of good freash bread and beef with potatoes and some times our whiskey

James Gallagher John Stoddart Charles Carbery B. Harkins and all the boys is well Excepting Dan Mc Laughlin he is not very well but nothing very serious write as soon as this comes to hand let us have all about the boys that is going to the war and if any of them is going to come in to the 17th give our love to all enquiring friends give our love to brothers and sisters James Rossiter is well

Your sons till death

Frank and John Murray

write as soon as this comes to hand



September 5 1862

My dear father and mother i take my pen in hand to let you know that we are well hoping these few lines may find you in the same all the boys is well thanks be to god. we are not with the regiment now there are three out of every company guarding the division hospital about five miles from the regiment we are campd at the reble brest works waiting for a rowe

the regiment is getting along furst rate there is very few dying at presant the forteenth has moved up from pitchburg landing they are campd about one mile south of corinth i have not seen william hern in four or five months but the heel division was out on general review and i seen one of his company and he told me that william had been sick in the hospital i will go to see him as soon as i can then i will let you know how long he has been sick we would send our liness only i spent so much money for candy we cant send them ween i get more money to spend for candy maby we can manage to send them there is a recruiting oficer from our company in fondulac if there is any in our neighborhood but wishes to list in the seventeenth regiment there is a chance for them- tell nowrenson lay if he wants to list he has a good chance to volenteer i here they are going to draft the fifteenth of this month - we would like you would send rosann tude and cates likeness thats all at present remaining your effection Sons Ferancis and John murray So good by all we are bound for the happy land of canion.

12  
Octo the 5 1862

Corinth Miss

My kind father and mother i take my pen in hand to let you know that we are in good health hoping that those few lines may find you enjoying the same we are very sorry to hear that father has ben sick so long James Galagher is well James roseter also and charles carbery is well lonly hapened unluckly got his thumb shot of axidently daniel mc laughlin has ben sick this long time and has gone north some where i dont know were I am glad to here that all the friends are well we feel just as well as ever we did thanks be to god for his kindness to all for his kindness to all for he is our guide night and day i would like you would send me stamps in your next letter and we would like you would send us a couple of pairs of boots box them up in a little box we will want them for winter boots is from seven to ten dollars down here we was up to the fourteenth yesterday william hern he is getting better but he is in the hospital yet he looks firstrate- fourteenth regiment got marching orders we dont know when we will see him again we will get our likeness as soon as we get paid againe but i dont know when that my be it will cost us about two or three dollars thats all at presnt remaining your afexionate sons

Francis and John

Murray

our love to all the children

13

Camp Near Grand Junction Tennessee  
Nov 7 th 1862

Dear Father and Mother

We got your letter on the 26th it had been longer than usual on the route, we were the next day releived from guard duty at Hospital and went back to our regiment, on the way to camp we called at the Express office for the box and got it all right I could not possibly write you any sooner for we were ordered right out on picket guard and the next morning the pickets were drawn into march after Price and I now take advantage of the first chance to assure you that we are alive and hearty

We left Corinth last Sunday and had a hard March to Grand Junction expecting to meet General Price and his rebel from there and have a big fight, but he had left and we are now laying here about three miles south from Grand Junction, I expect we are laying here till our leaders can ascertain the rebel whereabouts when we will likely follow them up there is a large army of us here there must be at least 50,000 men so you may expect to hear of us doing something soon if the weather don't get bad and break up the roads, in that case we would very likely make winter quarters here, we are not needed very bad at Corinth for it is greatly strengthened since the fight by a double tier of breastwork in and around the town and additional Forts presenting altogether a formidable front on which ever side it may be attacked- We put on our boots for the march but being not yet shaped they hurt our feet for we traveled hard so we put them off and were glad to put on our old shoes; all the boys were tired when we got here we were three days on the road but two days rest has put us all right again. Mr. Rossitter Mr Gallagher and all the rest are quite well We cannot learn anything of Dan Mc Glaughlin since we went to Kentucky James Gallagher has wrote him twice but no answer, Barney Harkin went to Jefferson Hospital near St. Louis and that is all we

know of him; We are very strictly looked after here, on the march the boys would leave the ranks plunder the houses and then set fire to them, burned the fences all along shot hens geese pigs, Cattle and in short destroyed everything they came across leaving the whole country behind a desolate waste, so now no man can leave his camp, we have roll call five times a day our arms and accoutrements are inspected every day and we are to be charged Fifty cents for each Cartridge missing- so you see we are now on a strict was footing- I suppose that Mr Carberry is now home he will have some tales to relate of the fight John is today detailed on a foraging expedition, there are eight from our company with two wagons, I was on picket yesterday and last night which is not very agreeable as the water froze in our canteens last night We had an inch of snow about two weeks ago the change was sudden

You may address to your loving sons Francis and John Murray

Co. C. 17th Wisconsin

6th Division Army of Tennessee

Corinth Mississippi

15

Camp near Grand Junction  
Tennessee Nov. 21st 1862

Dear Father and Mother

We recieved your letter today, your anxiety regarding us must be at least partially relieved ere this time, for we wrote you about two weeks ago and explained the reason of our not writting before leaving Corinth, you ought to have had that letter before posting yours of the 15th in case it has miscarried I will again tell you that when we were relieved from guard at the hospital and rejoined the regiment we were ordered right out on picket and while out the regiment had marching orders and we were fetched in from picketing just in time to join the march, so that we had no time to write you then to tell you of the safe arrival of the box with its contents, but we did so here the first opportunity we had, and when we wrote we little thought we would be here yet we are here yet, and how long we may stay is to us a profound mystery, we may camp here all winter and we may leave tomorrow, such is the extent of our knowledge of affairs and it is of course proper that we common soldiers should be kept in utter ignorance of the design of our leaders- All we can now say about it is that we left Corinth on short notice and travelled very hard for three days to Grand Junction expecting to fight Missieurs Secesh but they had pulled stakes and left and we heard that they had gone to Holly Springs about 25 miles nearly due South from Grand Junction (grand Junction is about 45 miles nearly West from Corinth) When we came from Corinth we travelled by a round about way) Holly Springs is said to be very strongly fortified but they have evacuated it, and are said to be fortifying about 20 miles below that place, and will make a determined stand if we attack them, we know not whether we will do so, but we expect an active campaign, we expect hard marching, hard living, hard fighting, and hard times generally, we are now in a rich and in what in peaceful times must be a well cultivated country, but there are large tracts of fine land laying waste, while there are great fields

16

of cotton going to waste, the owners are all away to the war and the niggers are mostly all away to the Union Army or way up north, and numbers of them have been taken down South by their masters to be out of the way, there is a great deal of corn in the fields which is largely drawn upon by our foraging parties for the sustenance of our large trains of horses and mules, our foraging parties also bring in pigs Sheep and Cattle so we occasionally have out fresh meat, we have a baker who has followed us from Corinth and if we settle long enough we can have bread regularly but on a campaign the crackers and bacon are our main support as they are the most easily transported. We are strictly confined to our camp on account of the awful bad behavior of some scoundrels calling themselves soldiers, who on the march straggled and plundered burnt and destroyed everything within reach- they burnt houses stacks and fences they shot poultry, pigs, sheep cattle, the fences were on fire sometimes for half a mile at a stretch and as the roads are very narrow it was really dangerous passing through so much so that the amunition trains had to leave the road and travel through the fields. Our Generals were furious about it and have issued strict and severe orders- we have roll call five times a day absenties to be reported to head quarters for drum head court martial Our arms and accoutrements are inspected every day, our cartridges counted and for each one missing Fifty cents is to be deducted from pay. We dont know anything about Dan Mc Glaughlin further than seeing in the newspaper his name in a list of sick at the New House of Refuge Hospital St. Louis, James Gallagher wrote to him as soon as we found it and urged him to write immediately to him or John, he has not written yet. Barney Harkin was at Jefferson Hospital last time we heard from him, ? Gallagher has sold his boots for Ten dollars to get cash on pay day, they were too short for him, he is well and teaming yet, he heard that Mrs. Brown was sick by a letter to Dam Mc Monagle two or three days

ago, James Rositer is well, they send their respects, John Carmichael 17  
and John Stoddart desire to be remembered, they are well and hearty,  
you will give our respects to all enquirers and accept for yourselves  
the sincere regards of

Your loving sons

Francis and John Murray

Co C 17th Wisconsin

Left Wing Army of West Tenn.

Grand Junction Tenn.

Camp Near Grand Junction  
Tennessee Nov 26th 1862

Dear Lorenzo

I have for a long time intended to write you a few lines to show that although in the tented field in the midst of war and war alarms I still think of home and some of my boyhood's companions- You in particular, and but for the changes incident to a soldiers life, I would have written you long ere this time, but believe me it really a very serious matter to undertake to write a letter, the materials for so doing are generally very scarce, one will probably have a pen, another ink, another paper, another envelopes and so on, and then when one gets all the materials together and thinks he will get time to write a few lines to some fondly remembered one at home, he is called for some duty or other, and it may perhaps be a week ere he can touch pen and paper again. I have already been twice called for paltry petty camp duty since I began and now after supper am seated on my knapsack with a shingle on me knees for a writing desk, in the midst of a noisy and crowded tent, where I have hardly elbow room, I hope to finish this short scrawl to you, you may think that because I have said it is after supper I will surely have time to finish this- you ought to be here to see the boys around me, I have to stop frequently to take part in the discussions constantly going on, sometimes on politics but most commonly on matters military and varied by fun of some sort or other often a mock fight will occur between two or three which will infect all and all will have to turn in and make a general row in the tent.

You must have read the accounts of the battle of Corinth, I was at the time away from the Regiment with a detachment guarding a Hospital (so was John) so I was not with them in the fight, but I



19  
saw a little of it and I tell you it was a terrible sight- I need not attempt to describe it, for I cannot paint such scenes, but I may tell you that the 17th had a hard scrape and got out of it almost miraculously; they numbered less than 500; they were ordered by our General of Division to charge "Secesh" who were about to capture a battery, they did so and chased 4 Regiments for a time and saved the battery, the General gave them great praise, he said the charge was one of the most brilliant of the war. the newspapers did not give the regiment the credit to which they were fairly entitled, but depend upon it, if we ever get into a mess again you will read of them for our name as fighting boys is established here and we will be put into it the first chance our commanders have. we the hospital guard were ordered to rejoin the regiment and did so the last of last month; we expected to be kept as guard around Corinth as we had been there so long, but that lot was not for us. Corinth which before the battle was pretty well defended is now made quite formidable by a double tier of breast works in and around the town so that only a small force is now needed to defend the place; we were about to fix up our tents for the winter, for the weather which about the time of the battle had been warm, suddenly was put on our operations by unexpected orders to march at eight hours notice. we left Corinth on Sunday Nov 2nd and had three days hard marching to Grand Junction where we expected to give battle to Messieurs "Secesh" but they had "skedaddled" left and gone to Holly Springs (Corinth is a little south about 4 miles of the state line of Tennessee and Mississippi Grand Junction is about a mile and a half north of the state line and 15 miles nearly west from Corinth and Holly Spring is about 25 miles South from the Junction; and is said they had fortified themselves strongly there but they have left that place also and are said to be 20 miles below strongly entrenched

and determined to resist us to the last if we should attack them-  
 we have been encamped about three miles from the town in daily I  
 may say hourly expectation of orders to move and are here yet, we may  
 stay here all winter or we may go tomorrow, we have just heard that  
 there are marching orders for day after tomorrow but we can't be sure  
 we are going till we get on our knapsacks; fall in and hear the word  
 "March"- we have before the battle of Corinth been many times turned  
 out in battle array on false alarms, and several times had orders to  
 march and have three days rations cooked and after all didn't go and  
 it may be so with us now, but we started on what we expect will be an  
 active campaign, we expect hard marching hard living, hard fighting and  
 hard times generally I have said we expect hard libing hard crackers and  
 bacon with coffee when we can light fires will be our principal support-  
 we have a baker now but when we get into the enemy's nearer neighborhood  
 I expect he will have to fall behind with his portable oven I expect  
 that our supplies of fresh meat will also be stopped for the farther  
 South we go, the more difficult will it be to keep up our lines of  
 communication and transportation we are now in a fine farming country  
 in times of peace there must be great crops raised here, but now  
 there are large tracts of land laying waste, the owners are all "away  
 to the war" there are large fields of cotton going to waste for want  
 of hands to pick it for the niggers have either gone into the Union  
 lines or have been carried off South by their owners to be out of the  
 way now Lorenzo I don't think it all likely we will skate together  
 on the old Lake winnebago this winter- no matter just when you have the  
 skates on think on the merry times we two have had in by gone times and  
 let us hopw that ere another summer's sun will have wamed we will be  
 seated together in some snug corner and relating each other's experiences  
 of our short but eventful period of seperation

Yours truly Francis Murray Co. O 17th Wisconsin

Left wing Army of Tenn

Grand Junction Tennessee

27

Camp near Abbeville on the Mississippi  
Central Railroad Mississippi Dec 9th 1862

Dear Father and Mother

We have this morning got your welcome letter of 28th ultimo and are very happy to hear that all are well, and more so that you dear father have at least some hope of your ultimate recovery you have a good doctor, if any one can cure you that one is Dr. Raymond. I am thankful to Almighty God to have to say that we are well and in good spirits although we have seen something like hard times since we last write, Barney Harkins joined us the night before we resumed our march, he is quite well and don't look as if he had been starved or half starved, at all events he gets all he can eat now, we expect Dan Mc Glaughlin will be with us soon. James Gallagher had a letter from him a few days ago he says he is as well as he ever was. James Gallagher is well and hearty he is teaming yet. James Rosseter is well he has a letter this morning from his brother he will probably write when he find G Gould and gets his glove. we are all surprised at Mr. Carberry's silence, he has not written a scrap to anyone here, we suppose that he was discharged as his papers were sent to him at the Hospital, we heard he had gone home and another Sargeant was appointed in his place, and now we hear that he is coming back, if you can tell us anything about him do so in your next letter for we are all curious to know we would like very much to have some little extras from home to celebrate Christmas with, but as the rebels in their retreat broke up the Railroad as bad as they could, we do not yet have direct communication with Corinth, so you had better not go to the trouble to send us anything as we might not get it and the regret and vexations at the loss would amount to more than the cost- they say here that it will cost nearly three weeks work to reopen the Railroad to this place. We left Grand Junction early on the morning of the 28th and travelled

23  
hard all day resting occasionally and camped about 11 at night started  
at 5 next morning and put on to Holly Springs 25 miles from G. rested  
there awhile and again pushed on and very soon could hear the booming  
of Cannon in the distance and hurried on for our Cavalry and Artillery  
were fighting and we might be needed to support them, that was hard  
hard marching indeed, we were travelling on what is called the highest  
land in the state, we would toil up one long steep hill, run down  
another longer and steeper and again up another worse yet, in this way  
we passed a large body of our cavalry horses, picketed along side the  
road, the ones having dismounted and gone ahead skirmishing, a nigger  
was digging a grave just inside the fence for one poor cavalryman who  
had close by had a sudden finisher put upon his efforts in behalf of  
our country we had a breathing spell and

(letter not complete)

23

On the Mississippi near Vicksburg  
January 28th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

We have not heard from you in about two months - how is it with you all? we want to know but I expect you are as anxious to hear from us - we wrote you last from Abbeville in Mississippi - we left that place Dec 17th and marched Southward 25 or 30 miles expecting to go to Granada some 50 or 60 miles further and have a battle for Secesh are strongly fortified there - but we had to make back tracks in the quickest force of mounted Infantry who by some round about way got in behind us and surprised Holly Springs and took the place with an Illinois Regiment and portions of two other prisoners without a fight. we went back within 9 miles on the cars and marched rapidly to the town for we were expecting to catch them but they well knew that they could not hold the place so they burned the depot, two R.R. Engines a number of cars and a large and valuable assortment of supplies and paroled some of their prisoners. they could not finish this part of their job for they got up a big drunk and cutting up considerable left the same day - the boys felt indignant at the Commander of the post Col Murphy of the 8th Wisconsin for surrendering without a fight which was increased when we heard that the same force was badly repulsed at the next station North by about 700 men of the Irish Legion from Chicago. we stayed at Holly Springs part of two days and the second night just after the boys had laid down and were about all sound asleep the order to fall in was heard, up we jumped and hurried to our places (we are all ready armed so as to be ready at a moments notice) we marched into the centre of the town and learned that we had to go to Grand Junction in a hurry for they had learned that the rebels were near them and their defensive force was small so we left our knapsacks took some hard bread and started about

24

midnight and we travelled at a dog trot all night and next day till we reached Davis's Mills about 7 miles from Grand Junction where there is a long Bridge on the R.R. which the rebels over 3000 strong tried to burn but were badly whipped by 175 men of the 25th Indiana who were guarding the place we then knew that Grand Junction was not in immediate danger so we rested and then went leisurely along to G. J. where we got in about 4 o'clock p.m. and glad they were to see us for they were despairing of help and were preparing to evacuate that was a hard march for us two men of the 32nd dropped dead on the road from sheer fatigue - we lay on our arms all night and glad to rest so for we were tired and so next day and next night being Christmas Eve we marched to the fort and placed in line of battle for Secesh was not very far off we stayed so until about 11 o'clock half of our Regt were taken to the cars and hurried down to Davis's Mills where we layed by our arms all night and all of Christmas day expecting every moment to be attacked we stayed there five days and secesh finding that we were ready did not come near us, we stayed so Five days and there appearing to be more need for us at Grand Junction we went back there and had one night rest and next night being New Years Eve about 11 o'clock were roused and hurried into a little fort for a dispatch had been sent to headquarters stating that the rebels had been seen in force and we would certainly be attacked, we stood in line all night and all of New Years day and a portion of us all next night and day and bitter cold it was laying there on the cold cold hard frozen ground with only the heaven for our covering. The rebels doubtless has information of our preparation to give them such a welcome as they might not like so they wisely stayed away and on the 3rd we left and came to Moscow on the Memphis, and Charleston Railroad thence to Lafayette thence to Germantown and thence to Memphis on the Mississippi where we got two months pay and we sent you forty dollars by Express. We have during all our moves since the time we left

Corinth very hard service, hard marching, constant guard duty and for over one third of the time without a tent and for about a month on half rations (but we were never hungering for we managed by foraging to supply all our wants) still the health of the Company is now better and we have fewer on the sick list than when we left Corinth we shipped aboard Steamboats at Memphis and started down the river on the 20th and are now lying near the mouth of the Yazoo River a few miles above Vicksburg waiting for we know not what the river is lined with Steamboats as far down as we can see so there must be a large force here and we may possibly fight soon, we are lying on the Louisiana shore and it is sure that the rebels have sent troops across from Vicksburg to attack our rear we are preparing for them and if we out maneuvre them we may possibly compel them to Evacuate I must stop write soon for we ar anziuous to hear from you

Your loving sons  
 John and Francis Murray  
 17th Wisconsin  
 Mc Arthur's Division  
 Army of West Tenn  
 In the Field Miss  
 Via Cairo

We are all well Jas. Gallagher and Jas Rossiter each sent money by Express we are all in good spirits

26  
Feb the 3 1863

Camped near vicksbrg dear father an mother i take my pen  
in hand to let yous know that we are well hoping hoping that those  
fiew lines may find yous in the same condition as this leaves us in  
at present we received your kind letter on the first day of february  
that you rote the twenty first of disember stating that yous was  
all well i was glad to hear from yous it is the first letter we  
have got in two months i wish you would wright oftner if you donot  
than you do i will stop all together You want to know what kind of  
a colonel we have he is a fine fellow and a good soldier he is  
beter to his men than doran was Dear Father and Mother you wished  
us a merry christmas and a happy new year but we seen hard one i  
hope we will be at home next christmas but i am afraid we never will  
see old Friendship againe if the rebels make a stand at vicksburg  
wich they will and it will be very fiew that will come out againe  
there was to of our iron clad gun boats run the blockade the other  
day the river is overfloing the low land where our troops are camped  
i suppose you know the pace as well as i do it is a low flat place  
right across on the river from the mouth of the azoo river James  
gallegher and james rositer and john stodard sends there best respects  
to you all i sent a letter to nowelnsen lay and got none answer i  
would like to hear from him thats all at preasent Our best respects  
to all the children and to the all friends so we bid you fare well  
for this time not knowing whether ever can be able to right againe



Camp near Lake Providence.  
Louisiana Feby 22nd 1863

27

Dear Father and Mother

We were bitterly disappointed today when the mail came in to camp and we could get no letters we have written to you three times and have got no answer yet it is true that our mail communication is somewhat irregular, still we think that letters properly addressed are pretty sure to reach their destination; before we came to Moscow on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad we were three weeks without any mail from that time till we left Memphis we were very regular, but since we down the river we have only chance means of communication, it is about a week since we had a mail and today you ought to have seen the excitement in camp when it was announced that "the mail has," some of the boys were gratified when letters were handed to them others were as I have said bitterly disappointed, some retired sulkily, some swearing that they wouldn't write another letter while in the army, others thinking that although writing materials are very scarce and dear here their folks at home might possibly require some paper we sent from here, whilst others more hopeful concluded that they would wait the arrival of another mail before getting out of patience I must confess that we are not of the hopeful class, for we are entirely out of patience to hear from you, and had about concluded to send you some paper to write on but on second thought will not do so yet, till we find out if you need it. I have said that writing materials are dear and scarce, a Five cent bottle of Ink costs Twenty five cents, paper and envelopes in proportion and very often cannot be had for love not money

I am happy and thankful to the Father of all Good to have to inform you that we are all in good health and spirits, and Sincerely hope that you dear father, are at least continuing to improve in

28

your health, and that the rest of you enjoy that inestimable blessing; Uncle James Gallagher has got a better job than he has yet had, since entering the army, he drives one of the Hospital ambulances a very easy job, he has little to do tell Canl Mc Glaughlin that we now have only six teams to the regiment; our Company has no teamster and that Dennis Harkins has been discharged, he left day before yesterday we will likely see him as he thought he would go to Fond du Lac. When I last wrote you we were down at the mouth of the Yazoo river some six or seven miles above vicksburg expecting to have to fight soon, but a council of war was held at which it was decided not to attack Vicksburg, but to cut off their communications and compel them to evacuate; with that object our forces were set to cutting a Canal across a bend in the river opposite Vicksburg, which besides shortening the channel fifteen miles would be beyond the range of the guns of their forts, so we could effectually blockade them. the river rose t a very high stage and broke through the levee near where we lay and threatened to over flow our Camp, we had got our tents ashore and pitched our Camp on the Louisiana side, so our division had to strike tents again and ship aboard our fleet and two weeks ago today came up some 70 or 80 miles to this place, you father may remember the little town (Lake Providence) situated on a slight eminence between the river and the lake. a portion of our forces are cutting a canal some six hundred yards long, from the river to the lake which will give us a channel through the lake to Bayon Mason and Red river where the rebels are said to have a large fleet of gun boats and transport, which if we succeed in capturing them will prove a severe blow to the cause of Secession; the people in and around the town are in a sad way at the dismal prospect before them, for the river is said to be fifteen feet higher than the Lake and when the levee is cut to let the river into the canal, not only the town but a large tract of valuable farming country

29

will be overflowed; we are camped along the lake shore about five miles from town, where we have abundance of wood and good water, our duty is picketting and foraging; our company went our guarding a train the other day and brought in Twenty Thousand dollars worth of Cotton, of which there are large quantities hid in camps, and difficult to get at for we have had some rainy weather, but no sign of snow since we left Memphis, we have had a few fine days almost like the first of June with you, and the Peach trees are in full bloom, tell Aunt Rose that James wants to hear from her also Mrs Rossitter that James is well and is looking for a letter, Dan Mc Monagle and John Carmichael and Barney Harkins and John Stoddard desire to be remembered to you all and to Uncle Dan and all the other tood folks Your affectionate Sons

Francis and John Murray

Send postage Stanps

Camp near Lake Providence  
Louisiana March 13th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

Your letter of 25th February came to hand day before yesterday and yesterday yours of 1st March was put into our hands so you may judge that our mail communications have not been very regular of late. I suppose you have ere this got a letter in which we indulged in a little badinage about your dilatoriness as to writing to us "if the cap don't fit you need not put it on". I am very happy and thankful to hear that you are all enjoying good health, I say all for I trust that as father uses that word and don't at all allude to his own sickness, he is by this time well again I am happy to inform you that we are all well, you need not labor under any werious apprehensions as to the sickliness of the peace yet, for it is yet too early in the season to indulge any such opinions and as to fighting there is no apparent present danger of it as far as we have any means of information; we may be called into the battle field today or tomorrow but we have not the least idea of being required in that way for a long time if ever, my reason for so thinking is the camp rumor which I told you of in a former letter that we would not attack Vicksberg but wait and cut off their communications. John is now away from the company on detached service with a squad of Pioneers he was in camp yesterday, he likes his duty first rate they have very little work to do, the general nature of their duty is opening or making roads building bridges and c. regarding our want of money, we have some to spare- I will go to town tomorrow and send you some by express, in the same package there will be twenty dollars from Bernard Harkin which you will please give to his father or mother we expect to get some more within ten days, if we do so we will have some more to send you but don't delay answering this for as I have already said the communication is very irregular, Uncle James sent home some money today in a package from

James Rossitter to his wife, please tell Aunt so that she may get it from Mr. Rossitter Uncle James had a letter from Aunt Rosy yesterday and one from Dan Mc Glaughlin Dan McMonagle also had one from Dan McG. we are glad to hear that Dan has recruited so well. Our Lieutenant Rea has received his commission as Captain So you must henceforth speak of him by that title Mr Curran will likely be 1st Lieutenant and there will probably be some strife for 2nd Lieutenant, suppose we will soon hear who gets it excuse this short scrawl for this time and I will try to write you more fully nest time give our respects to Patrick Duffy and to all the folks and believe me to be

Your loving Son  
 Francis Murray  
 Co C 17th, Wisconsin  
 Mc Arthurs Division  
 In the field before Vicksburg  
 Via Cairo

Near Lake Providence Louisiana  
April 13 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I today received your letter of the 2nd instant the third day after getting that of the 3rd so you see letters do not always come so direct as they ought to I am satisfied to hear that you have got the money all right for I had begun to think it a long while to wait for an answer about it

I am happy to hear that you are all well and thankful to have to say that I am quite well as are all the boys John is still with the Pioneers they have left here and I believe are down the river somewhere - you ask if he will be away from the regiment all the while, I cannot satisfactorily answer that question for I don't know but I have an idea that that body will be kwpt together during the war and if he comes back to the company another will have to go in his place and he is better to stay with them for he has better times than we have. We have had another pay and I have today expressed Thirty five dollars with Thirty five from Barney Harkins which you will please give to his father I would have wished to send some more but we have settled our clothing accounts for the last year and I was in debt ot in other words had over drawn by allowance. I subscribed three dollars to the fund for the aid of the suffering poor in Ireland, our Company raised Two Hundred dollars the regiment raised about Fifteen Hundred dollars. I don't know anything about Johnnys pay but I expect he will get it wherever he is and send you some if he has a chance. I suppose you hear a great deal about sickness in the army here, I don't believe there is much our regiment has only four in the hospital there are also about seven or eight reported in the general hospital. it may be that our boys are more rugged than others but such is the fact as egards us. Uncle James is well he has sent some money (\$30.00) along with James Rossiters pile. our little tent is partially vacated, Dan Mc Monagle has gone

up the river with some prisoners to Alton and wont be back under ten days I will have to close we are having a very heavy rain storm I am lucky in not being on guard tonight remember me to all

Your affectionate Son

Francis Murray

Captain Rea has gone up to Memphis to see his wife she was coming down to him but could not get any further for women are not allowed inside the tents

When Captain Rea comes back I will get that paper fixed off

At Millikin's Bend on the Mississippi  
Louisiana April 22nd 1863

Dear Father - Mother

I have already answered your last letter which was dated April 3rd and would not have written to you at this time but for the occurrence of a very sad accident. We struck tents at or rather near Providence on Monday and shipped again and left about sundown and had a pleasant run down the river for it was a beautiful night. I made my bed about the usual time and lay down with Bernard Harkins and slept soundly till morning and was awakened with the sorrowful intelligence that we had lost James Rossiter. He and John Stoddart have camped together all winter and they that night spread their blankets and lay down having with them Lieutenant O Kane who could not get a berth in the cabin they lay and chatted till a late hour and gradually fell asleep Lieutenant O'Kane bounded up with the startling cry the James Rossiter was overboard, the boat was stopped and backed out poor James was never seen - there was not a yawl aboard so nothing could be done. Lieutenat O'Kane saw him go over and one of the men who had not gime to sleep said that he saw him get up and call three times "John come in" and seemed as it were to walk over the low rail and disappear, it was all done in almost an instant for he lay near the side I think he must have partly awoke and missed John Stoddart for Lt. O'Kane lay between them and gone to the door of the tent as he supposed in his drowsy state to call him in as he was often in the habit of doing he was heard to cry out in the water but when the boat was backed he could not be seen we did have a faint hope that being a swimmer he would be able to keep afloat and run with the current to some point on either shore but I fear that this is hoping against hope it happened about Eleven o'clock and only about a mile above our landing place. we are now



Twenty five miles from Vicksburg and expect to do some marching  
by land, I have not seen John yet but I believe is only a few miles  
from here and I will try to see him if I can get a pass. We are all  
well but all down hearted about poor Jamie  
remember us to all the folks

Your affectionate son

Francis Murray

address as before

Our Surgeon has been down at Grand Gulf, he saw the dead and wounded and says that it was a very hot affair our troops gained and lost possession four or five times

Near Carthage Louisiana  
May 6th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

with the likenesses your letters came to hand day before yesterday, and Danl Monegle arrived in camp yesterday forenoon, and I need hardly assure you that we were well pleased to see him again, and get his accounts of home. I don't need to tell you much about our doings, as he is well able to and doubtless did tell you all about it suffice it to say to you that a week last Sunday we left camp at Millikins Bend and marched seven miles in a broiling hot time; and bivouaced for the night, and started next morning just as a neavy thunder storm was bursting and had a tough march of four or five miles to a place called Richmond (not Richmond Virginia) where we took possession of a Seces stable and stayed the rest of the day and all night- and started fires and dried our soaked clothing and got ourselves into something like condition for the march again which we did early in the morning in not the best spirits for it was awful muddy and it was said that we must make seventeen miles on half rations, but we had to bivowac at something like seven miles for it was an utter impossibility for our artillery and baggage train to get along, they were getting stuck every little while, we next morning came on about four miles and halted at this place a large plantation on one of the many bayous which so cut up this country making travel so circuitous, we are now some less than seventeen miles across and the Pioneer are building a bridge across the bayou which will save us just so much travel - Johnny with the Pioneers is right beside us and will likely be for some days, they may then

move a few miles and we won't know or see each other for a week or two again. they have been clearing out this bayou for steam boats to get in from each end to cooperate with us and move our stores. I can't tell you any war news with certainty but we know that our troops have got possission of Grand Gulf after some sharp fight, day before yesterday between 400 and 500 Secesh Prisoners were brought bye our camp and we expect to see about 1500 more tonight. The likenesses are real natural. Rosanna has growed some, the boys asked if she was mother you must have had a task to keep Kattie and little Toodie still to get such good pictures, you must have got Johnnies money ere this. We are all well address as usual "before Vicksburg" remember us kindly to all our good friends.

Your affectionate Sons

John and Francis Murray

May the 31 in the year of 1863  
Camp Near Wickburgh Mississippi

Dear father and all the rest of the family now i take my pen in hand to let you now that i am well and hope that these few lines will find you the same in helth as they leve me at present, We have us hard times as god can aford climing hills and holers. We have ben siting for 10 days hear. We can see the rascals by looking that way We went out to bary the did and they shot at us - but did not hurt us and they run that way with us like sheep and left us to bary the did our self 2 or 3 staid and helped us to bary them. when we went out to bary them we got lost and we hunted along time before we could find out where we was. Worked all nite. We have worked for 10 nites rite a long it is hard soldgern. i cant content my self any other way only by looking at the hole family and then it eurs us up. Frank made 2 charges on Vicburgh and a ball from the enemy gae out half of his hat of from his head and he went tumblin down hill - but as lick ordered it he was not hurt he was hit with a pece of a shel at the same time - he is camped rite ciost to them but i am about a half a mile from him. This is all what i can think of to nite so i shal haf to stop and go to work - You must excuse my poor riting for this time for my pen is poor and my hand trembles so that i scerly can make a word. So this well for to nite

June the 1 in the morning

We went out last nite digin \_\_\_\_\_ pits and roads for the troops. They was firing at us all the time that we was to work and to day there is such a canadeing that i ever hurd. We have a forth of July once and twice a day. it hunt nothing to have a forth of July near every day and some time nites. We had a hard march from grand gulf til we got hear. You need not think hard of me sending more money than Frank for i might just as well send it home as well as to keep

3

it here. he ha to pay for his clothing and i did not haf to so there  
is where i sent the most and prehaps next time he will send home  
as much as i for he wont have eney clothin bil to pay and prehaps  
i shal haf to gette my clothin bill and if i dont get eney entry  
pay he may send home more than me

Dear father you rote to me that you did not now as you would  
live til we come home out i wish to the lord you may for i want to  
see you and the rest of the family and have a good old time with you  
Jon Stotert and Dan Mc Munigal and Jamy Geligar and Barney  
Harkins and all the rest of the boys sends their love to you all  
and all the folks around there. This is all that i can think of  
for this time so good by this is from Johnney and Frank Mury to father  
and Mother and all the rest of the folks

48  
40

Before Vicksburg June 18th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I have no doubt you feel very anxious about us, Johnny wrote you a few hurried lines after our terrible fighting to assure you that God Almighty had mercifully preserved us both, I have never had an opportunity to write to you for you may well believe we have had an exciting time of it ever since I wrote you from Smiths Plantation near Carthage in Louisiana. Johnny was here last night just after the mail came in which was a welcome one for we have had none for nearly a week, your letters are dated the 3rd inst and Barney Harkins has two from home dated the 10th in which they mention having seen my name in a list of the wounded in our regiment. Johnny told you about it I believe - I was not really wounded although I was hoisted some and keeled over. I was a little stunned and had to go to the rear but I was fit for duty the next day, you have doubtless read of the several hard battles fought and won by the bold soldier boys of the North West between Millikens Bend and this place, we were in none of these stubborn fights, as we were for the reason which I told you before, thrown far behind the main body of our army, when we got ready to advance we did so in a hurry, we travelled hard and we travelled for far under a burning sun - you may judge whether we could do any work at it when I tell you that we marched nearly two hundred miles inside of nine days. We left the State of Louisiana at hard times landing and entered the State of Mississippi at Grand Gulf a wild looking place which I would think all the Gun boats in the service could not reduce. You must have read how General Grant got his place by landing his troops above and sending them to the rear of it. We caught up to the main body at Champion Hill two days March from Vicksburg just as they were driving Secesh from a very

strong position after a hard fight in which our brave boys suffered severely for they had to attack through a large Corn field and Secesh were in the thick woods we were at once marched into the field of battle to support a battery of Parrot Guns which it was feared they might attempt to capture but luckily for us in our jaded condition we did not need to fight Secesh were too badly whipped and had to leave their own cannon behind, next day we had almost a run of four or five hours to Big Black river where before we could get up our brave boys had captured a strong fort a host of Prisoners, artillery and better than all the control of the river and the Railroad to Jackson destroying there by the much cherished rebel communication with the interior next day we had a long slow march and late at night bivouaced within range of the fortifications of this terrible place and next day the 19th of May made a general charge on the enemys works we being the leading regiment of our brigade we were repulsed at all points with heavy loss, I think that if our supporting regiments had come up promptly to our aid we would have got inside but it is well for us that we did not for that would have been the last of our soldiering as we certainly would have been annihilated or captured in two days more we again charge and were again beaten back with great slaughter we this time were the reserve of our origade but when we got into the hot place we were as well up as our leading regiments and then refused to proceed, as they had before failed to support there could not be much dependance on them now so our General very reluctantly ordered a retreat the 1/tn to remain in their position to cover the retreat so there we lay amidst a perfect storm of musketry and shills the balls generally flew over us as we lay close to the ground on a hill side (it was here that I got my slight hurt by the explosion of a shell very fortunately for us the shells were bad very few of them burst, the regiment lay there till

the wounded and some of the dead were carried off and finally about two or three in the morning were ordered to retire and next day we found our regimental loss to be 64 killed and wounded our company had three wounded one of whom is again doing duty and the other two have sharp flish wounds there will be no more such wicked work it is impossible for men to do anything in such awful gorges where the savings are so steep that a man can hardly stand and the timber is slashed purposely in the roughest possible manner to embarrass an attacking party, we are now investing the place in regular form fatigue parties are working day and night assisting the Pioneers to make roads and forts Johnny works generally at night for greater safety and they now have forts within Ten rods of the rebel works, I don't do any such work Dan Mc Monagle Barney Harkins and myself are sharpshooters we go out into the rifle pits every other day and do no other duty and we do enought at that we are within easy speaking distance of the Secesh and the moment a head appears on either side bang goes one or more guns, one of our boys was severely wounded the other day through his want of caution a ball entered his chin smashed his lower jaw ran along down his neck and lodged somewhere under his armpit he is badly disfigured but is not thought dangerous, we are camped within musket range but in a deep ravine where the balls sometimes fly over us pretty thickly and once in a while hit somebody they can't break us to shells for our gunners command their batteries they don't have time to load a cannon ere they are treated with a shower of shell and musketry which sends them hither and thither in a manner anything but pleasing to themselves. we have them in a tight fix we have the completely surrounded we know that they are



suffering by scarcity of water and have reason to believe that they are on short rations if they don't give up or try to cut their way out which we want them to try we will blow up some of their forts one of them days they expect reinforcements but we are well prepared for any demonstration on our rear and have already trashed General Johnson who made the attempt with a large force the other day.

Address as usual before Vicksburg we are all well and in good spirits remember us to all

Your affectionate sons

Francis and John Murray

77

In rear of Vicksburg July 2nd 1863

Dear Father and Mother

You must have got the letter we sent you about the 18th of last month which would surely set your minds at ease regarding our personal safety, I explained to you how Frank's name happened to be mentioned in the list of wounded he was not hurt - if your fears had not got the better of your judgement you would not have put yourself to the very unnecessary trouble of writing to Uncle James about us for if either of us had really been hurt and we say nothing about it, you would have been sure to hear of it through Uncle James or Dan Mc Monagle or Barney Harkins or Captain Rea or Lieutenant Curran and lots of others who would be writing home, in short, your own good judgement will show you that you got up a needless scare-about-us, we are in the hands of a merciful Providence and let us place our trust in Him alone. I hope that father is getting somewhat over his sickness again, now that we have the fine summer heats the weather should be beneficial for your complaint, I am glad to inform you that we are all well and in good spirits and have no casualties in our company since last letter. Dan Mc Monagle is restored to the rank of

there is no fighting going on except what is done by the sharpshooters in the rifle pits, the instant that a secesh show himself about the breastworks bang, go the guns and that is generally the last of him our batteries have fired less than usual the last three days but the gun boats on the river seem to be having a busy time of it. I should not be surprised if we have a grand blow up on the fourth for we have mined several strong points and have them ready to-explode, yesterday one of the strongest forts on the centre was blown up

by General Logan - men and materials were sent up over 1000 feet in the air, our men (that is the division on our left) holds one part of the fort and Secesh the other.

hoping to hear in your next that father is gaining health and strength we will close by requesting you to remember us to all the folks

and remain

Your aff Sons

John and Francis Murray

Vicksburg July 10th 1863

dear Father and Mother

Thanks be to God we are alive and well and unhurt and in possession of the redoubtable Secesh stronghold you would see by our last which we had sent off just before the receipt of your last that we had carried our approaches close up to the rebel works, we blew up the strongest fort on the centre and had several more men ready for the match, and were expecting to see some tremendous explosions on the Fourth but a more powerful enemy than powder forced them into a very unwilling surrender they were starving-reduced to the necessity of eating mule flesh, and almost no corn meal at all Flour had been Three hundred dollars a barral in fact they had nothing to live on except sugar of which there is a very large quantity and a little Rice. they surrendered on the 3rd and we marched into the city and took possession on the 4th wasn't that a glorious way for us to celebrate Independence day? but every pleasure has its tolls the day was a melting hot one between the heat and dust we really suffered on our march of little over four miles and many of the men had to fall out completely OVERCOME and all but SUNSTRUCK I expected that we would probably witness some imposing ceremony on this very important occasion but nothing of the sort occurred to lighten the labors of the day, we merely marched into the principal part of the city stacked our arms and gazed around us about two hours and then fell in and marched back to do picket duty inside the breastworks which we have of late been watching with such covetous eyes, we thought it rather hard fare to go right on picket guard for all night after the fatigues of the day and without supper too for we were over a mile from our camp and the ground is so very rough that in the dark it was dangerous and all but impossible to

carry out coffee to us. But I don't know that we could reasonably complain for other divisions marched to the rear to operate against Genl Johnston without getting a sight of the city which they had fought so hard and worked so hard to win we have captured a large and splendid assortment of artillery and muskets many of the guns are entirely new have never been unpacked for use you will find in the newspaper better and fuller accounts of all these matters than I am able to give you, we are feeding the prisoners and their number is great over Thirty Thousand the poor families must have suffered severely between hunger and terror, I am Credibly informed that they had to eat rats I expected to find the city a heap of ruins after the terrible storm of shells from the Gun- and mortar boats but was rather surprised to see comparatively little sign of cannonading - true at every step you can see where the shot and shell had struck but the wish had evidently been to save the city as much as possible and fire over into where the troops might be supposed to be there is but a small number of troops left here all being away to try and entrap, ?(hutton) who is said to have a large force at Jackson some 40 miles off ~~as we are left here~~ now we *may possibly stay some time - I hope we may and not have to march* in this hot weather

Jonny has not been over today he is about half a mile from camp they are busy levelling and filling the works we made outside we are all well write soon and tell us if you are any better

Remember us to all

Your affectionate Son

Francis Murray

Co. C. 17th Wisconsin

Vicksburg

Miss

Via Cairo

Natchez Miss Aug 5/63

Dear Father and Mother

I received yours of July 14th in good season and today another of July 21st and feel truly grateful to Almighty God to hear that you are all enjoying good and you dear father improve health and am happy to inform you that I at least am well - we got sudden and very unexpected marching orders at Vicksburg and came down to this place expecting to merely take possession of the place for forms sake and take possession of whatever public property might be in or around the place we thought that we would not be more than five or six days here and did not bring our camp equipage with us, but we are here yet and only wish that we may be allowed to stay here through the warm spell. I have not seen Johnny since the day we left Vicksburg/that was July 12/ he was then quite well and I suppose is now back in the rear of Vicksburg making bridges I need not now tell you that you do not know how matters are in this army regarding political feelings for you must surely have ere his seen that General Grant places no restrictions on any sort of newspapers - all are admitted within the lines. I rather *guess that* you will find before the close of this wicked rebellion that there is no more a democratic party or a republican party as they existed four or five years ago, those names are at present used only for anything but patriotic purposes and there will soon be an entirely new organization of parties send all the Democratic Newspapers you please and I will at least get some, we have the Chicago Times everytime we have a mail I will not try to describe this place as you know it already but I may say that we can buy ripe figs apples pears, Green Corn mellons etc. so you may beleive we live well.

When we came down to the landing here the Secesh had not beleived that we had got possession of Vicksburg and the way the few soldiers here cleared up the bluff and out was not slow. we have captured a large and valuable assortment of public property consisting of mostly cattle amunition Sugar and have been several time out expecting to fight but we are now so strongly reinforce that there is no danger of any attack, we have seized a great number of horses and part of our brigade is mounted and scour the country for miles every way so we are in no danger we are all well but Uncle James is not at all pleased because he gets no letters from anybody he says he will write to nobody. I must stop give my respects to all and beleive me to be your affectionate son

Francis Murray

Address as before

Natchez Mississippi  
August 15th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I wrote to you about ten days ago and have not had time to get an answer as you will barely have got that letter yet, but I now write to tell you that I have sent you Forty dollars by express so that you may be on the look out for it, I have sent it by Barker's Express a new agency down here. So you will have to take the trouble of hunting their Agency in Fond du Lac. I hope this letter will find you in better health and I am happy to say that I am quite well, the boys with only one exception are all well, we had a many cases of sickness shortly after coming down here for we all indulged freely in almost all kinds of fruit, Figs, Peaches, Apples, and Melons are plenty good and cheap I have not heard anything of Johnny since I last wrote We are still here and I only wish we could remain till the time of our discharge, for as I told you before it is really a very pleasant and a very healthy place. Our duty is not quite so heavy as at first for we have been reinforced by troops who are quartered outside the town and that relieves us of the neccessity of being under arms all night. I am thinking that there is some kind of a big move going on for a great number of troops have gone down the river and General Grant himself has landed here today I don't at all suppose that the will stay any time here it seems to me hi is organising some new campaign and I almost dread to hear the order that will relieve us from duty here and send us on the weary tramp again Our mounted men (I believe I told you that three companies of our regiment are mounted on horses and mules confiscated in and around the town) are about all the while scouring the country hunting up Cotton and



other Confederate Property all that is private property is respected except such as are known to be active participants in the rebellion we have shipped a great pile of cotton and I think I told you that our mounted men on one of their excursions burnt a Factory large enough to cloth a company of Soldiers(\_\_\_\_\_? the clothing)they also destroyed several Hundreds of Hogsheads of Sugar and Molasses and lots of arms and amunation and sent in some spoil and a lot of prisoners and were nearly caught by a large force of rebel cavalry who chased them a whole day on the wrong road. I hope that the people of Wisconsin will show better sense than offer any resistance to the draft I for my part wish that our Government would raise arm and equip and send into the field men enough to walk right through the while length and breath of rebeldom and at once clean out this foul blot on the history of that glorious country and \_\_\_\_\_? peace to this once nappy now distracted and desolated land When you write again send me some Postage Stamps I have none Uncle James is well he will write to Aunt today or tomorrow and send some money I must stop remember me to all the folks and address your next to your loving Son.

Francis Murray  
 Co. C. 17th Wisconsin  
 Ransom's Brigade  
 Natchez  
 Mississippi  
 Via Cairo

(written on captured Secesh paper)

September the 6 in the year 1863

Dear Father and Mother

Now i take this time to write to you to let you now that i  
 an well at this time and hope that these few lines will find you the  
 same in helth as they leve me at present. i ~~hant~~ had a leter  
 from you since before Vicsburgh did surendered it has ben three  
 months since i have hurd from you. i shold like to hear from you  
 once more before i give you all up for this world i should like to  
 hear from my brothers and sisters once more before i can give them  
 up for this world. i must tell you some thing else now i did send  
 you 60 doll. the 6 of this month it has ben 30 Days and i hant  
 hurd from it since i sent it. i sent a leter the 7 of August after  
 i sent the money but i got 2 papers yesterday i hant hurd from  
 Frank since he went down there to Natchez and i want to now if you  
 do hear from him if you do i want you to write to me this is all  
 for this time you must excuse my poor writing and short leter for i  
 don't think it is much satisfaction to write a long leter and not  
 get no answer to them This is to leters and no answer

this is all for this time so good by this from your sun

John Mury to Father and Mother

Direct your leters

John Mury 6 Div  
 Pioneer Corps 17 Army  
 Corps in Care of  
 Captain Bush

Vicburgh Mississippi

Write as soon as you get this if not sooner

George P. Robins

Natchez Mississippi Sept 17 1863

My Dear Father and Mother

I received yours of the 22nd August and did not answer it in course as I expected you would again write in a few days to let me know that you had got the money and have yesterday got yours of 2nd September I am truly grateful to hear that you have been able to take care of the crops it would have been a rather serious matter if you had been unable to work at it yourself when help is so scarce I saw one of Johnnys comrades the other day who tells me that Johnny is quite well and growing very stout he has never written to me I need hardly say that I would like well to get home with Johnny but I fear that I will not get the chance I have given up all hope of getting home till the war is over only two have gone from our company yet and before my turn can come at this rate our time will be about up, I suppose you have got a full true and particular account of everything concerning us from Cap. Rea and Lieut Curran who must have been having a glorious time among you We are now looking for them back as their time is up there is a great change among us since they left - the whole regiment is now mounted and doing Cavalry service and are out most of the times - we crossed into Louisiana in advance of a strong force of Infantry captured and burnt a steamboat on the Black river chased a rebel Brigade who were on the way to support the garrison of Fort Beauregard at Harrisonburg then pressed on to that place and found it evacuated and that had been done in a hurry for the poor devils had not time to eat their breakfast which they left on the fires- we had some skirmishing and had a few wounded but none in our company we destroyed the guns in the fort and left our infantry never having seen the foe

nor fired a shot, that was a seven days trip, after resting one day in camp we were again ordered across the river to bring in a drove of Ca S Beef Cattle that was two hard days work getting about 200 head together and driving them to the river we came home to camp and rested all night but were ordered out in the morning in a hurry for the rebels had followed us in and were fighting our small force across the river so we had to cross again and skirmished two days we could not attack for there were enough of them to eat us and by the time we could be reinforced they had retreated beyond pursuit the most of us like the change well - but it is pretty hard for both man and beast we have moved our camp outside of town and would be contented if only allowed to stay here.

the rest of this letter is missing

Vicksburg Miss 27th Oct 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I received your letter of 29th Sept on Friday and that of Oct 10th yesterday and as Johnny is over here today this will answer for us both I got the three newspapers but have had no time to look at them yet Johnny had ~~one~~<sup>two</sup> newspapers from you some six weeks ago it is about the same time since he had a letter we are both very happy to hear that you are all well and have to thank God that we continue to enjoy good health John has done no duty for these last ten days - one of his comrades accidentally cut his shoulder with an axe while chopping it is not at all serious it is mending nicely the Pioneer Corps have their camp in this city about a mile and a half from us We are dismounted again, we left Natchez two weeks ago last Sunday and left our horses there a large rebel force was hanging around the vicinity and the troops here were ordered out to try and disperse them and our brigade was needed here to guard the city they have returned from a very severe march of 25 to 35 mile a day through a country almost destitute of water having failed to bring on a fight with the rebels who always managed to keep far enough a head to avoid a battle and then had the imprudence to turn round and follow them back to within 14 miles of the city, it is supposed that we are only temporally dismounted Col Malloy has gone to Wisconsin to have the organization of the regiment changed to that of Cavalry- then most of us don't like the idea of dismounting, we besides having the fun of riding have drawed Cavalry Clothing so it is a bill of expense to us Barney Harkin left Natchez for home on Furlough the same day that we left to come here so he must doubtless be home and as you will see him I need not

56

try to give you any details of our doings as Cavalry men as he will tell it all more fully and minutely than I can write it there will be no more furlough granted this year they have been stopped by order from the war department so we have no chance till next year Uncle James's Eyes are some better so he drives his teams once in a while he is well otherwise Dan Mc Monagle has been slightly affected with fever and   ?   but is doing duty the boys generally are well but kept on constant duty we have just each alternate nights rest we are Provost Guard in the city a very irksome duty We have had a very cold spell it rained all one night and one day cold cold rain and froze all next night so in the morning we had ice and everything was white the change was somewhat sudden - and was   ?   it is made   ?   again and we will in day or two have fine warm weather again we have heard that Lieut O'Curran is recovering and purposed leaving home to rejoin us about the end of this month.

There is some little talk here about the approaching State Election but we pay very little attention to politics we are in for crushing the rebellion in a hurry and have nothing to do with ism's of any sort give our respects to all the folks and write soon again to either or both of

your loving Sons

Francis or John Murray

Compliments to Anna Doherty

F.M.

Vicksburg Mississippi Sunday  
January 3 1864

Dear Father and Mother

Brothers and sister I received your kind and welcome letter dated the eleventh of december. You said that you expressed our box but have not yet received it i begin to think that it must be lost but if i receive it i well pen you a few lines so that you may know that whe received it you also spoke of the       ? men i wish to god that they will have all to come and have a share of next springs compain whe spent a very good crismas and escorted the 14 down to the river this morning gave them three harty good cheers and a wilcome home whe have a recruting office started for all that wants to reinlist for three years more whe may get a good many. but it is hard to tell as for me frank whe have a notion but would like yours and mothers advice before whe did it if whe whold inlist i hope you will not be angery with us i think as long as whe have started out to support the old flag and constitution that too years more whont bee much and you whont miss us if whe whold bee home for 2 or 3 months and as whe are the talk and favorit of the state one thing i do think that is if this war last one year longer there will bee a grait change they must take shat places back that whe have ganed ore else loose what they now hold old U S grant is just cutting through is what through their ranks and the first they now he will hem them into richmond as bad as thay was at vickburg the old 14th started with a happy hart with the exception of one and that was our cuson william herrin whe went to see nim yesterday and this morning whe got the news that he was d@d and they bought him a metalic coffin and bringing him home will bee a sad thing for aunt and uncle to see nim a corps but i hope to god as whe are putting all our trust in him that he will spare our lives and come home to cherish you and mother in your old day. Uncle James is

left the company and gon to divison head quarters to drive team  
 he was with willy until he was packed in his coffin and on bord the  
 steam boat whe have no new of any grait importince to tell you onley  
 that whe hear a good many rumers about moving some say that whe  
 are going to texas and others say whe will go to the battonruch a  
 far far ws whe don't care a grait deal where whe are if the weather  
 onley keeps pleasant dear farther you can tell sister rosean that  
 there is a good many pretty white girls hear and as far sparking  
 that is plaid out down south whe have to much drilling and other  
 duty to keep us ingaged and as for niger wenches that we spoke about  
 we must think

The rest of this letter is missing



Vicksburg Mip January 8th 1864

Dearest farther and mother i must sit and right a few oines first  
 aford me a grait deal of pleasure to right to you and to hear from  
 you whe all feel happy this eavening having just finished our cakes  
 and all the other things the turkin and chickin was all moldy but  
 the rest was verry good out the doves thay was all broak to peaces  
 frank got one of the wings and one thing i must till you and mother  
 that is me and frank and barney harkins as inlisted all the company  
 inlisted and we did not want to be the only black sheep in the flock  
 so i hope you and mother won't take it to hart for we thought it  
 was as well to see this thing all over for if it shold last any longer  
 then our old time we wold be entitled to  
 the draft in sixty days so whe ad better stay wile whe ere in it and  
 uncle James is inlisted to but dan Mc monegal will not inlist he  
 has some reason tor it wich i don't know and one thing more is that  
 whe stand a chance of getting mounted again and if whe do it will bee  
 much easyer for us i now that our calenel is trying his best and  
 Mc Person(?) to whe may be home soon the 12 left hear on the thurd  
 wee escorted them to the steam boat and gave them three harty good  
 cheers and a pleasant voige up the old mississippi wich we fought so  
 ard to gain and have it a free running streem wich is now and will  
 bee al song as our old flag waves over the land of the free and the  
 home of the brave. barnard harkins wishes if you see any of his  
 folks that you wold tell them his is well all but a bad cold and he  
 wold rite but is waiting for a letter he write one and as not got any  
 answer yet i will give you h. under stand that John is swore in and  
 draws his 502 dollars but frank and barnard is not served to years  
 yet but if thay get the same bounty as the rest thay well go and if  
 they are not obliged to go but will come home with the rest of us,  
 So now i must close in sending my best respects to all my inquiring  
 friend and my love to you and mother brothers from your loving son

Vicksburg Jany 19th 1864

60

Dear Father and Mother

Your very welcome letter came to hand yesteruay and we are truly happy to hear that you are all well and glad to inform you that we are all by God Almighty's Kind Providence enjoying the best of health although the weather here in what is called the Sunny south, has been unusually severe; on New Years it was cold enough to freeze anybody or anything, but we have had not snow - only some better heavy rain storms which are always followed by a frost and two or three find days and then another spell of heavy rain.

John wrote to you after the box came and told you all that was worth relating, so that I have little or nothing to tell you, only that the regiment or at least those in it who reenlist expects to leave for Wisconsin inside of two weeks and if we don't happen to be gobbled on the river by Guerrillas or froze before we can reach home we will personally tell you all about it Dan Mc Monagle has not gone in again neither has John Stoddart there are six more who will not reenlist (belonging to our company) but I don't think you know any of them, Uncle James has gone in again to be mustered as waggoner on condition that he gets a furlough and the full veteran bounty, he, is not yet certain whether he can get the \$400 bounty if we can not get it we are not to be considered bound Uncle James eyes trouble him yet

You ask for our address I will give it out I must add that you are not to write to either of us after you get this for the regiment will be on the way home before an answer could possibly get here we may possibly start before this reaches you I have nothing more to add but with respects to all and noping to see you all soon I remain

Your aff Son

Francis Murray

61

Vicksburg Miss

Feby 11th 1864

Dear Father and Mother

Your letter of 27th ultimo came to hand two days ago and I now embrace the first opportunity to scribble a few lines in reply. We are very glad to hear that you are all well and that none of you got froze through that terrible cold spell at New Years, it was cold enough here at that time to freeze a fellow one of our company had two fingers bitten bad enough to peel the skin on New Years day, it has moderated greatly so much that we don't need fire in the tent during the day we have had no snow and I hardly think we need regret it for it would not be very pleasant to stand every third day and night on guard on the breastworks as we have to do just now. there is some hard work now going on up the Yazoo river the white troops are all out from this garrison except two regiments on patrol guard in the city, and one Illinois regiment and the 10th Wisconsin with us guarding the breastwork, there has also a large force under General Sherman gone to the interior of the state they are said to be 35000 strong, they have done some pretty hard skirmishing and have driven the rebels twenty or thirty miles beyond Jackson and, is said, will march through to mobile there are also large forces marching from Memphis and Corinth to meet those from here at some point in the interior of the state, so enough of them to invest the place; the force that went up the Yazoo found a hard nut to crack and they had to send for reinforcements. we would of had to go only we could not possibly be spared from the breastworks this is the cause of our not being home are this and we don't know when the expedition will get back that we may be spared; I don't know as we need be very sorry for being kept in here, I believe is is just about as good for our

health as hard marching and hard fighting, and I rather guess we have no very bad luck in missing the sleighing for it will be full as comfortable to go up the river in April or May; thank God we are all well Uncle James' eyes are a little better I enclose Twenty dollars which I hope you will receive safe John won't send any now for he will get his bounty in a few days and he will send the whole pile or carry it himself if we go soon, I should have sent Forty dollars now but I loaned some and have not got it back yet, my time is not up yet to reinlist so I will not get my big pile for sometime hadn't you better buy the Sewell place if it is yet for sale? get the logs ready for a raising when we get home. remember us to all the folks and answer this for I don't think we can get away before an answer can get back Your loving son

Francis Murray

March the 28th 1864  
Camp 17th in the field near goldsboro north Carlina

Dear father and mother I take my penn in hand to let you know that we are well at presant hoping thse few lines may find yous all enjoying the same blessing as this leaves us at presant. Dear father I received your kind and welcom letter of the 22d of January which gave me much pleasure to hear from nome I am very sorry to hear that so many has to run away for fear of the draft but I suppose it cant be helped if you ever have to leave home never go north for there is plenty of work and good wages where the arney has takeing such as Charleston and       ? there is men that has followed the arney that has made a fortune but I say never leave home without your obliged to now I guess I will tell yous about the long march we started January the 29th with twelve days rations to subsist on, in traveling over five hundred miles in which we destroyed several railroads, besides burning the capitol of south carlina Columbia the gem of the ocion where the bones of the rebellion Sprung from now lays in ashes beneth the hevens it was the biggest fire I ever saw it lasted too days and one night there was over five hundrea boxes of tobacco besides thousands of dolars clothing and all kinds of furnature if I ever live to get home I will tell yous more abouttthingsrthatrhas past ..I did not tell yous when we got to our Journeys end we got here the 25th of march pat mc lauclin is going nome in a few days and I am going to send a few little things with him he will leave them at mister roseters so you can get them all the boys is well at presant Bernard harkin sends his best respects to all his friends  
give my respects to all inquiring friends  
write Soon           no more from your effsionate Son

Francis Murray

March the 2<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1864  
Camp 14<sup>th</sup> in the field  
near Goldsboro - North Carolina  
Dear father and mother I take  
my pen in hand to let you  
know that we are well at  
present hoping these few lines  
may find you all enjoying  
the same blessing as I do  
at present Dear father I  
received your kind and welcome  
letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> of J<sup>an</sup>uary  
which gave me much pleasure  
to hear from home I am very  
sorry to hear that so many  
has to run away for fear of  
the draft but I suppose it  
cant be helped if you ever  
have to leave home never go  
north for there is plenty of  
work and good wages where the

The black blotches are brown spots on the original.

around has taking such as Charleston  
and B.C. there is men that has found  
the army that has small a fortune  
but I say never leave home  
without you are obliged to now  
A. guess I will tell you about

the 29th with twelve ways & ratios  
to subvert you in traveling out  
five hundred miles in which we  
destroyed several railroads  
besides burning the Capital of  
South Carolina Columbia the top  
of the mountain where the bones of the  
rebel army were from in late  
we asked beneath the hills it was  
the biggest fire I have seen it lasted  
two days and one night this was  
over five hundred rods of tobacco  
burned besides thousands of dollars  
clothing and all kinds of furniture  
if I ever live to get home I  
will tell you more about

things that has past I did an  
tell you when we got to  
and we got hear the 20th of march  
patric lauchin is going home in a few  
days and I am going to send a  
few little things with him he

will leave them at middle western  
so you can get them all the  
boys is well at present Bernard  
harkin sends his best respects  
to all his friends  
my respects to all  
my dear friends  
write soon no more from  
your affectionate son  
Bernard

Camp Washburn  
Milwaukee Wis  
April 20th/64

Mr. Hugh Mc Taggart

Dear father I take the pleasure of writing those few lines to yous hoping they will find yous all Enjoying good Health as this leaves us at present we got in to Milwaukee at half past four Oclock We stopped in town all night and went up to Camp this morning when we arrived there was Such an Excitement that we forgot and left the butter in the Cars So that we did not have the pleasure of eating it tell mother to let Aunt Ellen know that we had the pleasure of Seeing Mrs Smith and Mrs Doyle When you write again let us know how all the Girls got along after we left You need not answer this until I write again the Citizens of Milwaukee is giving a ball to the 17th to night Our best Respects to all the girls we leave for Sunny South tomorrow morning at 7 Oclock I have nothing of any importance to write this time the boys all feels good I will write as Soon as get down South Must Conclude by hoping to hear from yous as Soon as I write again John joins me in Sending his love and best Respects to yous all Give our love to all the girls

No more from Your Dear Son

Francis Murray

(clear ornate writing)



Athens Alibama      May the 11th    1864

My dear father and mother      I take these few leasure moments in wrighting these few lines to yous to let yours know that we are in good health thanks be to god for his kindness hoping those few lines may find yous enjoying the same to brothers and sisters and all inquiring friends we left cairo on the 27th of april and tuck the steamboat for Clifton tennisee where we remained three days on the boats we stayed a few days at this plase and then left for a long and dreary march the seckond day about 11 oclock we were ordered on a force march wich was about thirty miles to a place called Palagche to keep it from falling intoo the rebles hands when we got there it was after night we were all like criples when we got there we made our bed on dewey grass where we slept about two hours when we herd the word fall in fall in we got up as stiff as a poker we were marched to the cars where we slept the rest of the night when I woke up nest morning I found myself in Athens Alibama our regiment is all on picket today but myself so I thought I would wright a few lines while I had time for if I waited to John would come in to morough I might not get the chance again so I will in close by sending our respects to all the friendship girls espeshely elisebh walker tell her I want ner to have a nice little wife for me when I go home if she don't come to that conclusion herself so thats all at present from you effesionit son

Francis Murray

direct your letters to Athens Alibama or else where

66  
Attnens Alabama  
May 14th 1864

Dear Father and Mother

Frank wrote to you from Cairo and inasmuch as we have since that seen some rather exciting times I sit down to tell you that in spite of all rumors to the contrary notwithstanding we are neither cut off by the enemy nor cut to pieces, and we are all well and in capital spirits. We left Cario early on the 28th April Six boats loaded with troops and supplies and four gunboats to escort us for the rebel guerrilla bands are all around on both sides of the river, and came up to Clifton a small ruined town some distance below Pittsburg landing (on the Tennusee river) where we arrived May 1st and started from there on our march just before sundown on the 5th advancing 5 miles next day the 6th we made 17 miles and on the 7th 18 miles, all this was over a hilly, rough rocky gravel road, and the days being about as warm as with you in July, although the nights are disagreeably cold - the travel was somewhat severe on the most of the boys, and some of them threw away their knapsacks.

We started very early on the 8th intending to make a long noon halt for we had yet another day to reach Pulaski, a town near the Southern line of middle Tennessee on the Nashville and Huntsville R.R, but on the way our General had information that a strong force of rebels had the previous day crossed the Tennessee and surprised and captured part of our small force at Florence some 40 miles above Pittsburg landing and were then supposed to be advancing on Pulaski - so we had to put right through and did some tall walking we out walked the horses that hauled the ambulances and got into Pulaski just after dark having marched 33 miles, we spread our blankets on the ground for we have no tents and lay-down tired enough, but our rest was short - for about 11 oclock we were roused in a great hurry

and hustled into Cattle boxes on the Railroad and run south to this place, the Commander here having telegraphed for help as he apprehended instant attack so we poor 17th were sent to stand the brunt of an attack by greatly superior numbers, but luckily they did not come near us - we don't care for them not for the rest of our troop have got in here - still we are prepared for them, we are under arms every morning at 3 O'clock and have a heavy picket guard out in every direction, I wish we could be sent to join the main army for I don't like detached service, besides being dangerous it is very hard work running from one place to another on every little alarm and there is seldom any credit gained by it.

We left Cairo in too big a hurry to get any pay and being rather unsettled here I rather think that we will have to wait a long while ere we can get any. remember me to all the folks Frank also sends his respects. Your loving Son

John Murray

Co C 17th Wisconsin

Via Cairo

Tom Flanigan is quite well

? Stodarts respects

(good penmanship - Palmer slant)

68

Huntsville Alabama  
May 22nd 1864

Dear Father and Mother

This is Sabbath in the morning but there is no appearance of any chance to go to Church so I will try to scribble a few lines to you Uncle James arrived here night before last and gave us all the gossip and your letter of the 2nd by mail had just come to hand, he tells me that father is again prostrated by sickness I sincerely hope that there is nothing seriously wrong with him and that we will have more cheering accounts of him in your next letter. We left Cairo by steamboat April 28th and arrived at Clifton on the Tennessee May 1st and left there May 5th marching slowly for we have ? beef cattle and they could not be driven fast nor far, but on the 8th we heard that "reb" was on the rampage and making for the same town that we intended to reach the next evening - Pulaski - near the Southern line of Middle Tennessee on the Huntsville Nashville Stevenson R.R. so we had to hurry up and got in that night having travelled 33 miles which is a big days work for a body of troops over any road much more so on that rough hilly rocky span path, and under the hot suns we have here, we lay down on the ground for we have no tents (Our Colonel has no tent on this campaign and the officers are supposed to carry their own baggage) tired enough and about 11 oclock were roused in a great hurry, we thought the rebels were coming sure, but we poor 17th alone were hurried to the cars and hustled into some cattle trucks and carried to Athens in this State, some 13 miles from the State line to assist a nigger regt to repel an expected instant attack by a large portion of the notorious Forrests Command under Gen. Roddy, it was a rather perilous predicament for us to be in, for the scoundrels show no mercy when

successful in such cases, we watched and waited there day and night for them until the rest of our force got along (there were two brigades of us being the advance corps) and then we felt as though we didn't care for them, although they still double our strength they did not venture near us - just so always - they will not fight on anything like equal terms if they can help themselves. On Tuesday last two regiments of us started between 4 -4 P.M. and went 13 miles through a heavy thunder storm sprawling, slipping stumbling and floundering through the mud and mire and rain as fast as we could through the pitchy darkness rendered worse still by the lightning which was very vivid to repel an expected strong rebel raid on the railroad, but we had our travel for our pains, they didn't come so we started back to Athens and when we got there received orders to be ready to move at a moments notice, but did not start till next morning, we took the road again, and got in here before noon on Thursday, and expected to stay at least a day or two but hardly had our things off when we got orders to be ready to march at 3 oclock, we diun't like that for we felt like resting, and were not sorry when about 4 oclock we heard that the order was countermanded, so we are here yet in a very pleasant place but don't know what minute we may "fall in" and leave, Johnny broke down on the road on Thursday and has not got over it yet, we are all well otherwise and in good spirits, we hear that our Army Corpps is on the way here and is expected in today or tomorrow and we may possibly stay here till the corps is reorganized, for we are all out of shape by reason of so many regiments being furloughed, we have a new Corps Commander too, Major General Blair - our favorite General Mc Pherson being promoted to the command of a department - we don't have our pet Division General Mc Arthur either, his is still

(May 22nd 1864) 3

76

at Vicksburg it is said that we are going to Chattanooga 110 miles over an awful rough wild region which will try us some.

I hope we will be sent to join the main army it will be far better for us than detached service running from one little place to another on every little alarm which besides being dangerous duty is very hard work and little or no credit can be gained by it remember us both to all the folks John Stoddard and Dan Mc Monagle desire to send their respects to you all I can't even guess where we may be when this reaches you but address just as below and any letters will be sure to follow us

Your Affectionate son

Francis Murray

Co. C. 17th Wisconsin

17th Army Corps

Via Cairo

Barney Harkins came along with Uncle James, John Carmichael is also back he did not re enlist. You talk of our overcoats, if we had brought them we would have had to throw them away, many of the boys threw away their knapsacks and all their contents we have had some hard work to do and will have more soon

F.M.

Wednesday June the 9th 1864

Dear father and moter I take my penn in hand to let yous know I am in good health hoping that those few lines may find yous enjoying the sam I received your kind and welcom letter June the 5 I was sory to here that you was unable to do anything since we left. Dear parents we have had a hard time of it since we left home may the 24th we marched from huntsville to bever dam 25 we marched 17 miles 26th to decator 27 from decator to elkerick where our cavalary had a skermish taking 30 prisoners 28 from elkerick to sumerville we marched from sumerville 17 miles the next day to warenton there is to many plases to mention we have marched a long wase since the 1 of may We come about 35 miles we feel tired enough we are about 6 miles from General Sherman advace I cant tell yous much about our position yet if I live and god spares me my life I will have strange news to tell yous the day we left huntsville I was on pickit and I did not see John but bernard harkins was up to the hospital and he was geting beter the doctor wanted him to nurse but he told barney that *as soon as he got stout he would come back to the regiment* ~~the~~ uncle James is gone to the ambulance corps daniel Mc monagle bernard harkins and all the boys respects to all inquiring friends

We are going to march to the frunt tomorrough I expect so fare well father and mother sisters and brothers I bid you a due no more from your effectionate son

Francis Murray

they all told him mug me do you know what that means

Direct your letter to

Carterbille georga

June the 26th 1864

Dear sister I set my self down to let you know that I am well at presant hoping that those few lines may find you enjoying the same blsing after a long and weariesome march we have come to a halt we are now in frunt of the enimey it is almost imposible to climb the hill that is in frunt of us now you think that the hill out by McCarty mill is high but that is nothing to the one that we have to climb it is as hard a place as I ever I saw in all by life our army Corps is on the left we are trying to flank the rebles if we can we are wating every minute for the word charge Seventeenth Daniel Mc Monagle was over to the fourteenth army Corps to see his cousin Charles Galagher and he says that in some places the brestworks is within thirty yards of each other there has not been a day past this last week but there has been dead and wounded carryed from the battle field there has been some men came in and gave them selves up as prisoners of war and they reported that there was a reble brigade redy to give them selves up if our men would not fire on them I guess the rebles come a trick on the Yankeys for once by their false report for one night last week they formed sev eral lines one behind the other redy to make a brake it rained until about nine oclock then cleared up it was clear the rest of the night so between ten and eleven oclock they marched out by the flank at a right shouldrs shift arms as cool as if there was nothing going to happen until they got within about fifteen yards then came into line in duple quick time fired a voley into our men and then chared with the emty musket and bayoneted every man they met they drove our first line of battle the seckoned line checked them the third line came up to assist them then suckceded in driving the rebles into their works with terrible slaughter on both sides some of the oficers went through the battle ground the next day they said that there was about three thousand



with nothing but a strait bayonet hole through their bodies it must have been a horrible sight all the boys is well now thomas flanagan and patrick mullaby stand it well uncle James is well but his eyes is very weak yet brother John is with us once more he joynes in sending his love to all his brothers and sisters friends at home thank god that there is not an army tramping what little crops you have beneath their feet like we are down here So guess I will come to a close I cant think of any more at presant you must excuse my led pencil so no more at presant from your effectionate

brother Francis Murray

I have not had only one letter in over a month I wrote a letter to Miss walker over a month ago and got no answer, I wish she would let me know whether she got it

July the 24th 1864

Dear Sister I take my penn in hand to inform you that I am still alive and in good health hoping that those few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing I received your kind and welcom letter of July 7th which gave me great pleasure to hear from hime out I could not read one half of it I would like to know what you ment by little wife I could not make it out out that dont make eny difference try it again you may do better go to school as much as you can study hard and learn to read and write well I have marched a long distance since I wrote to you last and a hard fight to boot on the twenty seckond of July the rebles made a charge on us with a terrible yell whaich was kept up for an hour and a half the rebles was repulsed with a hevy loss our loss hevy also the rebles cnarged Several times during the day but when night came we held the same       ? we was on the right of our corps as luck was on our side they did not charge in frunt of us as the woods was thick in front of us we fired three or four voleys at them so they thought they nadnt better come up where the seventeenth was the dead is not beried yet it is a horable sight to see all the dead that is lying upon the field never to rise again I guess I will stop talking about

The rest of this letter is missing

13

Camp of the 17th  
in line of battle near atlanta georgia

Aug 10 1864

Dear Sister I take my penn in hand to let you know that we are well hoping that those few lines may find yous all enjoying the same blessing all thow we have hard times we are very lucky if I should tell about the hardships we have to indure yous would not beleive me I am very Sorry to hear of father being sick so long but I hope he will soon be up again tell Cate dougherty that I have not received an answer for the last letter I wrote and also one to mary Dougherty I would like very much to hear from them tell them that pat mullaby is well and sends his love to all the girls Who ever reported Bernard harkins shet must have little to do I guess it came from some of the stragloers in the rear if yous believe eny thing yous hear or half wat yous see it will make yous crasy all the boys is well Dear Sister I have not much to say I gave you the peticulars in mothers letter so no more at presant Johny joynes in Sending his love to you and all the rest of the family no more from your effexionate Brother.

Francis Murray

Aug. the \_\_\_\_\_ 1864  
in the field near Atlanta georgia

Dear father and Mother I take my penn in hand to inform yous that we are still alive and injoying good health at presant thanks be to god for his kind mercy to all hoping those few lines may find yous enjoying the same blessing

Dear parents you say that yous did not get eny letters from me in a long time but it is not so I have write one to father and three to rosann in fathers hame which I did not get eny answers for yet so I thought I would write yous a few lines to let yous know I did not forget the beloved ones at home yet I was very sorry when I heard that yous did not get my letters but I suppose it cant be helped but-I hope that yous will get them yet we have marched a good deal from one place to another since I wrote you last and a great meny boys have fell to rise no more but we have been very lucky so far and I hope and trust in god we will return home safe once more our retiment has lost about seventy or eighty killed and wounded since we arrived in line of battle our company had only one badly wounded John davis only received a slite brooze from a piece of snell he did not leave the field Uncle James is in the hospital at rome georgia he says his eyes is no better I sent him his letter he said he would not write home until he got a letter from me Joan is going to write this after noon he will give yous the details of the fights So I must bid you good by from your effxionate Son

Francis

Murray

Camp of the 17th near atlanta georgia  
Saturday Sept 10th 1864

Dear Mother I received your kind and welcom letter of the nineteenth of Aug which made me happy to hear from homê it being the first letter I got in three months I suppose I would have got them sooner had it not ben for Shermans great flank expedition which caused the city of atlanta to fall we was close up to the rebel works when we got orders to pack knapsacks and fifteen days rations to be drawn I did not know what that ment but wen atlanta fell I found out what it ment we drove the rebles several miles and we are now flling back close to the city I expect the army will be payed off now prety soon we are waiting patiently for it I think there will be furloughs granted if there is I will try and get one but I am afraid we will stay long here. I guess the rebles will make a break for mobiel now and I think it is likely we will have to follow them but if they make a stand at macon we will have a little rest tell aunt rosey that I have not Seen uncle James since June I have received a letter from him today and he says that his eyes are growing worse all the time I am very sory to here that father has such poor health but I Sincerely hope that he will soon be able to be round again I hope this cruel was will soon be over so I can be at home once more so I could help yous to do the work out I am afraid it will be a long time yet for the war had just as much Signs of being over to years ago as it has tnis present day I guess I will stop gassing and talk about Serious maters Since our regiment left Milwaukee they have lost no less than one hundred and fifty our company has lost too killed and eight wounded all the rest of the boys is well Bernard Harkins Sends his best respects to all inquiring friends You said you wrote me a letter stating how the draft was to come off but I never got it

when you write again let me know how the crops turned I hope when I hear from home again that you will be well I guess will come to close by Sending my love to father and mother to brothers and Sisters and all inquiring friends So good night I must fix my things up for I am on pickit to night

from your affectionate son

Francis Murray

In Camp near Atlanta Ga  
Sept 15th 1864

My dear Mother

I have received your very welcome letter of 2nd inst and am very happy to hear that you are all well especially that father is able to take care of the crops ? expect that if he had been prostrated by his sickness you might have experienced some trouble and difficulty in saving them since help is so very scarce and dear, we both feel very grateful for the Newspapers you so kindly sent us and hope that you will continue the favor every week while we are here at least, and that will be a good while, I think that the boys up North needn't feel badly scared about enlisting or being drafted, for I think that the war is fast wearing to a close, you should read and ponder on General Grants opinions and remarks on the condition of affair in the Confederacy, I believe he expresses the naked truth regarding the momentous subject, and that they cannot maintain themselves much longer, the more so seeing the tremendous triumph we have achieved in capturing this now to be world famed city of Atlanta after all our really arduous struggle for it. it would appear that there is an impression that the Presidential election is to decide whether there is to be war or Peace, I think that is a mistake to a great extent - the rebels themselves through their ? in the rebel Capital said that the loss to them of Atlanta would have a more crushing effect than the election of a Republican or Abolition President and the loss of Atlanta is not all that they have now to mourn, they have lost what they fondly and perhaps foolishly considered the impregnable ? of the position at Mobile those were Forts Morgan Powell and Gaines with some of their best war vessels which are now in our hands. not to speak of other places

which are certainly of vast importance to either Union or Rebel, General Grant is slowly but surely and alas at an awful sacrifice of blood and treasure drawing and tightening his coils around the terribly famous city of Richmond and I firmly believe that it is a doomed place doomed to fall into the hands of the Unionists and that - ere many weeks pass round, and when that is accomplished I think that we may truly say we have passed "the beginning of the end"

Frank got a letter from Roseann about a week ago and answered it don't flatter yourselves with the thought that we will get any furloughs, only the wounded and some very sick have been allowed the privilege and I am happy and thankful to say that we are in neither bad fix on the contrary we are quite well and have received ne'er a scratch as for pay there is no sign of it, but we daily look for orders to our officers to make out our pay rolls, and then the green backs will fly around some after our long spell of poverty, there have been times when a few dollars would have been beneficial, we could even have made money out of them, but we have got along well enough and I reckon we can make through.

Uncle James Gallagher is still in hospital at Rome we had a letter from him the other day his eyes are no better I am afraid he will do no good in the army, he ought to be discharged but the military authorities will allow no discharges now adays

Daniel Mc Monagle has a very severe attack of fever and again he is in hospital where he can be better cared for than with us

Well Atlanta has fallen into our hands as you have doubtless already read from the pen of able writers. I will only say regarding it that we have just closed a terrible campaign the scenes of which are too deeply graven on our hearts to be easily forgotten



and which I for one have no wish to undergo in all my life again  
 be it long or short I believe I already told you somewhat in detail  
 of the long severe march of some 400 miles from the Tennessee  
 river to join the main army of the Union at Acworth in this State,  
 at least Frank did for I was left back on the way sick, they joined  
 June 8th on the 10th advanced to the front and drove back the rebel  
 skirmishers to their stronghold on Kennesaw Mountain before which  
 Place I rejoined the regiment we have been in the front all the  
 time and generally our position has been closer to the enemy than  
 almost any other part of the line once only were we in the rear of  
 our division and singularly enough and let me add very fortunately  
 for us they charged on and drove the rebels into their works but  
 got a terrible thrashing themselves in doing so we have on three  
 special occasions been seemingly devoted for sacrifice, one day  
 (22nd July) we held a position on an angle in the line of battle  
 the holding of which by us involved the safety of the whole army  
 Our good division general said that no order he ever issued caused  
 him such sorrow as that one directing us to hold that position at  
 any cost for he fully expected that we would all be sacrificed but  
 throughout every regiment on three sides of us was fighting desperately  
 the day before that we took the place of some other troops to  
 lead the charge on the rebel breastworks had we done so we would  
 doubtless have suffered severely for the place was an ugly one for  
 such work but the rebels left that portion of their works to us for  
 their own purposes in fact they thought that by doing so they would  
 draw us into an ambush near the town but they did not succeed.  
 the next specially marked instance of something like Providence  
 caring for us was some 20 miles south of Atlanta where we had gone  
 to destroy their R.R. communications and which we accomplished while

they were congratulating themselves and each other in Atlanta over the happy but foolish thought that we had retreated North because they had cut off our supplies, the time I meant to refer to was when after a march of a night and nearly a day we reached by a round about course a point on the Montgomery and West Point R.R. and effectually destroyed it for several miles we started across the country to do the same thing by the Macon R.R. and came upon the rebels strongly posted near a little town called Jonesboro we had travelled all night and hurried along during the day but only got into position as it was getting right dark had we reached there three hours sooner it was the intention to make us lead the charge for they were then on the retreat from the Gate City as they style Atlanta and although we would have been terribly cut up we might have destroyed their whole army but the growing darkness prevented us doing anything and enabled them to get away to a safer place, I might go on relating incidents occurring every day enough to fill a volume but I have not space suffice to say that we were ordered back to Atlanta and I suppose the only reason for doing so was because neither man nor beast were fit to pursue them we could not move two miles without leaving dead and dying horses from the artillery and mules from the supply wagon and the men were so worn out that they experienced great difficulty in marching, we got very little rest our moves being all made in the night and every time we took a new position we had to fortify and that gave us a great deal of day and night and night and day work, when we marched we carried in addition to our usual outfit a spade or pick or axe and the first thing on halting was up with a breastwork and if we moved ever so short a distance in advance we had to go to work again you can hardly imagine how harassing this

was for we had to repeat it so often that it became downright labor and I assure you that aside from political or exultant feelings we were glad enough to hear the order for our return to Atlanta for we were really tired and sick of such work. We got into Camp here on the 10th inst exactly three months from the time we first met "Johnny Reb" on this Campaign with a loss to our Company of two killed Cornelius Cronan from Maple Grove and Alfred Sheffield from Mississippi both by shells fired from our own Cannon in our rear and bursting too soon Michael Leahy (known in ? Las Lincoln) from Osceola a leg badly broken by a spent shell Roger Kennady from Fond du Lac hit across the back by a musketball and skimming the shoulder not serious but sore J. Woodson from Louisiana a ball through the flesh of the arm James English from near Beaver Dam a ball through the flesh of the arm neither badly hurt, John Coin was severly hurt a ball through his hand which destroys one finger others were just skin scratches Barney Haskins was not hit it is a shame to send home such cruel lies to alarm and grieve kind hearts there

My love to all your loving son  
 John Murray

Sept the 16th 1864

Camp of the 17th in the field near atlanta georgia Dear brother

I take my penn in hand to let you know that we are all well hoping those few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing dear brother after a long long time I have took the notion to write to you but I hope you will excuse me for not doing So Sooner it is enough to make eny one forget to write for some times we have had to hug the ground pretty tight to save ourselves from being shot dear brother I suppose you have heard before now about the fall of Sister atlanta as the rebles calls it I will send you reble paper with this letter so you can Judg for yourself how their leaders lies to their men I was in the Sister city Yesterday and it looks ragid and toren from Yankee booms but it has been a nice place there is three railroads running in from the South Side besides the Chatanooga road there is as nice a dipo as the Chicago north west let Mr Mc Monagle folks know the he is un well and all So Bernard harkins is Sick all the rest of the boys is well Francis got too letters from uncle James he Says his eyes are growing worse all the time he can hardly see poor felow I am afraid he will lose them I would like to see him myself all his letters comes to the regiment and I Send them to him So I will bid you good by

hoping to meet soon no more from your

effectionate

Brother  
John Murray

Sept 26 1864  
Camp 17th

near atlanta Ga.

Dear sister I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well hoping those few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing Dear sister I have heard that you got my letters and wonder very much why you do not answer them it may be that you have answered them and have got lost on the way but no mater if you have answer this and let me know and them I will be satisfied when you write let me know how uncle Daniel and family is Getting a long tell aunt rosy that I got a letter from uncle James about every too weeks I got a letter from him yesterday and he said the doctors examined the sore eyed men and said they was going to some other hospital he says his eyes is geting worse I think if he would try he might get home for good if his eyes continues the way they have ben he wont have eny after a while you need not let aunt know of his being so bad or she would be freting daniel Mc Monagle and Bernard Harkin has very poor health all the rest of the boys is well Johney Joyns me in sending his love to all in the kindest maner tell father that we expect to get payed soon and if we get all that is coming to us we can send home about 4 hundred and fifty dls Give my best respects to all inquiring friends Write often don't be airaid I can read and write all my own letters now no more from your effexionate brother Francis Murray

excuse my poor scribling

Oct the 13th 1864  
Camp 17th

near Rome Ga.

Dear mother I take my penn in

hand to let you know that I am well hoping those few lines my find you all enjoying the same blessing Dear mother I received your kind and welcom letter of the 29th Sept I had to wait a long time for it the rebles got in our rear and tore up about eighteen miles of the railroad so we had to pull up stakes and folow them we have ben marching day and night for the last tenn days the rebles attacked a small Garrison of ours about three thousand strong but our brave little band floged them nicely being only one thousand five hundred it was situated on a hill the fight lasted about four hours then retreated leaveing their dead and wounded on the field hark I hear the word fall in now its helter skelter throw the woods all night

Oct 22th near Galesville Alabama hear I set myself down to finish my letter we have marched three weeks all most day and night but the rebles go faster than we can they kept a head of us to we were within fifteen miles of Chatanooga then struck of South West through a place called Snake gap between too mountains they slashed it full of timber it took us all night to get through it so that gave the rebles a start of us we took some priseners and they say General hood is making for tennese but if he knows whats good for his health he wont go that way Dear mother we have a hard time of it I think we wont have much peace this winter running from one place to another we nave to go where ever the rebels goes and that is unsurtain they go where ever it is easiest to get through so it is hard to tell where they will go yous think that the election will settle the war but I don't beleive it. it don't look much like it now but I will trust in god that it won't last much longer I guess the iurloughs is played out for this year I don't beleive we will get home until we go for good I did not hear from Uncle James Since we left atlanta I

saw Daniel Mc Monagle on my rout he is geting beter I did not see  
bernard harkin I Seen Johnney curn out I heard out I heard he was  
geting beter all the rest of boys is well rody kenedy is going  
home and he will tell yous the paticulars thomas flanagan is well  
he thinks that the folks has forgot him he is well and stands it  
well Johnney Joins me in sending his love to all of yous there is  
to meney mension no more from your eifsionate Son

Francis Murray

88  
Oct the 22th 1864  
Camp 17th Wis

near galesville alabama

Dear father and mother I take my penn in hand to let you know that I am well at present hopin those few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing

Dear mother I received your kind and welicom letter which gave me much pleasure to hear from home We had a long and rough road to travle for the last three weeks after the Johnies. tell mr curn we will do all we can for him to send us tickets to vote on he can send them in a letter that is the only way we can get them here tell Mary Douguerty that Frank wrote her a letter pretty near three months ago and also one to Catherine and one to roseann which he got no answer for. he says he thinks where there is so many he had ought to get a letter once and a while eny how if he never wrote one We cant set down at a table and write when we please or run down town to by a candle to lite us to bed we have to take our place at the root of a big tree or in the open field nothing but the hevens to cover our head yous need not send us eny box this winter if we do hapen to get settled we can write for eny thing we want when yous write again let us know how meny buter heads uncle Dan has in Friendship now give our best respects to uncle dan aunt elen and family and to all the rest of our friends our love to father and mother and all the family no more from your effixionate sons

John and frank murray

Good by

I want to know if you got the reble paper I sent you when you write again let me know.



Oct 22th 1864  
Camp 17th Wisconsin

Near Galesville alabama

Dear Sister I take my penn in hand to let you know that I am well hoping those few lines may find you and all the rest of the family enjoying the same blessing in which we all ought to be thankful to the almighty god for his kind mercies to us all Dear Sister I received your kind and welcom letter last night which gave me much pleasure to hear from nome I am very Sory to hear that father has Sutch poor health since we left home but I hope he will Soon get better We have some prety hard times our Selvs but we have good health and that is the main thing I am glad yous have got the corn and wheat dun when you write again let me know how the wheat turned out you need not keep the hickery nuts for us crack them your Selves and have a good time over them for I think it will be a long time before we can get home there is a great deal of talk amonxt the Soldiers about the electcion Some thinks if old abe is elected there will be four years more war I guess I will come to a close from your effxionate brotners

John murray

Monday dec the 7 1864  
Camp 17th

near mairrettia Georgia

Dear father and moter I take my penn in mand to let yous know that we are well hoping those few lines may find yous enjoying the same blessing I received your kind and welcom letter last night which gave us much pleasure to hear from home I am glad to hear that your crop done so well I thought the crops would not be any acount this season on account of the dry weather but I am glad yours done so well You say there is great excitement up thair about the election I don't think there is any more than is down hear one Soldier will hurah for little Mc and another will hurah for lincoln and probly have a knock down over it now I will tell you about our long tramp we have ben marching for over a month and have now returned to our old fitting ground we have marched over two hundred and Sixty miles we are in Camp now and expect to get paid tomorow or the day after we will send it home if we can get a pass to go down town I can't tell yet how much we will get we are going to stay hear long enough to get payed of and then we go again I dont know where I heard that Daniel Mc Monagle and Bernard harkins has gone home on furlough Daniel Mc M has a counterpaign belong to me if he fetched it home you can get it from him when they are comeing back to the regiment yous can send socks and boots with them if they cant take them yous need not mind Sending them other wise I have not had a letter from uncle James in over a month but I have heard from him he cant see out of one of nis eyes the other is geting beter I got a letter frome roseann last night to I guess I will make one letter do for both this time tell rosann that I was glad to get a letter from her it was a good letter She is improving well She must go to school more and learn well try and send the boys to School as much as yous can for I find the want of it now Dear Sister you say that

Mary Dougherty got my letter and did not think worth her while to answer it if she dont think worth her while to answer my letters she can let it a lone you can tell her that I am thankfull to her for not writeing I wrote one to Cate and one to roseann which I got no answer for I guess I will to close I have nothing more to say all the boys is well Johney Joyns me in sending his love to all brothers and sisters tell nudy that I am glad to hear that he is able to pick potatoes your efexionate Son

Francis murray

Mother you can get this ring mended and ware it for I guess it is to larg for roseann

Camp 17th in the  
field near (no name)

Jan the 18th 1865

Dear father and mother I take my penn in hand to let yous know  
that we are well at presant hoping those few lines may find yous  
enjoying the same blessing Dear father I received your kind and  
welcom letter of the 3th of Jan last night which gave us much  
pleasur to hear from home and am very glad to hear that you are  
getting beter we left beaufort on the 13th about four oclock in the  
evening we marched to a river whaich we crosed about too oclock in  
the morning and then we lay in line untill daylight then we advanced  
and skermished all day but they did not make eny stand they had  
forts built acros the road but as soon as we would come up they would  
leave there was only a small forse of them we are camped near the  
railroad called       ?       we want stay hear long. I exexpect we  
will stay hear long enough to draw clothing and supplies and then  
off we go again. give my best respects to all inquiring friends  
there is to many to mention no more from

your effexionate son  
Francis murray  
write soon

Jan the 27th 1865

Camp 17 in the field near pocotaligo South carolina

My friend hugh i take my penn in hand to let you know that I have arrived at the regiment all right and hoping those few lines may find you are enjoying the good health I am very Sory that I went home on furlow now because it cost me to much my pasage cost me thirty eight dollars the boys is all well and looks firstrate we expect to go on another campaign in a few days I got along firstrate till we got to new york one of the regulars stole my over coat and goggles and gloves which left my knapsack prety emty and I was almost frose for want of my over coat the rest of the way I bought another pretty cheap and sent it home by Sergt runy my eyes is well and I feel pretty good Captain rea is well he wonders very much that he dont get a letter he hasnt got eny letters Since he left atlanta he wanted to know of me wether it was a boy or a girl his woman had and I could not tell him let me know in your nest letter whether dan or barney got out of the draft or not dan and barney and Johney curn is well give my best respects to all inquiring friends especualy James harrins no more at presant hoping to see you all again Soon no more from your friend James galgner I was telling Frank and Johney about their new cousin they send their bes respects to him and all inquiring friends

write soon

Goldsboro N. C. March 31 1865

My Dear Sister

I can hardly tell you how glad I was to receive your very precious espistle after being so long shut off as it were from the world for we have had a long tramp (about Five hundred miles) since I last wrote to you through a country where there are more swamps and rivers than dry land, but we have been singularly fortunate through it all God has been good to us for the rebels thought that we would never be able to get through such an awful wet country; and as they were aware by their sad experience of our manner of living on the raid through Georgia that we would carry only a small portion of surplus they said we would surely starve for we would not find subsistence in the country but we got through and we found the means of living too, they tried hard to check us at several places and there was a good deal of severe fighting on a small scale we were several times in rather ugly looking fixes but never in all the trip had to fight in over eight weeks we had 15 days rations and lived on the country the rest; we often fared sumptuously on turkeys chickens eggs ham Bacon fresh pork fresh beef sweet potatoes honey and Molasses and we were sometimes hungry but never suffered you will find in the newspapers more than I am able to tell you of the hard fought battles which close this remarkable trip. the rebels made all sorts of boasts and treats of what they would do to us when they got us where they wanted us well we met what is said to have been the flower of their army on their own chosen ground and whipped them so badly that they ran away without burying their dead or taking care of their wounded. I cannot give you any details but they lost thousands of men----fighting is a

terrible business Roseann and I assure you it is a very solemn thing to stand in line of battle and listen to the battle raging on each side not knowing the moment that we may be called on to mingle in the strifes such was our situation in this last battle the divisions on each side of us were fighting hard and we had only to stand and listen and watch for the coming of the expected foe but they did not try an attack on our part of the line we could not attack them for there was a big swamp in our front which formed a serious barrier on both sides in the evening our company was taken out of its turn and sent on the skirmish line where we passed a miserable wet cold night less than a hundred yards from the rebel works, we made little breastworks through the night for we expected to have a hot time in the morning but when the day broke there were no rebels there; they made seven charges on our line and were repulsed with great loss each time they made the last attempty about 2 a.m. and fired their last shots at us skirmishers between 4 and 5 and then cleared, the scene of the fight is called Smithfield there is a creek called Coneys or Conners run so I cant tell you what name the newspapers will give it, it is just a good long days march from this place so you see dear sister that the same kind Prudence that has so graciously preserved us through out this dreadful strife has not yet forsaken us, let us then thank and praise him for all his goodness to us. when we got in here last Sunday we presented a very strange appearance, all were dirty and who could be clean after passing through an almost cloud of thick black pine Smoke as we did. a dirtier, raggeder or more motley dressed crowd you never saw, some were hatless some shoeless, some breachless, and some without anything in the

shape of a coat, while others were partially and still others full dressed in rebel uniform whilst again some had on Niggers working clothes and yet others were decked out in citizens clothing al all shades of quality. Genl Sherman nimsel had to laugh at our grotesque appearance while we passed him in review on coming into this town and at the same time express his confidence that we were equal to anything that ever any army did or dared to do. we were told that we would rest here 30 days and are now being refitted just as fast as supplies can be got here and I suppose we will soon be on the war path again for although it is now currently rumored here that Richmond is taken there will still be some big fighting to do and we must expect to do our share of it. I have run this sketch over a wider space than purposed to do and you will have to pardon my not replying in full to your several abservations and remarks but hoping that I may take a part at your next spelling school

I remain

Your eff Brother

John Murray

You will remember me to all our good friends and tell all the girls that I hope to dance with and kiss them all ere the year goes round



April the 2nd 1865

Camp 17th in the field near Goldsboro north Carlina

Miss rosann murray

Dear Sister I take my penn in hand to let you know that we are still  
 alive and enjoying good health thanks be to god for his kind mercies  
 to us all Dear Sister I received your kind and welcom letter which  
 gave me much pleasure to hear from you but I am Sory to hear that  
 father is so long sick I hope that the nest letter I get will bring  
 beter news and you say that mother is sick to yous must have a prety  
 dull looking place of it now so many sick tell mother not to be  
 freting about us. that we are all right and will be a comeing home  
 befor many years all safe and sound you wanted me to mension James  
 Clark to yous in my letter i saw him several times on this march he  
 is well and looks frustrate i have wrote too letters home besides  
 this one one to you and another to father i got the letter that  
 James harkin wrote to me but you say that he had gon to lake  
 Superior and i did not know where to write to so I did not answer  
 it yet Dear Sister we have had a long march through south and north  
 Carlina being over five hundred miles on twelve days ration you  
 must know now we robed the country we have left many family desitiate  
 without the next mouth full to eat or any place to get it You had  
 ought to have willie at home while father is sick All the boys is all  
 well at presant uncle James is well and has ben driveing team in the  
 Suppy train since he joyned the regiment thomas flanigan is well  
 and stans it well he is my bed felow since he come to the regt

I guess i must come to a close by Senling my love to you and  
 all the rest of the house and to all inquiring friends there is to  
 many to mention excuse my scribling write Soon no more from  
 your effexionate brother

Francis murray

April the 8th 1865

Camp 17th in the field near Goldsboro N.C.

Mr. William Murray

Dear brother i take my penn in hand to let you know that we are well at presant hoping those few lines may find yous enjoying the same blessing Dear brother I received your kind and wecom letter of february the 10th it must have got astray some how or another it has ben a long time comeing hear for I only got it yesterday i am sorry to hear that father was not able to write at the time you write but I hope he wont be long So i hope that doctor smead will do something for him i got a letter from rosann and she told me that you was hired out at doctor curns now you ought to stay at home while father is Sick for James and rosann cant do all the work you say you are somesome since thomas flanigan left he is well and sends his best respects to you and he says he is as stout as he was the day that he threw Johny Stephens out of the window Johny sends his best respects to you and all the rest and all so bernard Harkin sends his best respects to all. give my best respects to you in the kindest maner and to all inquiring friends no more from your effxionate brother

Francis murray

April the 23 d 1865  
Camp 17th in the field  
near raleigh N. C.

Dear mother i take my penn in hand to let you know that we are well at presant hoping that those few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing Dear mother i received your kind and welcome letter of April the 12th in which i am very sory to hear that father is so long sick yous must have had a prety rough time of it with sickness for the last year i Suppose yous heard of the Surrender of all the corn fed army i expect we well be free from bondage in less than Six months we have a long ways to march yet before we can get transportation by either rail or water.

give my love to all my cousins uncles and aunts like wise my brothers and sisters and to all inquiring friends no more from your affexonate son

Francis Murray

Thursday may the 25th 1865

Camp 17th in the field near Washington D.C.

Miss Rosann Murray

Dear sister I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are well at present thanks be to God for his kind mercies to us all hoping those few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing

Dear sister I received your kind and welcome letter of April the 22nd this day and I am very sorry to hear that father is getting no better you must have a hard time of it on account of so much sickness every letter you write let us know how father is getting along I would like to hear from him every week if I could Dear Sister we were reviewed yesterday in the city of Washington by the president and general Grant and general Sherman and there was an awful crowd of citizens to it was the greatest review that ever was in the new world all the boys is well give my best respects to all inquiring friends I think the folks in friendship have forgotten us all together I have written letters and have

(rest of this letter is missing)