

**The Civil War Letters of James Samuel Fogle
11th Indiana Zouaves, Company F**

No attempt was made to correct spelling, grammar or punctuation as I really wished them to remain just as they were written. We did do research on words and phrases of the times which were unfamiliar to us so as to better transcribe them. (Such as reference to a gum blanket, the sutler cart, the Dagurian car, etc . . . names of many gunboats, forts, battles, etc., which we were really ignorant of.) It never ceased to thrill me at the mention of their unflagging loyalty and uncomplaining response to a cause they felt deeply about – theirs is a marked absence of negativness and a sense of pride that was unmistakable in these plain country boys on the experience of their lives and took one of them. I love the phrasology and the ability to express themselves and the keen sense of observation they possessed, not terribly educated and not very worldly.

James was an older brother to my great grandmother – Sarah Fogle Glick - (who celebrates a sixth birthday while he is at war). Solomon was a younger brother of my great grandfather Uriah Glick and to my knowledge neither soldier ever knew each other.

There is a family story that James went into the fateful battle at Vicksburg in the stead of a fellow soldier who had children. They felt it was a decisive battle and Grant had changed the strategy (as James mentions in a last letter). We think he still lies under a tree at Champions Hill where his Uncle Adam Showers buried him.

Anita Steinkamp

Sept. 2, 1861 Camp Robinson Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mother,

I send you a miniature taken in Zouave uniform and you will remember what I told you to do with them. We have orders to send our citizens clothes home today but I have only my old overcoat and I do not think it worth sending home. We are all well at present but I had a sickheadache last night but I am over it now. My clothes are at Adam Showers – go and get them and let the boys wear them if they need them. I must close.

Your affectionate son,

J.S. Fogle

P.S. There is a Dagarian car in camp and I had two pictures taken. Send the largest to Levenia. Me and Showers read the Bible every morning and lift heart to God each morning and evening in secret prayer and ask the prayers of all those prayed in my behalf for it is hard to live the life in religion amid the excitement of camp.

There was public worship in camp yesterday conducted by the Chaplan E.T. Hilben. It was a beautiful sight to behold about nine hundred soldiers dressed in uniform besides citizens. But many of the soldiers did not like the talk for he struck some hard blows at infidelity and intemperance. We was on dress parade for the first time and all that saw us said we done well.

You can see by the minatures how we are dressed and the largest shows how we are armed. I don't expect I will come home until the war is over – in fact I dont want to come home, I am perfectly satisfied and content. Whitcomb Blair come last Saturday and we are looking for Dr. Schorb and wish he could come for he would be useful man in the regiment and I think he would get the chance to be assistant surgeon. Jesse and Jake Criss was over yesterday and say Ellich is well.

I must close for the present.

Yours Truly,

J.S. Fogle

Camp Robinson September 5, 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sister,

I must bid you an affectionate though not a reluctant adieu for our regiment has marching orders to leave here this evening at six o'clock.

Last night was a busy night in Camp Robinson. We cooked four days rations last night. Our mess drew an entire ham and a large one at that. Everything is stir and excitement in camp. We are all well this morning and hope these few lines may find all well. We are in the best of spirits and are glad to leave here although our camp is beautiful. Our destination is unknown to us at present. But it is thought that our regiment is to go to Washington city, but you will know where we go before this reaches you. Tell Mother that John Holland is in this company and says his mother is well. I need not write very much for Will Heron was here yesterday and gave me the things that you sent to me and I was glad to get them especially the money and the socks. I am very well fixed as well as clothing is concerned – perhaps too well for my own good for they may be too heavy to carry. But when I do, I will throw away the worst first but my Bible shall be the last thing on earth that I part with.

I received a letter from Aunt Ellen yesterday evening. They are all well. I want you to write more often than you have been doing and a little more of everything when you write. I wish you could have been here before we left here, but it is too late if there is no hoax about it and I don't think there is. It is reported that Col. Wallace is to be promoted. Our dress parade is the nicest thing you ever saw.

It is necessary to have the name of the Capt. and Col. on the back of the letter. I must close.

Yours truly,

James S. Fogle

You will excuse mistakes and bad writing for it is after one o'clock and at 2 we are to leave.

September 21, 1861

Dear Mother,

I ought to have written to you much sooner than this but I have been very busy in fact since I left Indianapolis I have written one letter home since I have been here and gave an account of the trip we had from the time we left Indianapolis till we came here. And it is no use to write anything about it now.

We had a nice time of it last Sunday. There was no drilling to do and about ten o'clock we formed in line and marched to a leafy grove and seated on our gum blankets while the chaplan preached a sermon on the wisdom of the Bible after which he gave us a bible or rather a testament – which I am glad as is read more than I expected it would be. While on the road from Lafayette to Alton we passed thru the most beautiful spot on earth, I expect, for it was covered with about every variety of flowers that I ever saw – bright yellow, purple and scarlet, lilac and white. I wish you could visit it in time of peace for I am sure you would enjoy it extremely well for anybody would enjoy it that loves flowers.

Our chaplan is a young dressy man more of the world than of God. I suppose I judge a man according to his conversations and actions. Our officers are handsome men as can be found but some of them are very wicket men. Our clothes are very good but most too heavy to carry on a march. We have drawn overcoats since we came here. They are a sky blue color. Our rations are good enough to live on comfortably but there are no knicknacks here – only at the sutlers and are very dear.

There was one little incident that took place on the steamboat when we came down from St Louis. It was very warm on board and there was quite a number went on the hurricane deck to sleep and there was rain come up at night and waked the boys up rather suddenly. One fellow had taken up his quarters on the wheelhouse and when he waked up he hollowed out 'I belong to Co. 1, mess no. 8 and I'm going to quarters if no one else goes' but unfortunately for him he was nearer to the edge of the boat than he thought and fell overboard in the river, lost his blanket, and took his quarters on the land and for the night and got himself laughed at for his awkwardness.

This is a rather sickly place for there are no less that seven from this company in the hospital and I am sorry to say most of them are boys of your acquaintance. Whit Blair, James Carter, Robert Crittenden, George Richardson and Hiram Pond but none of them dangerous. And I think most of them will be out of the hospital in a day or two.

I have seen no timber of any account since I left my native state and but three beech trees since I left Indiana. The timber here is blackjack and small hickory. Persimmons are plenty here but not yet ripened. I have been well ever since I left home to the exception of the diarrahorea. Seth has not been sick one hour yet nor Showers. I believe I gave you a description of our camp in a letter. It is situated on a point between the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. They say our pickets extend from one river to the other but I have not been along the entire line. But I have been detailed twice as bodyguard for our officers and think it would be hard for anyone to pass the guard without the countersign. When I wrote last week there was a seceshion army within twelve or fifteen miles but have been driven in by our gunboats and I think there is no prospect for a fight here.

Please count the letters you receive and the dated the same and let me know as often as convenient for I want to send my money home and I want to know if it is safe or not.

I sent some pictures by Clinton Gunning (Cunning?) and also what to do with them Please write soon for it is three weeks since the date of your last letter. Give my best respects to my friends. Tell them I am well and well satisfied.

Your affectionate son,

J.S. Fogle

P.S.

Address your letters as usual but leave off 'Camp Robinson'.

Sept. 27, 1861
Paducah Ky

Dear Brothers and friends,

I received your joint letter of Sept. 6 and was glad to hear from you all. I wrote you one letter since I have been here and it is useless to write anything about the route we came and also one to L.B. Morris. Seth and I are well at present and hope these few lines may find you all well.

You thought there would be a war along the Ohio River but I beg leave to differ with you about the war on the Ohio River for the rebels run at the approach of a single regiment of Union troops. For this place was occupied by a secesh army but they run like fine fellows when the gunboat and some Illinois troops came up the river. The trees are full of bullets that the secesh shot into them but they are small bullets and are not elongate balls at all that I have seen. There have been reports that there was an army of secessionists about thirty miles from here but I doubt whether there is any considerable size of Secesh closer than Nashville Tennessee. But there has been several alarms in camp and we were formed in line of battle no less than four times and the officers thought that there would be a fight in less than no time.

Last Sunday night we were aroused by our Captain "Get up boys, Goddamit load your guns, fall in ranks" and dozens of commands but the boys got up as calm as if it was a breakfast call! But directly the whole line of pickets fired and the alarm drums began to beat, the artillery was brought out and the cavalry horses saddled. By this time some of the boys began to think that their time to die had come! But I am glad to say that the Bartholomew boys did not think that the bullets were made to kill them!

But it is useless for me to try and describe the scenes that took place last Sunday night. We went over to General Pains headquarters and received the praise of being the best brigade in the regiment! I have been sent out twice on the line of pickets as a bodyguard of some officers and I think it would be a little dangerous to be about them without the countersign. There is much fun to be seen in the army but we are kept so very strict that we cant steal anything at all. There was one man put in the guard house for two days for stealing two peaches but wait till I get on a scouting expedition and I will make it pay! But many things are pressed into the service and the motto is 'catch him before you hang him'! The place is well fortified and the officers say we can hold it against any number that can be brought against us

(rest of letter missing)

From Paducah, Kentucky October 21, 1861

Dear Mother,

I take this calm and unprovided morning to write a few lines to let you know how things are going on here. All the boys from our country are tolerable well at present and most of us are at least twenty lbs. heavier than they were when we came here. We had a sabbath here yesterday that reminds me of the Sundays at home. The only thing that lacked was the faces of those that are most dear to me of anything on earth. We had preaching at ten oclock and our chaplin begins to preaching more to the point. And we had a tolerable good bible class in the afternoon but I was astonished as to the ignorance of some of the soldiers. And the darkies crowded into our room where we had bible classes as to some what disturb us. But I could not help noticing the intelligent look of some of the negroes especialy their preacher who looks as intelligent as any person I ever saw in all my life but who can blame the poor opressed creatures for stupid looks when every door to knowledge is shut to them. May God hasten the time when the oppressors yoke shall be broken.

We also had preaching last night outside of the camp in a little church in town where there was quite an assembly of soldiers. We are addressed by an old gray headed father that is going about visiting the various camps. His text was 22-29 verses of the 11 chapter of Acts. And what a prayer he offered up to Almighty God. It appeared to touch the heart of almost everyone in the house and he also preached a very good practicable sermon. After preaching was over they invited those that belonged to church when at home to come forward and unite in one common army church and also extended the invitation to any that wished to join. There are about sixty members now, and I hope that I may be a better Christian in the army than I was at home. I have been on guard since I commenced this. And I almost like it for it affords such quiet hours for meditation and prayers and often in the silent hours of the night when all around are asleep I often raise my heart in prayer to Almighty God and receive answers of peace. I need not ask for your prayers for I know that you can pray for me almost every day. I have my bible still and carry it in my shirt pocket near to my heart and am resolved that when it is taken away from me it will be after my soul is fled. I will close this for the present but delay sending it off till tomorrow hoping that I may receive a letter from home and send this with the answer.

Your affectionate son,

James S. Fogle

(This letter was written on stationary that I assume was issued by the government. There is a poem imprinted in red at the top under a seal that depicts a Union soldier carrying the flag and a sword – surrounded by thirteen stars.)

Whoso shrinks and falters now,
Whoso to the yoke would bow,
Brand the craven on his brow.

Freedom's soil has only place
For a free and fearless race;
None for TRAITORS false and base.

Perish party! Perish clan!
Strike together, while you can.
Like the arm of one strong man!

With one heart and with one mouth,
Let the North unto the South
Speak the word befitting both.

Paducah, Ky.
October 24, 1861

Dear brothers,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find all well. All of the boys in our company are well at present and appear to be well satisfied. When I wrote to you last I thought that most of our hard work was done but I find I was mistaken for there is more work to do than has been done. We had a prayer meeting last night and there was much feeling manifested among the soldiers. I hope we may have better times than we have had. I feel that I have scarcely courage enough to bear the scoff that may be heaped on me by the soldiers, for I believe it requires much more courage to hear the scoffs of one's companions than face the enemy in the field of battle.

I have written you twice since I received a letter from you and have begun to think that perhaps there was something wrong at home and have concluded to write to you again. The last letter I received from you was dated Sept. 29. The last I heard from you was Oct. 15 by a letter received from Mary Thurston by one of the boys which stated that you were all well – so that almost quieted my fears. I am on picket guard about two miles from camp today and there is a vast difference between the quiet that prevails here and the bustle in camp. I am writing in the fairgrounds of McCracken Co. and it is the nicest fairgrounds that I ever was in although it is in the land of oppression.

We have had two white frosts in the last two nights and I think we will have one tonight. I have written to you in my last two letters that I intended to send money to you by the Adams express. Enquire at Columbus about the middle or last of next month. I will address it to T.C. Fogle.

Oct. 25

I am off of picket now and in camp at present and get to rest today. I expected a letter from you yesterday but did not receive one and it is time for two answers – received none yet. Let circumstances be as they may for withholding the true state of things from me does not better it any, for I hear from you oftener than you think – but not enough to satisfy me.

I forgot to say that there was some firing on picket last night, but I don't think there was anybody about at all. I think they saw shadows or small bushes and they thought it was some scouts from the enemy. I was on the advance front with four men. We saw nothing nor heard nothing except the report of their rifles and one ball striking the trees over our heads – but so high that there was no danger.

I must close for the present.

Your affectionate brother,

James S. Fogle

October 27, Paducah, Kentucky

Dear Brothers,

I have received your letter yesterday evening and was glad to hear from you. I am well at present and heavier than I even was before. Showers and Seeph are both well and fat as you please.

The 9th Ill. regt. went up the Cumberland river and found a camp of secesh about one hundred and fifty strong which they surprised and took. They captured thirty prisoners killed about fourteen or fifteen of them, and took thirty horses, nine mules, and as many arms and camping equipment as they could bring away with them. But their arms are of all varieties imaginable from the rifle musket to the common squirrel rifle, shot guns of every variety, swords, pistols in abundance. I was down to see the prisoners this afternoon but could not gain admission but was informed that they have no uniforms at all. Our boys killed the Capt., Second Lieut. and took the first Lieut. prisoner. We had preaching this morning at 10 o'clock, bible class at 2 in the negro church and there appears to be a sacredness about church which none but a soldier feels so much. At least I never experienced it before. The pickets are doubled now to what they was sometime ago, so that we come on duty every third or fourth day. I have written several times about our rations and I will only say they are plenty good enough.

I washed my clothes yesterday and they are better washed than any of the boys get theirs washed by the washer women. I heated water in a camp kettle and washed them in the same camp kettle without a washboard but used plenty of soap. If I had had my washing done by the washer women it would have cost me 60 cts. And I done it in about two hours. I have three pairs of drawers, three pairs of socks, three shirts, one pair of pants, one under coat, one over coat, and two blankets, and one good pair of gloves. Tell Mother I don't want any clothing at all and if I do I can get them cheaper here than you can send them here.

You thought old Flora looked very different from what he used to at home. Perhaps you would have the same opinion of us for I have not touched a razor to my face since I left Camp Robertson. I have my hair cut short, short jacket loose pants with leather leggins reaching pretty well to the knee and if you saw us on dress parade with our sword bayonets set, you would think we looked savage enough to eat a thousand secesh before breakfast.

I wish you could be with me one week here and see the steamboats, gunboats, stores, cannons and all, and the various troops, the quick light horsemen with his loose blue clothes, the dashing dragoon with his tight fitting gray clothes trimmed with red, the slow moving infantry and the quick Zouaves. There are two regiments of Zouaves here and two or three companies of artillery.

Is Frank Huffer an officer and please send address to us. I have written one letter and sent it out last Thursday, but you say I don't get near all of my letters so I will send this soon. Perhaps one of these will get to you. I write at least three letters to every one I receive.

I have a very agreeable set of mess mates and I think the most moralness in the company. The most of the boys are not near as wild as they were when I first came to camp. Health is fast improving since the weather is getting cooler. There are but three

sick in this company at this time. Wm. Carson from Tipton Co. is tolerable bad, but they say he is not dangerous. Joseph Wilson from Barth. Co. was taken sick this morning. I don't know what is the matter with him. Charles Wright is sick with an infection of the kidneys.

To Mr. Elias Fogle – Please inform me what you meant by advising me not to write to Mary Brerim. And I assure you I have not written to her since I left Camp Robertson and but one before and received no answer to that. What Miss Crisler has the daughter? Is it Jane Crisler of Hartsville or some other Miss Crisler? It is time for dress parade and I must quit for the evening.

Me nor Seeph have met no punishment of any kind and I don't think I ever will. I think I have the confidence of every officer in my company and I am never refused a favor when they can grant it.

I have already said in three letters that I intend to send some money home for you. Invest as you may think best. Please enquire at the express office in Columbus about the last of Oct. When you answer this write how my horse and mule are doing and if you are scarce of clothes, wear my clothes such as you need for I expect times are hard at home.

I have wrote almost everything that can be of any interest to you, so no more at present.

Your affectionate brother,

J.S. Fogle

Please enquire at the express office in Columbus about the last of Oct. next I expect to send twenty dollars for money is but little use to me here.

Paducah Ky.
Dec. 15, 1861

Dear Brothers,

I received your kind letter of yesterday evening and was glad to hear from all of you. I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you all well. All of the boys are well at present. Uncle Adam was never confined to his bed but he was unfit for service for some days with a bad cough but it was only a cold I guess. The weather is very fine at present but we have had some bad weather – as bad as I ever saw. It rained and snowed and then froze so hard that the Heavest army wagons crawled over the ground. I forgot to say that I received a pair of mitts from Miss Levinia by the express. They are very thick and warm – just what a soldier needs.

We had another march to Viola station which is within 12 miles of the rebel camp Beauregard. We left this camp at ten o'clock in the morning, rode five miles on the cars to a place where the rebels burned a bridge and then marched fifteen miles before two o'clock but when we got there the rebels didn't come to move the steam mill as reported. I am sure they will never move it or grind any more wheat there for we utterly destroyed the engine, burned the lumber which was not very much for they had taken it away. The cavalry boys cut down a bridge near Mayfield so that their end of the railroad won't do them much good. But after this was done we had to return home and we started just at dark and it began to rain just about as hard as I ever saw it rain, but we went thru rain and mud, some falling down and tripping a half dozen at a time. But we had fun of the thing to see the fine dressed officers measure their length in the mud. All of our officers were on foot so that we had no reason to complain but still there were some that gave out and laid in barns and stables and some in the woods until next morning when some of the stoutest were sent back to help them up. But I was not among them that gave out but on the contrary walked all the way back in the company of the adjutant and several privates.

There was one little incident I can't help noticing, there was one of my messmates gave out and was not feeling well and lagged behind the regiment and when General left the cavalry to see how the troops were getting along he saw my unfortunate messmate he dismounted and let my messmate ride in his fine charger while he took it on foot through the mud and it revived the spirits of the boys greatly. I believe the boys would go through fire for our brave General.

So no more at present, your affectionate brother,

James

P.S. There are quite a number of boys working on bridges along the railroad.

December 15, 1861 (written to little sister Sarah)

Dear Sister,

I received your minature yasterday evening and was very glad to get it. It looks just like you. Tom writes that you are such a good little girl and learn so fast that you can soon write me a letter and help mother more than Ann does. I am glad to hear that you are such a fine girl and if I could send some nice present I would do so but it will be hard to do so. I think after a while if I stay here I will send you my minature.

From your brother

James

Dear Mother,

I am well to the exception of a cold and I think that will be alright in a few days. Our church is not in as prosperus a condition as it has been and I fear some merely joined the church because it was prosperous, as for my own part I feel that my God is reconciled and if death should over take me I shall enjoy a home among the blest of God. But I am not like some who care not whether they live or die. But on the contrary I wish to live and enjoy the friendship of those I love. I must brag a little – I have not been inside of the guard house only to take grub to some of the boys that were so unfortunate as to get themselves in it, neither have I been on extra duty since I entered the service and there are but few who can say that. I must close for the present. Please write once a week and I will do the same.

James

Paducah, Ky Dec. 22, 1861

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter yesterday evening and was glad to hear from you. I am well and hope that these few lines may find you well. I am glad to hear that you are going to school and hope that you may get along with your studies fine. We have new clothes since I wrote to you last. They are regular zouave clothes, The pants are of a sky blue and nearly the same shape as our old pants. And our coats are of a dark blue with a sky bluestripe in front with a row of small buttons in front and a red cord around the entire coat.

We have had some fine weather but it has snowed and turned cold awhile and then it began to rain and has rained ever since. But I am doing fine in the tent as there has been no dress parade or inspection today as usual and I have nothing to do but eat my crackers and bacon and read and write. Tim Carter is on picket today and I will be tomorrow.

The Company was at work at the boat yesterday. But I went to chop wood about two miles from camp. Four of us chopped three loads in a day and thought we were doing fine. The fleet is at Cairo mounting cannon and shooting at a mark. We can hear the cannon now every day and I expect the rebels tremble when they hear the cannon which is soon to throw shot and shell amongst them.

Christmas will be on hand and I expect there will be something or other on hand so that I can write you a more interesting letter when I write again, But to fill up my paper I will write a little something about the other morning when I went on picket duty. We went to guard mounting some with our old clothes on and others with their new ones on. But this did not suit our officers so they sent us back to quarters to put on our old clothes but when we came out some of their pants was torn so bad that that did not suit them either so they sent us back to put on the new ones! But still they weren't satisfied so after guard mounting they had us go back to quarters and get on our old ones again. I merely named this to show the whims of some of our officers.

I expect to send my minatures when we get our pay but no telling when we will get our pay for there is four months due now but they say the paymaster is at Cairo at this time and if so he will soon come here. No more at present.

Your affectionate son, Brother,

James S Fogle

P.S.

Give my best regards to Mr Wm. Willhouse

If the roudies wont let you alone, bash them like thunder and they will let you alone. I find this to be the best manner of getting along with them. (*James' advice to his younger brother at home*)

December 25, 1861 Paducah, Kentucky

Dear brother,

I have concluded to drop you a few lines hoping you may have had a happy Christmast. Everything has passed off quietly so far but the day has been cloudy and threatens rain. We have not drilled any yesterday or today and have nothing to do but guard duty, as the ground is frozen in the morning and thaws about noon, so that it is too muddy to drill. We have a newspaper this morning and the news are cheery.

There are deserters coming in daily saying the Rebels have nothing to eat but some of them are well dressed and have better blankets than we do. I understand money is rather scarce at home and if you need a shawl, use mine rather than go without for shawls may be out of fashion when I get home or if there is anything else you need, use it. When you write again give us a description of the time you had in school.

From J.S. Fogle to Elias F. Fogle

Christmas Day 1861

Dear Mother,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines. I am enjoying good health at present and hope these few lines may find you enjoying good health. Everything is as good as could be expected.

I had hoped there would be a religious service today but I have heard of none as yet so I am contented to stay in the tent and spend the time as best I could. Our meetings are not near as good as they used to be and some of the boys who joined church some time ago are the worst in the regiment but still there are a few who try to do what is right and so for myself I expect to live as near right as I can hope to live the life of a Christian and hope that when I return that I may, if not an honor to the family, at least be not a disgrace. I would like to send you some present but as it is I cannot at present. I have plenty of clothes and everything I need except Postage stamps. I could get Indiana money but it wont at more that 50 cents per dollar. There is a sutler here in camp that keeps most of the little articles that are needed such as cakes, pies, paper, envelopes, ink and pens. I must close for the present.

Your affectionate son,

James S. Fogle

Christmas Day 1861

Dear Brother,

I take the opportunity to write a few lines and let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find you well. A lot of the boys are well and appear to be well satisfied. The weather is very changable here, one day warm and the next day very cold. But we had very little rain this winter and last Saturday I saw plenty of dust and dust so thick as to be disagreeable. But it has rained a little since though not enough to make mud.

We have had a very pleasant Christmast so far to the exception of a little circumstance that took place last night. There was a man in our company that was in a manner demented and took it in his head to kill himself so he got a razor and cut his throat but not so as to kill himself for he did not cut an artery or any of the large veins but cut his windpipe nearly off and it is thought he will die today.

But enough of this and something more pleasing. The boys went to the sutlers and got two cans of oysters and had a oyster supper last night but I hardly think it paid for two of the men were mad and it proved rather unpleasant to those engaged in it. I don't like oysters and so I took my Christmast smoking a cigar and laughing at the angry ones but this did not last long till everything subsided into usual mirth and glee if the crazy man had not attempted his life we would have had a pleasant time. The boys shook guard last night and quite a few of them got in the guardhouse today and that was because they shook it. One of the boys from Co F. is in the guardhouse today and that is because he went to sleep while he was on guard. You may imagine his surprise when he awoke and found his gun gone and himself under guard! The boys are nearly all in town today and things are pretty quiet. Dear brother, I hate to ask you to send me some more postage but I expect I will have to have you get me some if you can for there is no telling when we will get our pay and I've begun to think we will get six months pay at a time and there's quite a number of letters I ought to answer now.

I will send you some money as soon as I can and If you have not any money, try and get some if you can. I must close for the present.

Your affectionate brother,

James

January 23, 1862

Written by Charles Wright for James to his parents

Mr. Fogle, Dear Sir,

By the request of James I remit you these few lines. James is on fatigue duty on the gunboat V.F. Wilson, he is well and in good spirits considering the hardships we have been thru lately. We arrived at this place yesterday at one and one half o'clock after seven days march tho we were delayed two days by mud and rain we only advanced three miles, the mud was almost knee deep. After we got on the river bottoms the roads were better.

Our force consists of nearly eight, thousand Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery We are situated on the Tennessee line, 16 miles from the Murray Co line seat in Calaway County in a southeast direction from Murray. 60 miles from Paducah – 13 by river, 72 miles via land via the road we came via camp Beauregard. All our teams and equipment are with us. The boats are laying here with provisions and the gun boat Connestoga to transport us to Fort Henry. We will group there today. We may have a warm time taking the fort as it is reported to be well fortified. You would no doubt amised to see the boys frying crackers and preparing there frugalmeal which until last eve has been somewhat scant – our rations for three days past has been $\frac{1}{4}$ pound meal and one cracker for about twenty for hours. We have plenty now as long as it lasts.

James says he will write and give you full details of the march when we get through. He sends his best regards to all inquiring friends and his love to all. I do not think we will occupy Paducah any more. Our officers think we will go on through Tennessee. You will please excuse bad writing as I have to write among the boys who are shaking and fanning about.

I will close, my best respects to all of you from your affectionate son, James

By Charles Wright

If you will, direct your mail to Paducah when you write as we have no station. Soon we can get our mail from there.

More soon

Camp McCawley

Feb 1st, 1862

Dear Mother,

I received your kind and affectionate epistle this morning and was very glad to hear from you. I have enjoyed better health in the last five months than I ever enjoyed in all my life before. And I have so often thought that God has so helped me with good health and given me strength to withstand temptation as well as I have done . . . on account of the many prayers offered up for me by religious friends. And let me say that I have not altogether neglected to pray for myself knowing that the only source of true joy arises from the evidence that we are reconciled to God thru our Lord Jesus Christ. I have often found myself doing that which was not right in the sight of the Lord. But still there is a source where we can go and receive forgiveness of our sins. Indeed if it was not for this I should be one of the most miserable beings on earth. But often when I feel my spirits sinking and feel as though I could not withstand strong temptation, I think of the many promises in the word of God and the many prayers offered up by pious friends, and I feel like going on my way rejoicing and it gives me strength.

It may seem strange to you when I say that I felt perfectly composed and even happy at Crown Point when the cannon was roaring and I thought that a few hours would bring us in battle for I believe the war is just and if I keep in the right spirit even if I should fall in battle, God will receive my spirit. But I would not be surprised if the fighting was nearly over with. But still there are several hard battles to be fought before the troubles can be settled permanently but most of the news we hear is cheering and it is generally thought that before long we will be returning home to enjoy the friendship and esteem of loved ones at home.

From your affectionate,
James S Fogle
To his Mother L.C. Fogle

P.S I have concluded to send my money by mail instead of express as the express company wont stand responsible for it and it is thought to be just as safe by mail. I will not send anything by Express.

P.S. no 2 You will think my mind changes very quick and perhaps this is the case but let me give you my reasons why. I saw some Certificates from the Adams Ex. Co and I would not give one cent for a certificate when they wont be reasonable, and besides there were several of us that were going to send together and some sent by mails and others are going to do the same thing. And as for the books, they will be some cheaper than by Express – and it will save you a trip to Columbus. I will send you a persimmon seeds before long. I guess you will be glad there is no more. But if this should reach you before the rest take the wheelborrow when you go to get the mail.

JSF

February 21, 1862

Dear Father and Brothers,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find you well. I have had a very bad cold but am getting better of it. I have been feeling sad from some cause or other, perhaps it is on account of the terrible sights I have recently saw. Imagine to yourself hundreds of human beings lying in heaps of dead, some dead, some dying and others dreadfully wounded. Most of the dead were shot thru the head and there it was that we escaped for when the fire got too hot we lay down and the balls mostly passed over us without hurting us. John Holland and a young man named Head were killed and several others wounded. I have a letter written but one of my messmates spilled ink over it and I havent time to write another. You must excuse mistakes for I havent time to correct them.

(transcribed here what is readable)

glorious if much blood makes victory glorious, but the worst is not over, the hospital is crowded and no accomodations for them as I here from our first Lieut. who has a brother wounded in the hospital. There are many reports here of victorys. It is reported here that Bowling Green and Clarksville and Nashville are vacated and the rebels are leaving Columbus, but all these reports need confirmation for we have had no mail for the lat twelve days and of course we are ignorant of what is transpiring outside of our regiment and neighborhood.

I was sick when we came back for Fort Donnalson and I was out of ranks so I came thru the woods and saw many beautiful scenes. The woods are covered with huckleberry bushes, since some of them had berries on them – I liked the berries very much. And saw a large pine grove some miles in the distance. Some trees were as much as (?) feet thru and in places not much higher than my head.

We have plenty to eat here but no light bread as we had at Pudacah. The rebels camp furnished a change of diet, they appear to have plenty of beef and some pork but no coffee or any forign productions. Their soldiers are variously dressed but appear to have regular uniforms. I think it all a hoax about the Rebels having no armies for they can shoot very close at 300 yds. The springfield part of the guns that I was were HarpersFerry manufacture.

I must close as I can send this to Paducah at this time if I close soon. All the boys in our Company are safe and none of them hurt. Bruce Thomas is sick but was not in the action. The papers give all the particulars so it is useless for me to say more about it. Give my best to inquiring friends.

From your most affectionate son,

James S. Fogle

Feb. 25, 1862

Dear Brother,

I received your letter of Feb 2 and am glad to hear from you. I am well at present and in fine spirits. I hope these few lines will find you all well. Today is Louise's birthday, give her a kiss for me and tell her that I expect soon to return home and hug and kiss her myself.

The weather is very fine and warm as May be at home. The birds are singing and all nature is rejoicing as there is no thing disturbing the land. But the cloud of war hangs darkly over rebellious Tennessee. Many dwellings are deserted. Farms are laying neglected, the owners having fled at the approach of the armies leaving most of their property behind them which the soldiers confiscate when they find it and our teams subsist principally on forage when in the neighborhood.

I suppose you heard we was in the fight at Fort Donnalson and it is no use now for me to say anything about it. Save that it is a far more dreadful sight to be seen, the field of battle after the battle is over, than while it is fighting. Our Company has lost four of its members, two killed, two wounded. John Holland and a man names Head were killed but not dead on the field. I helped to carry them back off the field while the bullets and shells were flying with which once in a while a shower of cannister. I dont think I ever heard hail fall faster than the balls flew over us. But we were lying down so that they principally shot over us but if we had been standing up we would have nearly all been killed and there it is that the Zouave saves himself and gets paid for his extra drilling.

I saw the prisoners and the armies but they are discouraged and have no confidence in their leaders as well they might for they were the first to run. Their cannon are superior to ours, I think, for they are mostly rifled cannon. One that I especially took notice of its rifle, three-fourths of an inch deep and the ball guided so as to correspond with the rifles of the cannon.

There was quite a quantity of commissary stores taken such as sugar, molasses, flour, pork, fresh beef, and salt but no coffee or tea. There is a little antecdote I will relate – As soon as we got in the Fort, there were guards put around our regiment to keep us from scattering – scouting, but I had to have water and according by the guards had to let me pass, but I wanted to see the Fort worse than I wanted water, and on the way I spied the commissary and took a fancy to some beef and a frying pan which I took out of the Rebel tent. You should have seen the look on the Missippians face that he gave me when I took it! And one said that we would take everything from them and leave them nothing to eat but the boys told them that the government would furnish them rations but they would not believe it. They are as a general rule as ignorant as brutes and tell the most infamous lies you ever heard of. One is they told us they built all the breastworks in five days but the Union men say they was building them for seven months which I expect is the case.

When we started back to this place I was so sick that I could hardly walk but I made the trip but I got a man to carry my Knapsack on horseback for me. I saw many huckleberry bushes. I got as many dried huckleberries as I wanted to eat. They were dried on the bushes and I liked them very well. And we passed through a pine grove several miles in extent. It is the most beautiful grove I have ever seen and it was so green and

nice that it trully looked like summer and I thought that I would like to worship God in such a place as this for it made me feel like I wanted to fall on my knees and make offering my prayers to the most high God and then I thought of the many blessings God has bestoed on me since I have been in the army, for I have been able for my rations every day since I left home. And in thousands of other instances during my life but of these circumstances you know as well as I do.

The scenery is very beautiful around our camp. Our camp is situated on a high hill overlooking Fort Henry with several hills still higher in the rear of us – they look like mountains and from the top of the hills you can see for many miles into Tennessee. And on the east the fine bluffs are in full view some three miles off the Tennessee River. With it about a half mile. On the average it is the most beautiful scenery I ever beheld and to add to the natural beauty, we dont drill but one hour a day and dress parade every evening after which I stroll to the neighboring hills to see the landscape. At sunset every evening I see new beauties in the scenery that surrounds me but still there is one drawback and that is it is almost impossible to get any mail here. There is no post office, and the commanding officers have forbidden the sale of newspapers here for some cause or another unknown to us. And there is right smart mummering among the boys on account of it.

We drew shoe boots or shoes as we wished and they are the uglist things you ever saw! They are almost as broad as they are long as the land of secesh and I would not be surprised if they were intended for Secesh soldiers. They are qiute different cut from any I have ever seen – they are sewed work and dont look like as if they last one month. I have boots enough to do me – one year if they can be mended but there is no mending done here and one has to wear their clothes as long as they last without mending and then throw them away.

There are some visitors in camp at present – residents of Indiana and Illinois. They say the war will be over in less than two months and one has said that he will be home in time to plant corn. But I fear he will find himself mistaken. But of course the men that have the priviledge of reading know more than we do. And if you think the prospects good for the war to close in time for me to make a crop please rent some ground for me if you can get it for grain. Rent at a reasonable rate.

You wished to know what I would take for my coat? If you need it, take it! And use anything else you or Elias may need. I am sorry you have no done so sooner as I know times must be hard and you have little means to make money. I sent twenty dollars by mail and some books (namely a concordance to the Scriptures and a soldiers him book, a pair of minatures in one case one behind the other and some persimmon seeds. It is impossible to get postage here and there are some letters I dont wish to send without paying the postage. Please send some threes or fours in your letter and I will pay you. If they are lost it is not much lost. Address your letter, 11th Regiment, Vin Paducah.

Yours truly,

J.S.F.

March 1, 1862

Dear Brothers,

I received two letters from you last Tuesday and was glad to hear that you are well and that all my letters and books arrived safely. I am enjoying good health with the exception of a bad cold which I contracted at Ft. Donelson. Most of the boys have bad colds at present.

We are under marching orders at present but our destination is unknown to us. But I rather think we will go towards Alabama, perhaps Florence, which is at the head of the navigation on the Tennessee River. The weather has been very fine for some time but turned cold last night and is cloudy today but I don't think it will rain. The trees are almost ready to put out leaves, in fact the Elms are in bloom at this time and it has been so warm that one blanket is plenty covering.

I have been on some foraging missions this week and saw more poor land and barren hills. But we saw one or two large farms and plenty of miserable Slaves. But there is something strange – the inhabitants are all Union tho they lately have been very strong Secesh! That is when the Secesh were here!

No. 1 – Thomas said he thought I better order you to get some feed. Do about that as you think – prefer if you have the feed, to share your herd. Better fill the till yourselves and keep the money.

No. 2 – Thomas wished to know whether I would lend you and him some money to buy a cane mill. I will if I can but there is time enough yet for that. You were so kind as to give me the market prices at home and of course I must give you what we have to pay here. As to wheat and corn, etc, I don't know their prices, but eggs and butter I know – eggs, 35 cents a dozen, butter 30 cents a pound, pickled pigs feet, 10 cents a piece, cheese, 20 cents the pound and everything else in proportion.

I must close for now, from your brother,

James S. Fogle

To E.T.F and S.T. Fogle

P.S. The reason I address most of my letter to Elias is he is in town more than the rest of you.

March 20, 1862
Hardin Co, Tenn. (Florence)

Dear Brothers,

It has been some time since I received a letter from you owing to the unsettled condition of our regiment. We have gone in camp near the river about 5 miles above Savannah, on the opposite side of the river. I think the place is a very good place for a camp. There are 12 regiments in camp at this place and quite a number more a few miles up the river and in all there are about 80 regiments on the river near here.

The weather is very changable here and an average it rains every day. But we are comfortable in our tents especially when we think of the dreadful time we had on the boat where there is no chance to cook or dry ones clothes. But I fear we will be on the old hull again soon.

All the timber except oak is coming out in leaves. The wild cherries is quite green. There are a few secesh at Pairdy some 16 miles from here that are said to be new troops and very ineffectiely armed. But the citizens say they are bringing troops from every point to Decatur a few miles above Florence but out of reach of our gunboats. But this is the only report and perhapse a rebel report at that. Some of the boys are expecting a long and wearisome war yet but I dont think the rebels can hold out long if our army keeps advancing which I dont think the rebels can prevent and have no idea they will try it. And by some papers we can get hold of (I mean rebel papers) they intend to change their mode of warfare and adopt that of Price – namely keeping us running after them as much as possible.

I had a short conversation with a rebel citizen yesterday. He says the rebels say we destroy everything in our line and hang all the prisoners we take but the people are getting their eyes open as some prisoners come home and tell them they were kindly treated and he also says that union men suffered almost martyrdom on account of their sentiments and some are still in prison but many are coming home.

Our sick are sent away but I dont know where – probably Savannah or Padacha. I have had a very bad cold for a few days but am getting much better. I washed all my clothes and had my hair cut yesterday so that I look a little more human than I did for some time. I must close for the present.

Yours,

J.S. Fogle

P.S. Please give me the opinion of the people concerning the war and also the general news for we are in a measure cut off from all communication and hear ten thousand extravagant reports – all of them false.

March 29, 1862 (Postmarked Cairo, Ill)

Afternight, 25th

We have to drill since we came here for the first in three months. But I dont like to drill in cotton fields for the ridges are too high to be pleasant to walk over and the cotton stubs are in the way. But inconveniences must be borne in time of war!

General Wallace honored us with a visit this evening in company with his staff. But I suppose you want to hear something of the moral conditions of the regiment. The young men are becoming very immoral – some are such swerrers that they swear and dont know it and gambling is a very high fashioned vice in our regiment but perhaps morals are as good as could be expected of our men situated as we are. But still I make little allowance for vice and belief it should be punished according to army regulations in officers and soldiers. Our religious walfare is much neglected. We have not heard a sermon since we left Paducah and our Chaplain has been with us all the time. But he spends most of his time among some wicket officersand appears to be perfectly at home amongst. But still it is no use for one to cease to try to live right with God for God is the same as he always was and I am determined to live right as long as I live. But I must acknowledge that this is a very hard place to live a Christian life. I find my Bible to be an invaluable treasure towhit it is beginning to show that it has been carried over seven months in my breastpocket. But still it is the word of the Lord altho the leaves are torn and next is Levenias minature which also goes in my pocket. The rest of my traps I keep in a tin which I generally leave in my tent when the tent stays.

I would like to know why I dont receive any more letters. There is mail after mail arrives but none for me. Adam Showeres received a paper which came from Hope in seven days so I know that the mail goes thru. Dont you write or do the letters miscarry or is there bad news that you do not wish me to know? The last letter I received was dated Feb 18th. I must close for the present. Hoping you will answer this,

From your son

J.S. Fogle

P.S. Give my best respects to enquiring friends.

P.S. Adams Showers

Josephus Huffer and
Wrights boys are well

April 6, 1862 Helena, Ark

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter of the 19th and was glad to hear from you, and I may here add that I am well as usual and hope these few lines may find you all enjoying good health.

The weather has been very pleasant for some time. The beech leaves are more than half grown and the uncultivated fields near town look more like nice flower gardens with flowers of almost every color. The health of the soldiers is better than it has been since we came in the service. Our regiment hospitals are almost empty. But there general hospitals keep full and rather an increase in recruits from the Yazoo Pass and Vicksburg. Most of the boys at this place are in good spirits, looking forward to the time when the rebels will be glad to make an unconditional surrender. But if there is any truth in papers and newspapers correspondents, the Rebels are suffering for want of something to eat. There is an extract of the Hiltonhead Letters in the Memphis Bulletin of last Saturday evening that says the Rebels are on one third rations, to wit, 4 ounces bacon, 7 ounces cornmeal. But I doubt it for I don't think men can live on that amount of rations.

Most of the officers here think the war will soon be over. Col McGill of the 29th Wisconsin Regiment said yesterday in a speech at the tent that he thought the regiment would be home by Christmast and others expressed similar sentiments. But Major General Prentiss in his speech said he differed with the Col. for he thought his regiment would not be home by Christmast and said that many of the men in that assembly would be generals before the war would be closed. But that he thinks the war has just begun for there were but a few officers present that ranked higher than captain and it takes powerful friends and a long time for a man to become a general.

A few days ago there was three women and with small children came to town in fact saying there was nothing to eat in the country. There are some coming in every day with similar reports. It looks hard for us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked of men that are waylaying every road and prowling around our picket of a night trying to shoot us. But General Gorman does not feel inclined to obey the latter commandment for he has issued orders prohibiting citizens from the country of Rebeldom coming in our lines and also prohibiting any rations or food going out from Tennessee. And I think such orders ought to come from General Halleck and extend to every post. The policy of our generals has been to make the South feel the burden of the war they brought on themselves.

There was preaching in our camp yesterday. Our Chaplan read the 12th Psalm and made some good remarks on the care God takes of his people. There was a meeting in the fort yesterday afternoon. Several Chaplans spoke on religion and morals strongly intermixed with patriotism after which Lt. Col. Wood of the 1st Indiana Cavalry Co. McGill of the 25th Wis Infantry and Mj. General Prentiss. I will say a few words about General Prentiss. He is a very pleasant looking man of medium size and his general appearance looks like as if he was not more than 35 or 40. His whiskers and hair are quite gray – said to be on account of his severe treatment while in Rebel hands. He describes his suffering as great and says he saw quite a number of prisoners going to the gallows to be hung. And one thing for shure – Rebel officers will not be honeyed up by him as some generals have done.

There is a man here today organizing negroes in companies and regiments and arming them. It has caused some dissatisfaction among the boys but it is only among those that have been discontented all along and I believe if they was at home they would be regular copperheads. But thank God they are few and are looked on with contemptment. There is a class that calls the men the support government in all its edicts with voice and deed negro loving abolitionists. But I tell you it is the Rebel slaveholders that love the negro! It is nothing uncommon to see fine ladies of the South going along the streets by the side of a negro wench. Or pretty white children playing with the little wooly-heads. And another thing I have noticed and that is those that condemn the Abolitionist and say they are the cause of the war have the most to do with them. I have even seen some that keep up the cry 'Abolitionist' creep between two woolyheaded negroes to sleep. But Uncle Adam Showers has gone home and can tell you more about camp than I could write in a week.

There are two Gunboats went up the river last Saturday and doubtless bring a straight story about Vicksburg.

The vice of drinking is getting worse since we got paid and the Provost Marshal gives liscence to sell beer for (?) dollars per month and the boys manage to get drunk on beer or something smuggled under the name of beer. When I joined the army I set a resolution that I would not swear or gamble or drink and I have kept my resolution.

I expect you think I am an awful spendthrift for not sending more money home and perhaps I am. But 'good apples' are a great temptation to me! But when there is money in camp there is almost everything to be seen that will tempt man to part with it. But there is one resolution – none of my money was spent at basehouses or whiskey shops or gambling tables.

You requested me to let you know was Showers in my mess. He is not at present as he is cooking at the hospital and stays there while I am in my mess. 3, co. F. My messmates are Hiram Penel, L.P. Brown, J. Huffer, F.A. Carter, L.T. Petrie, WM. McNulty and John Lynch of Boone Co and three Oslers of Tipton, Ind. We have plenty to eat and nothing to do and but little to read except daily paper and trashy novels not worth reading,

(the rest of the letter is missing)

Shiloh

April 15, 1862

Dear Brother,

I received your kind and interesting letter today while I was eating dinner and was very glad to hear that you was all well and may I here add that I am enjoying very good health at this time. And so are all the boys from our neighborhood to the exception of George Wright and Hiram Pond. Uncle Adam and Seph are as fat as ever. But you want to hear something of the last battle we was in.

We were six miles from the scene of the action when it began last week ago and I was sent out on picket but when I heard that our regiment had marching orders I left picket line and went to camp and had another man put in my place so that I got to go with the regiment and in the thickest of the fight at that! We came to the camp a little after dark on Sunday evening and took up our quarters within 100 yards of the fight for it commenced Monday morning. It was begun by our division of connade from the 7th Indiana battery which drove the rebels from their positions on a hill about three quarters of a mile off. When the infantry moved forward, part of the way through a swamp, where some of the boys got in the mud up to their waists, but I was more lucky – merely got in the mud a little over the shoe mouth deep. But the boys didn't mind it for they was eager to thrash the Rebels! But as soon as we crossed the hill the cannonballs began to bounce around us and worst of all we had to cross an open field for over half a mile in full view of the enemy's batterys! But our brave Indiana battery soon made it too warm for them. We lay on the hill for two or three hours under their fire where some of the boys went to sleep although there were shells exploding around us almost every moment – but most of them too high to do much harm. Then our skirmishes drove the gunners from their guns and then there was a general advance along the entire line of our divisions. Then there was an order come from General Grant for us to halt that we were advancing too fast for the rest of the line! Which was repeated three times during the day (but I am too tedious) Finally the New Orleans Guards and the Louisiana Quvarves made a charge on us, but they were soon put to flight by the rapid and deadly volleys from our enfield and minie rifles. The prisoners say that there was only 18 of the Louisiana Zouaves escaped but it must be an exaggeration for we surly did not kill an entire regiment – although the trees tell that our balls did not go over their heads while most went over our heads.

There were 49 wounded and ten killed in our regiment. There was but one in our company wounded and his is only a slight flesh wound in the arm. But it is truly dreadful to pass over the battlefield after the battle is over. I passed over a portion of the battleground and at every tree was a deadman that our sharpshooters had killed and many lay between trees. There was at least five Rebels killed to every Union soldier besides what they took away with them. And it is said that was the case over the whole field. And the road toward Corinth was strewn with dead and wounded some places as was fifty on a heap where they threw them out of the wagons to make their escape.

The troops here had a serious time burying the dead for many of them stunk dreadful before they were buried. We had all the Secesh to bury but there was not much

ceremony made about it for we dug large pits and put as many as 50 in one hole. We have laid on the battlefield ever since and only last night received out tents and blankets today. We left all we brought with us where we begun to fight and some cowards that left their camps to the rebels went back and stole everything we left while we were whipping the rebels out of their camps and next day after the battle was over they came and ordered us out of the tents they left to the rebels on Sunday morning!

It has rained almost every day since the battle. I saw the boys in the sixth regiment – there was none of them hurt and most of them look well and hearty. Aaren is in our tent now and says the boys are all well today.

I must quit this and begin something more interesting.

Dear Mother,

I am sorry that you are troubling yourself so much about me but hope the time will soon come when the war will be over and I shall return to enjoy your love and esteem for you are dear to me above all on earth and try to preserve your health. But let me say for your encouragement that I am still enjoying religion and feel that I am born of God. I must close.

From your son,

J.S. Fogle

P.S.

I will send you some flowers. The yellow ones I got on the battlefield, the rest at Adamsville.

P.S.

There was over 9000 cavalry went over to Corinth on a reconaissance. It is probably that we will soon have that place

(part of letter missing – probably written late April / early May 1862)

A Poem

Hoof trodden scarred by the sword and saber
All showed the place where for men had striven
Mournfully mingled the laurel and cyprus
Broken hearts wept for the ties that were riven

Paused I a moment beside a bold warrior
Slowly his spirit was passing away
Grasped in his hand was the standard of battle
Bravely he'd fought for his country that day.

General Halleck has issued an order for every man to carry 100 rounds of cartridges in time of battle. I think he would have never issued such an order for our regiment only averaged ten apiece and some of them shot when no enemy was seen. I only shot everytime I saw a Rebel and everytime I shot and many a times over 150 yards and three of them 75 yards.

Uncle Adam and Seth are well. I was in the sixth regiment and all our acquaintances are well except Joe Rhodes.

We were mustered for four months pay today and will be paid off sometime next month. I expect to send my money to Columbus and address it to Elias. Tell him to look for it at the express office about the first of June. I recieved 20 postage stamps and thank you very much for them. No more at present.

James

To Elias P.S

I forgot to tell you where George Hughes lives – he lives near Burnsville. There will be no diffuculty finding where he lives if you go to Burnsville and inquire. Tell Solomon Miller that I saw Jacob Henry yesterday and he was well and so were all the boys from our regiment and sixth and fifty-second – but there are few that I am acquainted with in the fifty-second.

We are expecting another fight in or near Corinth but it is expected that they are evacuating the place, if so we will have to follow them if the go to the Gulf. I expect to be paid off soon and look out at the express office as I will send it to Indianapolis and have it expressed from there. I will address it in your name but you must pay the express as I will send it to Indianapolis.

May 11, 1862
Pea Ridge, Tenn

Dear Mother,

I take this a calm and unprovided hour to drop you a few lines to let you know how things are progressing here. I am well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing.

We have had preaching here today and I heard an excellent sermon. It was delivered by a grayheaded minister from Indiana and it was very impressive and heart surching (searching) sermon. It made me think of sermons I heard while at home and of kind friends whose society I used to enjoy before this cruel war was brought upon us. But it appears as if the cloud of war is about to pass from on our beloved land and peace to be enjoyed thruout the land once more. But yet there may be several dreadful battles fought before we shall see that happy time and how dreadful it is for a healthy man to yield up his spirit without a moments sickness but how much more dreadful must it be to the soul of an ungodly man thus to be rushed into the presence of the just God and I am sorry that so few of the soldiers are Christianmen. Yet there are a few that fear God and try to serve him.

I have enjoyed much of the love of God in the few last weeks and feel that if this earthly Tabernackel were dissolved I have a home in Heaven where there is never sickness nor death or where friends never part.

I must close for the present, hoping that I soon will be permitted to return home once more.

From your affectionate son,

James S. Fogle

P.S. Please write sometimes

June 14, 1862 Goodwin, La

Dear Brothers,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines in haste. We are all well to the exception of blistered feet and tired limbs. But I have escaped much better than most of the boys for there is not one blister on my feet. We left Bolivar on the 11th and marched to this place in two days and a half. The country between Bolivar and Summerville is the nicest I ever saw but the curse of slavery is visible at every turn in the shape of ragged negroes by the side of fine dressed gentlemen and ladies and miserable cabins near costly mansions, and an immense amount of ground therein cut as barrenfields but the corn is good and as a general thing about waist high. The wheat is much better then between Dillsburg and Bolivar and there is much cotton through this part of the country.

We are encamped near Raleigh guarding a bridge till the supply train passes and there are troops scattered all the way between here and Pittsburgh, a regiment at Purdy, and at Bolivar at Summerville and at Union Depot. We have taken several prisoners, quite an amount of sugar and molasses which was run out of Memphis as we are only twelve miles from Memphis.

There are plenty of ripe plums and the apples are beginning to get ripe. I have about a peck of apples and plums together and could go gather bushels of plums if I would for every old field is full of them. We saw the first Union flags at Summerville we have seen used by citizens since we left the free states. I wrote a letter to you at Bolivar and one to Mary Murtle. There are scouts sent out in every course to gather up rebel or confederate property, that is property belonging to the confederacy.

I must close for the mail goes out in a few moments and I will give you all particulars when I have time. From your brother,

James

P.S.

My postage stamps have nearly give out so I must sign the majors name once more.

June 28(20th?), 1862

Dear Brothers,

I received your letter of the eighth this morning and was glad to hear that you are all well and may I add that I am well and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing. The boys are all well that are here but some of them were sent to various hospitals along the river before we left Pea Ridge. I wrote you two letters since we left Pea Ridge and gave you all the particulars of the march from our camp to Pea Ridge till we came to Union Station.

Last Monday night we were aroused at eleven o'clock and ordered to pack knapsacks strike tents and get two days rations in our haversacks and be ready to march in an hour. But we had to wait for six hours before we started and then we were put in the rear of the entire column and dust were so thick that we could scarcely see five steps except when the wind blew the dust out of the road. And water was very scarce too. We came in sight of the camp at Memphis at 2P.M. and were ordered in camp out 1½ miles from town. But we were again ordered out about twelve o'clock at night to march to town as we were first ordered to do. But Cleary took it on himself to order our regiment and the 24th in camp against Gen. Wallaces orders so we had to get up in the middle of the night and come two miles thru one of the worst thunder storms I ever saw and I believe thunder storms are much harder here than at home.

We were encamped on the bank of the Mississippi River at the foot of Layeso Street. General Wallace and staff occupy s the Layeso Hotel, one of the finest buildings I ever saw and commands a fine view of both the river and city. The river is as full of boats at it can conveniently be along the wharf and there are four or five gunboats anchored out in the river and a United States Magazine Boat – and I think it is one of the nicest sights I ever saw. I can also see the chimney of a sunken rebel gunboat two miles off.

I had a walk thru Memphis the day after we came here. There are many fine houses here but the city is not near so compactly built as is Indianapolis for there are many vacant lots, on some there has been houses and have fallen and many houses are ready to fall. Our regiment is kept as a show more than anything else for every evening we have dress parade and there are vast crowds of citizens to witness our drills and manual of arms and the papers have a huff for us every day but I don't want so much applause from Rebels! Yesterday evening at dress parade there was no less than five thousand people out to see us. Among them was Major General Wallace, Commodore Foote and other noted persons as well as a large majority of ladies and I had good opportunity to see Southern Ladies of high birth but with all their finery they had the lack of being as fair as our Northern ladies.

But you may want to know how we fare here. We have plenty of light bread and meat and potatoes and beans every day and plenty of coffee and sugar and we have a luxury that you would hardly expect and that is ICE! There is several ice boats at the foot of our camp and my mess manages to steal enough to keep a chink in our water bucket nearly all the time.

Me and Uncle Adam are cooking for fifteen men at 50 cents per month and the extra rations which will nearly keep us in spending money as vegetables are tolerable reasonable here such as apples, plums, blackberries, onions, radishes and green beans and

I have saw some cabbages in camp and there are plenty of fish brought in camp and frequently we trade a piece of fat meat for a fish.

And papers from nearly every part of the United States can be had here and only about one day later than at Indianapolis and in the morning before our eyes are barely open the news boys are hollowing out M*E*M*P*H*I*S or Memphis Avalanche as you may wish and very frequently papers from Indiana and Illinois and Ohio and Ky. We have recieved Cincinnati Gazettes only two days old which I think is getting the news pretty quick.

The weather is not as warm as it has been when we was at Pea Ridge. We have a pleasant breeze most of the time but the nights are almost disagreeably cold. I must close for this evening but will write a little more tomorrow after church. I have a beautiful testament which I would like to send home if I had postage stamps enough but have not and if my money gets thru please send me one dollars worth of stamps in lots of twenty-five cents worth at a time.

Sunday June 22

I am on guard today and did not get to go to church but some of the boys say the Chaplan preached a very good sermon and there was some citizens in attendance. The day is the warmest it has been since we came to this place and on account of there being no breeze. As usual the regiment is to go to Fort Pickering for dress parade some three miles down the river and some of our Company is detailed for Provost guards tonight but I am on camp guard and wont have to go. No more at present.

James

To Thomas and Elias Fogle

From Memphis, Tennessee July 15, 1862

Dear Brother,

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear that you are all well and may I say here that I am well and hope these few lines may find you the same. Health is good at this time to the exception of some chills and fever. We had preaching last Sunday for the first time since we came here for our Chaplin has been home. Col. McGinis returned to the regt. today after a months absence and it will be likely that now we'll be more strictly kept than we have been for some time as the old Col. is a strict military man but is liked and esteemed by all of the boys. And as a commander there are but few that are his equal. And we are looking for Gen. Wallace back soon. I have had a very pleasant trip down the river about 90 miles to a place called Helena to guard a boat carrying provisions to Carlisle's army. We were aroused at ten o'clock night before last and ordered to put our rations in our haversacks – that is five men from each company and be ready to start immediately. We were marched to the river and ordered to guard a boat going down the river against guerillas as there are plenty about here but none showed themselves. There is but little variety in the scenery along the Miss. River. The banks are low and covered with cotton wood as a general thing. There are many islands in the river some 9 or 10 miles long and have nice farms on them or rather plantations as the southerners are pleased to call them. But there are not many plantations along the river but what there are are large and generally from six to twelve negro cabins which indicates quite a number of slaves. There were two women hollered Jeff Davis at us and I suppose they thought it was smart but their sex was all that saved them from Enfield balls. It is nice to ride on a steam boat when you are not too much crowded for there is constantly a nice breeze on the hurricane deck. The principal objection I have is the constant rocking makes one too sleepy to fully enjoy the scenery. I saw two Ind. Regts. there and the first cavalry and battery from Ind. They talk of hard times and think there is nobody knows anything about soldiering but them but to give full credit to their stories I think we have had as hard times as they have had to the exception of a little skirmishing and occasionally cutting their way through timber that the rebels fell to prevent the progress of the union army. I wrote you a letter the purport of which was if you wished to volunteer to come to this regt. and gave some of the reasons why I wished you to volunteer in this regt if you volunteered at all and I will add another that is you will not have to drill as much here as in a green regt. for there is always someone ready to show you what you don't know. If you do come take of my money as much as will be necessary to bear your expenses.

James

July 26, 1862 Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brothers,

I take this calm and unprovided hour to drop you a few lines to inform you that we have changed our quarters from Memphis to this miserable village in the Arkansas swamps and seven out of our mess are shaking with the ague already but some have had it already. But I am still enjoying good health and so are Showers and Seth.

But I must tell you a few small circumstances that took place before we left Memphis. The day before we left I and Tim Carter were on picket and few others near an old fellows residence whom we found out to be quartermaster General in the Rebel army. In the day we went out to hunt a potato patch and passing by his barn found two C.S.A wagons which he said he bought at public auction but knowing the Rebel liars we of course took care of them and at night there was a negro come to our post and said he had something to tell us if we would not tell his master and of course we promised not to tell. He said he saw his master hide a white bag in a tree and thought it must be money so he went and looked and found it was only letters and notes and said he would take us to them if we would go with him. So we took our guns and went but he led us thru the darkest thickets I ever saw and we begun to suspect that he was leading us into a trap and told him if he did we would blow his brains out but he swore he would take us to the papers and finally he came to a large sycamore and run a pole up the hollow and pulled down nearly a bushel of papers which we took and went back to camp where we inspected them. We found them to be quartermaster returns and subsistence receipts – some very heavy ones from Beauregard, Price and Veanderme.

After the inspection was over we went into our rations of ripe peaches watermelons, potatoes, tomatoes and apples and made large calculations on his!

Since I wrote the last letter I have had a fine mess of roasting ears and fried veal that came off of General Pillens farms a few miles from this. There was several of my messmates went on a foraging and got some corn and killed as nice a veal as I ever saw and brought enough to camp to make us three meals.

We have more priviledges here than we had at Memphis for General Grant is absent and dont issue his long flourshing orders which he never expects to be put into execution. For example he issued an order at Memphis and said any soldier caught stealing or disturbing private property should be shot to death – as if he had the power! But the way such orders are got around is the officers shut their eyes when they see any man they suspect. The Cavalry men say there are plenty of deer and some wild bear and cattle but the tame ones are much easier found and shot.

The reason I write now is there is a prospect of us leaving here and perhapse may go some place where I can't send you a letter when I want to and the reason I write so much is it almost appears to me as if I was talking to you. Uncle Adam and me are cooking for mess at 75 cents per man our wages and what we make amounts to \$18.25 per month. And there are two dollars and forty cents of clothing money coming to me. I know not how to send my money home but I expect I will send it by express as before but I will let you know before I send it. It may not be that we will get paid off till September. If so we will get paid for four months.

You must excuse my long letter if its lenght offends you – imitate it next time you write!

James S. Fogle

Helena, Ark. Aug. 18 (1862)

Dear Brothers,

I received your joint letter this morning after I had written the foregoing and was glad to hear that you were all well but sorry to hear of the death of Aunt Iona and deeply sympathize with the afflicted family. And let me say that I am glad to hear that there is a rushing to rescue our country in time of peril and think that rebellion will soon receive its death stroke. But whatever you do donot go in a new regiment for you will have to drill harder, less privileges and be away from your friends. And let me say that we have fine times in this regt. for we have good officers. If you can take ten or fifteen dollars with you and try to get in company with some soldiers of this regiment but don't let them see your money and get it in small bill if you can.

I received the postage stamps and needles. Tell Eliza that I will write to her as soon as I conveniently can.

From your brother,

James S. Fogle

August 24, 1862 Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brothers,

I take this calm and unprovided hour this pleasant Sabbath morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these lines will find you enjoying the same great blessing.

Health is not very good at this time and dont appear to be getting any better but there are no dangerous fevers in our camp nor are there any dangerous cases of any kind at all. Showers and Seth are well, but there are six of my messmates sick at this time with chills and fever. I have never seen any place where there is so great a difference between night and day. The days here are very warm and the nights so cold that we sleep close together and under two blankets to keep comfortable. No doubt while I am writing this you are preparing to go to church and Oh, how I long to be with you once more and hear the word of God expounded by a minister that I had some confidence in. I know the Bible says 'Judge not that ye not be judged' and 'What measure you mete shall be measured to you again' but the Bible says 'the tree shall be know by its fruit' and I see nothing but evil from our Chaplan for he associates with the most wicket officers of the regiment and is said to have been inetrigated several times lately. Indeed if those that think they are called of God to preach His word go so far astray, is it not discouraging that try to do right?

It is thought that we will take another march as soon as we are mustered again which will be about the last day of this month, and then for hardships again – long marches without water and when we find water it is swamp water that you can smell long before you see it! But I don't mind these hardships if only our country can be restored to its former prosperity. But I doubt if I shall see the day when our country has regained its former prosperity. Yet it is our duty to uphold our government in adversity as in prosperity. There are many that think the war will last a longtime yet and think we will have to stay out our three years. But it looks as if somethings going to be done by the amount of troops they have called out and if the present rebel army at Richmond can be destroyed I am confident they cannot raise another army in the South. The only think I fear is foreign intervention.

Please send me some stamps about the last of the month. No more from James to Elias and Thomas Fogle.

James

Sept 3, 1862 Helena, Ark

Dear Brother,

I take this opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same great blessing. Health is not very good at this time for it appears that the sickly season has begun. But there are no dangerous fevers here as I expected there would be. But nearly one third of the boys here have the ague but most of them have it so light that they are running about all the time only when the fever is on them.

Showers, Carter and Huffer are well. There were ten sargeants and one captain left yesterday and went to Indianapolis to recruit for this regiment and if you know of anyone that wishes to come to this regiment tell them to go to Indianapolis and get the State Journal and they will find the advertisement of Captain N. R. Rwekles recruiting for the 11th and they can have the choice of company!

The weather is beautiful here as a general thing. The sun shines rather warm sometimes but then there is a nice breeze blowing most of the time which moderated the heat. And let me say that I have a much better opinion of the climate than you appear to have by what you wrote in your last letter dated August 21st which I received on last Sunday.

Am sorry to hear that Elias is crippled but hope that he may soon get better and be able to somthing for himself. If he is not likely to get well soon he would be wise to go to school and qualify himself for some profession as he can maintain himself, by teaching or clerking in a store – for I expect that teachers and clerks will be scarce. And you requested that I write more frequently than I do and said that you had not received a letter from me for six weeks! I surely cant account for it for I have written almost every week since I left home and I may complain of you with equal constency for there was over a month lapsed that I did not receive a letter from you before I received yours of the 21st.

I have a boil on my side that has kept me off duty for two days but it broke yesterday and is better now. Please send me a few of the Guilletts(?) pens in your next letter. There has two of our company tired of soldering life and deserted. One of them was caught in citizens clothes in Memphis and returned to the regiment and is under arrest at this time and is awaiting a court martial and I expect it will go hard with him. He used to go to school in Hartsville and you may know him – his name is Hughes.

From your brother,
James

September 18, 1862

Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brothers,

I received your kind and interesting letter a few hours ago and am glad to hear from you but am sorry to hear that Elias is so badly afflicted and hope that he may soon recover his health for it afflicts me to hear that my friends are suffering, especially my brother. But let me say that the Giver of every good and perfect gift has blessed me with excellent health ever since I left home. Health is improving some here but still the hospitals are crowded with sick and many of the boys take their shakes every day in the tents.

The weather has been very pleasant for some time but it began to rain this morning and has rained all day and it is one of those slow rains of fall that almost makes me shiver when I think of the nights I have spent while standing picket in the rain and sleet. Every boat that comes down the river brings the news of some new disaster in Kentucky or Virginia. The last daily paper I read told of the Rebels crossing the Potomac above Washington about 150,000 strong and threatening Washington in the rear. In fact it appears as if victory has fled from our land and has perched herself on those haired (harried) regiments on the Rebels. But I hope that the new troops will bring victory back to our banner again. Sometimes when I read my Bible about the captivity of the Jews for their national sins, that God has brought this calamity upon us on account of our national sins and that he may seem fit to destroy our government for a season. But I can't believe that God ever intended this continent to be divided into separate governments.

I wouldn't be surprised if we would leave this place soon for I can see no sense keeping 40,000 well drilled troops while the enemy is getting confident that it can whip us and are thrashing and capturing our raw and undisciplined troops by the thousands. Indeed, I long to beat the enemy and treat them to a few of our minnie balls.

There is a Dutch (Dutch) regiment here and some of them and some of our boys got in a fierce and fought with clubs and bottles and killed one of the Dutch and hurt another so bad that he is not likely to recover. But as in all riots there is no one knows who is to blame or who done the mischief. The whole mess is in the tent and I can write no more.

James

September 20, 1862

Helena, Arkansas

Dear brothers,

I take this a calm and unprovided hour to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same. The days are warm so that clothes are disagreeable but nights so cold it could frost. Health is improving but slowly for our surgeons don't give any medicines, only salts, dose powders and quinine and once in a while a little _____ (looks like Lsiencar?) and many of the boys fancy themselves sick to keep from drilling – I think a march would do them more good than medicine at this time.

The boats that took the prisoners to Vicksburg returned yesterday and brought a few of our men with them that were taken at Pittsburgh Landing and other places. But I have not talked to any of them. The newsboys are nearly as plenty here as were in Memphis or Paduchah but are more tricky for if you don't look out they will sell you an old paper that has been in camp for days and would not sell. But a few arrests has dried up such tricks and for one dime you can get a Cincinnati, Louisville, Chicago or ST.Louis or Memphis paper and the newsboys say they have the full particulars of the fight on the Potomac. But I had no dime this morning and consequently don't know the news. The boys are ordered to send for overcoats of their own or draw but I will do neither for I have a better one than I sent home. Robert Carter is to send a box to Tim Carter and please send me two pairs of socks, that small padlock in my chest, a pair of suspenders and a blanket. Please attend to this as soon as you can. The express must be paid in advance.

Where is Uncle Josha and his family? I have not heard from them since Iona died. Elias, if you don't hurry and get well I will give you something to do. I have kept a journal and am going to send it home before long for you to correct mistakes and grammatical errors – that is if I can get somebooks that will pay to express.

No more at present.

James

P.S.

Send me some gloves and some good thread.

September 25, 1862

Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brother,

I received your kind and interesting letter of the 11th and was glad to hear such favorable news from home. And may I here add that I am well and hope these few lines may find you all well.

There are many of the men that have been sick so long are dying and there is not a day goes by but what the muffled drums are heard as some poor soldier is conveyed to his grave. There was two of our company died this week, John Kelly of TerreHaute, Ind and Frank Hughes of Decatur Co. Ind. Hughes went to school in Hartsville a few years ago but I don't suppose you ever knew him. Yet a few words about him maynot without interest. He was a sickly man and sick much of the time and wanted a furlough for sometime but it is almost impossible to get a furlough here so he got a citizens suit and took passage on a boat as a citizen and got as far a Memphis where he was arrested and sent back and confined to military prison till he took sick and was sent to the regimental hospital where he died – more on account of trouble than disease.

We heard this morning that McClellan had fought the Rebels for some days and had them surrounded and only gave them a short time to surrender before he would again begin the work of destruction. Many of the boys are rejoicing on account of the victory, but I feel more like mourning when I think of the many brave men who perished there. The same paper containd the surrender of Mumfordsville to the Rebels and the number of regiments and if I am correctly informed the Hartsville Co. is in the Indiana 7th which is reported to have been there. If so, the boys will be paroled and sent home. If you see John Sneed or Mathew Brown, ask them for me how they like Rebel quarters and see If secesh crackers are any better than ours!

It appears to be the general opinion that the war will close by spring or before but I am rather fearful. The days are warm but the nights are nearly cold enough to frost. You spoke of several meetings you intended to attend and I hope you have enjoyed them well and wish that I could have been with you but such can not be the case for awhile but it is to be hoped that peace will soon be restored to our land once more.

Since I wrote the forgoing, there has been some good news reach us – that is that the Rebels have been whipped at Corinth and routed in the east. I wrote for you to sent me a few articles with Jim Carter's box that Robert Carter is to send – if you have not sent them yet, don't send a blanket as I wrote for you to do in my last letter. Seff Huffer says for no one to write him!

Is Ellen at Powell's yet, if so give her my best regards. I must close.

From James
to
Thomas Fogle

September 28, 1862

Dear Brothers,

I take this a calm and unprovided hour to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessing. The day is cloudy and looks gloomy and I have for the last few days felt nearly as gloomy as the weather looks for some cause unknown to myself. Surely it is not on the account of health for I never had better health in my life than I now enjoy. Today is Sunday but I have not heard the word of God expressed as I used to at home for there was no preaching in the camp today.

I have just returned from a walk to the Fort. It is a bank of earth about 100 yards square and about 12 feet high and from the outside appears as if it was intended to mount about twenty guns. I did not get to see the inside of the fort for the guards were instructed not to admit either citizen or soldier so I can tell nothing of the fort inside, but it looks like a useless thing for any purpose except blockading the river and it looks to me as if our gunboats were sufficient for that purpose.

We received marching orders a few days ago and drew ten days rations and 1500 hundred rounds of ammunition to the company and we had forty rounds to the man but I understand the orders are countermanded so we stay here till further orders. But there was some good results from the orders for most of the sick men were sent to Mound City Hospital, Ill where they will receive better treatment than they could have possibly here, for in a crowded tent many have to lay on the ground for there are an unusual amount of sick at this time. There was a slight shock of an earthquake here this morning that lasted about one moment.

The president's proclamation reached us a few days ago concerning the abolition of slavery in disloyal States after the first of January next and is differently received by the soldiers. For there are some Statesrights Men in the army, as they call themselves, but I can't see what right the Rebels can claim without it is the right to hang, for it is only right the laws and constitution of the United States government guarantees that I know of.

McClellan has failed to come up to our expectations after the advantages he gained over the Rebels at Fredrickstown, Md, and it is generally feared that there will be another delay for months and give the Rebels time to gain their strength and courage by the tardiness of our General. There was a rumor in camp this morning that McClellan had been succeeded by Burnside but it is looked on as a camp rumor and nothing more.

I have been looking over old letters this morning and see that many of my friends and acquaintances have died since I left home and more that stayed at home and died a natural death than of those that went to the army.

October 2

I received the papers you sent me and am much obliged to you for they contained different reading from what we generally get, for the news papers of the few that come to camp except Memphis and St. Louis and once in a while Louisville and Chicago papers, and there is nothing in the except war news and that is so strong tintured with Secesh sympathy that is not very reliable. Books there are none in camp except novels and as a

general rule they are not calculated to better a mans mind or morals. The Advocate contained some news that are quite pleasant. I see the missionary cause is not neglected, but the contributions are larger than last years and also see there are some temperance men at home and am glad of it for there are but few in the army! In the Obituarys I saw a notice of the death of my friend H.M. Tarr. He died happy, but I knew he died before I saw the account in the paper for he was a good Christian and only wish that I enjoyed the same amount of love of God that he did the last time I saw him.

I must close by saying that I am well. You must excuse the length of my letter for it has been raining so that I could not leave my tent, I had nothing to read, and could think of nothing to do so I have written you a long letter.

James

October 5, 1862 Paducah, KY

Dear Father,

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know how things are going on here. I have just finished a letter today but for fear it dont reach you, I will just say we are all well at present.

We received our winter tents yesterday while I was on picket and to my surprise when I came to camp this morning I found large tents about 16 feet high and about 16-17 feet in diameter instead of our little tents about 6 or 7 feet. All of the Bartholmew boys mess together now, 16 in number. We have stoves in our tent and drew an extra blanket today but what price we'll have to pay I dont know. We are expecting marching orders all the time and are ordered to keep three days rations on hand and everything ready to march on shortest notice. There are rumors in camp of a great battle at Bull Run - 8000 lost on our side 10,000 of the Secesh killed and 20,000 prisoners. I will not send this till towards the end of the week without we leave here.

October 9

We are here yet and things look a little more like staying than they did when I wrote the above. I worked on the boat day before yesterday unloading provisions – there is a vast quantity of provisions here at this time. There has been an expidition to Columbus but I hear it proved unsuccessful, but it is useless for me to say anything about the expedition for undoubtably you know more about it that I can probably find out.

I saw one of the 23rd boys that was marched off the Columbus and complains of one of the hardest marches that ever was known of. But there are probably more competent judges than those that were on the march. I was on picket yesterday to last night. I had a very fine time eating fried potatoes, meat and fried onions, reading funny stories – but it rained last night and that didnt suit me so well, But we laid poles on a log and spread our gum blankets over the poles and crept under them where we done very well until the water ran in under them. But I still didnt fare so bad after all for I got up and seated myself on my feet but my coat tail was so abominable long that I could not possibly get it under shelter so my poor overcoat - I had to leave its long tail out of doors!

Mr. John Wright is coming to see us next week and if this arrives before he starts, please send me your minatures, at least Louise's and the two boys in small cases. I am well and weigh 165 pounds and if we get our pay I will send you some money by Wm Wright – that is if he comes to see us, if not I will send it by express.

The next to the last time I was on picket, Uncle Adam Showers was with me. We roasted potatoes and beef, slept half of the night and done very well but we thought we would like something else to eat so I got a goose, Uncle Adam helped me to dress it and we roasted it on a stick. But I wont tell you how I got it! So no more at present.

Your affectionate son,
James Fogle

October 16, 1862 Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brothers,

I received yours of the second yesterday and was glad to hear that you was well and may I here add that I am well as usual and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same. Health is improving but little and duty has become heavy since I wrote to you last. There are 80 men on picket, 75 on fatigue at the fort and about 90 on provost guard. So you see the detail from our company is quite heavy, so heavy that we have to have duty every other day and frequently every day. But I have a little leisure this morning and will try and write you a letter and give you some of the news, although Tom says that long letters are wearisome but I charge nothing for writing and if you get tired before you read it all lay it aside till you have rested!

I was at work on the fortifications yesterday wheeling dirt up a bank about 20 feet and found it hard work if well followed, but I didn't crowd the wheelbarrow much so I got along fine and enjoyed a good nights sleep last night. There are about 300 soldiers and 400 negroes at work on the fort so it is progressing rapidly and will be finished in a few days. When done it will mount 14 guns, some of them quite large, There was two guns mounted yesterday evening. The timber is being cut down for over a mile so as to give the guns a fair range as possible. But there are two hills about half a mile from the fort that completely commands position and I heard this morning that they are to be fortified to. If this is true the graves of the dead will be opened, but I dont think it will disturb their slumbers – for there is a large graveyard on the highest hill overlooking the fort that must be defended for it is the key to the entire position. But I hope I dont have to work on that position for I never liked to see human bones piled up for a sheild for the living – but it will be necessary here.

It is reported General Heiman has crossed the White River at Dural Bluff and is marching on this place with 20,000. If so he had better turn the head of that column the other way if he dont want to be whipped for the gunboats can shell two thirds of the ground and our troops are numbered 1,500 and can get reinforcements from Memphis in twelve hours.

There is a boatload of prisoners at the wharf that was taken at Corinth they are the worst looking set of rascals I ever saw! They have no uniforms and as a general thing have a dirty gray coat, brown breeches, gray hat all slouched down, long hair and bears that look like they never saw a comb and in a word, murder and treason looks out of their eyes.

There is but little news in camp at present but we are expecting news from the east soon and perhaps of importance, for it is generally beleived that the fate of the nation will be decided there. But I have but no fear for our cause for I know it is just and believe that God will give us the victory finally. The opinion of the soldiers is greatly divided – some think the winter will see the war close, while others think that three years will be the time of our service and others be compelled to take our place in the field when we leave it. I received a letter from Will Sneed a few days ago – he was at Suffolk, Ga and was well but thinks the war will last for years to come.

I started a package of money a few days ago and as usual addressed it to Elias Fogle, Columbus, Indiana. I heard from Uncle James Fortner yesterday and they were all well on the 6th of this month. I have a gathering in my right fore finger so that I can hardly write and you must excuse my bad writing.

James

Dont mail anything at Newbern for it always takes a month and a half to two months when it reaches me and tell Uncle Josha's folks not to mail there. Hartsville is the best postoffice. Letters generally comes in 8 to 10 days after date of mailing.

October 23, 1862

Helena, Arkansas

Dear Brothers,

I received your kind and interesting letter of the 12th and was glad to hear from you and may I here add that I am well and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same. Health is improving some but slowly and many of the boys have been sent to hospitals in Indiana and Illinois and many are doing duty every other day and look like inmates of a hospital more than soldiers doing guard duty half of the time. There are ___th regiments of infantry and two of cavalry at this place and we have over five miles of picket line on this side of the river and about one and a half miles on the other side of the river. Frequently there is not a man left in quarters of a morning after the details are taken out till those of the day before return, so there are but two details in reality. But we are expecting some new recruits almost every day and also new coats and shirts which are very much needed at present for our coats are nearly all worn out and I have one shirt and that I bought last pay day.

I have been out foraging on two excursions lately at a Zeff Tompsins farm and helped to get about forty wagons of corn and some twenty fat hogs and filled my haversack with nice yams so I have several messes of fresh pork and yams and have fresh beef almost every other day for it generally falls my lot to stand picket on the other side of the river and it has been the custom to kill and beef and a hog or two every other day on that side of the river. And in a word we are living well for soldiers.

The Indian summer has set in and it is the most pleasant part of the year, not too warm and not too cold to be pleasant and the only thing that keeps us from enjoying the yams, chickens, pigs and fruit of the land is the guerillas. They shoot at us when ever they get a chance and once in a while kill a careless one that goes too far out of the line. But seldom shoots where there is more than three or four armed men gathered. I must close for the present.

From James
to
Elias and Thomas

P.S.

I started a package of money sometime ago addressed as usual – Elias Fogle – I have wrote one before but letters are uncertain now – please get it!

November 13, 1862 Helena, Ark

Dear Brothers,

I take this opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present to the exception of a bad cold and hope these few lines may find you all well. Showers and Huffer are well but Carter is confined to his cot most of the time and complains of light fever and pains in his back and breast.

The weather has been fine for some time and health is still improving. I am sorry that the Union party was out voted in my native state and some think that the butternut Democrats will have a majority in Congress. If so, there is truly danger that the independence of the southern Confederacy will be acknowledged after all the bloodshed and the immense amount of money expended. And the newspapers we get are of such a character that tend to do much more harm than good for they misrepresent everything and try to make the people believe the war was started by the Abolitionist for the abolition of slavery and construe the president's edit as an act of abolition and not a military necessity and there are some that pretend to believe and try to make all the discontent among the soldiers their own by presenting the war as another Abolitionist's trick for freeing the negroes. And we have little chance to post ourselves for the only papers that ever reach us are sent such as at home were considered disloyal or doubtful. The cotton buyers are quite a scourge to the army of the southwest for they are among us all the time and hire our officers to send men with them to protect them from the guerillas while they are out stealing and buying cotton and it frequently happens that nearly one half of them are killed and wounded before they return and when they buy they take gold or silver and buy arms with which goes to the Secesh – perhaps to be sent to Europe to buy arms to kill us with.

I received the box you sent me and am well pleased with everything you sent me. But I hope the sorrowful look on Another's face is not settled – and tell Louise that I thank her much for the nice present she sent me but think it would have looked much nicer in her glass jar than in my dusty box!

I came across some books last Sunday morning that I would like to send home and think I will; Josephus Complete by Whitson - Flumes English Volume 7, and Gibbons Rome Vol. 5 and some small books called Small Books on Great Subjects. I must close.

James

I have had the sick headache and am very nervous so that I can hardly write.

November 14, 1862

Dear Brother,

I received yours of the 3rd and was very glad to hear that you are well and expecting to go to school at Hartsville and hope you may improve at least as fast as any of the rest, and I feel quite confident that you will. And let me here say that I would much rather be at home and help you chopwood and gather corn than be here living an almost useless life and it would be so entirely if it was not for the crime of the slaveholders.

No more,
James

November 28, 1862 Camp Mortonvill, Helena, Ark

Dear Brothers,

I received yours of the 16th and was glad to hear that you was all well and may I here add that I am well and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same great blessings. Our regiment is on the march somewhere in the Mississippi state and indeed nearly all our troops are that were stationed here and have gone about 12 miles down the river and landed on the other side and by what I can hear from some boys that took sick and came back, they struck several counties in the direction of the railroad running from Grand Junction to Jackson and it is thought intend to cut off railroad communications of the Rebels, but of course I know nothing of this intent of the expedition for certain for we never know for certain where we are going when we start out.

Huffer and myself were on picket for two nights and three days and were just releived this morning and Carter was on provost guard so there are four of us in our mess this evening – if we dont see any fun of the march. We are in no danger of rebel sharpshooters and perhaps we will see just as good a times in camp and on picket. The weather is rather cold at present and I like to froze when I was on picket but I hope I have a better time tonight. But I dread tomorrow night for I will be on picket if I cant give Sgt. Major the slip for all of our officers are on the march and there is no danger in playing off. But I would not like to get in the guardhouse or on extra duty for I have never been in the guardhouse and but on extra duty but once which is a thing not many soldiers can say.

I can't really agree with you about the removal of General McClellan for I think he was unjustly treated by the war department. But I think Burnside is equally good and perhaps better, but I just don't believe in removing generals so much for every general has his plan to form and sometimes is forming his plan when he should be pursuing the enemy. But I think the war department made an unwise choice when the appointed General Halleck commander in chief of the army for I think he a man that seeks honor for himself but cares little what it costs his Country. For when he succeeded General Fremont he moved an entire army back to St. Louis and gave all that Fremont had gained back to the Rebels to have the honor of driving them back again himself and done a similar trick at Pittsburgh Landing in keeping Grant and Buell from pursuing the Rebels the day after battle as they intended to do and just such a trick when he was appointed Commander in Chief of the Armies of the U.S. in removing McClellan from under the very walls of Richmond when he might have reinforced him and had Richmond in our possession long ago and in all probility saved the dreadful battles in Maryland and had the Rebel army reduced to submission ere this. And in my opinion it would have been wiser to had Halleck superceeded by some man instead of McClellan but either will do well enough if the war department will leave them alone.

But it is useless for me to write my opinions for it would take a very long time to write what I could tell you in a few moments if I was with you and I hope this winter will bring the termination of the war. I suppose you have noticed the issued order of Halleck to reduce the army trains by only allowing a regiment six wagons – one for the field officers, one for the hospital, and four to haul the commissary stores and officer traps, and make us carry our tents in two pieces, only large enough for to men to sleep in and two low to sit upright in. The order has caused great dissatisfaction in the ranks. Indeed I

would like to cross bayonets with the old scoundrel for making pack hourses of us and there are many that would like to use him for a target to shoot at! It is getting late and I must close for this eve.

Your brother, James

(continued)

November 29, 1862

Saturday morning,

We received an addition of sixty new recruits to our regiment but they are a funny looking set of fellows and many boys that dont look as if they were more than 13 or 14 years old and Im afraid they will play out this winter.

You requested me to send you some cotton by the Adams express – but I have no money at present and have to pay for sending as far as Memphis in advance for the Adams Express company has no agents in this state and it is somewhat individual person that takes our express matter to Memphis and expresses it from there and charges us enough for their trouble. But I think we will be paid off in a week or so and then I will send you some cotton seed and some books.

I am glad to hear that you are trying to serve God and may I say that I too am striving to serve God after my weak manner and feel more than ever determined to serve God – for what will all my self denying, praying and penitance profit me if I know leave off serving God. No it will only make my damnation the greater knowing the way to Salvation and not following it. And there is a text that has of late come often into my mind “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul.” or “What shall a man give in an exchange for his soul”. Indeed it looks to a sober thinking mind that the world is but a little moment to the Immortal Soul. And yet how wickedly nearly all the soldiers live and how they dread the awful day when they must render an account to God for the deeds done in the body. A short time ago since I heard one of the most wicked young men in our company say that he would not fear death if he was prepared for death.

I must bring this lengthy letter to a close hoping that you will excuse me for writing so much for it appears as if I was talking to you when I write.

James

January 1, 1863 Helena, Ark

Dear Brothers,

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how the year is passing in the Eleventh Regiment. The day is very pleasant and fair and nature seems to be reposing. And how very different it must be for our army before Vicksburg. One company of our regiment went to the mouth of the Yazoo River with some boats as an escort and returned yesterday. They say that our troops were fighting last Monday and had taken four batterys at Monday noon. And that the Captain of the Gunboat Essex (Foote) was killed and that the Essex had run past the batteries and was with the upper fleet. There was two of our boys from the regiments left with the army there for they went out to see the fight and while they were gone the boat returned up the river! Our teams are all turned over to the quartermaster general but six, and one of the teams belongs to the field officers, two to the hospital and one of the six teams and other three to haul the cooking utensils for the regiment. So when we leave on a march we will either have to carry shelter tents or do without tents entirely.

There was preaching at the Brigade Chapel every night this week and some are enjoying themselves quite well. But there are more worshipping Baccus the goddess of wine, than are worshipping the living God. There was much drunkenness a going on in the regiment last night. One of the teamesters is in our mess and brought a chicken and some potatoes with him so that we had a very good NewYears dinner of boiled chicken, potatoes, and dumplings and I also enjoyed a mess of Oisters and pickles today. But while I eating I was thinking of the merry times we used to have at home on similar occasions when we used to break the pulley bone and stick it over the door and see who comes in first. But the pulley bone was unbroken for the ladies never come to our house here. And while I am writing my mind wanders back to the happy time when both you and I and Ellen were at home and enjoyed each others society. But that time is passed forever for we are grown men and must look out for ourselves. And when we see each other it will not be at home together but only when on a visit to each other.

Uncle Adam Showers is cooking at the hospital and has a very good position. He has nothing to do with the sick at all and has no guard duty to do and gets his things hauled when on a march and gets extra pay per day (25 cents). But you need not say anything about this to his family for he appears to want to keep them from the knowledge of it.

I will close by saying that I am well and wish you happy new year.

From James

to

Elias and Thomas F.

I am sorry I can't pay the postage on my letters and hope you will send some postage stamps once in a while.

Thursday January 2, 1863

We are in sight of our old camp but are not permitted to occupy it for a regiment of cavalry are in our cabins and tents. Most of the boys are on shore cooking at this time. It is thought that we will be transferred to Grants army which is between here and the mouth of the White River or at least a part of it, but there is nothing certain of it yet.

I received a package of papers today and I assure you they are quite welcome for the boat is a dull place at best and most so when there is no money about (cant read this – written on a folded line) being no chance to cook much. Tell Levenia thanks for the nice papers she sent me. I expressed a box some time ago and have heard nothing of it yet.

Please tell me what you think of the prospects of the war to close in your next letter. Tell Uncle Tom that I received his letter but doubt whether I will be able to answer it for there is no telling when I will have opportunity.

James

(from a partial letter written in late 1862 or early 1863)

and a word about Copperheads. Uncle Thomas Holland says they are training them with revolvers. If so they intend to waylay government authorities and loyal men or if attempted to trouble them they will retreat to houses and try to defend themselves. If you are ever called upon to fight them, take a musket loaded with buckshot or true _____ (looks like 'tresting'?) rifles. If there is trouble I would like to be there to lend a hand against Copperheads for I think I understand guerilla warfare perfect as there has been more guerilla fighting in our department(?). There is talk of our regiment going to the state to enforce the conscription act and suppress Copperheads. But that is not reserved for the 11th. But I don't think that we will ever be needed as Governor Morton and General Carrington are firm and will be prompt to suppress copperheads.

You said Levenia was going to get married soon. So I heard since sometime ago and have quit writing to her as I know my letters must be unwelcome to her if such is the case. And I have no reason to doubt it as three years is a long time and soldiers' life is rather uncertain. And there was no engagement between us. Even if there had been I should think her perfectly right in marrying if she can. Perhaps you remember her bright eyes and rosy lips we saw at the last camp meeting we were at. so I am not in despair as you know other young men have been in similar circumstances. And people that have seen me say I have greatly improved in looks and many judge me not to be more than twenty or twenty one, still I see gray hair appearing indicating that I am getting older. My weight is 175 lbs. which is more than I ever weighed in my life before. No more at present.

James

January 20, 1863 near St. Charles on the Steamboat _____

Dear Brothers,

I received yours of the 1st and was glad to hear from you and I may here say that I am well and hope these few lines may find you the same. I suppose you heard of the expedition up the White River. There are 33 transport boats and several gunboats in the expedition along with 20 (30?) regiments of infantry, 2 or 3 of cavalry and several batteries. We have been up the river as far as DeCalbs Bluff 120 (130? 180?) miles from the mouth where the rebels began a fortification on the bluff but evacuated when they saw the smoke from our gunboats for they have a particular respect for our gunboats. They left two heavy siege pieces which we took along when we left the place and also three more which were burned along with the depot and some few prisoners which the cavalry took without firing a shot. And there is another fort partly finished at St. Charles that would have been very strong if completed but it is half done and was only garrisoned by 6 companies of Portlocks conscripts that returned to their homes a few days before we came here. The principal part of the village is burned. It is about the size of Newbern. The people all run away for fear the place would be shelled by our gunboats.

The weather has been very disagreeable. The first two days we were out was so warm that the boys hunted the shade and took off their coats. On the third day it began to rain and rained for two days and on the fifth night at about three oclock it began to snow and snowed for two days and we so cold that we nearly froze to death on the outside of that boat without fire. Surely you must know that soldiers are stoved in boats worse then hogs on the hurricane deck and the guards in the engine room under the boilers and in a word in every place that a man can lay down except the cabin - which the commissioned companionans take for their exclusive use and make private soldiers stand guard to keep the rest out. But there is a day of retribution coming and that is when we are discharged and stand on equal footing.

On last Sunday our regiment was taken off the boat as DeCalbs (DeCalbe?) Bluff to stand picket. The snow was about boot deep when we got off but it began to thaw about noon and began to rain at dark and it rained all night so that most of us were as wet as water could make us but my big gum blanket came in good play for it was perfectly dry in the morning with the exception of my feet.

I was out to the Grand Prairie of Arkansas but it looks more like a desert than anything else although the oak timer around it is nice and straight.

January 22nd

We are still on the boat and only 20 miles from Helena. I received yours of the 9th and was glad to hear from you. I am well and so is Showers and Huffer. Perhaps it will be interesting to say a few words about White River –It is as crooked as can be and the crooks are so short that a boat can hardly make the turns at many places. In fact some of the boats nearly tore themselves to pieces running up against trees on the banks. And below St. Charles its banks are so low that its banks are overflowed and still the water has been higher by 20 feet than it is now. Yesterday one of the boats got out of fix someway and run into another and smashed the wheelhouse and done considerable damage but no lives were lost.

Today is cloudy and cold. I have received a letter from Fortners, they was all well. Excuse my writing with pencil. I cant write with pen and ink on the boat.

No more at present,
James

(continued)

(from a partial letter - 1863)

and we are very anxious to know the result of the firing for we think there was some of our boats run the blockade last night and trying their guns on Vicksburg. I saw one of the transports that run the blockade a few nights ago and she was not hurt in the least that I could see. There is every prospect of a great fight near Vicksburg. The misquotes are very annoying here so that we can hardly sleep. I saw several alligator heads and skins on the plantations and some of the boys are making alligator rings of bones.

Please answer soon

March 8, 1863 Helena, Ark

Dear Brothers and Sisiter,

I recieved your kind and interesting letters yesterday and was glad to hear from you and may I here add that I am well and hope you are enjoying the same great blessings.

We have just returned from a trip to the Yazoo Pass. We left our old outpost camp on the 21st of February at 3P.M. and marched to town in mudalmost boot top deep and arrived at the wharf at dark and got onboard the steamer Mariner and lay at the wharf till daylight and then steamed down the river a few miles to where the Yazoo Pass takes out from the Mississippi into Moon Lake and from Moon Lake to Coldwater and Coldwater empties into the Yazoo River. The Pass is very narrow and crooked and full of trees so that it is very difficult for the boats to pass through. But there was two large ironclad gunboats passed down the pass, fifteen gunboats and several rams and about thirty transports. (One of the gunboats, the Chillothe, is built different from any gunboat I ever saw. It has two large side wheels and a propeller underneath so that is had double the power of any gunboat on the river. It has a turret in the front end with iron four inches thick and has two guns, 184 (164?) pounders) but it was with difficulty that they got her thru the pass on account of her width. She is about forty feet wide and the channel is about fifty or sixty feet wide.

We had a fine time while we were out. There was a steam mill where we were guarding and plenty of corn in the neighborhood where we were guarding so we got corn and ground it and made johnny-cakes baked on boards. And Mj Darnelle who was in command sent out a foraging party to get us something to eat and they got about six hams and shoulders just salted enough to eat good and ten or twelve fat hogs so we lived fine while we was gone. You may think it strange that we should go foraging. But it is the rule to live on the country while we are in the Mississippi state and there are plenty of fat hogs running wild at large in the canebreaks and fields. And the boys kill some every day so that we have fresh meat all the time and when we started back to camp had five nicely done hogs in our _____ which we took along with us and quite an amount of cornmeal and partly cured hams and shoulders.

We came back to Helena last Saturday and found our camp had been moved to town. So we are again living in small wedge tents crowded so much that when one wants to turn around we all have to turn! That is when we are sleeping at night. The weather is very fine and pleasant. But the roads are very bad so that it is almost impassable to town with wagons to draw rations or the woods to get wood but if the weather keeps fair a few more days the road will be good.

We was paid yesterday for two months although there was six months due us but expects we will be paid again in a few weeks. I Won't send you money this time so as not to put you to the trouble of going to town after it for I should not send more than ten dollars this time. I had my minature taken today and intend to send it home as soon as I get postage stamps to let you see how I look.

There are several officers up the river to St. Louis with a load of countrabands and Showers tried hard to get to go with them but it is almost impossible to get a furlough from here. And for my part don't wish to go till the war is closed or our term of enlistment is expired which is only 16 months yet, for our time dates from the time of

July 4th, 1861 There are rumors in camp that the Gunboat Indianaola was taken by the rebels at Vicksburg but nothing is certain about it yet. No more at present.

James

April 14, 1863 Milligan's Bend, La

Dear Brothers,

I received Elias' and Elisa's letter last Thursday and was glad to hear from you. I am well as usual and hope these lines may find you all well. We got on the steamer Universe last Friday afternoon and lay at the landing till Saturday at noon when we stemmed down the river and arrived here yesterday in the afternoon less than thirty hours after we left Helena. The weather has been quite wet for it has rained since last Thursday night and this is Tuesday. It is raining a little today.

The ground is almost covered with flowers, principally yellow, so that the uncultivated fields look like the golden harvest of our dear native state. The country is more thickly settled than any I have seen along the river. The houses are magnificent, more than any I have seen in the South with the exception of the country between the Tennessee River and Memphis. But oh, how many a slave has been torn from his wife and children and been driven under the lash and worked to death so that a few many live in luxury and idleness. But I think the day of slavery in America is played out and hope to God that it may be.

I saw the boys of the 67th yesterday and today and spent most of the day with Matthew Brown and others of the regiment. Mat Brown looks well and hearty. I also saw Ralph Rhodes, T. Zigler, T. Tanbold, the two Friedleys and many others of my acquaintance. Health in that regiment is not very good at this time. They left this evening on a march and think they will go thru a village called Richmond to a point below Vicksburg. They have loaded quite a number of tents away and other army stores on the two transports and are to run the blockade tonight between two gunboats. The night, I think will be favorable as it is drizzling and will be very dark tonight. But it is useless for me to write about it for you will know wheither the attempts will be successful or not ere this reaches you. Our division is to follow tomorrow. We will have to carry all we take for we have no teams but our backs. But give yourself no trouble about me for I have two gum blankets and have nothing to dread about rain. But I expect I will lose some of my clothes. But no difference for we will get more when we need them. But it is the reason that few clothes come here.

I wrote you a letter last Tuesday evening stating that I would send you some money and a box. I sent the box addressed to T. J. Fogle instead of E.T. Fogle for the person who lettered the box made a mistake and omitted the E. But I did not get to express my money for the express agency was crowded by persons wishing to express money and it was impossible for me to express any to Indiana since I have come down here. I am in the land of sugarcane and the unhealthy air of Vicksburg, more on account of shell and balls of Rebels than anything else. I have near me some money and will keep it with me for I will need should I get sick or wounded. No more at present.

James

It was inconvenient for me to use pen and ink and I thought you would excuse me writing with a pencil

Thou art gone soldier boy
Thy body rests within thy grave

Many battles you have fought
Many comforts you have bought.
Amen

April 26, 1863 Dunbars Plantation, Parish of (Pelimery?), La

Dear Brothers,

I had thought not to write you till Showers was back but it is quite certain that we will move in a few days and I don't look for Showers till the middle or last of the week. It is the opinion of nearly all that we will leave tomorrow or go up the river about ten miles from here but there are four or five bayous to cross but the Pioneers Division will finish the bridges today. It is reported that Carr's and Austerhaus' (Osterhaus') divisions are at the river and will cross today and our division next day. But it is only rumor and nothing realible about it. I think all the troops will cross at once at the same time for I believe the Rebels will fight us as soon as we cross and keep skirmishing and fighting until one side or the other is whipped. I don't think it is the intention of Grant to fight the Rebels in their trenches, but to make them come out and fight us in the open field or evacuate. But of course I dont know anything of the Generals plan but I feel quite certain that he will take Vicksburg – but it may be with heavy loss's on our side. But enough on this subject.

I suppose you are fixing to go to Sunday school or church while my comrades are polishing their plates and buckles on thier belts and cartridge boxes and cleaning up their guns for inspection. But I tended to that yesterday eve and have leisure in the cool of morning to commune with you thru the medium of pen and ink. How I long to be with you this morning and go to church and hear the word of God expounded. But I can say that God is ready to answer the secret prayer in the soldiers camp as the eloquent prayer offered up in the church. But my time of enlistment will be out in less than 15 months when I hope to come home and spend a short time with you at least, and if the war is closed, perhaps making my home near there.

There is a rumor that Charleston is taken but we have not seen any paper since the 17th. I must close for the present.

Your affectionate brother,
James

May 18, 1863
Vicksburg Mississippi

Mr. Fogle, Sr.

Dear Sir:

It is a painful task that duty and friendship compels me to perform, but I hope that God that has been your strength in youth will support you through out this heavy trial and affliction. James was shot in the battle of the 16th. He was shot between the nose and left eye with a buckshot and died instantly without saying a word. I had the boys to have him buried by himself so you can get him if you come soon. If you do not come soon it will be a bad job as he was buried without a box or coffin; it was impossible to do otherwise. I could not do it myself, as I was at the hospital and had a great deal to do.

I have his things. He had twenty dollars, a note for six dollars, and some small minatures. I have no opportunity to send anything now, but will as soon as opportunity offers.

I must close. Write soon. Direct Vicksburg.

From Adam Showers
to
Mr. Thomas Fogle, Sr.