

CORRESPONDENCE OF
JOEL E. WATERS
JUNE 1, 1856--JANUARY 13, 1865
TO
SAMUEL THOMAS WATTERS
OF
ELIZABETH, INDIANA

a

Compiled by:
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Joel Waters, author of this series of letters written just before and during the Civil War was a great-great-great uncle of Dawson Berry.

Joel Waters was born near Elizabeth, IN, the son of James Waters and Cynthia Ann Evans Waters on June 6, 1833. While a young man he went to Illinois to work as a carpenter and farmer near Edwardsville (25 miles from St. Louis, MO). When the Civil War began Joel enlisted in the 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He spent his entire war years in the same regiment.

Joel wrote periodically to his brother, Samuel Thomas Watters. At some time the letters were hidden in an old chest, being discovered by Sarah Frances Glasgow Watters (Dawson Berry's Great Grandmother) about 1905. They were in a little drawer inside the chest.

Some of the letters apparently weren't kept because of the number of gaps in the course of events. For instance, there is no account of the Battle of Chickamauga, in which Joel participated.

The surviving correspondence is authentic and absorbing. It sheds intimate light on the harsh latter months of the war, beginning with the skirmishes between Union and Confederate troops in and around the Chickamauga area on down into northwest Georgia, the siege of Atlanta, and then on to Savannah.

These copies are as near as possible to the originals. Spelling, punctuation and word usage are just as they were in the letters. Mrs. Alice Kennedy of Largo, Florida has the originals.

June the 1 1856

Dear brother I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still amongst the land of the living. I have wrote two since I got the last letter. I have quit the carpenter business at present and gone to running my bosses engine I will be an engineer sawyer and every thing else before I leave my boss will trust me with anything. He wants me to come back next fall again. I have agreed to stay til the first of august if I keep well. You may look out for this boy about then if you get any good things save them it will soon be twelve months since I left hum. You ask me if I work on tick no sire horse fly the dog is right in this boys pocket the mill that I work in saws over \$150 worth of lumber every day and they get the \$ for it right at the railroad. This is the lone someest place you ever see on Sunday no church short of fifteen miles I and my old pardloaped aboard the cars last Saturday and went out among em and wasent back til Monday afore day I toed one of the biggest Shanghis to church that you ever seen only blances 250 only 9 ft in circumference at the but yes sir thats so The nice young man with the borrowed watch was there to no more at present

Ullin Pulaski Co. I. C. R. R.

Joel Watters

Olney Feb. 5th 1857

Dear brother I received your letter from Vincennes last week and got anotherone the day I directed to this place. I wrote to the post Master at Vincennes and had it forwarded. I was glad to hear that you was all well I am well at present and getting along tolerable well considerin the cold weather. Me and Jackson has got all the inside work ready for the House that we are building and if it is as good weather as it was last week we will be ready to raise next week. Jacksons Father wrote to him from New Albany and said if we could make board and beds we was doing beter that they was in New Albany Coal 80cts per bushel and wood ten dollars per load and scarce at that the river froze over and a whisky shop in the midle on the ice. Well I think we will make a little more than our board and boots we have a barn to build two miles from this place if we will take the job they will have to pay us our own price for it is heavy work. You say Buntly Combs is married well I hope he will have good luck have ten thousand children live ten thousand years and then turn to a pigs tail and wag forever. The sweetest hours that I ever spent were

amongst the lasses oh, first boy white hat slash into that pie
second boy but do you think Miss Hoops is going to pig down att
that chicken

Little head and little bonnet
Little pate and nothing on it
One might say with nothing in it
But that you charm me every minute
Little ladies now I know
Why maidens let their ringlets grow
For otherwise as bonnets go
Their heads would freeze and that is so
Little waists and monstrous flounces
How the silk sea waves and bounces
How the hooping billows quiver
Like a lovely rustling river
Oh wondrous watered silken sea
What shalebones in your depths must be
What lots of gold all wastefully
Squandered on you bright silken sea

Have you been to meting again Jacob

Yes Sally why,

Well I like to see people enjoy themselves but it seems to me
you are getting altogether too fond of amusement latly.

Now blast your cornshucking soul come cutting your shines about
me. He let go my dog I got in all sorts of a hurry for I knowed
if he got hold of me & c.

I think this will do for the present

Joel Watters

Olney Richland County Illinois

Mound City March 30th (Probably 1857)

Dear Brother I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to
let you know where I am now we worked one day at Centrailla and
it was Saturday and that knight we heard so much gass about Mound
Citty that we jumped aboard the cars and come down we are getting
\$2.25 per day this place is bound to make a citty no doubt it
is owned by a Company there is two thousand stockholders. There
will be about two hundred large houses built here this summer
Calro is just a climbing to no end to the buildings. The chepest
property is \$60 per foot in Mound citty. You may think that I
am playing thunder mooving around so but \$2.25 is dead loads t(h)ey
shell the dog every Saturday Knight if we had come here two months
ago when they commenced the way to draw steamboats out on we

would have got two and a half a day wages will be that yet this summer. I wrote you a letter from Centralla but If you get this letter before you get that dont answer that one to Centralla Give my best respects to all the ladies in general this pencil dont give down much ink but I guess you can make out to hand in an answer over the fence no more at this time a day I still remain your most affectionate Brother Joel Watters.

P.S. Direct your letters to Mound City Alexander Co., Illinois

Cairo June 1th 1857

Dear Brother I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still among the land of the living hoping you are all the same I have not got an answer yet since I been In Cairo today is just two months It is healthy here yet and business brisk I wrote a letter two weeks ago I expect you are so buisy down at the river that you dont take time to write for when I came down on the boat last fall I saw John Blunk and he said that you had rented his farm for this year I have not got much news to write to day for I havent heard from home for so long that I dont know what to write but I will let you know about my wild cat scrape me and Jackson and two other chaps thought we would go over to missouri last Sunday to see the country and we got into the caln brakes and we got after a young wild cat and he run into a holer tree and we could just see his ehad and I got a stick and put a string on it with a slip not and pulled the chap out and you ought to see him show his cat dignity he scratched like fury but I got the youngster by his throat and stoped his wind for a while and fetched him to Cairo and sold him for two dollars and a half he was aobut the size of a half grown coon we did not see the old one or she would made us go two forty on a shell

Joel Watters

Cairo Alexander Co. Illinois

June 14th 1857

Dear brother I received the letter that you sent to the New Albany post office and was glad to hear from home I am well at present hoping to find you all the same I would like to come up home to see you but It wont pay to lose so much time Jackson is going home to stay a week or two he will start tomorrow and he will put this in the post office at New Albany If you could send all my letters from New Albany I would get them for the Post Master at Sodom (he refers to Elizabeth, IN) sends them by land is the reason I dont get them I don't know when I will be home again

but when I take a notion I am bound to goe They still shoot and stab men in Calro and Mound City only three in the last two weeks It is rumored that the Irish is going to try to clean Calro out but they will have a fine time if they try that game for they will get slew worse than they did in Louisville I have a notion to go to St. Louis the fourth of July for a pleasure trip and see the place in only costs \$2.50 in the cabin to go on a boat I work for James Summerwell on thirteenth street between commercial avenue and poplar street near the freight depot.

Joel Watters

Calro July 20th 1857

Dear brother I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still among the land of the living. I am well at this time and weigh one hundred and forty two, ten pounds more than I ever weighed. It is most awful hot and has been for the last two weeks but we have had work in side. There was most splendid wheat crops down here this year we had new flour the fourth of July We had fine times the fourth the cars took us up to Mound City free and we had a most magnificent dinner things is brisk at the Mounds but they cant beat Calro yet awhile. Our boss has got ten houses to build now I got a letter the fourth the second one that I have got yet since I been in Calro. There is a gal in this town that is in love with me but I aint with her. She tried to buy me with gold rings but I am most to old for to be sucked in that way. Give my best respects to all my friends.

Joel Watters

Coahoma Co. Moon Lake Mississippi

October 25, 1857

Dear brother I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time. hoping you are all the same we worked at Memphis two weeks, and old Colonel Carnes that liles there wanted us to goe down to his plantation and build Negra quarters and he would pay our expenses down and pay us two dollars per day and board so we went. He has 15 houses to build 30 by 40 he has got two hundred nigs and raises nothing but cotton and de lod Moses get off my heel, the plantation is four miles from Thompsons landing near Moon Lake. There is plenty of Bears Panthers and wild Cats and all kinds of wild animals here. We sleep in one of the houses that we have finished and we was in there one night before the roof was quite on and there was a panther got on top of the house and was looking through and a fellow put a piece of lead between his eyes and he rooled off. When we saw him the whole hous was armed with axes and old butcher knives

for a great battle. Jackson was scared like every thing but you know that I wasnt skert a bit ata panther but the next knight that hole was stoped on the roof you can hear them holer most any time of a knight round through the woods. We will work here all winter I expect there is no place here to spend money and we can save all that we make this winter If I live til next spring I will bee home then. The old Colonel lives in Memphis and has an overseer to boss his nigs here, but he comes down to see us every two weeks. I wrote one letter at Memphis but got no answer. Write soon your most affectionate brother Joel Watters
P.S. direct your letter to Hellena Arkansas that is the nearest post office It is 10 miles

Col Carns Plantation, Moon Lake Miss
Dec. th 1857

Dear brother I take another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping those few lines will find you all enjoying the same. I have not got a letter since I left Cairo and therefore I have heard from home since July. I expect there is a letter at Hellena but it is so far that I have no chance to get it we will have a job here til spring. I expect then I will come home. This is the warmest winter that I have not ever saw yet we eat out on the poarch of the overseers house It is an old log house with one door and no windows but we are building him a good house now they are very clever to us we dont have to eat and sleep with nigers unless we want to, but there was a young man here from Ohio and he got to arguing abolition and they was going to put him in jail and he got up in dust and they didnt catch him. The gals in the Mississipp botoms holds their heads up most to high for us houslers (Hoosiers) but there is two or three young widdows round about here that wants to get married mighty bad and they got about forty nigs. Da is gwine to be a ball on Massa Carns Plantation Christmas and dis chile gwine is gwine he is gwine to dance wld Miss Tilsy one of de fa sex dat is on de plantation wld a hi ank a dink a dank a da go way niga go long Joel Watters. Write soon. Direct your letter to Mond Place Cahoma County, mississippi

Edwardsville, Madison Co., Ill May 30th 1858

Dear brother, I take another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hoping you are all the same. I got no letters at Carbondale where I forst stoped for I did not stay long enough I worked there four weeks and they wanted me to take things out of stores for pay and I would not do that

so I thought that I would ship where they paid money. I got on the cars and went to St. Louis and times was so hard there were three thousand idle carpenters plenty of them at work for their board. I stoped one day and got on a boat and went up to Alton got no work. Got on the Stage and come to this place It is fourteen miles from Alton and twenty miles from St. Louis. I got work at \$1.75 per day. I expect to stop here all summer and maby longer. Times is harder this year for mechanicks than I have ever seen them since I been at the business they are hard every place I wrote to the post master at Carbondale for him to forward all the letters that was sent there for I look for one there that will be carefully preserved and a faithful advisor. I would say more on this Important subject but the above must suffice. Write soon as you get this and let me know which way the wind blows. It has been so much rain out here that no body has got their corn planted yet them that has it has all roted in the ground but it has stoped for a few days back. The wheat looks fine but it is feared it will be all straw the fly is in it tolerable bad to. Give my respects to all my enquiring friends and dont forget that gahal to which special attention is directed. Your most affectionate brother Joel Watters.

P. S. direct to Edwardsville Madlson County, Illinois It is the county Seat you will find it on the map.

Edwardsville Madlson Co., Ill. May 22th 1859

Dear brother It is with great pleasure I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping you are all the same. I have got two letters from you and one from Thomas since I wrote the last letter I was sorry to hear mother wasent well and wanted to see me so bad. I would come home if I thought it would cure her but I dont think it would do her much good and it costs me forty or fifty dollars to come and lofe about there five or six weeks but I will try and come home before long and fetch my wife and let you all see her. I alnt married yet but there is no telling how soon I might be I am desperately in love with one of the nicest gals in this town and she calls me dear and I call her my little bird and sun beam all I got to do is get the papers to be a family man and I wont have to go more than one square to the court house to get the documents and there is plenty of preachers in this city that would pronounce the benediction and be glad of the job. If I do get married I will come home on the bridal tour and let you see my little duck. I would like for you to write and let me know how many thousand dollars you have got laid away for me. I suppose mother has got that feather

bead yet that I picket geese for when I was a boy If such is
 the case let me no for they are very convenient things In cases
 of emergency I want to know some thing about such things now
 I dont how soon I might need them I dont call on you for more
 than ten thousand dollars I consider that a small sum for a man
 In your standing with such a fine boy as you say you have made
 such a blow about a boy and call him Jo I would like to see the
 lad to see if he looks like his dad....you tell me about my taxes
 I would send the money but it might get lost on the way You would
 have to go and pay it anyhow so if you pay it I will make it all
 right when I come home. I wish that I could sell it because I
 dont believe that I will ever settle in that part of the Country,
 for business is to dull in my line. I like this place better
 the longer I sta here maby it is because there is so many good
 looking gals here Court is in session now and times is tolerable
 brisk now. I belong to the soldier Company here called the Madison
 guards We are going to Marine to morow. It is twelve miles from
 here there is to be four or five companies from St. Louis I
 think we will have a fine time It costs us nothing it is an invitation..
 this is a desperate place for men to shoot themselves there has
 been three killed themselves since I been here all dutch One
 young man last week was setting up with a girl and he choked her
 til he thought she was dead and then shot himself but the girl
 come to ilfe before morning She promised to have him and then
 wouldnt have him you must xcuse me for not writing more give
 My respects to all my friends you affectionate brother Joel Watters
 I commenced this letter on Sunday this is Tuesday the soldiers
 has come back from Marine we had a bully time fought a sham battle
 with blank cartridges on Monday and went to two balls at night
 and waltezed with the dutch gals till morning then come home to
 Edwardsville. ever remain yours Joel Watters

Ridge Prarrle Madison Co., Ills

Jan th 1861

I take the time to write you a few lines once more to let you
 know that I am still about and well hoping you may all be the
 same I know that I have been very negliget in not writing oftener
 but you must excuse me for not answering your letters I am now
 ten miles from Edwardsville and have been since last August my
 business has been dull for the last year I done a good deall
 of painting last summer I built two small houses out on the prarrle
 this fall I have now gone in on a lease of eighty acres of prarrle
 land with two other men we commenced the 22 of last November and
 our copartnership ends three years from the first of next March.

We have to build one mile of plank fence and a small frame house to pay for the lease the timber is all furnished but we have to haul it to a mill to get it sawed. the timber is one mile from the prairie and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mill. It takes 13000 feet of plank to build the fence and 2000 ft to build the house. We have got half the logs hauled now to do the work and got 25 acres of land broke up. we intend to have it all fenced by time to plant corn all the posts is made and one quarter of a mile of them set. We have got a team of four yoke of good work cattle one cow four hogs plows harrows and divers and sundries of things to numerous to mention. We now live in a log shanty we go in equal on every thing that is made. We have got an article of agreement drawed up binding each one to do his part or pay the others damages. My two partners has both got families. Their names is Henry Lewis and Reils McNeill. Lewis is an old man of sixty and McNeill is about my age. We intend to put in forty acres of corn in the spring and forty acres in wheat in the fall. Corn dont need any working on the prairie the first year it is broke up and wheat the first year in the sod grows beter than any other place it never freezes out. When we dont work on the lease we can break prairie other places and get from \$.00 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ an acre and I can work at my trade. Prairie land is worth \$15.00 per acre not improved. Land improved goes for $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 dollars per acre cash. There was more corn raised last year in Madison County than was ever raised before. Corn is worth 20 cts here and 30 in St. Louis. It is 30 miles from here to St. Louis. Wheat looks fine this winter. The winter has been very mild so far I aint married yet but I still stick to the same girl of two years ago. times was so hard last year it throwed me on the back ground about marrying but the next fit it take I am a gone chicken I am like a balky horse some times I am in a notion sometimes I aint about being harnessed.

About coming home I dont know for I got business plenty to attend to Jim Evans wrote to me in October from Winslow Pike County (Ind.) in October and said they had all been sick and people about there hardly raised enough to live on. I was sorry to hear times was so hard with them He wanted to know if he could come out here and get work he said he was a kindof carpenter but I was about through my work and didnt write for him to come. Mechanical work is dull here but there is plenty of work on the farms from \$12 to \$15 per mont and board. I was glad to hear that your head was sound on the political question you went for a sound man when you went for old Abe. I saw him and he looks like an honest old

Abe. The battle waxed hot in Illinois (Illinois) but old Abe won the day the democrats was hurt bad they say the war aint over yet but Old Abe says it will be by the time grass rises. P.S. direct your letters to Alhambry Madison Co., Ills. Joel Watters

Camp Morgan October 10th 1861

Dear brother I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping you may all be the same. It has been so long since I heard from you that I don't know but what you are all dead. I am in the service of the U. S. A. for three years. I was sworn into service the fifth of this month I belong to the tenth regiment of Illinois volunteer Company K Captain Lusk Col Morgan commander we are stationed here to watch the gun boats building here to keep the secesions from taking them there is three gun boats building here they will be finished the fifteenth of next month and then I expect we will have to leave here yesterday the cavalry at Birds Point routed the secesh and run them out of that section last week two gun boats went down to Columbus and throwed some bombs into the seceshs camp they fired 100 canon balls at our gun boats but done no execution I haven't heard any news from Paducah KY since I been here papers is hard to get hold of and that is the only way we get any news I like a soldiers life very well for the experience I have had I was in the service thirty days at St. Louis last spring and was at the taking of Camp Jackson I thought the war would soon end then so I went back to the lease I was on and we put in 45 acres of corn which I left standing in the field when I left this time one third which is mine one yoke of cattle and one cow and told my partners if I ever come back they could pay me my tools is at a friend of mine in Edwardsville by the name of John Bickerstaffs if any thing happens to me so you can't hear from me write to him. The company that I belong to is from Edwardsville direct to Joel Watters 10th regiment Vol Mound City Ills Care of Capt Lusk Co. excuse haste

Nov 3th 1861 Camp Morgan Mound City Ills

10 Reg Vols Dear brother, I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know I am well and hope you may all be the same. I received your letter on the 28 of Oct and was glad to hear from you. This regiment don't have much sickness there has been two deaths out of it since I been here but there is a (part missing here)...(other side of same sheet) tables which is like a barbecue if we make a charge on secesh like we do on the tables we will like them up like lasses. two of the gun boats is launched and the third will soon be finished we may have to go South or

wherever McClernand orders us if we do I hope you will have a good report from the 10 If we dont fight well it wont be for the want of drilling for the Colonel puts us through on that quick step and double quick about four hours per day I like the sport very well never beter satisfied I have to stand guard onc a week for 24 hours 2 on and 4 off there is 10 men detailed out of each Co per day to s(t) and guard to kep the boys in camp If they get out in town some of them gets tite on cecesh whiskey and want to clean out every thing they come to some of the boys gets in the guard house and has to wear a big canon ball to their leg for 8 or 10 days and live on bread and water. the officers has to be strict for ther is some tolerable hard caces to deal with.

It is geting tolerable cold now but we all got heavy over coats that comes down below the knees and 2 blankets. I was on guard the other night wasent on post but standing by the guard fire when the seargeant of the guard was called for he went to see what was wanted who should come back with him but old Furby with his shirt all torn off he said he was cutting wood down toward Calro and got in a flight and they was a going to shoot him and he come up to our camp for protection he went back next morning with some of the government wagons said he would clean them out. I havent heard from him since. I got no more rom to write from your avvectionate brother Joel Waters give my respects to all friends.

Dec 15th 1861

Camp Morgan Mound City 10th Regiment Ills Volls Co. K

Captain Lusk Commander

First Lieutenant Godhold Girnt German 2 Llutenant E. L. Freyda
Dear brother I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines in answer to your letter which came to hand today. I was glad to hear you was all well I am well at this time. I received a leter the next day after I wrote the last one and was glad to hear from you. I havent got any war news to tell you so I will tell you what transpires in Camp. There is generaly about a dozen souldiers in the guard house for geting tight or some other offence so last week they got a bar of Iron by some means and was prying the door down. The sentinels told them to stop but they wouldent so they shot through the crack they had made in the door and cripled three of them one of them had to have his leg taken off the next day. The captain of the guard went to arrest a soldier that was tight and he struck the Captain and got a sword run through him he was killed all on account of cecesh whiskey. Since then the Captains has stoped passing their men out side of the camp

lines into town only them they can trust. I have got a very good Captain he passes me out every day if I want to go but I never get tight and always come back when he tells me to. Some of the Captains is hard on their men and punish them for most any little offence. A Captain by the name of Woods chained one of his men round the neck all day and night for staying in town all night it was cold and he liked to a froze he was going to keep him chained the next night but it was a made up thing to have him loosed so we waited till dark but he was still chained We give one yell and started for the Co's quarters to see if he should be unloosed so he went and took the chain off. It is well he did for it would have been done by force about 500 had their guns loaded. Things looked desperate for a little while. Woods run in the hospital and staid all night afraid some of his own men would shoot him. I hoop we will not have any fighting amongst our selves but wait till we see the cecesh if I ever see Pete Kay on the cecesh side I will tear a hole in him bigger than four dollars or any other cecesh we have fine times here. There is only four fiders in our company and if a feler gets sick they give him plenty of Physic. We have turned of our cooks and cook our selves. I belong to mess No. 2 of 20 men. I comenced cooking the first of this month. I can cook as well as any of them. the boys pays me \$15.00 per month I pay a feler \$5.00 to cary water and help wash the tin plates and cups. We have beanes for diner every other day and potatoes turnips fresh beef and ham Coffee General Grant came to see us the other day, and the 17th Ills regiment came up from Cairo. the General troted us around with knapsack about half the day he said he thought we could fight if we got a chance ther is not much sickness here now out of 800 caces in the general hospital only 39 dled last month only 8 of the wounded died the rest will get well 3 dled out of this reg. there was a grand review of the souldiers at Calro yesterday the 10th reg went down on a boat it was the grandest sight I ever saw. we formed a squar about one mile on each side the _____ was in side of that the big officers galoped their horses around and looked at us they said the 10 was the best drilled of any of them. I dont know how many souldiers was there but there was more than I ever saw they said there wasent any from Birds Point or fort holt. I counted eight gun boats on the Ohio I couldent see on the Mississipi river I saw six floiting baterys the officers is paying a good deal attention to the men here now. I think you will hear of hot work before long. we have got good guns will shoot across the river and kill cecesh our guns is rifled muskets made in france. I was sory to hear Pete Cay was a

cecesh but if I ever seen him on the cecesh side I will tear a
 hole in him bigger than four dollars if I dont get shot first or
 any other cecesh. I think that I can whip a half dozen of them
 my self for I am one half horse and the other half chawed rausum.
 I was glad to hear the rest of the boys was loyal to the union.
 I will send you a leter before I send my money. We will be paid
 about the 15 of Jan if the pay master comes to time. The last
 pay day I hadent been here quite a month I only drewed \$12.00
 we get \$13.00 per month. I loned \$10.00 last pay day til next
 pay dat at \$2. Ints. I will send you my money in a letter or
 by express when this month is out I will have to stop cooking
 and practice drilling next pay day I will have \$35 or \$40 what
 I send you do with as you see proper. If I get killed I give
 all I got to your oldest boy Joel T. Waters which wont be much.
 I lost that lot in Cairo when I come back to Cairo when I left
 home last it was high water and the whole town was overflowed
 every body was suing the agents they bought property of. I went
 to the agent and told him if he would give me \$100 he might have
 the balance. He said he didnt do business that way. I told
 him to go to the devil that I could live without it. I had paid
 \$250 on it and was to pay \$325. I wasent the only one that lost
 their money there was a dispute about property and the agency
 broke full handed. I went up to Edwardsville and had \$25 left.
 I made a doodeal of money there and spent the most of it. I left
 about \$200 worth of property to the honesty of my partners 10
 miles from Edwardsville our partner ship runs out 2 years from
 the first of next month. My tools is at Edwardsville at John
 W. Biggerstaff if any thing hapens to me write to him concerning
 my business. Your affectionate brother Joel Waters give my respects
 to all enquirng friends tell Thomas Birdwell (a brother-in-law)
 to write if he dont I will chaw him if I ever come back.

Camp Morgan, Mound City, Ills Jan 8th

1862

Dear brother, father and sisters and friends, I take the present
 opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am
 well at present hoping you may all be the same. This is nine
 o'clock at night the Col sent in orders to the Captains that we
 must prepare for a five days journey by 10 o'clock tomorrow.
 He said we would get on a boat tomorrow and take five days rations
 with us and our blankets the captains and the souldiers dont know
 our destination. Probably we may be going to Columbus and maby
 some place else there is something in the wind sure if we do get
 in a fight and I get killed I want to die like a man fighting

I like a souldier. I am a little excited to night we have such short notice and I have my things to packup. If we do get in a battle and I get out safe I will write to you as soon as possible I got a leter from you yesterday and one from Thomas to day I was glad to hear from you. We may not leave but if this comes to hand you may know that we have this may be my last leter if I never see you again in this world I hope to see you in a beter where all the battles is fought and peace reilgns forever. Good by your affectionate brother Joel Waters.

(apparently this is only part of a letter)

Jan 8th 1862

I havent been paid off yet there was two months pay coming to me the first of this month. If you dont hear from me write to the Capt or one of the Lieutenants or write to George Bartlet or Cornelius Brown they are my particular friends my age, size and home is marked in the company book. My paper is scarce and I havent got much time to write so good by give my respects to all enquiring friends yours Joel Watters (On opposite side of same sheet) tell Sarah Jane I would like to send my dagareotype to her but the time is to short now but I will send it the first opportunity I get if I ever get another. If I dont send it try and remember me. I dont think I have changed much in three years. P. S. It is morning and we all in a stir to get ready it is rumerad we go to KY or missouri to fight 3 or 4 thousand cecesh. I leave this withone of the boys that is sick

Birds Point Mo Feb 10th 1862 10 reg 111s Volls

Co K

Dear brother I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping you may all bee the same. I wrote you two letters a few days ago and havent got much news to give you at present. I expect you will get the news about our gun goats taking Ft. Henry before you get this. I havent heard how many rebels was killed our loss was small, the greatest disaster being when the rebel ball went through the gunboat essex boiler killing one man the steam scalding 30 others of which 7 has dled they took the rebel General Teiglmann and all his staff officers prisoners. The rebel infantry evacuated the fort before our men took possession the last I heard from there our men was in hot perssult of the rebels and was also moving on to take Ft. Donaldson our troops is making a grand move now for some point there has been about 20,000 come to Cairo within four days and went up the ohio I think the object is to attack Bowling Green

soon and then come down on Columbus like a thousand brick if they take them cecesh will be about plaid out. There is six reg at this place of Infantry and one of Cavelry besides flying artillery of which our Col is chelf Commander the calculation was for the 10th to go up the river but our Col being the oldest and best experienced Col in this division he had to take command of Birds Point but I hope if they move on Columbus they will give us a call if they will hold us back until the cecsh comes out of their ditches that I think our gunboats will make them do I will shot and bite and gouge and fight and tumble in the mud and when at length I have lost my strength I will never give in but get up and pitch in again. I like this place beter than Mound City the only diflculty here is there is no whiskey to drink or chickens to cramp. We have good log cabins to stay in with fire places which makes it look a little like home. The only thing that disturbs the place is the blg bull dog that barks at every steamboat that comes in sight and makes them whistle and round to. It has cleared off and the sun shines warm the last few days which it hasent done before for a month. I sent two of my degareotypes in one of the letters which I sent a few days ago. I hope you may get them. I sent enclosed in this leter a draft for \$20.00 if you get it go to the bank at New Albany or Louisville and get the money or probably some of the store keepers at Elizabeth may take it if they have dealings with the bank. I had it drawed for Ohio money thinking it would be the most curent with you. Tell Thomas to excuse me for not answering his leter for I started from Mound City on that KY trip so soon after I got it I didnt have time to write the next time I write I will drop him a few lines. Give my respects to all enquiring friends your brother Joel Waters P.S. direct your leters to Calro Ills 10th reg Ills Volls Co. K care of Capt Lusk and I will get them.

Mar 3th 1862 Birds Point MO.

Dear brother I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping you may be the same. We have been after Jeff Thompson for 4 days and just back last night with one of his canon and a rebel flag. We came near getting his scalp. We killed five and wounded eight of his men. He only had 200 men and 6 one lb cannon with him. His men was all mounted on fast horses and we shot at them as they run. The last I saw of him he was going like lightning and one thousan of our cavelry 2 miles behind after him. About 5 days ago there was a large force of union troops started from Cape Gerido and Commerce to move on to New Madrid so it seems that Jeff thought he would go

out and burn all the bridges on the New Madrid and Cape Gerido road to stop their progress but come mighty near getting his scalp taken. The next day after our troops started from Commerce and Cape Gerido our reg and 2 companys of Nolemans Cavelry was ordered to start out west on the Cairo and Fulton Rail Road to Saxton (Sikeston) where the New Madrid and Cape Gerido state roads crosses which is 30 miles west from here and 20 miles north from New Madrid so the cavelry started about 3 hours before we did and went around the swamps and we got on the cars and run into Charlestown which is 12 miles on the rail r there our cavelry came up to us and we started again and got about one mile when our cavelry saw 5 rebels tearing up the track so they got after them and took three prisoners. We had 100 sapers and miners with us and they fixed the track in about an hour and we went on to a small village eight miles from Charlestown which was abou deserted. There the cecesh had burnt the trustle work across swamp about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile we only started with 1 days rations so we took possession of the houses and stoped until next morning and sent the cars back for more provlions they came back and we took 2 days provion and started a foot for Saxton 10 miles distant at day light attesting 9 suspicious looking felers before we left and sending them back to Cairo we left the sapers and miners to fix the trustle across the swamp and made Saxton by 11 oclock that day. When we got there we heard that Jeff had left about sun up that morning and gone north towards Cape Gerido. We took 21 prisoners and sent them back to Bertrand where we got off the cars. I forgot to tell you that before we got to Saxton we saw something that looked like a canon planted on the rail road and our cavelry went around the town and came in the back way and found out that it was a log put on 2 old wagon wheels. They thought they would scare us back with that but Jeff couldent come that well. We searched all the houses and took all the shot guns that we could find. We went in a doctors shop and one of the boys got a mans scull and it had Abe Lincoln wrote on top of it. We rested until one oclock and started on after Jeff and folerd him 8 miles to where he had planted his canons to shoot into the trains that was coming in from Commerce. There was where the Commerce road come into the capegerido road. We heard there was 3 brigades of our troops coming on that road old Jeff had heard of us in his rear and pulled up stakes and started on the Cape Gerido road again so we went about one mile further towards Cape Gerido and come to a bridge that he had tried to burn up but we had run him so close that he left it and we put the fire out. There he had taken a woods road that went back south and come into the road four miles below Saxton.

We camped there at the bridge and our cavalry followed him through the swamps all night but couldn't find him so they came back to our camp in the morning. By this time there was 800 more cavalry come in from Cape Gerido and we started back to Saxton 1000 cavalry in the advance. We went through Saxton and went 4 miles below when the cavalry came onto Jeff's scouts and shot at them our cavalry came back and fell in line of battle in the roads. We left the road and started round a hill to get beyond Jeff to get him between us and the cavalry. He didn't know there was any infantry after him and commenced shooting his 1 lb balls up the road about 2 miles but done no execution to the cavalry. We had got him nearly surrounded before he saw us we were coming through a corn field about 300 yds from him before they saw us on double quick. They directed their canons at us and we fell flat on the ground every time they fired at us and the balls whistled over our heads they shot 3 rounds at us by this time we had got 200 yds from them when we raised up and fired one volley at them and they started for New Madrid fast as their horses would carry them leaving one canon and a flag. 5 killed and 8 wounded we had one man slightly wounded. Our cavalry went on after them and we started back for Bertrand got on the cars and came back to Birds Point yesterday. I heard this morning that the cavalry overtook Jeff and got nearly all his men and artillery. I think our troops will be at New Madrid by day after tomorrow I think there is about twenty thousand some of the cavalry said they had about 200 canon with them. There was 2 regiments left here this morning and Hotelands artillery they started on the Belmont road. Our regiment is ordered to be ready at the shortest notice. I think the secession will be swept beyond the borders of Missouri soon. I can't tell you for certain whether Columbus is deserted or not but I think if it ain't it soon will be. I heard that the secession had burnt Columbus. The news is here that General Buell has got the rebels surrounded at Murfreesborough in Tennessee. Every house that I went into in Missouri the women said they hadn't drunk any coffee for 8 months and salt was almost worth its weight in silver. They were anxious for peace. I saw some men that said they were with Jeff Thompson for six months and their time was out. They said they got no pay and were anxious to quit fighting against the union. The Col made some of them take the oath of allegiance. I saw a good many of the prisoners that were taken at Ft. Donaldson. They looked like a lot of Penitentiary convicts they cursed Floyd and Johnson for everything they could think of some of them hoped for Jeff Davis and others would say damn Jeff Davis he is paid out. When

we stoped at Charlestown I enquired for David Gilmore and Henry and a man told me they lived about 3 miles from there and Dave was a blacksmith and Henry a carpenter. I will now bring this to a close. If we leave here and go where I can write to you I will do so since I came back I received a letter from you and 2 dagareotypes. I was glad to hear that my letters went safe for I began to think they had got misplaced. I liked the pictures very well. Sarah Jane looked very natural but you got most to serious a look sorter like a preacher. I think the children looks a little like their dad givemy respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother, Joel Waters.

March 8th 1862 Bertrand MO

Dear brother I sleze the present oportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am safe on teriferm after wading swamps knee deep. I wrote you a letter about being after Jeff Thompson a few days ago. Well the orders came in the next night after we got back about 2 oclock for us to pack up all our souldier traps and be off again. Of course you know it had to be did so we loaded up our wagons and started at day light. There was 2 regiments of us I supose New Madrid is our destination from the rout we took we got on the cars and went to Charlestown and started south and went 12 miles and camped. Waited for mour trans to come up which they didnt so untill next day after they come up we found out we wouldnt get to New Madrid on that road without going through a swamp 6 miles so we had to about face and come back to Bertrand where we camped the first night we went after Jeff Thompson. We got here yesterday evening after traveling 15 miles and wading a swamp for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. There is 7 regiments camped here I think we will go to Saxton tomorrow and go on that road to New Madrid there is about 20 thousand of our troops lying down below there some place waiting for us to move on with them. This movement is comanded by General Pope Col Morgan is comander of the 4 brigade since we started I heard our troops went and took possession of Columbus without firing a gun it being deserted the rebels had burnt all their quarters and left a train of fire burning so it would blow up the powder magazine when our troops got in. They had also poisoned a lot of bacon of which our men didnt partake. There is nothing to hinder the gun boats from going to New Madrid as I know of while we attack them in the rear. The news is there was 18000 cecesh left Columbus and went to New Madrid and to Union City which is on the line of Ky and Tenesee. I think if they stop at New Madrid another weeks things will get to hot to be healthy in that region. The great union ball is

rolling on to victory and it will sweep cecesh wherever it goes.

I heard that the great stronghold Manasas was taken in Virginia. This may be the last opportunity I may have but if we get to New Madrid and the rebels don't make me bite the dust I will write again. My gun has got a raised sight that is marked 900 yards and it won't be very safe for cecesh to stand on fair ground that distance. When we shot at Jeff Thompson there was a fence between us and him or he would have been killed certainly for we shot the rails all to pieces. Excuse my bad spelling for I am sitting in the woods writing on our grub box. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters. P. S. direct your letters to Cairo as before and they will follow the regiment.

Camp near New Madrid Missouri March 28th 1862

Dear brother I take pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and hope you may all be the same. This makes 3 letters I have wrote you and got no answer. I hope you hear from me oftener than I hear from you. I wrote to you about us taking New Madrid of which you have heard by this time. I cannot think of much to write to you at this time. Island No 10 seems to be a trump that will take both bowers and ace to take it. Comander Foote has been annoying them for 14 days but haven't routed them yet. Some days we hear they are evacuating and other days we hear they are there still. Foote has thrown about 2000 shells at them from the mortars and about as many more from the gun boats creating great havoc amongst the rebels some times. Some days we hear no firing but the bombardment domenced last night at 12 o'clock and is raging with great force at 10 o'clock today Island No 10 is bound to fall into our hands before long. I think there is a land force being sent down through Ky to operate in their rear. We would be over there from this place some of us but we had no way to cross the river there is about 42000 troops here they say half that many would be sufficient to hold this place. There is a buyo or slough that runs out of the Mississippi river above New Madrid. Our forces is trying to get boats through it to New Madrid. I don't know whether they will succeed or not. I think our General is working head work and if the rebels stays at Island No 10 it will be certain destruction to them. There is 3000 of our troops at Point Pleasant 8 miles below here. they have sunk two cecesh gun boats and taken two or three transports that come up from Memphis. They thought they would run the blockade and come up to Island No 10. If they try to run by New Madrid

with their woden gun boats they will certainly get blown out of the water for our engineers has improved the fortifications that we took and (paper torn) about 30 large guns to play on them. There was a great casualty hapened here after we took New Madrid. Some of the boys out of the 51 Ills regiment picked up one of the shells that the rebels throwed that didnt burst and fetched it into camp. It was lying around two or three days when 2 fellers was fool enough to stick it down in the ground and lay a coal of fire on it when it exploded and cut one of them into two and cut the other ones leg off. One piece of the shell fell into the 10 camp but hurt none of us. The health among the souldiers is very good here. We only have 4 sick in the hospital from our reg. We have heard of the victories of our troops has achieved at Pea ridge in Arkansas Newburn North Carolina and Winchester Verginia which is very encouraging. I have also heard that General Grant and Buell is going on to Corinth in Mississipi with near 80000 troops. I see by the papers that the 24 25 and 11 Indiana regiments is in General Lew Wallaces division with Grants forces. We exp No 10 is taken we will push on to the land of cotton and take Memphis. We heard here that Commodore Dupont had New Orleans but the report aint much credited. We see by the papers that Jeff Thompson has been slipping back into Missouri with his band of theves disturbing peacefull citizens. General Hallick has issued an order to hang all such bands that is caught without Judge or Jury. General Pope has got a tolegraph line run from here to Cairo since we been here. Sometimes Provision is very scarce here. Only one rail road to fetch it to Sixtown which is 20 miles from here. It takes our teams 2 days to go there and back some of the boys grumble about having to eat hard crackers for 2 or 3 meals some times without any meat or coffee. For my part I could live on parched corn a day or so if I couldnt get any thing else. If you could hear our morters firing at Island No 10 you would think there was an awful storm coming for they almost shake the earth and they are 10 miles from here up the river but I have got so famillier with such things they dont annoy me much. I will close by saying that I can stand up and shoot at a cecesh as deliverate as if he was a dog for I was on picket the other night when one come up and shot at one of our picket guards with a shot gun but didnt hit him. After that I saw 3 slipping through a corn field about 100 yards off. I shot at them and wounded one of them for I saw 2 of them asisting him to get away. I holered at them to know if it hurt much but got no answer. No more but remain your affectionate brother Joel Waters. Write soon

P.S. direct your letters to New Madrid Mo 10 Reg Ills Volunteers
Co K care Capt Lusk.

April 5 1862 Camp near New Madrid

Dear brother I take pen in hand to write you a few hasty lines
in answer to your letter which came to hand this evening which
was mailed the 2 of April. It came very quick I got a letter
about a week ago the next day after I wrote my last letter which
you have got by this time. I was glad to hear you was well I
am well at this time and hope you may be the same. Island No
10 is in the possession of the rebels yet but they will soon have
to give it up. Our forces has got boats through the bay to New
Madrid and one of our gun boats run the blockade last night and
came to New Madrid. There was a storm raging at the time and
it was very dark and the rebels fired 125 shots at her as she came
through but didnt hit her. Col Buford of the 27 Ills reg which
is above Island No 10 with our gun boats took 1800 Infantry 2
companies of cavalry and a battery of artillery on the 2 of April
and went out to Union City and cleaned the rebels out of that
place. He burnt their tents took 20 prisoners 300 horses 500
stand of small arms. I havent heard how many rebels was killed.
There was 2 of our men killed by loaded guns going off while the
tents was burning. Col Buford came up on them by surprise and
the rebels left in a panic. There was 1500 rebels our forces
came back. They thought the rebels might come from the Island
and overpower them. 80 rebel soldiers has come to Hickman and
joined our forces there. I heard our troops took yaws and skiffs
night before last and slipped up and spiked the guns on one of
the rebel battery at the Island the gun boat that run the blockade
was the Carrondot. The rebels is getting discouraged at the
Island so says the deserters. I must bring this to a close for
it is 10 oclock at night and our reg and 2 others is under marching
orders and a battery of artillery was ordered to be ready at
5 oclock this evening but we havent left yet. I dont know our
destination but I think we will be sent over the river. I leave
this with a friend if we leave tonight he will put this in the
office. I will try and put my trust in God so if we never meet
in this land of troubles we may meet in a better. Give my respects
to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters

New Madrid April the 6 We didnt leave last night but we are
still under marching orders with 2 days rations we may leave
at any moment and the order may be contramanded but I look for
fighting soon when we get in the rear of the Island. The rebels

may fight desperate but I think we will rout them. I will mail
this when we start hope for the best. goodbye direct your letters
camp near New Madrid 10th Ills Volls Co. K care Capt. Lusk

New Madrid Aprile 6th (1862)

6 oclock evening we are here yet but I think we will leave tonight
from the looks of spades at headquarters I think we will have
some ditching to do. The gun boat that is at New Madrid went
down below here and knocked a rebel batery to pieces that was
5 miles on the other side of the river and made the rebels leave
for tall timber. I see the 2 reg going towards New Madrid equiped
in fighting order one of them is the 10 Iowa all the troops that
is here is camped $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from New Madrid. Only enough to manage
the guns is in the forts. The 10 Ills 16th 51st Ill and 26th
MO is called the fourth division. The trees is all out in leav
here we have some huge games of ball. Here the ground is as level
as a barn floor. If we go over the river to night the cecesh
will throw bals that is to hot to catch but if they give us any
sight in the game we will win, -----April 7th 4oclock morning.
Raining like fury, very dark. I think some more of our boats
run the blockade at the Island there was heavy canon ading that
way betwen 2 and 3 oclock. Orders is for us to march at 5 oclock
good by (here apparently a part of this letter is missing; another
sheet which appears to be part of the same letter begins...
which is about 10 miles above here our gun boats is above that
Island. I have heard heavy firing up that way. I think our boats
is attacking them at that place if they whip the rebels at that
place we will take the last boat they got for I dont think they
will run by New Madrid without being sunk. They spiked their
guns in the forts here with nails which our men soon took out
all but one wich was spiked with a rat tail file. They left so
fast that they didnt call in some of their pickets and they took
off their shirts and held them up for a flag of truce. They said
there was 40 rebels killed and they didnt know how many wounded.
When Col Morgan took us in the forts we give three cheers for
the old stars and stripes and it was responded to by 40000 union
men from their camps. The way we built our breast works we tore
down fences and took the rails and laid them on the ground through
a corn field and dug a ditch and throwed the dirt on them. About
2 oclock I went back to the rear after water and a 32 lb ball
struck a house not more than 2 feet from where I stood about a
minute before. You may hear great tales in the papers before
you get this but you may rely on this for facts for I was an eye

witness. My pen cant describe half the cenery excuse haste from
your affectionate brother Joel Watters

Camp near Corinth Miss May 5th 1862

Dear brother I take pen in hand to let you know that I am well
and hope you may all be the same. I have not got any leters from
you since I been here. I have wrote 2 leters we are geting close
to Corinth. Our camp is 6 miles from that place at this time.
We had a right smart fight on the 3 Inst we made a reconalsance
on the road towards Corinth. Our camps was 4 miles further back
at that time. Well we came on until we got about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on the
road towards Corinth from where our camps is now when we came
up on the rebel pickets in the road 300 strong. We soon drove
them back killing and wounding 20 and taking 13 prisoners, one
Captain amongst them. They had cut trees down across the road
for about 100 yds and tore down a bridge across a small stream
In about 2 hours we had the trees cut out of the road and the
bridge uilt and fetched up 2 bateries and folowed after them.
We came up on them at a small town called Farmington about 4 miles
from Corinth. They had a camp at the town of 4000 troops and
a batery. Our bateries opened on them one to the right and the
other to the left. They stood for about 10 minutes when they
comenced falling back. We came up after them in double quick
and drove them off so fast they had to leave their dead and wounded
on the field. Our reg and 16th lils was on the right and suported
Hotelands batery. We came near out flanking them and geting
their batery but they out run us. We folowed after them until
we was within 3 miles of Corinth when it was near sun down we
thought it wouldnt be safe to go any further and we came back
where the fight first comenced and laid down and slept sound until
morning. We treated them sorough they didnt come out to see us
any more so we came back to where our camps is now. We have got
a strong picket of cavelry out at the town. The rebels had 15
killed and 25 2wounded 5 of the wounded was out of the 10 reg
and 1 ou of co K. The rebels shot most to high the balls sung
over our heads like hornets when you throw a rock in their nest.
We lay flat on the ground when their bathery was playing on us
and we couldnt see anything to shoot at the same day we run them
out of the town General Pope took a force of 3 reg off of the left
and went up to the rail road and took 75 prisoners and a locomotive
and 2 or 3 cars. The forces that was with us was 5 reg. We
had plenty more not far off Buells forces has a skirmish every
day or so as he advances. Our whole forces here is about the
same distance from Corinth and is in the shape of a half moon.

I dont know what transpires on any part of the lines only Popes but we clear every thing that is in our way as we advance. I am very thankfull that the great ruler of all things has protected me so far from the rebels bulets for some of them comes mighty close some times but I think I am fighting in a good cause and I will face them boldly puting my trust in the great God. I will never run like a coward of they fall think as hall. News papers is very scarce here the last one I saw was dated 29th Aprile and give accounts of our forces having New Orleans. I think they have got the rebels in a close place on the Miss river the news is there that McClellan has taken York Town in Verginia. I havent saw any papers to confirm it. I wrote a leter to Thomas Birdwell some time ago. I told him General Nelson had posseslon of the rail road that run from Corinth east. I was mistaken it is General Mitchel. The last I heard from him he was down towards Georgia and had the rebs scared considerable. We may have a big fight here soon for we will soon have Corinth surrounded. I think our forces will soon take the rail road that runs towards Memphis. Prisoners that we have taken says if we get them surrounded we can starve them out in 10 days. I dont think Boregard will venture out to fight us if he does he will meet with a warm reception. We have got 4 siege guns planted here on the road where our lines crosses. I dont know what we have got after I went $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up our lines towards the left our reg is on the extreem right of Popes forces. The guards wont let a souldier leave his reg far the forces here forms a line 10 miles long. Give my respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters. PS direct your letters Camp near Corinth Miss 10th reg Ills Volls Co. K. care Capt Lusk Genl Popes forces

Camp 26 miles South from Corinth June 10 1862

Dear brother I take the present opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know I am well. I got 2 leters from home since we left Corinth. One from you and one from Sarah and was glad to hear you wal all well. I will now give you a few details of the evacuation of Corinth of which you have heard by this time.

On the 28 of May we started from our ditches at Farmington and advanced up to within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Corinth and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from one of their outside forts which had 8 guns. We drove their pickets into their forts killing several. They had a betery of light artillery near their picket line which we charged bayonets on and they didnt have to use it on our bateries of light artillery behind points of timber so they couldnt get range on them with their big guns until we could get ourn up which we kept back to the

rear we comenced throwing up breast works we worked about 15 minutes when we heard the musketry comencing ratling like fury off to our right about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. The rebels had slipped up through a hollow and charged one of Buells bateries that was suported by a Wisconsin reg. They took 2 guns and commenced pulling them off the 10 and 16 lls was ordered to take them back. We went on double quick and fired one voley into the rebels and charged on them. They left the guns and run. The batery we was suporting opened on them with canister shot and killed 30 that I saw in an orchard they run through. I didnt take time to look around for any more. We had 2 wounded in our reg. We come out lucky for the shells bursted all around us. We went back to work on our ditches and they didnt bother us any more that day. At night we fetched up 3 rifled parot guns and planted them in fair view of their outside fort about 1000 yds off. At day light we saw the rebel flag floating in their fort. Our guns opened on them the thirld round out their flag down and came near striking one of their guns. They raised the flag again and fired like fury at our fort. They had smoothe bore guns and their shot fell short of the mark. By 10 oclock they stoped firing at us. We was ordered to charge the fort at 1 oclock just before we started they opened out again and kept firing at intervals until night and we fetched up 6 more siege guns and built another fort further to the left to get a cross fire on them next day. That night we heard cars runing all night about day light we saw a big smoke at Corinth and heard the biggest booming I ever heard. Our guns fired 2 shots at their fort and got no answer and we started off and went into the fort and found it deserted. We had quite a race to see whose flag would go in first. Our flag was the first to wave over the fort. We went into but some of Buells brigades beat us into Corinth. When we got in there, we saw they had left very hastily leaving camp equipment and one ware house full of provision but they had taken all their big guns or buried them. I didnt see any of them. They burnt up a good many houses and blowed up their magazine. Price and Vandorn went south and we took after them and came up on their rear guard 8 miles south from Corinth. They had crossed over a little river called Tuscumbia burning the bridge and planting a batery to keep us from crossing. They fired into our cavelry that evening 7 or 8 we soped (stoped) that night $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the river. The next morning we slipped up on our hands and knees to the river and saw cecesh on the other side tolerable thick. I raised up to take a peep over a little stump and a ball whistled about 4 in from my left arm. I blazed away and roled

the feters to backer. I shot him through the neck. They kept shooting at us every glimpse they got. They shot a sargeant of Co. E. through the shoulder. Our Major give the command to open out down the line. We jumped up and give them a full volley and they started off like the devil was after them. I shot 5 times at them in about 3 minutes. They opened their batery on us give us 4 rounds and pulled up stakes and left. We built a bridge across the river wich is about 30 ft wide. By 3 oclock that day when we crossed we found 42 rebels killed by our balls. We pushed on and camped at a small town 8 miles further called Renzi. There our cavelry took about 100 prisoners. The next day we went to Boonville where our cavelry had made a charge on the Ohio and Mobile rail road and burnt a train of 26 cars loaded with amunition and about 3000 stand of small arms and a depot filled with provision. a few days before we have been 5 miles below Boonville but couldnt come up with the rebels any more. We have taken about 500 prisoners on this road most of them was taken by the cavelry. The last I heard from them they was going south. I dont think they will make a stand short of 100 miles from Corinth. I guess they are runing for the last ditch. Our wtoping place is near Boonville on a road that runs west toward s Memphis. I look for marching orders for that place soon. What has been done by Buell and Grant after the rebels I dont know. They went diferent roats. We have been out of camp since the 28 of May. Have no tents or blankets withus and lay around on the ground at night like indians. We have no cooking utensils but broil our meat and make coffee in tin cups. Chickens is scarce and high. They roost in the tops of trees. Confederate scrip is profitable. If you got it you cant spent it by that means you can save your money. Green backs is in good demand. You can buy any thing the natives has to sell with them, young potatoes is to be had by scratching in patches blackberrys is ripe, wheat is cut what little there is. After we past Corinth there was a man and 3 women come on the side of the road and waved handkerchiefs at us. One was a good looking girl the first one I saw for 3 months. I think she was e pluribus unum. The weather is tolerable hot here in the day and cool at night. The health is very good in our reg beter than it was in New Madrid. I sent you a letter from Farmington with \$15.00 in it by Mr. Scarett of Alton. Let me know if it come to hand. Tell Sarah to let me know when that weding is coming off and I will have lob squash for diner that day. Give my respects to all enquiring friends, your affectionate brother Joel Waters direct to Corinth Miss 10th Ills Volls Co. K care Capt Lusk, Gen Popes Division.

Camp four miles south from Corinth on Ohio and Mobile rail road

June 20th 1862

Dear brother, I take pen in hand to write you a few lines in answer to your letter which came to hand yesterday of the 8th inst. I was glad to hear you was all well. I am well at this time. There has not much transpired since I last wrote which was at Boonville 10th inst. We have moved back to this place with the main Army leaving a force at Boonville to guard the rail road which is repaired to that place and cars running from Corinth. I was at Corinth day before yesterday. I saw 3 locomotives and a good many flat cars in running order and 100 men at work building new cars. They are repairing all the rail roads that comes into Corinth and communication will be open from every direction soon. I hear Commodore Davis's fleet has left Memphis for Vicksburg. I think his rams have butted every obstruction out of the river by this time. The news is here that Mitchell has taken Chattanooga in eastern Tennessee which cuts off one of the mail rail roads to Virginia. Things seem to be on a stand still at Richmond. I think Boregard has sent some of his troops there since he evacuated Corinth. I think Hallick has sent part of the army from here to reinforce McClellan. I think part of Boregard's army has made a stand at Oakalona 75 miles south from here some of them at Grenada south of Memphis. If they have I think we will be after them soon as the rail road is finished to Corinth so we can get provision handy. When the rebels left Corinth they took every thing from the people in the country and left them in a starving condition. They even took the milk cows and the calves was so hungry they had to lean against the fence to ball as we passed by. I saw men and women with carts going around camps we left picking up scraps of provision. They come into our camps every day begging. I hear the aid societies in the north has sent a lot of provisions to relieve their suffering. We have a fine time here now our camp is in the woods. We have cut off all the shrubs and scraped the ground smooth as a barn floor. There is good springs near our camp and a creek to swim in. There is fish in the creek but so many fishermen they are getting scarce. There is a mill on the creek. The soldiers heard the owner was cecsh and they rolled the mill stones in the dam and tore every thing upside down. Our Col is promoted to a Brigadier General and has command of Paine's Division Paine being home on sick furlow. The weather is very pleasant now we had a heavy rain a few days ago the air has been cool ever since but I fear it will soon be hot enough to make up for pleasant weather. We may be stationed here until fall if the rebels don't intrude on us too much. If we are I will try to get a furlow to come home a few

days but things is very uncertain in this war. The rebs may loom up some place called the last ditch but if McClellan takes Richmond soon and scares the rebs out of Virginia I dont think Jeffy Davis can come the caper any more called the last ditch. Give my respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Watters. excuse these few lines. I hope to have more of importance to write next time. P. S. Direct to Corinth Army Miss 10th Reg Ills Volls Co. K care Capt Lusk...The news is around camps that General Pope and some more of our big officers has gon to Washington to spend the fourth of July. I havent saw the general for a few days it may be so.

Tuscumbia, Alabama Aug 20th 1862 First Division Second Brigade
Army of Miss.

Dear brother I tke the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and in good spirits. I received yours and Thos Birdwells leters of 3th and 5th Inst and was glad to hear you was all well. I wrote a leter to you from this place but got no answer yet. We have not had much fighting to do since we been here. Two companys of our regiment was out scouting last week and surprised 84 rebs and took them prisoners without loosing a man. We have picked up about 150 at diferent times since we been here, one Col and several Captains. One night last we some rebs tore up the rail road 4 miles east of town and throwed the locomotive and 2 cars off killing one fireman and wounding 3 other men. Our regiment went out and scoured the country and arrested every man we could find for miles around. One old cecesh was rather bolder than the rest and came near geting a slifter made out of his hido. We took forth thousand dolars worth of property from him to pay damages. General Pane has come back and taken command of us. He made a speech and said guarding rebel property was plaid out. He said we would use their property with a lavishe hand. Told us to milk their cows or take anything we wanted. Every regiment here has taken 60 nigs to cook and drive teams ad we have got two or three hundred in town loading their masters coton on cars to ship north. When we want wood we drive up to a fence and load it on the wagons. The policy is to bleed the rebs in the pocket and body both at once. I heard General Pope has whiped old Stone Wall Jackson at Culpeper Virginia. Stone Wall has found his match for when Pope strikes out he generaly goes home on the cecesh. The rebs is very biter against Popes policy of carying on war and swear revenge on him and his officers. They wont scare Pope much by gassing. Let them keep their shirts

on a litle while longer. We have been handling them with gloves on long enough. We are going to make them weep and wall and gnash their teeth before this war ends. We will take their property and lay their country waste. Let the tratorous sons of bitches come on. They cant scare us for we aint the scary kind. They have fetched war on us and let it be war to the knife our flag shall never be trampled in the dust if we have to lay their whole country in ruin. I expect we will soon be moved on towards East Tenn for the rebs is geting desperate up there for a fight if the old first division gets up there we will sadisfy them if they will stand long enough for General Pane is galant and bold. His spirit is tremendous and fearful to behold. He is in for devouring cecesh body and soul. We hear of the rebs playing smash but come to find out they got the worst of the bargain. They had a fight near Cumberland Gap last week and the rebs got handled tolerable rough. It is reported the ram Arkansas is blowed up to keep from being captured. I think the whole Southern Confederacy will soon be captured or blowed up. General Morgan will be consigned to some other division since Pane has come back. We will regret to see him leave for he has drilled us from raw recruits to be well disciplined souldiers and we are very much attached to him. I am gld to hear old housier State is wide awake to put down the rebellion the rebels has got akk the men in their ranks they can raise. We got 60000 more we will rain bulets on them. They said the nortern mud sills couldent come to the south to fight them they said if the Yankees got to New Orleans yelow Jack would devour them. They said huge galinipers would devour them in Florida at Memphis they would find large aligators at their breakfast Tables and small ones in their boots. In Alabama the moon was to turn us to lunatics, but to their great dismay we stand the climate beter than they do. There is no febers here except the powder fever thats nothing after you get ust to it. I hear thear was a great calf seedadle on account of the draft but I am sadisfied no free born housier wasent in it. Excuse this orthography give my respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters. Enclosed find \$5.00 fraid to risk any more from here. P. S. direct to Tuscumbia Alabama 10th Reg 111s Volls Co. K care Capt Lusk

Camp Rock River Nov 25th 1862

Dear brother I take the present time to drop you a few lines in answer to your leter of Oct 26th forwarded from Louisville which came to hand next day after I wrote from thisplace. I also got

one you sent to Capt Lusk he beingsick at Nashville. Since we been out here he sent me the leter with a note saying he answered it. I was glad to hear you was all well. It made me laught to think you had to go two forty on a plank road to see me and get disapointed. You needent run so next time for If I ever get that close to home a whole brigade couldent guard me from coming home and stayng a few days but I dont think we will ever have the luck to get up In old KY any more. I hope the dogs of war has barked their last bark up that way. I am well at this time and In good spirirts hoping you may all be the same. Our Capt has been very sick but sends word he will soon be able to come to the Regt. Our Liutenants we first had one resigned at Camp Big Spring and the other got dishonorably discharged at Tuscumbia for Insulting language to the Col. Our first Liut now was orderly seargant untill the others left. His name Is James Rodgers, we got no second Lieut at this time. Since we been here nothing of Importance has transpired that I have heard of. About a dozen of us the other night attacked turkey roost and captured 9 prisoners. We had a skirmish on some geese they tried to outflank us with their right and left wings but we repulsed them and captured the whole flock. Gen. Crittendens Corps of the Army has come through and camped near us there is about 30000 most all new Regts from Ind and Ohio but I didnt see any that I knowed. If there Is any in new regts let me know and I will look for them. We had a light snow here about the time you had upthere. We havent had scarcely any rain this fall and the Cumberland River Is very low which prevents our gunboats fromshowing their ugly nozes to the rebs. I will bring this to a close as I cannot think of much to write but hope to have more next time. Give my respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters P.S. Direct to Nashville Tenn 10th Regt Ills Volls Co. K.

P. S. we havent been paid for near 5 months and money is ouska speled send 25 cts worth of postage stamps.

7th Division 2th Brigade 14th Army Corps Department of the
Cumberland Nashville Feb 20th 1863

Dear brother I again take the present time to write you a few lines in answer to your leter from Louisville which has come to hand. I am truly sorry that you went to so much trouble on my account. Excuse me for not writing sooner for I almost forget home while things goes smoothly and I dont aprehend any danger. I wrote a leter about the first of this month renovating my good health and safety from the batle field which you have got by this time If it wasent misplaced. I am well at this time and hope

this may find you all the same. I havent got much news to write this time every thing is quiet on the Potomic last accounts but out her in Tenn about 40 miles from Nashville is a huge monster which makes the rebs stand agast for Gen Rosecrans is fighting man on wheels and every thing looks gloomy in the future for the rebs. There has been about 40000 reenforcements aded to our side since they ben at Murfreesborough and large pontoon trains is going out which indicates a forward moovement soon which will drive the rebs out of Tenn. I hope the regs bet awfully whiped at Ft. Donaldson since I last wrote of which you have heard. The prospect of taking Vicksburg is still progressing and I hope before long the rebs will be routed from all their strong holds. There is considerable axcitement here amongst the souldiers on account of the niger question. There is a great many opposed to old Abes policy but I think it will blow over without any evil consiquences.

I dont think they will arm the arkeys and put them to fight with us. If they do it will be a good way to get rid of them for wat the rebs dont shoot we will If they put them with us to fight. If they do arm them they must send them of to South Carolina or some other sea port where there is no white souldiers...except it is the abolitionist and niger lovers which is keeping up the war. I think when Lincoln arms the nigers he is over steping the bounds and giving the regs a good platform to fight on. I believe if the niger question has never been agitated this war would be over. I go in for using the darks to work on our forts while the war lasts but not to fight in the ranks with us. After the war is over sell them to the highest bidder to help pay expnses. They had beter be inslavery than turned loose in the north which will cause trouble if they are but we have got war in our country and we must clean out the rebels in the south and then I think it will be a small job to rout the coperheads in the north which is ilking out their touns at us. While we are trying to save the country the abolitions and peace makers is like small purps when big dogs is fighting. They are back in the rear braking. If they get to savage you must clean them out. I hope the time will soon come when peace will be restored once more never to be disturbed again. From your affectionate brother Joel Waters.

Camp Nashville Tenn June 8th /63

Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well at the present and hope you may all be enjoying the same good blessing. I received your leter of 24 may which started that you had the hen flew endways or something similar to that. I hope you have discarede it and may bee all

right again. The health in the army is very good here. One of the 10 Michigan privates was charmed by some coperhead some time last winter and went up north. He was caught and fetched back as a deserter. Our Division was taken out in the suburbs of the city and formed into a square the poor souldier was put into the center of the square sitting on his coffin. 12 men were detailed out of his regiment and stationed 20 paces from him. After the preacher prayed for him the time he was allotted to live when his time was up he stood up on a stool (paper torn) the men that was to shoot him (paper torn) down on his coffin his eyes were (paper torn) at a signal from one of the officers (paper torn) guns went off as one and 6 (paper torn) his body his death lays at the (paper torn) from the sines of the times there will be a general move soon. There has been a good many troops come in from KY and gone to the front within the last week. We had marching orders yesterday morning at 8 o'clock but they were countermanded. Gen Morgan is about to take command of cavalry at the front. He is trying his best to get his old regiment 10th to be mounted and go with him. We have been here so long we are attached to the place. It will break into a good many fellows arrangements for some of them is desperately in love with the fair sex and there will be a good many crocodile tears shed for they think a good deal of those blue coated Yankees. Old Charley Lewis of our Company got married to a buxom wile last week. He was an old batch of 50 used to belong to the regulars, Gen Grant has got Vicksburg invested mightily close unless Johnson gets an awful force in his rear. The Gibraltar is bound to fall. The rebels are getting in very uneasy in front they (here paper torn; opposite side of above missing portions)... some have reconnoissances on our lines...days ago but they were handsomely repulsed...to the front. I will write again soon... is in command in Nashville now...taken command of Cavalry at Franklin your affectionate brother Joel Waters

Head qrs Co K 10th Ills Nashville July 8th/63

Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines renovating my good health hoping this may find you enjoying the same blessing altho I have not got any answer to my last letter which I wrote 8th June I have been very anxious to hear from you since the rebels were through old Harrison Co. so near my old home stead I felt like being up that way but I felt confident that they would meet with a warm reception which they did. From accounts the Houslers was most to sweet from them I hope you blinked at them through the sights of your old fuzee which I know you did if you got half a chance. I will bet there was some awful charging

done. Well everything has been excitement for the last week in Nashville. We had one of the grandest fourth of Julyes I ever witnessed. The Stars and Stripes floated from most every house top and window in the city. The souldiers and citizens marched out to the shady groves on the outskirts of town and the grass flew higher than tree tops with their dancing and kicking up of heels. There was a stand for speaking and some of the best orators of the day was in atendance. Parson Brownlow, Profeser McCoy Gov. Johnson and others to numerous to mention. They gave the bogus confederacy flits you bet. Our Colored Brigade marched out like regulars with a black Col mounted on a fine horse sash on and a sword like a sythe blade swung to his side. A band of niger minstrels at the head of their colums playing Hail Columbia hapy land hall ye heroes of the colered brig and they marched around through the City and and the way the cleared the streets of vehicles and every thing that opposed them. The sun was in a partial eclips for bout 2 hours finally they went to the government yards sout of town. A such and an other fume was raised with their fidling and dancing. Every thing passed off very quiet except a few souldiers and citizens got tight but that was all looked over by the military authoraties being it was the fourth of July. Well Gen Rosecrans has got the rebs about scared out of their boots and they are abandoning Tenn. The news was confirmed here this morning of the surrender of Vicksburg to Gen Grant on the fourth 1st. The big guns here made the hills quake for miles around and caps flew high in the air. The news is here that Gen Mead is slay mashing Lee and his whole army and captureing every thing he has got since he made the raid into Pensylvania. If it is so I think the southern Federacy am busted. One brigade of our Division is at Furfreesboro (probably Murfreesboro) since Rosecrans moved. Our Regt is guarding trains on the RR from here to Tullahoma 2 companys every day Co K goes tomorrow. There is details made out of each Company to guard the contraband camp at present. More anon. Your affectionate brother Joel Waters

Fosterville Tenn July 28th /63 Co. K 10th Ills Infy
 Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines in answer to your leter of 14th which came to hand lately. I was hapy to learn you came out of the fight so well with John Morgan. I think you done fine not being experienced. 700 of you making a stand against 5000 of the best Southern Cavelry that ever stradled horses. It is a great wonder they didnt chop your heads off with their sabers and take a game of ten pins with them

for amusement. I am very sorry to learn that Peter Glenn was killed and his house burn up. I saw the account of the raid in the papers which stated Glenns son was shot through both thighs. The same time his father was killed. I see by yesterdays paper that they have snaled him at last in Ohio. The Housler and Buckeye States have been the death of him. He stole horses and green backs and enjoyed chldkens and whiskey quite freely for a few days but all that was poor compensation for the killing and capturing of his whole command. I hope now they have got Morgan our Generals will retaliate heavy on them for the way they are doing with some of our officers in their possesion. I think Morgan ought to be treated as a highway rober and murderer for he has allowed his men to murder in cold blood in hundreds of cases and commit all kinds of depridations not known in civilized warfar. Our Divislon left Nashville on 20th our Regt at this time is at Fosterville, a small vilage 15 miles south of Murfreesboro on the Chatanuga R R with 2 sections of 10th Ohio batery and 2 Compys of Tenn Cavly guarding the R. R. our divislon belongs to the reserve Corps and will garlson Murfreesboro and try and keep the R. R. open. Nothing of importance is transpiring in front lately. 5 big trans of cars passes every day loaded with hard tack and sow bely for unkle Sams boys. When Rosey gets ready he will make the rebs trot again. We are geting fat out here roastenyears and blackberys is in full blast. bushwackers makes themselves scarce for Col Stokes Tenn scouts lives in those hills and they shoot the hind sights off of them. Write soon and let me know wether Morgan got yourmule. P. S. direct to Murfreesboro Tenn from your affectionate brother Joel Waters. P. S. head your leters Elizabeth, Ind so my friends could answer them if any thing hapens to me.

stevenson Alabama Sept 1th /63

Dear brother I embrace the present moment to give you a few details of what has transpired since 20th of Aug the time we pulled up stakes at Fosterville. Gen Grangers grand Davls of the reserve Corps being on the moove of which we belong our Brig 1st being in advance we struck out going through Shelbyville and coming up in the rear of Columbia 45 miles in 2 days making 200 of Biffels gurlas walk ginger. Much to the surprise of the natives we stoped a few days long enough to catch all the chlickens and capture all the bee hives we struck out south for Athens Ala. At Linnville Tenn 16 miles from Columbia 2th Brig Dan McCooks being behind us was fired on by citizens and gurlas and 2 men was wounded. They captured some of the rebs and burnt the town. When we got to Elkton Tenn our Cavel dashed in and took 50 of Forests scouts prisoners killing 3 or 4 no loss on our side. 10 deserters came

In and joined our Army. The prisoners said they was glad our men took them so they could get some good coffe which they hadent smelt for 2 years. One of them ofered me \$5.00 in scrip for a deck of cards and the citlzens along the road would give as much for \$1.00 in green back as they would for \$5.00 in scrip. Plenty of the women sald they would give any thing they had for a pound of coffe. We stoped a while at Athens then struck out east towards Chatanuga coming through Huntsville Ala making this place on 7th 1st. The dustiest looking chaps you never saw we traveled over 200 miles. The country north of the Tenn R in Ala is almost doserted. we came through towns large as Corydon (In Indiana) not more than a doz people living in them. This place is where the Nashville and Chatanuga R.R makes a Junction with the Memphis and Charleston R. R. We are about 35 miles from Chatanuga. It is 15 miles to Bridgeport where the R. R crosses the Tenn River. The third Brig started yesterday 2th starts this evening. We have orders for 19 days rations to start tomorrow. I think Grangers whole force will cross at Bridgeport and moove for the rear of Chatanuga. General Rosey is closing in on them and has passed a few compliments into the place composed of shells. I understand Burnsides is coming through East Tenn. It is my opinlon the rebs had beter trot soon or they will be out flanked on every side and awfully whiped. There is 200 deserters come in here with good horses waiting to Join our army. There is a negro regt here. I will write again soon if I dont get a free pass to Richmond. Your affectionate brother Joel Waters.

Bridgeport Ala Sep 2th /63

Dear Brother I take the present time to inform you that I am well at this time and hope you may all be enjoying the same good glessing. I recelved your leter of 17th Aug. I was sory to hear Father got throwed by a wild colt. I hope he may bee over his bruises by this time and have beter success next time he rides. Well you can see by this that we didnt go to the front as we expected by the statement of the leter I wrote at Stevenson. We came on to this place and Chatanuga being evacuated by the time we got here our Brig was ordered to stop here. All the rest of Gen Grangers forces has gone to the front. Gen Rosey has made the rebs trot 30 miles from Chatanuga. Bragg has been superceded by Johnston. It is suposed that his army has been heavily reenforced by Fitzhugh Lee from Verglnia and several other Generals. They have backed up against Pigeon Mountains in Georgla and trying to hold old Rosey at bay but he is coming up with a powerful army to give them fight. The fighting has been going on for 2 days. The rebs

has scouted from some of their positions. We can hear the dogs of war howl at this place. There has been 3 or 4 thousand deserters and prisoners come through here. They all say if Rosecrans whips them this time the war will soon end for the privates will disband and goe home. It is all their officers can do to keep them now. Since we been here we have been at work every day building platforms and sheds to put army suplys in. The rebs burnt all the houses and Depots when they left the place. It looks like a big ship yard here to see the pioneers and souldiers making the chips fly. The R. R Bridgeis being constructed fast as possible across the Tenn River. The main bridge will be framed at Cincinnati and fetched here on the cars. All the provision that goes to the front has to be transported by wagons. The rebs fortified this place very strong before they left. There is 5 forts we have light artillery insome of them for the rebs to face if they come round. The weather has been very cool for the past week there has been 2 heavy frosts. Our niger Jack got drowned in Flint river while we was on the march which I didnt state in my other letter. We got him in Tuscumbla. Give my respects to all enquiring friends, your affectionate brother Joel Waters.

Camp Andersons Crossing 40 miles north east from Bridgeport
Oct 16th /63

Dear brother I embrace the present time to write you a few lines to let you know something about times and things in general. In the first place you can see we have pulled up steaks and troted from Bridgeport. The cause of us leaving was the reble cavelry crossing the River above Chattanooga on the night of the 4th ist making a raid on our rear. Soon as the news got to Bridgeport our Brig was ordered out on a forced march for this place where there was a large wagon train crossing the Mountains. We made the trip in 12 hours but when we got here the rebs was here and had cleaned out the guards and burnt about 300 wagons and was trying to burn more, there being about 600 in the train but we pitched into them so desperate they had to fall back. We outflanked the fourth Alabama Cav and too 100 prisoners killing and wounding about 50. The balance of the regt left their horses and got away in the Mountains. Soon after we got here a Divls of our Cav came on and started after the rebs that was making for the R. R. to destroy it. They succeeded in geting to the R. R and buring a bridge and tearing up the track which stoped the cars from runing for 3 or 4 days. Our Cav came up to them at several places and threshed them like fury. They tried to burn a bridge where a Negro regt was guarding and got cleaned out. I hear they are

trying to get back across the River. I dont know how they will succeed but amconfident they will be worsted considerable. There has beenheavy rains the last 4 days. The Tenn River is raising fast which may bring gun boats and transports up. I expect there will be another big fight at Chatanooga soon. The rebel army is still in front of Rosey. Both flanks of their Army rests on the river above and below Chattanooga. When they come near Rosey sets his Bull purps to barking at them. Bridgeport & Stevenson is full of troops from the Eastern Army. I thinkthey are holding back for some of Grants Army then they will make a flank moove on the rebs. There was quite a sad disaster at Bridgeport the day before we left. 30 men was detailed to load amunition on wagons. While they was at work 2 men got to quarling and let a box of caped shells fall on the ground top downwards which exploded killing 12 men and wounding 15 others seting the whole pile of 200 boxes on fire which blew up causing every body to stand clear for half a mile behind breastworks and trees, One man was killed out of our Regt. The others belonged to 60th Ills. It was lucky that 11 the amunition was notlost. Our regt had just got back from Chattanooga. We took 200 wagons loaded with amunition which was in the same pile a few days before. We are camped in the Sequatsey Valey at present where the trains goes over the Cumberland Mountains 20 miles north of Chattanooga. The Valey is 2 miles wide and we have throwed up earth works across from one Mountain to the other. If the rebs comes to burn any more wagons they will meet with a warm reception. We draw half rations and forage the rest off the country. Rosey sends trains out and they are taking all the corn cattle and hogs in the country to make up what the rebs destroyed. Our Company is mounted on reble horses that we captured. We are sent out to scout through the country every day and pick up stragling rebs. Me and 2 other comrades was out the other day and come across 14 rebs which mad us limber to the rear but we got reenforced and got after them and captured the whole squad after sending a foley of miney balls into them. One ball going through one of their pates and raising the bark on anothers arm. They done some close shooting but nary hit. 3 or our boys was out after chestnuts on the Mountains without their guns and come across a reb with a gun. They got behind trees and pelted him with rocks and took him prisoner. When we was at Chattanooga I went out to our breast works which is about 4 miles from the river. I could see the reble line of battle about 2 miles further. Our boys was in good spirits and confident of holding the rebs in check. Our men let some of their big guns loose at them and our boys would whoop like Indians. The distance

from Bridgeport to Chattanooga this side of the River is 60 miles which makes hard scratching to get supplies to the front. The supplies went up on the other side which is 25 miles until the rebel Army closed into the river. This makes the fourth letter I have wrote and got no answer. The Mountains looms up on each side of us here and we get no papers. I hardly know what transpires in the outside world. I am in good health at present hoping you may all be enjoying the same good blessing. Give my respects to all enquiring friends and reserve a good portion for your self from you affectionate brother Joel Watters. Write soon. P. S. direct to Bridgeport Alabama Co. K 10th Ills Infy. Excuse forgetfulness. You said in our of you letters you would like to know the best paper in Ills. I think the weekly State Journal edited at Springfield will give the most information of Ills troops at \$2.00 per annum.

Camp Caldwell Tennist. Brig 2nd Divis 14th Army Corps Dec 21th 1863

Dear brother I seize the few leisure moments I have to let you know that I still have a hole in the skin although the rebels tried to make a hole in it but did not succeed. Well to proceed with the details of our trip into the rebels land and the great skedaddle of the rebel chivalry. In the first place it was harped around that our Army was going to cross the river above Chattanooga on the night of the 22th Nov. We got orders to march. We got to within 6 miles of Chattanooga and was halted in a valley out of sight. The rebels had ordered to build no fires or make any noise. It was raining all night but we stood it until day light not knowing what would come next. Soon we heard the tramp of many feet and here comes a great host of yanks and pontoon boats led on by the galant Sherman. We looked for dunder and blitzen for we could get on the ridge and look over at the rebels canon and see their bayonets glisten on mison ridge. Our Generals never daunted at such things. After lying still 2 days getting their forces concentrated every thing being ready at 3 oclock on the morning of 24th about 50 pontoon boats loaded with yanks shoved out from this side, went over and captured the rebel pickets by daylight there was 20000 across stretching across fields for miles to the left our Division Jeff C. Davis crossed at 10 oclock and was held in reserve by Gen Sherman to hold the pontoon bridge. By night all the troops was across making about 30000. The left of the line rested on mison ridge without much resistance. All this time Gen Hooker was having a terrible battle for the occupation of Lookout Mountain driving the rebels from their strong position. That night they

evacuated Lookout. Morning 25th the battle comenced heavy on the left. Our men fighting them so close their lines was broken they weakened their center to suport their right and left. When our men made a charge on mision ridge capturing 42 plices of artillery and driving them like chaff before the wind. That night at 12 oclock our Divis was ordered to move. We went around the extreme left of our army and struck the Knoxville Rail Road at Chickamauga Station 10 miles in the rear of Chatanooga. We saw a big smoke and soon found they was burning their suplys. We soon come up to their rear guard their main army being in full retreat. We pressed them so close they was forced to stand and make some show of flight. Co. K C and B of our Regt and B of 21 Ky was deployed as skirmishers and advanced on them when they opened on us with 3 plices of artillery and musketry. Still we kept advancing on them untill we got over the brow of a hill in 25 yds of their batery when Adjutant Gen Wiseman ordered us tocharge on them. When we charged on the double quick capturing their 3 canon and about 100 prisoners our loss was 18 wounded and 2 killed. 5 of the wounded belonged to our Compy. We drove a hole Brig a mile. If we had bensuported in time we would have captured all of them. I shot ones hat off and took 3 prisoners. They hit one tree that was behind 3 times and some of their bulets sung uncomfortably close to my pate. Our forces coming up folowed on after them. Gen Battes Brig of our Divis being in advance coming onto them at dark having a fight in the dark which lasted about 1 hour. It was so dark we couldent tell friend from foe. Finaly the rebs drew or leaving 4 plices of artillery 10 or 12 wagons in our posesion 12 menwounded and 2 killed in Baties Brig. We cmaped for the night pursuing them next day to Ringold Georgia capturing about 500 prisoners 7 plices of artillery a good many wagons loaded with meal and bacon besides divers and sundries of things they was compeled to burn. After staying at Ringold one night Gen Shermans forces was ordered to Knoxville after Longstreet who was reported to be mooving on Burnside with 40000. We started out on a forced march averaging 25 miles a day. When we got within 50 miles of Knoxville we heard the regs had made a charge on the place and was repulsed. Longstreet hearing of Shermans forces coming was geting away through the Mountains fast as he could. We went on and crossed one branch of Tenn River at Morgan town and went 25 miles south east from Knoxville finding Burnsidess was safe and Longstreet in his hole we started back camping 5 days on Hlawasa River 40 miles from here arriving at this place on the 19thist every man being in comand of an army corps of grey backs big as wheat grains not having a change of clothing for

30 days. We took no suplys with us but lived off the country pressing all the mills in the country to grind meal and flower and going down on rich rebs smoke houses for meat at Charleston we captured a trian of 6 cars loaded with provisions. Our cav having tore up the track so they couldnt get away. The union sentiment is very strong in some parts that we went through. The ladies God bless their little hearts came out and caried the American flag before us. It almost made me shed tears to see it. They cried when they saw us coming back. May they be delivered from the hand of the oppressor forever. I received your leter of 10th Nov and was hapy to hear of your good health. This place is where a pontoon bridge was laid. We have orders to moove in a day or so. Rossville 8 miles south of Chatanooga to go in winter quarters. Some of our troops is at Ringold. I dont think our army will make any more moove before sping unless the rebs make some demonstrations against us of which I think they are sick of doing for the present. You have heard all the news in the papers ere this so it is nonsense for me to write any more. We have been paid off lately. One of our boys starts for Ills in a few days. If eh goes I will give him a leter with money to mail from Louisville. More anon. Respects to all friends you affectionate brother Joel Waters (direct to Chatanooga Tenn)

Rossville Georgia Mar 14th 1864

Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines leting you know that I am well and hope you all may be enjoyling the same blessing. After leaving you at Louisville I went back to Portland and stayed all night, crossed the river next morning and left on the 9 oclock train to Bloomington Ind. The hind car full of ladies run off the track which caused considerable squalling amongst babies but no other damage. I was next to the car thar run off and jumped through the window and pulled two gals out of the reck and geting them seated in the next car. No more mishaps I arrived safe at Alton went to Edwardsville. Had quite a lively time until our furlow was out. When we started for Quincy we got 30 recruits at Edwardsville. One of them got to fooling with a loaded gun at Quincy when it went off and blowed one mans brains out. After staying 4 days at Quincy we started for dixey near Indianapolis we confiscated 10 kegs of beer the citizens told us the grocery keeper was a Coperhead and we wen in. We went through Louisville 1st of March and laid over at Nashville one week. Leaving there we joined our old bridgde on the same campaign ground that we left. While we was away 2 Regts of our Brigade was in the fight at Tunnel Hill near Dalton and lost 130 killed and wounded. There is not much signs of a forward moove here

yet. One Division of our troops is at Ringold which is 12 miles from here. Our Generals may be waiting for all the veteran soldiers to get back before they move. After a calm there is sure to be a storm. So we will all look out for No 1. With those few lines I will close hoping to have more to write next time. Give my respects to all enquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters. P. S. Direct to Rossville Georgia 10th Ills Veteran Tolls Inty Co. K

Rossville Georgia Apr 1st 1864 1st Brig 2nd Divis 14th A.C

Dear brother I embrace the present moment of writing you know that I am still in good health and spirits. I wrote you one letter since our return to the army but have not received any answer yet. All quiet on the Chicamagua at this time but the clouds begins to darken which indicates heavy weather soon. Gen Thomas was here yesterday and we had a grand review of our Division which is a forerunner of marching orders. By reports of our scouts and rebel deserters the rebs is in considerable force at Buzzard Roost beyond Ringold. They are fetching their dogs of war from the rear. Their idea is for the old Buzzard to set on the nest and stand a contest. I think we will go down soon to drive the Buzzard off the nest and put muzzles on the dogs fore they hurt somebody. That is if they dont pluck us too hard with their bills and their dogs aint too savage. Our recruits is all getting well drilled and disciplined except one in our Co. which is getting home sick. His wife wrote to him that the old sow had got out and went off taking 7 or 8 other hogs with her. That a lot of Refugees had moved in the neighborhood that she feared they would burn all his cord wood. He took the letter to the Gen and tried to get a furlow but didnt succeed. I think when he enlisted he was taken with a Patriotic fever or was struck by the generous bounty offered. Dont know which. The report here is that Forrest has made a bold raid in west Tenn and Southern Ky having a fight at Paduka giving the citizens and non-combatants no warning to leave which caused women and children to be shot and the town set on fire. Our men is reported closing in on the rebs on all sides. I hope they will get them in a Morgan trap and capture them. Gen Grant being Commander in chief we look for a more vigorous prosecution of the war to what has been heretofore. We will not be disappointed. I dont thing if Grant has full power to act independent of the big fix at Washington City we look on Gen Grant as a whale amongst miners and our next President if Old Abe comes out. It has been a very backward spring here. Snowing on 21th and 22th March about 6 inches deep. Peach trees was in bloom but all the

fruit was killed. I think the cold weather is about over now. I found my pardners about busted when I went to Ills last year being a bad crop year. They didnt make much they promised to pay me something back for my part some time but I fear it is like a slow note one half when they are dead one half when they come back. My tools is in Edwardsville with John Biggerstaff if any thing hapens me write him and he will shlp them to you. We have the promise of \$50 bounty from Madlson Co. Ills but dont know for certain when we will get it. Edward West is the man that will pay it out when it is paid. More anon. Give my respects to all enluring friends your affectinate brother Joel Waters
3th Corporal Co. K 10th Ills Vet Volls Inftry

Rossville Georgia Apr 27th 1864

Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines in answer to your of 18th 1st which came to hand. I was glad to hear you was all well and the health of the country improving. I received your first letter stating the sad news of Emly Kingerys death. I was sorry to hear of one so young being cut off in the bloom of her youth but when death comes we should be prepared to meet it composedly and resign ourselves to our God. News here is very meager. There is conflicting reports of a battle up Red River and our army getting worsted. We heard of the terrible slaughter at Ft. Pillow. We look for measures to be taken to retaliate on Forest and his command. They should be regarded as savages and treated as such. The rebels in our front has made no demonstrations lately. It is believed they are withdrawing some of their forces to send to Virginia. Deserters still come in but not so numerous as they did some time back. Two weeks ago a Lieut and 52 privates came in. The health of our camps is very good except a few caces of Smallpox. The weather is getting warm and the trees is green with leaves. There is nothing here to break the monotony of camp life except Batallon and Brigade drills. Our Generals trot us around on quick time which gives us good exercise. Most of the veterans has returned from their homes that belonged to our Divls. I wrote to you in my last letter that we would get \$50 fifty dollars County Bounty but was mistaken. None but recruits gets it the order being issued 10th Jan after we had enlisted. We havent got any pay since we been back but look for the pay Master in May. We listen for dunder and blitzen from Virginia soon if Gen Grant has the good success he always had. The rebs is getting very uneasy. They will play a desperate game for they fear Grant. I think this army will be on the defensive until they see how the tide of war turns in Virginia. The rebs may try to make a

moove toward the Northbut they will find worse than Buell after them if they do. Give my respects to all Inquiring friends from your affectionate brother Joel Waters 1st Brig 2nd Divis 14 A.C Rossville Georgia Co. K 10th Ills Vet Vols Inftry P. S. Send me half doz fish hooks siz for catching sun pirch. They are very numerous in the Chickamagua River like that one I caught in old Mage and like to fell in the crick.

Camp Chattahoochie River 1st Brig 2nd Divis 14th A.C. July 11th 1864. Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines informing you that I am still safe from the perils of war that surrounds me altho many of my comrades has fell on all sides. In my last letter I stated that the Johny Rebs had fell back from Altoona Mountain across the River but was mistaken. They made several desperate stands since. After taking Altoona Mountain we rested our army three days when we advanced and found them in a strong position. Their left resting on pine Mount their center 2 miles in front of Kenesaw Mountain which is on the R.R their right resting north east of Marietta. Our shells soon made Pine Mountain to hot for them, the reb Gen Polk getting killed by a shell when their left fell back to Lost Mountain our Corps being relieved by 4th Corps and mooved for the center in front of Kenesaw. 20th Corps Hookers being in the extreme right mooved up and outflanked Lost Mountain making a charge capturing 12 canon and a lot of prisoners which caused Johny to evacuate his position from right to left all this happened about 18th of June. Our lines advanced and found they had taken another strong position, their center resting on top of Kenesaw Mountain. We advanced our lines to the back of the Mountain, the rebs thinking we would charge didnt open their canon on us. Our bateries in the meanwhile was throwing shells on top of the Mountain without any reply. Thinking they had no canon on top of the mountain in front of our Divis we didnt throw up any trenches. The first evening and our bateries was all lef on open ground. The consequence was next morning Johny open3d outon us withabout 20 canon holowing at us wheres your canon you damed yanks. They shelled us all day and kept our bateries silenced but couldent drive us from our position altho we was on open ground 800 yds from their bateries. We laid flat on the ground and let them shell all day. We lost about 50 killed and wounded. We lay so near the base of the Mountain they couldent depress their guns to bear on us very well but the canonading beat New Madrid all holow. That night we made dirt fly. Next morning our side opened on them with about 40 canon

some of them 20 pounders which silenced the rebs in 15 minutes. We yelled at them heres our canon you sons of bitches. Our Divis lay in front of the Mountain until the night of the 25th 1st when we was mooved to the right laying in the rear one day. We relieved Sanley Davis 4th Corps our Brig taking position in front line when 2th and 3th Brigades of our Divis was ordered to charge. When they crossed our trenches in 3 lines of batle and charged the rble works which was about 400 yds in front of our trenches. They charged on within 25 yds of the reble works but some of them going still hearer. When they found sharpened steaks drove in the ground that they couldent charge over when 2 lines of batle lay flat on the ground and made bulets fly so thick over the rebs breast works they had tokeep heads down and the third line throwed up breast works and held their position altho theygot awfully slaughtered losing 800 killed and wounded in the 2 brigades. At the same time our divis charged part of 4thand 16th Corps made a charge but was repulsed. When our Generals comenced mooving on the flanks on the morning of 3th July we found they had abandoned their strong position on Kenesaw Mountain and was in full retreat. We folowed close in their rear capturing about 3000 prisoners. Their main force getin across the rover. We drewed our army up the Right and Left resting on Chatahosie River yesterday morning the last of them crossed to the South sideof the River keeping time to the tune of a shower of miney balls. We can get on the ridges and look into Atlanta which is 9 miles. We are in the center on the R. R. our wings is much nearer the city. Heavy canonadin going on this morning on the left. Gen Howard and Scofield is across from what we learn by hearing our officers say. I think we will be in Atlanta in a few days. The rebs is geting awfully scared from wat we see in the papers that we capture in their camps. Deserters is coming in every day. I think after we take Atlanta what we dont kill and capture will desert. The causalaties in our Regt has been near 100 since the campain commenced altho we have not bee in any heavy engagements but have done a good deal of skirmishing and been so near the rebs that the first man that got his head from behind a tree with his gun cocked comanded the forces in front. Our Regt took 60 prisoners one day off the rebs skirmish line. Since we left Dalton our army has taken near 20000 prisoners. Our army reaches so much further than the rebs that we can walk around the end of them and out flank them. The weather is geting very warm. If the campain dont end soon there will bee a great many sent to the rear sick but our army at this time is in very good health. I received the last leter dated from New Albany. Since Morgan has been routed from KY I hope

you may not be molested any more. More anon. Send me \$5.00 in next letter. We have not been paid since we veteraned. I havent got any money or tobacco. Send sheet of paper and envelope. I lost my knapsack on the skirmish line. Your affectionate brother Joel Waters. Camp near Atlanta.

Atlanta Ga Aug 3th 1864

Dear brother I take pen in hand to write you a few lines on receipt of Sarah Janes letter which came to hand of 27th 1st. I was glad to hear you was all well. I am well at this time. Our Divis escaped the terrible onslaughts of the rebs. We crossed the river on the 17th 1st 2 miles above the R. R bridge 4th and 23th Corps having crossed 15 miles above a few days before advancing down the river. On covering our front without much opposition our Corps crossed forming our lines on the extreme right resting on the River near the mouth of Peach creek 15th 16th & 20th corps crossing after ours and massing their troops to the left striking the Augusta R. R near Stone Mountain cutting all communication east of Atlanta. They advanced toward Atlanta 20th when the Johnnies massed their forces against 4th 20th & 2 Divisions of our Corps and charged on them and was repulsed with terrible slaughter. On 22th they massed against 15th 16th & 17th Corps and charged getting slaughtered worse than the first time. It is estimated they lost 23000 in the two charges. Our loss was 3500. The same time they was fighting on the left our Divis was ordered to charge up to peach creek. We done it in splendid style driving the Johnnies with a hoop, our Brig putting their rifle pits within 25 yds of their main works. The third Brig of our Divis was on our left 52th Ohio & 22th Ind Regts got across the creek on a big drift and drove the Johnnies from a ridge. Stacked their guns and comenced to fortify. The first thing they knew the Johnnies had slipped through a gap on their left and was getting in the rear charging in them front and rear capturing 200. When our Regt massed up to the creek getting a cross fire on the Johnnies and laying them out in wind rows. Our Co killed a Col and about 30 privates eh they abandoned about half the prisoners and skedaddled. Our major and one Capt and men was wounded in our Regt 1 man killed next morning we advanced and found their works abandoned and took position west of Atlanta $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Our canon bearing on the city on 26 our Brigade drove them from our front into their main works $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the city. That night 15th and 16th Corps came around from the left relieving our divs and extending the lines further to the right. On 27th 1st the Johnnies massed and charged on 15th and 16th corps and was terrible slaughtered. Our men buried over

left on the field. Our Divis the same day had a fight with the
 Reb Cavelry near west point 12 miles from Atlanta on the Montgomery
 RR driving them in fine stile. Fearing the Johnneys would mass
 infty against us we withdrew and joined the main army on the right.
 Yesterday 23th Corps came round from the left and extended their
 lines on our right reaching near the R.R. Our Cav has cut the
 Montgomery road. Our forces is massing to the South west of Atlanta.
 The R. R being held on the left by our Cav and torn up 40 miles.
 About 20000 of our Cav is making a raid on Macon City about 100
 miles south east of Atlanta, the object is to liberate 15000 of
 our prisoners at that place. Since the Johnneys crossed the River
 they have lost over 25000. Gen Johnston has been relieved. They
 are comanded by Gen Hood. Prisoners and deserters say they have
 been reenforced by 16000 decrepid old men and boys conscripts.
 Our boys say they believe Gen Hood is a good union man if he keeps
 charging on the yanks he will soon not have a Corporals guard.
 The majority of the souldiers is sadisfied with Lincons nomination.
 They think he will soon crush the confed to atoms. Dont fail
 to send \$5.00 in the next letter. I was much disapointed not geting
 it in the last. More anon. Respects to all friends, your brother
 Joel Waters

Near Atlanta Aug 13th 1864

Dear Brother I take pen in hand to write you a few lines in answer
 to yours of 1st Aug which I received containing \$5.00. The way
 I chawed the backer the first day I got it was a caution. Some
 of our Cav had made a raid on the R. R capturing a lot of the
 weed which they sold cheap. Since I last wrote we have mooved
 about 3 miles further to the right. On 7th 23th Corps went onto
 the left flank of the rebs and our Divis made a charge on their
 works in our front capturing 2 lines of their works and 500 prisoners.
 Our Brig was in the front line and got within 25 yds of their
 first line before they fired on us. Before they could load their
 guns the second time we was onto them with the point of the bayonet
 some of them surrendered in their ditches with their guns loaded
 and cocked. When we got them on the run we folowed in hot pursuit
 driving them from the second line into a third where they had
 a cross fire from 3 forts which stoped our further progress.
 We established our lines under a heavy fire from their artillery
 and still hold them. Our Divis didnt loose more than 100 killed
 and wounded. Our Co had 1 sergt killed and 3 privates wounded.
 Our front line is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from their forts. Our sharp shooters
 makes the Johnneys keep their heads down. 1 old reb come into
 our lines yesterday that had been between the 2 skirmish lines

5 days laying in a ditch. He had been in mud and water up to his neck and was nearly starved to death. We comand the Montgomery R. R. The contest is for the Junction at East Point 6 or 7 miles from Atlanta which cuts off all R. R communication. We got rhumors of Mibile being taken but it is not confirmed. I hope we will make a strike soon that will take Atlanta and end the campain for we have seen more war in the last 3 months than since the war begun and we need rest. We saw a sign since we crossed the River. The Johnneys said if they couldent hold Atlanta they would make a stand 9 miles the other side. If they couldent hold that they would make a stand in hell. I hope they may choose the later place. I think it would be their last ditch no more. Respects to all enquiring friends. Your affectionate brother Joel Waters
yours in good health

Camp East Pint Sept 13th 1864 3th Brig 4th Divis 16th A.C.

Army of the Tenn

Dear brother I take the present time to write you a few lines Informing you that I am well at this time amid the perils of war. Hoping you may all be the same. We arrived safe at this place 10th after folowing the rebs near 40 miles south of Atlanta killing and capturing near 20000 of their army and scatering the balance to the four winds. The campain has ended and our army has settled down for a rest which we needed very much. There was fighting more or less for 123 days. When we stoped folowing the Johnneys and comenced falling back towards Atlanta very lelsury the Johnneys showed no enclination to folow except a few Cavlry the first day which we gobled. The canon has ceased to boom and the musketry to rattle. We canot sleep sound without such music for a while. Well I will give you a few details of the last stratagetie moove of Gen Sherman that hooped the Johnneys out of Atlanta on double quick and the part we participated in. Abotu the 20th Aug our Regt was transfered from our old Divis 14th Corps to 16th Corps exchanging places with 17th New York Regt being mooved from near the right wing to near the center 17th 15th 14th & 23th Corps being to our right 20th & 4thCorps to our left. After lying in our trenches where we could look right through the streets of Atlanta oru 20 and 32 pound parots being near enough to knock the city into rubish in 12 hors if they was so mind to do. The rebs casting over 64 lbs shells ocasionaly which didnt anoy us much for the big piles of dirt in our front was to much of an obstakle for them to pass through. Seeing that it was almost an impossability to charge over the sharpened stakes and brush

In our front and take Atlanta. Gen Sherman concluded he would go around to the Macon R. R and capture their meal sacks. So on the night 25th Aug our lines was swung back making the right of our Corps 16th the pivot extending our lines back toward the Chatahoosee River leaving all our big forts vacant. The balance of our army to the right still holding their old position. It was our luck to be on picket that night. We held our old position till near daylight the rebs not suspecting our army was being withdrawn from their front. When it was near day we abandoned our picket line crossing over our front trenches and taking position in the second about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the rear of the first. When day came they was much puzzled not seeing any yanks in their front. About 10 oclock they ventured out with a double skirmish line looking almost like lines of battle and crossed over the first trenches without any opposition after reconnoitering round a while thinking the yanks was clear gone they started for the second line. There we stood with our guns stuck out under the head logs taking dead aim at them. They came on in splendid order confident they would meet with no opposition in taking the second line. When they got within 30 yds of us we opened a murderous fire on them which made them get back faster than they came about $\frac{1}{2}$ their skirmishers being laid hors du combat. They made several attempts during the day to dislodge us but failed each time. Night 20th our Army started in motion abandoning the whole line except 23th Corps which was on extreme right. 20th Corps fell back to R. R bridge resting their 2 flanks on the river the balance of the army facing to the rear and marching in columns on different roads towards the South. 4th Corps moving to take position on right of 23th A.C 14th A.C on right of 4th. Our 3 Corps Army of Tenn still to the right 16th A.C being extreme right. Morning 28th Aug struck Montgomery R. R 16 miles from Atlanta considerable flight with Cav tear up R. R 10 miles heat the rails and coil them around trees. In the main while Johnes at Atlanta think the yanks is retreating across the Chatahoosee 20th Corps sets a house on fire. Johnes thinks it is the bridge gets on a big bust sends for the ladies to come up from Macon to see them whip the yankee vandals. They pitch onto 20th Corps and get awfully whipped. Evening 30th on march towards Macon R. R our Cav and reb Cav have considerable fighting our Inf goes to the support and drives rebs back. Our Brig being train guard that day and didnt participate in any of the rows. 31st Johnes to their great dismay finds the whole yankee Army is getting in their rear and rushes their Army out to meet them. Our Army in line of battle 1 mile from Macon R. R running parallel with it our Corps extreme

right in front of Jones Burow 20 miles south of Atlanta. The Johnneys comes out and charges on 17th 15th Corps not extending more than half way on 10th Corps. Our Divls was throwed on their flank and had a raking fire on them. They never got nearer than 200 yds to our lines until they was cut to pieces. Our canon was double shoted with grape and canister and mowed wagon roads through their ranks perfectly stampeding them. I saw rebs knocked 20 feet high. We found 600 killed and wounded in our front. I dont think we lost more than 50 men in our 3 corps while they was charging on us 14th Corps charged their works capturing a Brig and 10 pieces of artillery. Cutting the R. R taking a train of cars loaded with reenforcements. Their lines being broken in the center a portion going towards Atlanta the others toward Macon our Army flowing in hot pursuit. On night 1st Sept they blowed up the Arsenal and all their amunition and evacuated Atlanta. Their whole Army demoralized and geting away as best they could. A portion of our Army staying in Atlanta while the balance pursued the flying rebs to Griffin. Finding they would not make any more stands our Army was withdrawn. I saw much as 5000 prisoners besides the killed and wounded.

(This letter is incomplete; the last part of it was evidently lost. Following are some parts of letters, evidently written after the above. No date available)

Our corps was sent around to cooperate with 15th Corps to open communication with our fleet which lay at the mouth of Ogeeschee River, Fort McCallister being in the way one Divls of 15th Corps charged it capturing the garison and all the guns which opened up suplys to our Army we having had nothing but rice and beef all our suplys being eat up that was in our trains. For the last 5 days after Ft. McCallister was captured our Divls and Kill Patricks Cav was sent out 50 miles on the south western R. R toward Mobile destroying the track. When we got back to the Ogeechee River an order came that Savanah was captured the rebs having left between 2 days going across the Savanah River on pontoon bridges into South Carolina. They left in a big hurry leaving 140 canon in their forts spiking about $\frac{1}{2}$ of them, 30000 bales of cotton several thousand bushels of rice and meal 5 or 6 gun boats and transports cars and engines to numerous to mention. When our Army came into the city the citizens met them rejoicing. Savanah is a nice city the population being about 20000 before the war not being more than $\frac{1}{2}$ at the present time. The citizens have passed resolutions to abide by the laws of the U. S. trade will soon be opened with the North.

(The following is from two parts of sheets of small size letter paper, but is probably a part of the foregoing letter) the main Ocean is 16 miles the weather here is pleasant as May live oaks holeys & palmetoe trees is allways green with leaves. Gen Grant arrived in the city today. He will take a tour through the Army. The whole Army has been reviewed by Gen Sherman. We will be off some fine morning for the broke of day for Charleston with Old Billy, as we call him. We expect soon to look down on a conquered Confederacy. I received your leter in answer to the one I wrote from Alabama but have not got any answer to the one I sent from marieta containing \$180.00. Believing you will get fuller details of our operations in the paper I will close. Give my respects to all enquiring friends your affectionate brother Joel Waters
1st Divls 3th Brig 17th A.C. Co K 111s V. V Infantry

Bueaufort South Carolina Jan 13th 1865

Dear brother I take this present time of writing you a few lines informing you that I am still enjoying the blessings of life amid the many misfortunes of this civil war and hope you may all be alive and prospering. The same altho I have not got no answers to any of my letters since we left Atlanta. Our mail seems to be delayed some way. We havent got but two mails since we occupied Savannah. Well you can see by this Old Billy Shermans boys ventures to set their feet on the sacred soil of South Carolina. We unto her there is a mighty host of yanks a coming to correct her for her inicitles she has committed. We will soon start for Charleston then look out there Joyney Reb for we is gwine to shoot. Look out there dont you understand Savanah has falen and we are going to occupy the land. Well we had a nice sail on the big fishpond from Savannah to this place. Our Corps was the first to start being crowded on big ships and Ocean Steamers out regt and 32th Wiss being crowded on board the Curtain a two master. I took my stand on the uper deck where I could look off to the east on the mighty deep and see the sky come down to the water. To the west I could look and see the coast fifteen or twenty miles in the distance. I did not see any sea monsters except turtles 3 or 4 feet across the back swlming up after scraps of bread and things that was throwed overboard and big sea birds would almost light on deck after pieces of crackers. Coming into Port Royal entrance and up the Beaufort River ended our voyage after 12 hours sail the wind being blustery part of the time which made the ship rock considerably making some of the boys sea sick puting their hands to their stomachs and holowing New York to the morrlment of the others that was notsick. We found this place garrisoned

by free Colored Troops of African descent which caused some trouble amongst the whites and blacks. We was camped out side of town 2 miles and there was a guard line of ebony souldiers to keep us from town so we made several charges on them and busted the lines taking the town and having things our own way for a while until they got white souldiers out for guards. Altho the darkeys that are here is very good souldiers and do their duty well as white men being New York Regts, still our Army has not been used to Negro Troops and they will not be guarded by them. We have got orders to march in the morning. We guted the Confederacy in Ga and we will cut a mighty gash side ways in this old Traitorous State soon. The conscripts in our Regt make bully souldiers coming to the scratch every time with few exceptions. Yours in haste, write soon, respects to all enquiring friends your affectionate brother Joel Waters 1st Divis 3th Brig 17A.C Co K 10th Ills V. V Infty



John & Sarah Waters

1880

