John Ryder
Jan. - March
1863
Camp near Falmouth,
Jan 22nd 1863

Dear Friends,

I am now under more small tents, and from one little camp to
broke Camp yesterday and moved about 11 O clock and arrived
at this place last night about 3 O clock and was
poorly shabby among those of the
first marching. And
I am now cold and miserable
here on the purpose to try
the ride once more, but the
order comes to strike tents.

Jan 23rd, we are now back to
our tents again. But O what a
time we have had to get back,
it has been raining constantly.
all of the time since we left, and it is raining still, we have marched about 40 miles since we left. The first day, when we left here, we marched about 18 miles, and we were halted by Company in its line, and the Col. read orders, that we were once more to meet the enemy, and that all that lined to see the fourth day of July would eat their dinner at home, for this battle would end the war, and the flag encouraged by that, although we knew that they could hardly more, by standing in musk, almost over their duty, they surged on, and sent our cheer after cheer, for the Union, and I don't know how I could get through, but I thought that I must give up.
for it was to bad time, as we may suspect, to battle, and they would scall them to forward, and that is more than death, but we went on until, night, and camped, and the next day we got to the river, about 2 o'clock at night, but we could not get across it was so much, and if we had went across we would not of disputed at worse than we did before, for the order was there to receive us, and told us to come on, and they would fight us, but we came back and I stood the march first rate, while some fell lifeless, and I noticed one fellow, that I think that he didn't kick but few times after he fell, but we are all back, or
In most of us, and feel first-rate. Watson Q. Otis has been detained from the regiment to go to the general hospital to take care of the sick and wounded. Shortly, when we got to our tents, we found them occupied by an Ohio regiment, but they left in the morning. They asked me to come in, and they made me some coffee, but I had got to go on inspection. There is many interesting stories that I would like to tell you, but I guess that I will wait until I come home, so good by.

Yours truly,

J. R. Crayton.
Camp Isabella, Jan. 4th, 1883.

Dear Sister,

As I have no letter to you this time to day, I will try and answer a letter that I received from you dated 23rd, and I was glad to hear from you, for I did not know but what you had forgot to write to me, but we are now in winter quarters, and I hope that we shall stay here, until we get our horses back home, but what we have done it is a big thing, for we have been up to living in 4 by 6 room, and to get in the house that we can stand up in, and had
it, 3, by 12 but long, and

A fire place in it, we

hardly know what to do

with our selves, and A

The half of how to kindle our eyes, but I guess that our eyes will be smoke

proof in a few days,

we moved in our little

hut in our little

hut, day before yesterday, I

and built the fire in it, and

and we found it so

uncomfortable, that we got

wind, and set up by our

fire, and told stories, it

what we would eat first, if

we could get into our

mothers hut, until midnight,

and then she took our

blanket, wrapped it around

us, and lay our selves away
For sure, I think that if Uncle Sam don't fight this war justly quick that it will play out, for the disaster is in giving up by great numbers, and they is lots of them say that they will go home before 3 years or less they will never go home. They was 39 that would not face to gun at the rebels. The other day, in the 18, Indiana, but such men should suffer death, if ever I am drawn up in battle, I think that I should try and make any advantage. Event, I saw 12 wounded rebels lying on the battle field, and he said that the wished that this man would come to his close, that why was first of fighting, but he
said that they would
never surrender, until we
shoved them clear into the
gulf, and that he thought
we never could do, but I
guess that our Soldiers
wanted it so close, about
as bad as they! I think
that our men is to easy with
them, they should use them, as
traitors should be used, but we
have to guard their houses,
and. They don't deny, but
what they are, traitors, and
have some in the rebel army,
but it is getting late and
I must close my letter next day
and try and write to Mother he
saw you last so I must end this

yours truly

J. O. Rodgers
Elizabeth F. Rodgers
Camp Isabella, Jan. 10th

1863

Dear Mother,

with pleasure I sit down to write the letter that I received from you last night, dated Jan. 8th, which contains the best news that I have had since I have been in this, but I don't expect that this will get there time enough for you to read it, but I hope that it will, now then you say that you are to going to paint again, and I am very much pleased, and I want you to stay, and enjoy yourself as well as possible, the last of January has come, and we have satisfied ourselves with learning from old michigan
and I have got the stamps that you sent me, we talk of changing our guns, our new spring field rifles, now, and the ones that we talk of getting is, Spencer repeating and Blasting rifles.

You can load them and shoot with in five minutes, it is a good weapon, so is to a shooter if we get them, you will hear of the 24th. Marching through to rebel lines and some fine men. I have got to letter from Telford, and he is well, motion says that he will get Telford, but to him,

but you speak about staying, and I make it they want to battle this winter, never mind about the battle, if they is.
or is not, don't let it make any difference with you, for whether they do to battle or not, your being at home, or any thing that you can do, is of no use.

I don't think of getting hurt, and if I do, whether it be small or great, I can stand all, but I am enjoying myself well, and if this war don't end before next winter, and if I am alive, I am going to get a furlough, and come home, but I hope that the war will end before that, but I must close, good by, except this, from

[Signature]

[Address]

if you get to good chance and sugar, enuf, and figger box they are hard to get here
Camp Pulaski, Jan. 10, 1862

1862

Dear Friends,

Today has been a day of considerable excitement in camp, on the account of the return of Col. Hanigan, and the Carters that he brought us from them, and I reckon that I got as much as any of them, you do not know, nor even think of the value of such things down here in this forsaken State, in a short time after I came here had plenty of visitors, to begin for I lasted, but I invited Mr. Lever to eat with me, and he did so, and made him laugh, and think of home.

I have no time as you sent me, would bring it better or not.
Shilling, the fruit cakes $1.02 20
cents, and the apples brought 15 or 20 cents, but you
will have to get them now of good ones
for 25 cents. I had just got
a new pair of pants, and
now I am quite well off
for clothes. The boots that you
sent me is a little too large, but in
the rain now and I find that
they are nice for this kind weather.
I heard that Henry Mackefarlin
has enlisted, for simple death,
how he will regret the day.
I know that I thought that
it would not be that Soldiers
would be aired as they do, but when
he gets down here, he must
find the luxuries of old Wick,
oo fences, no houses, only one in
the vast wilds, and no crops to be
run, and no one to care for
him when he is sick, but will

thrown you to a couple of hard tasks, and you can live or die. As you imagine, some dark and stormy night, when it is cold, and the mud half way to your nose, and the order comes to strike tents, and be ready to march in 10 minutes, and in that time you are ready, and it's going, and it is dark, and you fill your packs, and dry your men, you are all got through, and command with sound from head to foot, but enough of that. We have got one of the most comfortable hours that they is on the ground it rained hard and still we was kept dry, while others was wet through. I respect that we shall not stay here a great while, some of the Old Soldiers say that we will have 00 a.
more inspections, and then go across the river, and lose 20, or 30 thousand more, and come back again, but if I should think that we would have to do anything pretty quick, but it is getting late and I shall have no time to say good-by.

Yours truly,

G. E. Ryder

G. W. Ryder

G. B.
Camp Isabella, Jan 11th,
1862

Dear Father

I received a letter from you
today, and as I did not know I
would answer it, it is very
much and pleasant here to day, and I
can say that I feel I feel it that
than I did the last time that I
write to you, we have yet to
comfortable little house, with a
fine place about it, and for the first
time since I left St. John, we now
sleep off from the ground, and I
find that it is to great deal better
my cold has about left me, and
I think that I have gained, and
am feeling pretty well, so what
I did, since we have slept off
from the ground, we have made
our bunks about 2 feet from the
ground, and drew stakes in the ground, and laid small posts across, and covered it with small buns, so that we are trying to enjoy ourselves as well as we can.

Our line of thought is now Captain Hoyt. He received his commission this morning, good for Company E, he has just been in here, and he has received a letter from you.

Speaking about my being sick, and coming home, he thought that I looked so much better than I did, that if I stayed here in nineteen quarters, that I would get along more perfectly well, and he said that he would write to you, and if I was taken down again and was sick much longer, that he would do something, but I hope that I shall be able to return to duty in 70.
few days, they are to go to many
that is to getting better
since we have come into winter
quarters, but they is some that
was sent to the general hospital
that I think that they will
stay until they get their discharge.
They are Denis, and to number of
others. Well, and among them,
is to going to morrow,
I have got 5 dollars that I
wish that you had, but they
is to considerable risk to run
in sending it, but I guess
that if you t give him, I can
send it by him, he says
she will go if he can get to
Furlong, for 20 days, but they
say that we don't get any more
money until April, and if we should
not, I would want to use it.
I have got some over 11 dollars
left yet. Thanks.
wanted you to say this to Henry. He said that his wife didn't want any more. The report is that this regiment is going to Washington, but I guess that it isn't so, but it is now. It is getting dark and I shall have to close. Tell Charley that I received his letter, and it was very plain, and I will tell him some good stories some day.

So good by.

J. & J. Ryder to
J. W. Ryder

P.
Camp, Isabella, Jan. 28th

Dear Father,

I received a letter from you some time ago, and now I will improve the first opportunity to answer it. They have been many strange things passed us since that time, on the morning of the 20th we struck tents, and marched about 15 miles and was halted for orders and the order came, that we were one more to cross the river and must the enemy, and of course, the boys were tired, and the officers encouraged them, by saying that this battle would end the war, and we would all be at our homes by the 4th of July.
That was yet alive, and so we marched on until about 10 o'clock at night, and camped, and it had bin raining thus since the orders was read, and in the morn, we marched on until, we got near the river, they and camped, for the positions to be laid, so that we could cross, I thought, but we found a mighty army there to oppose us, telling us to come, and they would fight us, if we had bin to cross. I think that it would bin an awfully dreadful business, if this time we was had got orders to retreat, back to the camp, Isabella, so the next day, we started, and still raining, and the mud almost to the calf of my boots, bully for the boots. Oh, the poor boys that had shoes, I saw some fall as though they had bin shot.
but I felt first rate, Nothing, and tried to make it all for the best, but we got to Scullod at sun set, and found our hats accoutred by the 25th of Ohio, but they gave us room until noon, and then they moved out, when we got here we had in our dumpling & mess, & I happened to be one of them.

For I cut across to west, and the chief, armed my gun, and Nappalk, or Durfe chanced in my Naples 3 or 4 miles, in the march we marched about 45 miles

Now so I have given you to history of the great Dechadell, as usual, say, and to cap off with, I can say, that I never was so fat as I am at present, and feel the first rate, may I think I am going to be the fittest one they is in his company after this, I hope that I shall
for it isn't very pleasant to be sick in the army.

I haven't yet got what you sent by Wilson, don't send any more clothing, for I have got enough to keep me very comfortable, and extra clothing is hard to carry. I had received the stamps that you sent me, but the mail has come in and I have got 10 letters from me. I shall be one to-morrow, but I am all right in respect to life, to see the City of Newport once more, but one of the good boys that came with us from Plymouth, well just before this man, his name was Going, and one expect our pay again in 10 days or two, and then I shall send it home. I hope that you will get something to tell Fred, for I suppose that he is on the go the most of the time, but settles us to soldiers life, all right. Yours,

J. E. Ryder, to his [illegible] True

[Signature] Ryder
Dear Friends

When I left home that morning, I expected that I would return the next day, but when I got there, it was hard to get away. The Capt. said I must stay, for we were disbanded, we may be disbanded, but we have had no discharge since I came, I have had...
an under coat, pants, drawers, boots, they say
if we are disbanded we
will receive our full suit
and our full pay from
the time we enlisted.
I have made out my
board bill, and had it
printed, which amounts
to $0, 6.5 cents which
they say I will get when
paid off, they say we
will be paid off in
3 or 4 days, and perhaps
sooner, but you can't
tell, they tell so many
Stories, the first story
was, that one was to
go into Wisconsin Co.
the second, in Stockton's
regiment, the third in
muligans' brigade, and
every company on the
The dispatch just arrived. That we should go as flying artillery and start for Washington in less than two weeks, but they say down town. The best lawyers that we shall go as lancers, or they have no right to take us at all. Some of the officers say we will go as lancers. But the majority of them say we will be disbanded. You cannot tell how it will turn. They is great excitement in camp. Some say they will suffer death before they will be forced into any other regiment. They have tried to get
me to enlist again
but all I know is to discharge, and pay, and
then I will enlist
for Plymouth. I borrow
1 dol of will about. So
I got along first rate
I was on guard yesterday
and last night. They
was two big dwellings
houses burn'd not a
great ways from where
I stood. So it maid
it as light as day all
night, no looked awful
bad to be such great
houses burn. I must now
close, I will come home as
soon as discharged, and get
my pay.
J. C. Ryder
Camp Rock P. Jan. 28
Send 10 dol's to Risingbrooks
Camp Beallia, Feb. 1, 1863

Dear Mother,

I received your letter the day before yesterday, and now as this is the first opportunity I will try and answer it. I have just been out on dress parade and heard the sentence given to 13 men, that strayed on the last march. Their sentence was 90 days, taken out of their pay and placed in confinement and hard labor for 12 days. It would astonish you if you knew the strictness of military affairs, of course our last march was astonishing to any officer, how the men could stand it, but not great many went through all right and sound, excepting...
is more, so that falls out, when we are to marching towards the enemy, you are not allowed to fall out on the march, unless you fall, and can not go any farther, if you do, it is sometimes death, that is when you are expecting a battle,

and I think that I shouldn't want to fall out, for they often in the worst company, it has had, I deserted in one day, and Company E has lost about 20 men by desertion, and other company is bad, but not quite so bad, but our company has lost none, and none has been disgraced by cowardice, but once, and that was Charle, Bong, the 6th, says, that Company C, is all right, and on our last march, we met the enemy, I'm thinking of Company B
fell out of the ranks, though cowardice, and sent in his resignation, under the conditions, that he could not fight. for
he thought that this rebellion never could be put down by
fighting, and so, he was
dishonorably discharged from
the service of the United States.
The officers are all resigning, and
the privates are deserting; our guard
horse is full of them, and I
don't know which is the worse.
To resign or desert, both
is unfit to live,
but it has rained raining
and to day it is very warm
and neither. That by that
you sent by Wilson, haven't
got the yet. But they are near
by, about 3 or 4 miles, the teams
must after them yesterday but
could not get them, I think.
that they will be along in 2 or 3, I haven't heard from them lately, but I expect that he is like myself, does not get much time, and I expect that he has something to do. A good eat, it was indeed to narrow except he had, but I find in Soldiering, that life is altogether uncertain, and not much to be relied upon, but they is to prayer meeting, the Capt. kept to night, and I must go, we all sat first rate, and respect to come home in less than one year, for Soldiering is it going to pay out?

so I can think of no more that would interest you and I will close, so good by.

From J. O. Royster
His Mother J. O. Royster

They says that it is only about 2 3/4 miles to town
Camp Scullin, Feb. 5th, 1865

Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter of the 21st Jan. and I was very glad to learn that you were as well as myself. We never were so fat in my life, and feel it too generally. I suppose that you have heard before this, of our great movement to cross the raghannah, and have again returned to our old camp at about 8 miles from the front. We have marched, and they have given us about 1000 corn meals since we came back, for falling out of the ranks, while on the march, towards Galveston. The penalty was generally to take off 5 dollars of pay.
and the punctual duty about camp for 14 days, probably the boys were very tired, and couldn't keep up, but we were to marching towards the enemy, and was expecting a battle, and the fall out of the ranks, the penalty is very severe, often, the penalty is death itself, but enough of that, the men is around camp, that we are going to try the rebels, one man in a day or two, but I don't believe it, over short, until we strike tents, I have just received a letter from Alphonse, and it is well, there was some of our boys, went out to scouting, clear out beyond the pickets, and they have come in, with 11 prisoners, 2 rebels, and 3 deserters, and they Sumner some party insulting.
Feb. 5, 1803 - p2

Said, the mine was the one that used their tongues most freely, telling our soldiers they needn't think that they could bring their old Frenchmen down here to whip them, for they could not do it, and at them every house was at guard, but we took the valuables, and left them to rain.

It had been raining most of two or three days, and I guess that we cant cross the river right away, for the battery cant mine nor infantry neither, but our line has come, and we have had to number of good shots of them, and so far rather to good, for soldiers, and now we drew soft bread 3 times to much, the first, that I have had
in over 5 months, everything what I got from home, and since me here had soft bread and butter, no hard drawn to natural bread since, we have eat so much. Watson Eldridge, has been detached from the regiment, to end up to the sick and wounded. Golding, and since he left, P and Niles, and to young fellows, by the name of John Dung, and Luke. Together, he is too quiet to follow as they is in the regiment, but I shall have to close here. The want of paper, but I could tell more in 5 minutes than I could write in the day. God bless you.

Yours truly, Yours.

J. O. RG

Elizabeth RG
Camp Isabel, Feb. 16, 1863

Dear Father,

I will now try and answer the letter that I received from you last night, and I was glad to hear from you, and hear that you was going east on your visit. I hope that you will enjoy it, as reported before. This is to get our pay, they are paying near 4 months' pay now coming, but the money that I send, take it and use it to your own benefit.

They say that they let the company come back from the last march in regard to the fighting line, but the story is here, that the army of the Potomac is going west, and that they was to going to do 3 brigades to guard Washington, and we was to going to be one of them.
...and that our Brigade, Gen. Reynolds, was going to be assigned to the District of Columbia, and that they were to go over to take 500 out of our last regiment for that. But I guess that almost it is all camp rumors, and no truth in that.

You speak in your letter of the death of my grandfather, and you may well believe, that it was astonishing news to me, to be sure he had his faults, but he has gone, to which I cannot really make myself believe, but death is indeed solemn, and more so to hear of those at home. It drags along, than down here in Dixie, where they is hundreds going to their long home every day, although it is solemn. To go over some parts of Virginia, with all the burial grounds, with their names and cots, that is when they stay in hospitals.
Feb. 16, 1863 - p2

Watson Eldrige has been very sick

but is getting better now.

Have you heard from them lately?

To know how he is to getting

along, the boys think down here

that they are to coming home, by

the 4th of July, but I think that

they will have to be to few more

Union officers in the Northern army.

I am afraid that it will be done

by fighting, the rebels are mainly

brave, and have as much to eat

as we do, and are as willing to fight.

They were one of our boys died in

Richmond, not long since, and one

that was formerly taken prisoner

and joined Eldrige's band.

shooting is to good for him,

One of the fellows that I told

me, with John Purp, went out with

his gang, on to scouting expeditions

and he slept in rich Eldrige's

house all night, he says that it
is to beautiful arms.

with nice being, they the
army had not been, and
the fences mostly stood, neger
huts, scatterer over the plantation
they took the men prisoners,
and the move was as steady as
healthy dogs, they heard some
of our boys talk, and some men chatted,
and they told Ed. Chanyen, he
recommending his old Frenchmen
down here to whip them, but me
couldn't do it; and to them how
was guard, I should think they
would set us to guarding Jeff's army
so that they was more deserted,
and I should think it would mix much
and unless it began to muddle longer,
but I will close. I have just lain
on wall, it is quite warm
no day, justly it seemed all day.

good by J. C. Bayder
yours truly, S. W. Bayder
Camp Isabella, Feb. 21.

Dear Father,

I received your letter of Dec. 16th last month, and was glad to hear from you, although it is very sad news to me. To hear of Charley being so sick, and the death of his mother, is as far from home, and it will put your visit, although I am glad that he has good care and of him, and I hope that he is better. I will hear of his getting better.

I have just got a letter from T. J. stating that he has had to remove except from the sun, so that he has to be bedridden for life, while he is of his years makes more among the missing. We have been on picket 3 days, and it was not fool of the job, raining all,
snowing, all of the time, but we had got in now, and had to get out. Yesterday we had to go to do that was return to me, to disgrace upon certain ones, that will be far worse than death. That is the boy that fell out on the last march, to meet the enemy, and did not join the regiment, until one turned to come back. Charles Berry, a constant man, to have 6 months pay thrown off from his wages, and be kept in close confinement, 60 days, with to chain hatches around his leg and to ball fastened to it weighing 30 pounds, and obliged to perform hard labor, and the rest of the prisoners, were drawn up in the presence of the brigade, in arms, had their heads shaved clean.
Buttoms turn off their coats and drum out of camp, some of them fell very bad, and others did not care offering to pay the butcher bill, but at they did not take it. They was much obliged, but when they come to be drummed out of camp, they had to walk thirty, or get to beyond ran into them, they used many but what would chose death, rather than to have such an everlasting disgrace. The snow is 15 inches now in the bed, and so on all that I can scarcely hold my pen.

But what is the project, just in truth about drafting, we hear down here, that they are going to take any thing from 15 to 20, I think that we could not whip the mouth, if we had the world,
for they are united to do
man, you will not think
for us, men, but what
will say, we are to fight
for our rights, and will fight
but we did, and they is about
half of our army, that had
just as live fight for the
south as not, for they think
they is to make a nigger in
the fighting. They told us
on pickets, to capture any
thing that tried to pass
but the nigger, let him go.
bout if they would give us union
officers we would whip them
in 3 months or less,
but I shall huzzle to clay
me as old as at seven.
bout having bad colds,
being out in storm.

Young Turner
J. E. Ryder
J. W. Ryder
Camp Isabel. March 5.

Dear Sister,

As an opportunity allows, I will try and send you a few lines, to let you know how I am getting along, and to hear how you are at home. We are all well her at present.

I have not enough to do now days, so that I get but little time to write. I have just come in from Battalion drill, and have got to go out again pretty quick. Times in camp go on about as usual, when I write my letter to you, I expect to go out on picket, but I got out of that job, but got one still as bad. I was detailed to go to brigade head quarters to guard some prisoners that was under arrest, for deserting, and they was ugly, causing trouble to...
match them, to keep them from running, Capt. Hoyt, in respect to start for home to day, but could not, on the account of Mr. Hayes, staying over his time, they ought only 4 officers and be about 10 to time. Hoyt should go to his back at the end of his furlough. I respect that our folks has got back from Kenworth before this. How does Charley get along, I hope he is around by this time, when you see Uncle Williams’ folks, tell them that I have written 2 letters to them lately, and haven’t received any answer yet. I should like to know how they are getting along, have had grand sickness the last winter, and now do they get along.

Tell your go and hear this way, preach, and lecture, if you did.
March 5, 1863

There she is at our end, in fact he knows but little about soldiers, for one to march, he has to know to ride, and to wager to take care of him, and to cook his meals, and so he is all right. I will now try and finish my letter by candle-light. I have him over on drill, which lasted until 9 o'clock, and then we got up our revues, and formed our squares, and went out on drencdeade and listened to orders almost an hour. The Chief told us that they could go out of the Company on to 20 days. Fobough, but would assure them that he would take them home what was left of the 21st day. The fact of Chief, he said that when Pickering falls, rebellion is crushed, he went to Son, Hacker told him that he was afraid the rebel would run, before the got to Chama.
March 5, 1803

To [name deleted], they
I think that if that
is just Thacker's error
it should not be
left, smell I will show
for this line for my
sake is going and
good by yours truly,

J.E.R.

Elizabeth R.
Camp Isabella. March 7th

Dear Brother

With great pleasure I will try and copy the letter that I received from you last night, and I was glad to hear of your going east, and enjoying yourself at your old home, and I wish that you could stay longer. I am glad that the war is getting along now, for I was at looking with anxious eyes, when I was informed of his sickness, it is to learn now, we have been inspected to-day by the inspecting Gen. of the army of the Potomac, and we have been ordered to get the waggons and every thing in order, ready to move, we have got up our meals for night, we have to carry it.
near half to mil, the road is to
getting scarce here now, in some
places they half to burn roots,
but I thank & shall try and get
some strewd. Now I wish I could see
you for it awhile, I would like to
talk with you about the friends east.
If you say that you saw you here,
how did she feel, did she want to
stay at her grandma, I wish that
and Mari, could bring her up,
and send her to school. our Cat,
mint and saw Gee Tucker,
and he told the cat, that he
was just as sure that he was to
going to whip the Geo, as he
was to living man. he said all
he was afraid of was, that they
would run, before he got to chance
to fight. I don't think that
the Geo need to run, but
when we attack them again, we
will drive them, or even the battle
field with its effects.
if we have got good officers, we can whip them; if we have got traitors we will drive them back as usual, but I think that Hooker is all right, and will fight good. And enough of war, if I ever get home again, I think I could talk to subjects, that would interest me to more. Although it presents the most interesting, and to be looked at, then any thing in America, special, Mr. O'Reilly was just in here, and he told me, that he was to going home on to Darby, which of course is so, without doubt, and after going through with all of the excitement of war. He is to stay the same bright month, that he was, when he left the peaceful, dwelling of his brother. He said that when he got home, he wanted to go there on Sunday, about 12 p.m. and would go out to church and go right in...
his left and render, and all of his fighting intend, with his sword on and
how it an hatched, and by danger
on the blow, and look as
cross, and warlike as possible
he thought that they would
day. The other fellow, would just
as he fought, as not
I guess they would say, that fellow
had just as lives to end of long is
not, and so they would say, stand
had, much, I am sorry to inform
fan of the sickness of our light,
he has been sick about 10 days, and
was near quite sick, I hope it will be
around shortly, that I don't know as
he wants his wife to know it. He is
to good light, and to new leader,
It is now to better time for peace,
All will I was glad to hear from
him, in your life, and will any,
it as soon as possible,
I got the same letter, it will
last one to great while, and the
paper envelopes that with bring
I am well, and none was better
in my life. To seller is fine as well
in my life. I think it is good, they dad
to march there. I am to get back as
the march, and that I can contact myself, on to seller
set, and come to when hungry,
will often

I was truly yours
J. B. Reeder

H. Reeder
Camp Isabella. March 10th

Dear Father,

This morning I will try and answer the letter that I received from you at day or two since. I have just come off guard, and so I am allowed a short time to rest, and I will improve it by writing. It is raining and snowing together, so it isn't very pleasant weather. The prospects are more that our stoppage here is short. Ten hundred came down yesterday, with a lot of sick men, to examine the quarters of the 24th. They couldn't account of their being so many sick, and dying out of the regiment, and they decided that it was because the soldiers
was it living under ground
that they had dug holes,
and hid where the sun, or light
could not get to them, but
our house went so, we dug no
hole, but they built a wall
small bugs, and so on. That in
all, we are not intended to begin,
but the Col. said that we must
all take off the top of our tent,
and let the light shine in to them
but it rains and so we can't start.
The Col. said he thought we
would have him shortly to
got the bugs out, and I hope
we would, for we have good
a good tent, and if we should
not go out, I think it would be
of little good.
Mr. Way hasn't got along yet;
it isn't likely very well by the
officers, for they can't only
so many go to time.
They're that good and have an answer
for staying our last time, Homer Smith came here to see me yesterday, he is in the regiment now, and is on leave from going home to Fort Logan, he is sergeant now, and to remain so. I have about 1000 Leaving fellows here.

This is about the same this morning, he don't sit up bedvery little, as I wish he would hurry and get well, so that he could take command of the company again, it seems as though when he was around that very thing is tell, his place as Captain, never could be filled, he was kind to the boys and shoulder straps never made him the bigger man, and I can tell you that is considerably in this army, if they was ever to live and good Christian on this
March 10, 1803

Sirs,

I am informed that they are going to shift several more men to the East, if they do, it will make the old rank in this disease think I wish they would send some fellows from the 1st regiment, and one would get on to 20 miles more through mud, pitch, and all of the settled fields, 5 days return unstable, there are no roads to take. I do not affect coming, 1 will move close before the 10th may find you all well as myself,

Yours truly,

[Signature]

F.B. [Name]

24th Infantry

[Another signature]
Camp Isabella, March 21st, 1863

Dear Father,

I received your kind letter of the 14th last, and was glad enough to hear from you, but was sorry to hear of your being unwell. It is to complain that is spread all over, for I thought you had written me to send the letter from last week, but I think I must have misapprehended before this. I am still very much in health, and every day find myself growing stronger, but the weather has been most severe, and in a good deal of the country, for they have been snowing on the ground for one or two days. They have been before this winter, and it is to remain snow quite hard, so the latter can't move in quite
To while, we had orders to move our camp, in account of having to carry our round so far, and the men digging holes in the ground, to live in, coming to it in great deal of sickness, but was had it countermanded. The Capt. told us if we would let the Doctor examine our tents, and make the underground men, lies on top of the ground, we could stay there and we done so. Our boat was all right, before that we had to carry our round about half way, and far about to send, for some. Mr. Rosses, has drawn to send for mail from us, I got a letter from Mr. Wilson Eldredge, last week, he is to go to a field, thing better. Thinks he will soon, be able to join his regiment. Capt. Floyd, is about the same, just had off. He thinks he will go to the first hospital, now
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fend guard is all
you. It will be to great loss
my company, for the on
that takes his place as Capt
is disliked by all. I think he
will get his discharge, but I hope
he will get well, and return to
his company.

Andrew Rau, got back from
the North last fall, I haven't seen
him yet. I think that I
wouldn't like to get to St. Paul
for so short a time, when I
got one. I would like to have it
for life, for coming to stay
for so long, I would get tired
of life, from army rations, and
it would be hard to break
in again, I think I would be at
home with mother, to last 18 mo.
so, Alfred said Don said that
he is trade for 20 years younger
to go to New York.
In thought of it I made one or two suggestions of what I thought would have to be done to be best and so I think if you may see to it so that the horses and soldiers with the horses and supplies are well taken care of if you can see to it that they are so it is on account of the services of the latter. There has been detailed out of the regiment no one can or why you go if you are to bring the others to come in some of them, some of them, others would be sent of them. Facilities to the dead down in the regular service. He has sent some of them to fall in the rest and the rest of them to fall in the rest and the rest of them to fall in the regular service. I can tell you if you wish the rest of them to fall in the rest of them to fall in the rest of them. I can tell you if you wish the rest of them to fall in the rest of them to fall in the rest of them. I can tell you if you wish the rest of them to fall in the rest of them to fall in the rest of them. I can tell you if you wish the rest of them to fall in the rest of them to fall in the rest of them. I can tell you if you wish the rest of them to fall in the rest of them to fall in the rest of them.
Camp, Isabella, March 25th

Dear Mother

Your most welcome letter of the 15th was received last week, and as I am at liberty to write, I will send you these lines in answer. It has been raining, and snowing, now for about two weeks, as you know that the roads are very bad there in Virginia. This may be the last letter that I will write in the old camp.

You can you read on the paper about our moving, that is, the army of the Potomac, to which I expect we will go shortly, although we may stay yet in camp, but when we start, I expect we will march on to Richmond.
They are making calculations for
a great movement. The officers
are got to use the small dogs
hunts. I like ours, only 2 pack
mules for all of the officers,
and we have got to carry 10
days' rations, 3 in knapsacks
and 7 in peck sacks. I do not
know when we will go. Some
thinks we will take transports
some thinks we are going to make
up the road, on the Potomac,
we may not go in a number
of days, and if we go, it
may not find us here, from
so on, I will now finish
I must to lose off. To stand
guard. To stay in my guard
T say H C [illegible] has gone to
the Georgetown, C Washington.
He was quite sick when he
left here, and I fear we have
lost him as Capt. His place
can not be filled.
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In left dog before yesterday we hear he was sick, and back, the one to take his place, Shepherd of Canton, isn't liked at all. He thinks them shoulder straps looks to nice, too stuck pleasant. I got to letter from Rutherford, the other night. He as well our second line, is first in Company D and we are going to 3rd Shadock of Plymouth now. He is liked by the Company any of the provision that was sent to the boys, hasn't come yet, nor I guess never will. How does the draft go along, does it seem the proper match. men may have of Egypt, but I guess Uncle Sam can fetch them and they idc they wish they can. The men. I wish they would come in
This regiment and they would call for more than any women. I wish
they in some drafts in the Ohio regiment. They call themselves
Hunters, and see laugh at
them. I can stand 10 lines
as much now as I could when
I started from home.

I have sent our concerts to
Washington and are getting
ready for the 2nd movement
you need not be afraid of my
ground. I have been gently
swung against all such things
if it will suit good mother.
I will be all right and ask
many nights now. To march is
what teaches the soldiers down.

If ought about 13 or 14

I will now close hoping that
they will write to myself.

Your Truly,

[Signature]

J. E. Ryder

Ryder
Camp Isabella. March 29th

Dear Sister,

Your most welcome letter of the 4th was received last week with great pleasure, although somewhat heavy to hear that you was unwell, and the rest of the family with bad cold, as expected before this to be gone from this camp, I do not know how long we will stay, but perhaps not long, as was to have the grand review yesterday by order of the General, to see if we was all right, but it rained all day, and so we expect it to morrow, we had to regimental instruction to stay, so do not know when we will go, but expect to go down, and remain with you.
Kind words for the few who care,
I have sent my account to
washing, cloths, and &c &c to
going to little brighter, than &
last summer, one rubber
one wooden blanket, and lend
is old &c will have in my trap.
in the warmest weather,
and that will be load enough
horses etc. Stock, gun, bags etc.
last summer, besides them, one
covered, an extra sheet, and dressed
amount. Dress coat,
P shall have to bluss, and wear
that, while &c &c washing,
we were called out the other day
with the brigades, and our
dan, Dan Blakeley,
made to speak to us,
all of the boys like him,
he was E. of the 18th Indiana
for 16 months, he spoke in an
effecting way, about the
present condition of our.
March 29, 1803 - p2

Country, and that
the people at home were to
agree to terms the government
would not, and wanted to
end this war in dishonorable
terms, and that the army of
the Potomac was demoralized
and worn out, and was good
for nothing. To the best
and he said that he wanted
call us citizens for 15 minutes,
and we might tell whether
my thought it was true,
replied that the fourth brigade
are still willing to fight the
battles of their Country, and if
the people at the North, still run
in favor of the south, that we
would put them down, even at the
point of the bayonet. The ground
where, with the sword of
so I think the army of the
Potomac isn't all dead yet;
you can tell the traitors at the
Beloved, I received

Your letter.

Your kind offer of help,

Who made known your good intentions.

Again, I am grateful,

Perhaps never shall we meet

Here in the British dominion,

God grant that, when I reach

The distant shores where you reside,

I may find a friend who will

Encourage me to continue my journey.

With much love,

Your friend,

End 1833-1834
March 29, 1863

To To, if the pleasant stop to/climb for the sake that this will make me come it may accompany some love, and that, and as I hope to this time, the worst enemies will not match worse than the worst in arms before us, so I guess that they will send their answer to it late, that is the draft for If will not delay as it used to getting late.

Please write soon, and give the news about the draft, and address yours truly,

P.O. Ryder

Elizabeth J. Ryder.