

Letters of George Washington Higgins and Melissa E. Welch Higgins
1858-1888

[image-George Higgins and Melissa Higgins]

New Salem, Texas

February 4, 1858

Dear George

I read your kind letter with the greatest pleasure and could not rest content until I had answered it. These times leaves us well I have nothing new or strange to write. The people generally have commenced farming. I was very much surprised to hear that you all had moved to Miss. I wanted to write to me and tell who bought your father's place in SC and the news generally of your Country. Dear Sir is there any likely hood of your marrying Purism. I have you heard in Texas with me. I could amuse you awhile I have never found my match but once in may days and he is with me most all the time his name is J.C. **Timpton** now he have some fun. I must tell you my Scrape I got into the other day for the first time in life. I got drunk and gloriously drunk there was a Holy crowd of us met in Salem and someone proposed to go to the grocery and take a drink and we commenced drinking to our Sweethearts and then to one another and then to everybody else and soon I had more groceries than I could hold. I came home that night and the bed had spiritual makings. Well I know it had the spirits turned over. George, you must not tell this on me for I am a little ashamed of it thought I can not helped it now the galls [sic] gives me [missing text] about it but I tell them I was sea sick, you might infer from that I was sick, well I only disputed the grocery keepers [sic] measure. I must close by asking you to look over all gross and glaring errors at the more pleasure time I will write you a long and interesting letter will you write soon. The family writes with me in sending our best respects to you all so farewell.

I remain your friend till time is moment [missing text] me.

Jas. F. Loan

Mobile Ala.

March 7th, 1860

George W. Highness Esq.

Dear Friend I send you favor in [missing text] times. Also a letter from Melissa for which you will each accept my thanks. I was with your mother last night until 10 o'clock. I think she is doing remarkably well. She seemed remarkably lively indeed.

I will be up a few days before the Sale and will bring your cottons seed with me also the other articles.

I would ship them now but there are so many tricks on the RR Road I am afraid you would not get the same seed.

I have just learned from Jack Leigh of Gingtator that the Widow Welsh is married.

Nothing new here.

Very Respectfully Yours,

John A. Bewell

Edgefield SC

June the 31, 1860

Dear Sister,

Your very interesting letter came to hand last week I was glad to hear that you was well. I left Newberry last Friday and came home with Aunt Susannah, nobly I will stay down three or four weeks and visit all of my old friends and relations before I return to Newberry. We started to Church last Sunday but it rained so much we had to give it out. We have had a great deal of rain in the last two weeks the wheat will be injured by it to some extent, it has commenced sprouting. I received a letter from Pa two weeks ago, he said he had a splendid crop of wheat they were needing rain there very much then. I received a letter from Lizzie last week she and the Children was well, she has started the children to school they are boarding out and come home every Friday evening she was coming down to see us last week if she had not been afraid of the mumps. I am sorry there ever was such a thing as the mumps, it has kept so many of my old friends and relations from coming to see me. It made me feel very strange to pass our old homestead. I wish you could see it, it is a beautiful place. I attended a nice barbecue in Newberry before I left they danced and played cards for amusement. I enjoyed myself fine with some of my old acquaintances. Aunt Susannah and Grandma says you must be sure to come and see them you must come when the crops are layed [sic] by if you can it is twenty five miles from here to Aunt Nancy. I think you would be better

contented if you were to go around and see all of you law kin. I am sorry I did not get to see you before I came over here, if George comes out you must be sure to come down here with him. I forgot to bring the homespun scraps down here with me therefore I cannot send them until I go back to Newberry. Direct your letter the same way you did before. As I am weary your patience I will close by asking you to write soon to your Sister Eugenia [end of letter]

New York City
August 15th 1860

Dear Sister,

On receipt of a letter for Ginnie a few days since I was surprised to learn that you had convinced a very enormous opinion of me. Owing I presume to the failure of a visit to you when at Macon a few weeks since.

I can assure you that if you have given me the least ground to neglect you very much that you are impressed with such an idea and hope when you are advised of my sickness at Macon that you will readily excuse me. I have been in the Prairie Country sometime, that produced general disarrangement and final settled in Billiour [sic] Fever that [missing text] cut me off from an intended visit to your place. You know that I have ever looked upon you with the tender care and always ready to assist you in every possible way - and those feelings are surely increased by the misfortunes you have such in the loss of almost all that was near and dear to you on Earth. I wish you to abandon such thought and never give them a place in your memory again.

When I return to the City of Mobile which I think will be very soon I am coming up to Winston on business of my own and will certainly call to see you.

I have been here about two weeks will get through in 8 or 10 days more and will then start south via Philadelphia, Charleston and Washington City. The latter place I have business that will detain me a few days.

Immine said something in relation to Nammie that you wished her to live with you. She may visit you at any and all times; when convenient, but I am resolved to have a home of my own next year and however humble and lonely, that cottage may appear, I hope, with her assistance and smiles to make it at last happy.

I have traveled a great deal, and have some considerable opinion in human nature; and the more I see, and hear, and know my fellow being the better I am reconciled to my

fate. I know that I have met with misfortune and embarrassments in life, but when I view this world as it is this grand [missing text] of life with all its vices, degradation's, its many leavites [sic] and atonement's, it dens caves, sillans [sic], caverns and hovels of misery in the immediate vicinity of wealth, wisdom and princely places all striving for the All Mighty dollar regardless of future results – rewards and punishments the better I am content with my condition. And I hope I shall never so far forget myself as to worship (the luxurious Evil) that I now witness daily.

I think I can in future be content and add I am happy.

Give my best regards to George and all the Family and accept this for yourself.

As Ever Yours
John A. Bewill

P.S. Ginnie is well and doing very well. Sometime when I am absent from the City, he becomes a little lonely and [missing text] you never saw him like better than he did when I left.

Warrington, Florida
January 22, 1861

I landed at this place on the 18th very sick, partly sea sickness and partly the disease I left you with, the first night I was taken to the Hospital where I remained until the 19th having taken the largest dose of medicine man every swallowed, which I believe has effectually cured me, for I feel better today than I have since I left you.

There is but little for me to write that would interest you, you no doubt will hear a great many rumors concerning the troops that left Macon but I tell you to believe none of them. I hear and can hear more false rumors than anyone could think of. We have possession of all the forts but one and until its Commander surrenders, it will be very hard to take and will not be attempted for some time. Our first Lieutenant James Rivers, went over to the telegraph office today, for the purpose of communicating to Governor Ettus, to ascertain what should be done. On Wednesday Brother John will write and gain full information and purpose will be able to tell how long we will have to remain here. The most of our Company are doing very well, (although some few speak of deserting) yet the reminder is in high spirits. Three of our Company are sick but not dangerous. Brother John is well and enjoying himself finely. Tell Dr. Henderson that I would like to write him a few lines but every time is in such an uproar that my mind had gone in the same channel and it is impossible for me to do it now and I will be perfectly

satisfied with anything that he marks down. Give my love to all and write to me just as soon as you can direct as above. Pretty write when pen and ink are so scarce but cannot be helped now by your husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. I will try to write to all of you when I have things more abundant than at present.

Warrington, Florida

January 26th, 1861

Dear Wife,

It is with pleasure that I can communicate to you this morning. Everything throughout the whole camp is in the greatest excitement at this time. Four or five of our men from different companies crossed the bay and landed near the Fort where our Enemies are stationed, for the purpose of obtaining some shell off the beach. They were captured and it is believed imprisoned. Troops can be seen all over the quarters. Officers running to and from trying to quiet their Soldiers. A great many speak of trying to obtain them immediately, which action would be folly, for it would take at least 5000 men to capture that Fort if they resist, (which I have never believed they would do). You have heard by this time that we have only 1500 or 2000 men here, and that our officers have no idea of making an attack on the Fort, with such a small amount of men, and also that there wasn't any more expected. It is therefore believed that our superior commander (General Chase) and the commander of Fort Pickets (Let. Slimmer) has a perfect understanding, otherwise there would be a call for more troops. I beseeched you to reconsider yourself, do not grieve or rest uneasy for fear that I or anyone else will be killed, for I assure you that there is not the slightest danger of such a thing as a battle occurring between the two armies stationed at this place. A great deal of dissatisfaction is manifested by some of the company here. Two companies were to leave this morning (Shuqualak and one from Lowndes) not by any permission, but by downright desertion. There is not any more chance for a company to leave honorably than it is for one man (better suffer death than dishonor) is my sentiments even so far from one that I love so dear. There is some dissatisfaction among our boys but I do not think any will be as hard to tell. Jessy and Simp are about the worst dissatisfied of any. Those two, Eaf Wade Shield and Dr. Homes are my mess mates. Eaf is Cook. I never tried my hand yet, but think I could serve up something nice. Be assured that we live rough, there has not been one day that it did not rain since we left home until this one, and not ray of the sun has been seen by any of us on Florida soil until this morning. I was stopped a few minutes just now to clean up and sun our blankets. You know what men in a common

way are not very nice house keepers but if you could see our tents now you would certainly praise us. I have been on duty only once, up all night and the hardest and coldest rain you ever saw. I thought it would kill me, but I never suffered one moment from that since. The report about those 4 or 5 men being taken prisoners this morning is all a false hood. Another false report was circulated this morning, (that is) that 500 recruits landed at Fort Pickens this morning. Thus you see how hard it is for the truth to be had even here. Dear Wife, you and only you occupy my thoughts, I have not heard from you since I left. My God the ruler of the universe protect you for all harm and if we live to [missing text] again we then can talk about the wars of Florida, and the uneasiness and anxiety we both have suffered. It seems to me that I have been absent from you 2 months instead of weeks. I am happy to inform you that we are all well. Tell everybody howdy and remember your affectionate husband, may God bless you, lovely woman. Farewell.

G. W. Higgins

January 30th, 1861
Warrington, Florida
Noxubee Rebels

Dear Wife,

Having an opportunity of sending a letter direct to Macon (by a friend) I embrace the opportunity. Although there is nothing new for me to write, having told you all the news last week, (and since then Bro. John has written). We are all well expecting bad colds which is prevalent among the whole Regiment. We have been looking for an order to leave this place, for two or three days. When we will receive it is more than I can say. A detachment of four or five men have been ordered from each company to shovel up sand banks to protect ourselves in case of an attack which is to say unreasonable. We may be home in a few days on furlough and we may not be there in two months, however I hope you will not be uneasy about us. We are all getting tired and anxious to leave this place, anxious to return to our homes, unless we could be doing something for our country, we have done nothing yet, and when we will I do not know. I am very anxious to hear from you all, we have not heard from any of you yet, which seems very strange. May Gold bless you all is the prayer of your humble husband.

G. W. Higgins

February 1st, 1861
Noxubee Rebels
Warrington, Florida

Dear Wife,

How often have I written to you? And yet never received the first line from you. What is wrong, have you never written to me. I think you have but there is something wrong that, I cannot help. So often, I have written to you that there is nothing remaining for me to tell, yet believing that you would like to hear from me often, and having an opportunity of sending a letter by Mr. Shields and Stevenson, I think it nothing but just that I should embrace the opportunity. We know nothing about our departure yet, but have been looking for an order for some time. I am compelled to believe that we have staid [sic] our time at this place, when we hear we may be ordered to some point in Miss., I think that doubtful. We have just begun to work on the wharf, shoveling up sand banks. I have been on duty all night and feel rather bad this morning for the want of sleep. Bro. John is writing to Sally at this time. A great deal of dissatisfaction is relevant among the boys. A good many have left, others are leaving, but few have honorably. Do not rest uneasy about me. I think I will be at home soon. Farewell Dear Wife.

G. W. Higgins

[image of a receipt with the caption: This promise to pay is from M.M. Higgins and written to Carlisle Smith for \$1107.30. Payable at the Sothern's Bank of Alabama on March 27, 1861]

Muster Roll April 1865

H 8 Battalion Miss.

G.W. Higgins,

Pvt, Co. F, 8 Battalion Mississippi Vols.

Appears on a Muster Roll of Officers and Men paroled in accordance with the terms of a Military Convention entered into on the 26th day of April, 1865, between General Joseph E. Johnston, Commanding Confederate Army, and Major general W.T. Sherman, Commanding United States Army in North Carolina.

Roll dated High POint, N.C., April 28, 1865.

Paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina, May 1, 1865.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg, Miss

By whom Lt. A.B. Hardcastle

Period 12 months

Last paid:

By whom [blank]

To what time [blank], 186[blank].

Present or absent [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

The 3d Battalion, and 5th, 8th and 32d Regiments Mississippi Infantry were consolidated about April 9, 1865, and formed the 8th Battalion Mississippi Infantry.

Number of roll: 320

F Marin

Copyist.

Vicksburg, Miss.

November 16th, 1861

Dear Wife,

I have been wanting for several days to gather news enough to form an interesting letter, but if I should wait until that was accomplished you would look long before you saw a letter from me. As I have [missing text] written from Shuqualak. We left Summerville on Saturday morning and arrived at Shuqualak same day, we stayed there all night, the citizens having rather a cold shoulder. We left early on Sunday morning, marched to Schoober by 12 O.C. a distance of 12 miles, where we remaining until 9 O.C. Monday night (There the neighbors of this place treated us with all the kinship that could be shown by any community, provision of all kinds was sent by wholesale quantities) at 9 O.C. we went aboard the cars and were soon rolling toward this place. The cars were very much crowded with passengers and soldiers, among them I found Mr. McLeod and Parks, I was very glad to hear from home although they knew but little, they told me that Lula was sick how bad they knew not, and that they had brought a letter to Macon for me, but to this time I have never received it and it is grieving me to know that my dear child should be unwell and I so far from home and cannot get anything for you, I beseech my Dear Wife to write oftener, this subject so overcomes me, that I shall try another. We arrived here Tuesday 10 O.C. having been up all night we were a drowsy looking set, having nothing to do and no place to sleep. I taken a stroll over this town, and to sum it all up, it is the hilliest, oldest, ugliest, nastiest, sinkingest [sic], and largest place that I ever went over. We have good quarters and plenty to eat, and but few are sick, none bad, Brother John had a chill yesterday, as did some others, they are better this morning. I myself was never in better health. We will get Tents today, and if it should rain, as it looks like doing I fear the health of the Company will change. There are some who doubts as to whether we will be received or not, this can only be ascertained by waiting until about the 25th or 27th, but as Bro.

John will write today, and understands more about it than I do, I will say but little on this subject if we are not received, we will disband and come home, but do not look for any such thing for I think you would be disappointed in my opinion, our chances to stay is very good, although there was a company disbanded and left here yesterday because they would not arm themselves for the War. They may return if an action of the Legislature will grant them arms and receive them as twelve month troops. This is what we are waiting for, if we are not received and armed according to the way in which we started we will neither ourselves or go for the war but go home. I will write as soon as I can ascertain what we are going to do and perhaps before. Excuse this, for I am not accustom to writing where there is so much fiddling, dancing, singing, talking and laughing as there is here at present and nothing to hold up my paper but my knee and a piece of plank about as wide as your hand and three or four boys now waiting for that.

Write often if you only tell me that all is well. Direct to Vicksburg Miss., care Capt. Nunn, Miss. Rebels and oblige your ever affectionate and loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Vicksburg, Miss.

November 18th, 1861

Dear Lis,

Having an opportunity of writing, and sending a letter to Summerville I concluded that it would be best to do it (although I have told you all that would be interesting and perhaps more) as it is impossible for me to get a letter from you I will trouble you the oftener, although I do not wish to be troublesome, yet I wish to interest you, dear Wife, to let me hear from you oftener. Two weeks has [missing text] since I parted with you (my Dear Lis and Lula which is more to me than all earth) and as yet not even the scratch of a pen have I had from you, although you have written once, to my certain knowledge, and it that the only time certainly not? If it is, you, Lis, have not treated me right, you are at home and can write at any time, be assured that is different with me; who is at least 300 miles from home, and all that I love and profess. The thought of these things has given me the Blues, the worst sort, for two or three days and it still continues to increase, seeing other men from the same neighborhood getting letters every day or two, and I getting none atall [sic] it would make me feel that you cared nothing about me if I knew me better, but Dear Lis, all Heaven and Hell, combined could not make me believe anything so erroneous, but still something is wrong. I pray God that you may think of me, and have some sympathy for my feelings, and that you will do your best to let me

hear from you, I fret that I love you and Lula more than I should, for I ought to love my God best, which I have found not to be the case.

As for coming home any time soon, is a thing to my mind impossible. Bro. John has got well, I am in good health and expected to fish the great Miss. River this evening.

As there is no news for me to write I will close by asking you to forgive me for anything that may be wrong or erroneous as my mind was never worse perturbed than it is at present. Put your trust of the future in the God the Maker and Ruler of this universe is the prayer. Tell Mrs. T. F. Anderson to back her letters in the care of Capt. Nunn and that he is well. God love you dear woman is my petition.

G. W. H.

November 22nd, 1861

Vicksburg, Mississippi

Your letter of the 19th was received Wednesday the 20th and be assured that nothing could have given me more pleasure than to hear from you, after so long a time as two week seems to be. The letter you have mailed by Mrs. McLeod has never reached me yet, and I fear that it never will. Although I hope it may for I think that it contained nothing that I should like to know, at any rate you must tell 'em [sic] whether or not you received the Notes, and Cotton Cards sent from Shuqualak by Esq. Penery. News is very scarce in camps at this time. We expect to be mustered in to service to the State, in a few days, the action of the Legislature that I spoke of has not been heard from yet, but are looking for it now, or tomorrow and if the State does not receive us, Lieutenant Hardcastle of the Confederate service says that he will receive us into the Confederate service for 12 months, and then we will have to go to the north immediately, perhaps to Tennessee. You requested me to tell you what to do with the oats, you must have them sewed [sic] if you can get land enough, if not you must have them put up, and saved until next year, so that if I should want to sew, [sic] I would not have to buy seed. I am very well satisfied with the place if the wheat is sewed. [sic] You never said whether the hogs have been put up or not or anything about the corn, I promised to give Judge Finally, the week I left, for one hog. I would like to know whether he has got it or not and when but as to the fore going things and in fact all others, you must trust to Mr. Hayle. As I know of no news to write I will have to close by asking you to write oftener than once a week, this I think you would certainly do if you know the pleasure that it gave me to hear from you, can you share the time, and will you do it, remains only to be proven. I can but say that you will. Some sickness in the Company, none bad, cold is the principle [sic] disease. Also some home sick, Davis Brown is dangerously so, he has applied for

a discharged [sic] on the different grounds but not granted and I hope that it may never be. Farewell dear wife.

G.W.H.

Vicksburg

November 24th 1861

Dear Wife,

Having the opportunity of sending a letter to you by Mr. Anderson I thought it would be better than paying my 5 cts. [sic] There is considerable excitement in camps this morning. Capt. Nunn, has just returned from Jackson and says that we must arm ourselves and for this purpose Mr. Anderson and three other gentlemen will be sent home this evening.

I wrote to you last Friday and told you all the news it rain very hard that day and turned off very cold and in consequence of the change I taken a severe cold myself and yesterday evening I had a severe chill and was very sick all night and am scarcely able to walk today though if the weather would not change soon I think I would get along very well.

As Mr. Anderson is about ready to go I will have to close. Write often Dear wife and let me have something to cheer us this miserable life, farewell Lis.

G.W.H.

Vicksburg, Miss.

November 28th 1861

Dear Lis,

Yours of the 25th received yesterday and be assured that I was almost overjoyed to see it, but in the [missing text] it gave me great pain, to hear that Lula was unwell, and also to hear that you grieved so much on account of my absence. Lis, you must not take it so much to heart I entreat you to govern yourself both or you may get sick and be unable to give Lula the proper attention, furthermore it gives me great pain, and uneasiness to hear of such things. You also wrote that you had received a letter from me, saying that I said you cared nothing about me, and this you say gave you great grief and you were sorry that I should have such thoughts about you, well Lis I think if you will read the

letter again you will surely take a different view, such an ideas was not intended to be conveyed. However I admit that there is something said, but for me to repeat it now would be impossible as my mind at that time was very much disturbed and I hardly knew what I was writing. I am very sorry to have given you such pain for it must have been a mistake in my writing, if such an idea was conveyed, believe me I never intended any such a thought, and may God impress this on your mind you have ever been to me a kind loving and affectionate wife. I hope when you get this that your mind will be eased more and forever on this subject.

There is some excitement in this Town as well as in our camps. Yesterday a large floating Battery was brought to this place [missing text] from Columbus [missing text]. It was drawn by 4 large steam boats and even at that its progress is very slow. You must know that it is a large one, mounts about 20 or 25 very large cannons. Tuesday last the celebrated Turtle paddled up the river. I had the pleasure of going on [missing text] as for a description of a Terrapin or turtle is the best that I can give, it is covered entirely over with heavy timbers and Iron she has one gun, a 94 pounder and I think the best thing to destroy Yank Vessels that I have ever seen she as well as several other steamers have gone. As Columbus so meet the invading force every man in this town capable of doing military service has been compelled to attach himself to some company and drill every evening at three O.C. at about time all business closed. You said that Pa thought that we would have to go to Columbus K.Y. this is very uncertain we may go in two weeks or we may never go at any rate I think we will stay here two weeks or we may never go at any rate I think we will stay here until January. Let us go where we may I think we have a company that will fear neither [missing text] or Yankees, and at the same time will all governed up prudence and direction God gives that we may. When I wrote last I was very sick, but thank you, I am again in good health, excepting a cold which is getting better every day. If I could only enjoy much I would be doing fine. I have the blues very bad at times. If I could only hear from you oftener I would get on better. Last night I and two other boys of our Company called on two Ladies I did not enjoy myself at all. I could but think of you all the time when in their presence. I will have to close this [missing text] and ask you to forgive any and every mistake that you may find in this arrangement. Farewell Lis, Kiss the sweet child for me again. Your ever affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Vicksburg

Dec. 3rd, 1861

Dear Wife,

Your Letter of the 29th was received Sunday, the perusal of which gave me great satisfaction, also a box of provisions from you, Sister Eugenia, and Lizzie, for which I was much obliged. They came in as good a time as you could have sent them. We (that is the Company) haven't had as much as a half an allowance since in Vicksburg we landed. There is a plenty here, but our Captain suffers his Company composed on by officers who have forced themselves in office in that respect. We draw Flour, Beef, Salt, Sugar and Coffee. Each man gets a pint of flour yesterday, without any shortening. Beef is plenty, because we can only get salt enough for our bread, oftener than three days per week, sugar and coffee we have plenty.

Including Officers we have 67 men. The election come off yesterday, and by a low mean, underhanded halt on the part of the Somerville crowd, the Mashulaville boys were entirely defeated. Frank Prince, Somerville, was elected over Frank Anderson for second Lieutenant, John Levonson, Somerville, Orderly sergeant (no opponent), Steven Richly, Somerville, 2nd sergeant over myself, Horaera Haynes, Somerville, 3rd sergeant no opponent, J. Scarborough, Somerville, 4th over J. Clark, W. Malone, Somerville, 5th no opponent, for this you can see that they have all the officers but one, that one is J.J. Higgins, Simp. Stevenson done all he could to elect the Somerville boys, showing that he thought more of them, than he did of us. I would be glad if he was thrown out of his office, he is no officer and never will be, nor either will Frank Prince. The whole company was mustered into the Confederate service this morning of twelve months, dating back to the time we began to draw rations, which is nearly a month ago. As for the time we may stay here or where we will go when we leave this place, is one thing that I do not profess to know. There is some talk of us going to Jackson, and as it will be left to a vote of the company in a few days. I will write as soon as it is ascertained. I forgot to thank you and Mrs. Fortiner of the bed clothes and handkerchief and other articles you sent me, all of which I greatly needed as last night was a very cold damp night. Accept my thanks and be assured that you will be remembered even in the heat of battle, if it should fall to me to be placed there. Farewell Lis.

G. W. Higgins

December 4th

As I did not get the above ready in time for the mail, I will say to you that by a vote of the company yesterday evening it was decided that we should leave this place as early as possible for Jackson Miss. as soon as we can get transportation. The intention of this is to form a battalion under Major Hardcastle, I have not anticipation of a long journey in

that town, you and all the other sending letters to this company must direct them to Jackson Miss., until further information can be received.

I will write as soon after I get there as I can give you all the information can be obtained.

Give my love to all the family, accept a part for yourself. Tell Dr. Henderson and Sis Lizzie and Eugenia and Pa, that I will write to all of them some of these days. I have been very sick for ten or twelve days, a portion of the time with the Ear Ache the remainder Chills and Colds. I feel better today than I have since Mr. Anderson left to Noxubee. Bro. John had a very severe chill yesterday as well as myself.

Our provisions that you and others sent have scarcely been touched neither of us being able to eat much of them. I feel like giving a few now for the first time since they came. Write soon and give me all the news, farewell Lis.

G. W. H.

P.S. I should like for you to show this to Dr. H. that he may see how Mr. S. Stevenson acted. Bro John says for you to tell Sallie that he sent a letter by Mr. Halk Thomas which she should have received on Saturday last he rather doubts whether she will get it or not.

Camp Anderson, Jackson Miss.

December 10th, 1861

Dear Lis,

When I wrote last, for Vicksburg, I stated that I would write as soon as I landed at Jackson, this I failed to do. The Company left Vicksburg Thursday evening half past two O.C. and arrived here just at dark, having no conveyance for our baggage, and it being 2 miles to the place for us to camp we were compelled to stay with our baggage on the open platform all night, however I did not stay all night myself. I felt very unwell and by permission went to a tavern, there I had a good bed but rested very badly. Friday Morning early I had a severest chill that I ever had in all my life. I was brought to camp on a wagon and scarcely left my tent until Monday evening. The Physician that waited on me was anxious that I should be plastered and sent one about 10 inches square. It is true that my breast was very sore, and pained me very much, but the thoughts of a plaster as large as that one, and cramps at that was too bad, at any rate I did not use it. I do not think that I ever suffered more in one day than I did Friday, or that I ever had a chill to reduce my strength as bad as that one, although I now walk two hundred yds.

without stopping to rest. From this statement you can see the reason that I have not written any sooner and I hope you will excuse me also. I have little or no news to write. I have not even been to town yet, there are only three Companies here, three others are expected this week. But little sickness in camp at present. We expect to draw a pair of blankets and Cloth for a uniform before long if we do we will have too many blankets, provided we have them to pack.

You asked me what you must do about salt. If you, Pa, and Dr. thinks that it would be best to send corn to Mobile, and exchange it for salt it is all right with me. The expense of procuring sacks, freight on the corn to Mobile, and on the Salt back, would be enough adding in the cost of the salt to take about 60 bushels of Corn. Do the best you can is all that I can say, for you must have at least two sacks of Salt.

You also requested me to send you or rather bring you some cabbage seed whether there is any in town or not I do not know. I will ascertain this evening if there is I will send them along with this letter, as it will be impossible for me to come home now or even Christmas. I am sorry to say but it is true that I haven't the least ideas that I can get chance to come to see you under six months. You must not, and I hope you will not expect me sooner, however it may be that I have to go home before I can get well, for I have been sick nearly all the time. I shall not leave until I find that it is impossible for me to gain my health. The boys are as kind and as good to me as they can be, yet there are many things about sickness that they know but little.

I will write again in a few days, you must write often to your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. I forgot to mention that I have received two letters from you one dated 3rd, the other 7th the last one that I wrote to you was dated on the 30th or 4th, I forgot which. Farewell Lis and remember G. W. H.

Jackson, Mississippi
December 13, 1861

Dear Wife,

I received your letter yesterday, and having an opportunity concluded to answer it today. There seems to be nothing new in camp this Morning. Several of the boys are sick, James Adams and George Brown are right bad off, with some like Pneumonia. I have been improving every day since I wrote, until today. I am suffering with a headache,

Bro. John is well at present, but looks rather pail [sic]. You stated that you was almost unable to be up, which I was very sorry to hear. I do hope that you may keep your health, and be able to give your attention to all things that needs it, particular to Lula, take good care of her, and let me see a sweet fat Child when I come home. I sent you five papers of cabbage seed, they were the only kind that could be found in Jackson. I thought that they would do better than none, is the reason that they were sent. It would do me a great deal of good to send you a barrel of Molasses from here, they can be bought at for 26 to 30 CTS., a gal., and the best that I ever saw. If I have luck in getting pay for my services I think I can spare enough money to send. You also state that you had 14 hogs up fattening. I am fearful that you have too many, and not leave any for the next year, let me know how many are left that will do for another year, also tell me whether those that you have up are fattening fast or not, and whether the corn goes fast and who attends to the feeding at all times. You must be sure to have the horses well attended to, when Mr. Hanel is not there. I would like to hear how they look, whether they improve or not. The company have got arms. I have the largest double barrel gun that I ever saw, it weights just 14 lbs. As I have told you everything that I can think of it will be best to close. You must write soon, and try to get Envelope to put your letter in before you send them to the office, as those that you have sent with an env. are broke open before I get them, certainly you can get them in Macon by sending the money and I would much rather you would do it. Try and not get tired of writing so soon, you haven't written me a long letter yet, Tell me how everything is. Farewell Lis.

G. W. Higgins

Camp Anderson
Jackson, Mississippi
December 17th 1861

Dear Wife,

Having an opportunity of sending you a few lines by hand, and thinking that it would reach you sooner than by mail, concluded that I could devote a few moments in writing tonight. We moved our Camp today, from the river swamp, to a high and dry place, thinking that the health of the company might improve as we have had a great deal of sickness in camp since we arrived at Jackson, only 40 able for duty out of 68 men, none have been seriously sick, excepting George Brown and James Adams, James Adams is recovering very fast, but I fear that George Brown will not recover soon, he has been moved to a private house, where he is well cared for. He is a very good boy and one of my [missing text] and I am sorry that my health will not admit of my staying with him, although I improved in strength every day, and would soon be well if I could only get rid

of my cold. I never suffered worse with the headache in my life that I have for ten days, it seems at times that my eyes will pop out. I have not drilled any since I left Vicksburg, and under medical treatment all the time. I think that I will quit the medicine in a few days and see if my health will be better, for you may be assured that I am tired of taking such nasty medicine as the physician gives me, and I am anxious to get well as soon as possible, fear we have received orders to go to Bollingreen [sic] Kentucky next Sunday, but we will not leave until about the middle of next week, as our guns need repairing, and we will have to wait for them, as well as our uniforms which will be sent up there for you and the ladies to make up, as soon as you can and send to us by the men that will be sent for that purpose. I am in hopes that the Ladies about Mashulaville will take an interest in this thing and makes us the Clothes immediately. The remainder of the Battalion will leave Sunday, there are five other Companies here armed, as we are with Shot guns, Rifles, Muskets and almost any kind of gun you can name. Nearly all of our boys wants to go home tomorrow, but they can't make the trip. I might have a chance by applying, but there was so many applicants that I was ashamed to ask, and concluded to wait until some other time, when I would have no business to attend to for it would be no pleasure for me to be here, and have to ride all over the country, as did Mr. Anderson when he was a home. You must not look for me soon for I haven't the least idea when a suitable chance will be afforded. I will continue to write twice a week as I have done since I left, and I hope that you will do the same, and do try and write a little longer letter sometime, and get some Envelopes to put over them. I received one from you to day dated the 14th already broke open as all the others that you have sent without Env. It seems to me that you have a very sorry pen, maybe you better buy some at Mashulaville, or close where, that would write better. Perhaps you have become so sorry as to put up your gold pen and write with a straw or something else. That is very blunt. You must excuse these remarks, and do if you please get an Env. for the next letter that you send by mail, as it is impossible for me to get them for the office myself, at all times. The next letter that you write and send by mail will be directed to Bollingreen [sic] Kentucky perhaps you had better wait until you receive another from me before you direct one there. I will expect one by the bearer of this. I am very well pleased with the sale of corn that was made. Tell Margaret Anderson that Frank [missing text] by mail yesterday and will not write now he is well. Remember your husband in your prayers and may God Bless you Lis as my candle is about out I must close. I bid you farewell, and pray God that it may not be forever. Your ever loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Camp Ross
Jackson, Mississippi
December 22, 1861

Dear Wife,

Again, I have postponed writing at my usual time, in order that I might give you a correct statement relative to our destination, but I know very little more now than I did when I last wrote, we are still at the same place, to expect to leave Wednesday or Thursday next, and perhaps sooner, our order to Bollingreen [sic] has not been countermanded yet and if it is not we will go there. I would direct your next letter in order that it might reach me, but I am not. I expect a letter from you, on the return of Mr. Tinkley, or by mail before I leave this place, after that you had better wait until you hear from me again, which will be just as soon as it can reach you after I have arrived at the place we may be ordered, and get a chance to write, but if you wish to risk my getting a letter at Bollingreen [sic], just direct it there, for it may be possible that we will be there in a few days. As for news I have none. The health of the Company is better than it has been in some time, although there is some rite [sic] sick men yet one or two have gone home to improve their health, two others will probably start tomorrow, David Richard for one if he is able, at present he is very sick. George Brown and Adams are improving, none of the rest of the boys are very sick. I have a cold, and sore throat, and I have fever every other day, which still keeps me unfit for duty. Never the less I expect to try it a while longer before I give it up, although I shudder at the thought less of going to Kentucky in my present condition. I hope the change of climate will be a benefit to my health, but if it should be to the contrary I do not know what I shall do. Troops are passing this place for some point in Kentucky every day. Our Company is in thirty yards up the Rail Road and we can see them passing two or three times a day.

A large number have passed since I began writing. I received a letter a few days ago from you which gave me a great deal of satisfaction. I am in hopes that you will have the best of luck in gardening, if you do, I think that it will keep you from being so lonesome as you say you have been. I hate to hear that the Overseer pays so little attention to my business, perhaps it will be best to say nothing to him about his neglect for a while, fearing that he might do worse. I was glad to hear that you had received the Cabbage seed that I sent you by mail. I found a different kind after the others started and sent them by Finley and a letter, which I hope you have received some time ago. I forgot to tell you how the Uniform Coat was to be cut provided you had to cut it, it is to be like a Coat I had when I mustered in Macon, (Frock Coat). No doubt it is useless for me to tell you anything about it for you will have them completed before this reaches you, you said you had a pair of Socks and a cap for me, the socks I will not need as I have four

good pair, but send me the cap, and receive the thanks of a loving husband. Mr. J. Clark has promised to bear this letter to you, as he is going home tomorrow to attend to the division of the state of his father's income you must send a letter by him when he returns, and it will not do for you to believe half, that he may tell you about my health, or the hardships of the Company for he is rather given to exaggeration, perhaps by not being well acquainted with you he will confine himself more to the truth. I give you this advice to keep you from being troubled by any misstatement that he may give. I must close by asking to be remembered by all the family, as well as your own dear self. Farewell and May God Bless you, take good care of Lula as you do, nothing else every day I want to see her and you all worse. I hope the time will soon come when I can see you.

Good bye Lis,
G. W. H.

Genia, tell Pa, Mrs. Fortiner says please send him some sawbuck and if she ever gets any more she will pay him back, all of you come up and spend the day with me.

Lis

Camp Ross, Jackson Miss.
December 25, 1861

Dear Lis,

I received your letter this morning that you sent by Mr. Finkley, and having another opportunity of sending an answer concluded that it would be best to do it, if only to inform you that we are still at Jackson and expect to remain for some time, and to prove that a Soldier knows nothing but what he can see. The same seven Companies that first formed the Battalion are still here three of the Companies have been expected to leave every day, tomorrow is the day for them to leave, according to the last report. I will believe it when I see them get on the Cars, and no before, it seems to me that it would be foolish to divide a small a Battalion as this sending a portion to Kentucky, and the [missing text] remaining here for no benefit to themselves or to anyone close. You may continue to back your letters to this place, until you receive one stating that we have begun preparations for a departure, which will not be very soon according to my judgment.

Christmas has come once more and a dull one it is, but still I am thankful that God has spared me this long and if I only knew that I would be spared to see thee me out. Oh!

How much better I could enjoy myself now at the thought of being once more a free man. If the Citizens of his place were only Courteous and Friendly I could enjoy myself a great deal better. They seem to look on a soldier as if he was a Slave. In Vicksburg it was quite different, the Ladies visited our camp every day, and prettiest Bocays [sic] you ever saw, was brought and distributed by them; at this place if a soldier meats [sic] a Lady she will turn her head and shun him all she can.

You spoke of someone trying to break in the house on Tuesday night, which I was sorry to hear. I want you the next time it is done to take the gun, and guess as might were [sic] they stand as you can fire rite [sic] through the door at them. The plank is thin and if you do it you can hurt them badly, do not become afraid but shoot rite [sic] at them if you kill anybody it will be all rite [sic]. You very often speak of Os but you never have told me how to direct a letter to him. I hope you will not neglect that any longer. I have wanted to write to him for some time but did not know how to direct the letter. You also spoke something concerning wild hogs, I haven't a doubt, but want the hogs you spoke of was mine. Tell Hansel to get as many as he can of the year old for I know that they are mine, and if Pa and Doc think that the others are mine, and unmarked to get them in also. George Brown and Adams will leave for home tomorrow accompanied by Jr. J.P. Home, which last named will bear this to Mashulaville.

As I have nothing else to write I wish you good luck in all you undertaking and a farewell.

G. W. Higgins

December 31, 1861

Dear Wife,

As today is the last of December, and also the last of the present year, I thought I would devote as much time in write, as the occupation in which I am engaged with admit. From the head of this letter you can see that I am in the Hospital. I am not here as a patient, but to wait on others. Perhaps it will be interesting to you to know the cause that gave rise to this establishment. First, the Ladies of Vicksburg, became somewhat attached to the Companies (when at Vicksburg) that from a part of this Battalion and treated them with all the hospitality that they could bestow on strangers, and they hearing that we were sick and no attention from the Ladies of Jackson being given us, passed a resolution and sent to the Ladies of Jackson to this purpose, that if they did not treat the sick Soldiers better, that they would come up and attend to them themselves. This news so exasperated the Ladies of Jackson a goodly number of the

good Old Matrons went to work and a very short time had a house fixed and the sick moved to it, and also a few of these good old Motherly Creatures to nurse the sick, and I haven't a doubt that what you would be astonished to see how kind they treat the boys. The sick was moved from Camp yesterday, we have 15 of our men in there, almost as much as the three other Companies together. There isn't any of them very bad, the Measles is the disease that the most of them have, James Dorroh and H. Finkley are the only ones that you know. Dorroh is nearly well, Finkley is the worst case in the house, and if taken care of will soon be well. Others are taking the, Measles, every day. I look for Bro John to have them in a few days. As much as two thirds of our Company has never had this disease, and if they all have it, it will be impossible for us to get away for this place soon. I thank God that I have been through with the Measles, if I had to have them now I believe it would kill me, for I am not very stout yet. Mr. Clark arrived last night, bringing me a very interesting letter, and the best Scarf that I have seen. I scarcely know how to thank you for it unless by my actions in future, for I haven't words at present, this is a thing that I have needed more than any other, that I did not bring with me. I would have asked you for it sooner but hated to trouble you, knowing that you did not have the thread. You must not forget to give my thanks to Sis Lizzie for her kindness in furnishing you with thread. You all are so kind to Br. John and myself that it makes me feel very grateful towards you all. Sis Eugenia I know has a hand in fixing up the good things that we get, as well as you, Sally, and Lizzie. I want you to give her my best wishes and thanks for her kindness. I wish you all to be satisfied with thanks until I have a chance to pay you better. If on the field of Battle, should be the place where you expect better pay, I feel that you will not be disappointed, provided that I am spared to get there, and a Yankee Ball does not hurl me into an endless Eternity, before an opportunity is afforded me. Two other Companies have joined this Battalion since I last wrote one of them is commanded by a preacher by the name of Ball, him and his Company are from Pantotoe, a brother to the one shot has preached at some of the Churches in that region. We now have nine Companies in this Battalion, none very full, 80 or 85 is the highest, some others are very small from 55 to 60. Lis, I haven't any more news to write, and will have to close. Clark and you tells me so much about Lula that I am afraid that I will take the Blues if I have to stay off much longer. I have become one of the steadiest men in Camp, in consequence of leaving you all behind, with the probability of never seeing any or all of your anymore. May God preserve our lives, and may we again be permitted to live in peace and happiness in the Prayer of your ever Loving Husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. I thought when I begun that I would write a more lengthy letter but how can anyone write in a room where there is 13 of his fellow men as well as soldiers calling on him for

something every few minutes. It have been over eight hours since I begun writing this letter you can imagine for it how much time I have to write to day. Keep your promise and let me hear from you often. Farewell Lis.

G. W. Higgins

The box of Provisions has not arrived yet but will tonight. I thank you again. Your letters are very short but interesting, make them longer and thereby they will be more interesting.

Company Muster Roll Form for November and December 1861
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

George W Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 3 Batt'n [sic] Mississippi Inf.

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Nov 13 to Dec 31, 1861.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom A B Hardcastle

Period 12 mo.

Last paid:

By whom Never been paid before

To what time [blank], 186[blank].

Present or absent present

Remarks: [blank]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible name]

Copyist.

Middle Yard
Ferreks Cotton Prep.
New Orleans
January 31st 1862

Dear Lis,

You will please excuse me for not writing any sooner, for I assure you that I have been so near worn out, by the trip down here that I have felt but little like writing, or doing anything else. I arrived in Macon on the morning I left you, just in time for the train after having run my horse nearly all the way and you may be assured that I was nearly worn out. The Cars have been detained above Macon and of course was behind the usual time, which gave me time to rest a while before starting. We had a very pleasant trip down to Jackson arrived well, paying four bits a piece for our lodging at the Hotel, leaving Jackson at half past nine in the morning, we had a long and tedious ride to this place, arriving here at 10 o'clock at night, and before I could get through shaking hands and telling all I knew to the many friends that crowded around myself as well as other. I think it must have been Eleven O'clock before I had a chance to lay down, and after one before I could sleep, for our bed is very hard, having no straw or anything to make it soft except our Blankets. The night was extremely warm and in consequence of having to sleep so crowded, the cover was all kicked off, and I woke next morning feeling not much refreshed nor either was it long before I ascertained that I had received a severe cold. The drowsiness and headache that was produced lasted until this morning, and now I can say that I feel very well and hope to be perfectly well before I remain here long, as the weather here is very warm, but I fear too damp, as it seems to rain here every day.

As for news I haven't any worth relating, 4 or 5 boys are sick, James Adams I fear will not recover, he was very sick all the way down, I have neither seen or heard from him since we arrived, he was sent early next morning to the Hospital, and I have had no opportunity of going to see him. I was in town yesterday and priced some goods for you. They are cheaper than I expected, but high at that. All the Calicoes are French and English priced for 25 to 60 cts., [sic] and as pretty as you ever saw, although they are very scarce, or in other words the stock is very small, I hope to be able to send you even more than you asked, for I am determined to collect the wages of Parius if I can which will give me ample means for buying all that You and I both want.

I will now close by asking you to excuse this, the most awful scribbling that I have ever sent you. And still ask to be remembered by you and all the family.

Your affectionate husband
G. W. Higgins

P.S. Tell Dr. H. that I expect to write to him next week.

G. W. Higgins

If Oscar has not left tell him to send me the name of Frank Anderson's Post Office, perhaps Sara or East will do it if he has left.

New Orleans
February 2nd 1862

Dear Wife,

Having nothing to do and a chance of sending you a letter, by Mr. Jarnagin, I concluded to write you a few lines. There isn't any news in camp, a good many rumors without foundation, take the rounds occasionally. The sick are all getting well. My health improves rapidly, I have not done any duty yet and will not for several days. I have been over a good portion of town and priced a great many articles, Calico from 20 to 75 cents per yard. Domestic 15 to 20 per yard and everything else in proportion. I have been trying to collect some money and have succeeded in collecting 12\$ only. We did not draw as much as we expected, therefore the boys cannot or will not pay up. I will go to town tomorrow and buy what goods I can. I did expect to go today, but had to carry my gun to the shop to have it fixed. The walk there and back was about 4 1/2 miles, and in consequence of it am so very nervous that it is almost impossible for me to write a legible hand. I will write again as soon as I get the goods for you, Farewell I remain your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

The Company numbers about 75 now three recruits came down with us, we met around at Shuqualak coming down making with us included 15 in number. David Reed had at last got his discharge and will leave shortly.

G. W. H.

February 5th 1862

Dear Lis,

After waiting for several days for Mr. Jarnagin to leave I find that it is impossible for him or anybody else to get a discharge, and therefore it is uncertain when he will leave and I concluded to open this, and insert a few ideas and then send it by mail. Your bill of Articles has been purchased with the exception of a few articles. The enclosed bill will show you all that I have bought except 1 barrel of sugar and one of Molasses. The Molasses and Sugar cannot be shipped for a while but the dry goods will go immediately. I hope you will be pleased with everything, for I assure you that I did the best and I will fill it as soon as I can. The [missing text] for drawing money will come again in a few weeks, I can then be able to furnish you all the articles that you may wish, I expect to send you a bill of everything that I have purchased for myself as well as that for you.

G. W. H.

New Orleans

February 7th 1862

Dear Wife,

I am somewhat disappointed by not receiving a letter today, and hope that I will get one tomorrow, for I assure you that I am anxious to hear from home. There has been a constant dread on my mind ever since I received your first and only letter. The loss of my horse has caused me a great deal of trouble, and perhaps is the cause of such anxiety on my part. I scarcely know what or how to advise Doc to do, that he may procure a horse to answer in the place of the one that died. I wrote to him yesterday and told him to act as he thought best, and I will be satisfied with a mule or mare horse would do, if he thought it essential to get neither, it would be all right with me, as I told him, you can get a horse from Pa anytime you wish, and if a crop can be made with the two mules, it would be cheaper than buying, although I would rather purchase than loose [sic] a crop. I am perfectly satisfied that Doc will do the best that he can. 180 Yankee prisoners were carried up the road just [missing text] purpose of exchanging for our men that they had in possession. As for news it is very scarce, several cases of mumps are in camp. A goodly number of the boys that have had the measles are like myself, rather too sick and weak for duty, but they like myself are still improving, if we could only have some dry weather I think we would soon all be well. But little drilling is done, the boys have a fine time of doing nothing, and going to town. Old Dr. More had been in the guard house half of his time, since I came here on account of his drinking.

The other boys behave very well. I seldom go except on business. I have purchased one barrel of Molasses of 40 gal. at 17 cts. [sic] it is the best that I could find but not near as good as you hear me speak of when at home also one barrel of Sugar 286 lbs. at 42 cts. [sic] per pound. They will be shipped before long but I do not know when as the government has possession of the Rail Road and is not shipping supplies from this place north for the army and of course would not be troubled with me or anyone else until they get through. The dry goods that I purchased still remain here with something of Lizzie is purchased by Bro. John at the same time and in the same package. When you get it while you have the bill to refer to will know your own yards. I think they are in a separate bundle from Lizzie's things. [end of letter]

New Orleans
February 10, 1862

Dear wife,

I have written so often and so much since we parted that there is but little left for me to write of an interesting character. The weather has been very bad all the time and very cold since Saturday evening, which with the wind makes it very disagreeable, and I feel will be the cause of more sickness in our Camp, as it has been so warm, and turning Cold so suddenly, makes it worse. There is a great of Diarrhea in our Camps, some are very sick, none of our company however. I have had it for two days, but I believe instead of it injuring me, I improved, my health is very good with that exception. I have a slight cough, but not as bad as when I left you. I weigh just 160 lbs. and am very little stronger than I was before going home.

Your goods have not been shipped yet. Mr. Jarnagin and Adams are still trying to get a discharge, and Bro. John and myself thought it best to wait and see whether or not they would accomplish their desire, and if they did, we would get them to carry the goods for us instead of sending by express, as they would cost less and be more apt to reach you, as for the Molasses and Sugar I forget if I told you to let Doc have half of each, and more if he wanted it, for there will be more than you will have any use for. I do not even wish you to weigh or measure, to them, unless by their request, for you know as well as I, how kind he has been to myself and you and now, if I have anything to share he must come in first, nothing would do me more good than to be able to compensate him, for this kindness and trouble.

Mr. Newton Penery is doing better for the effects of his wounds, that the most skillful Physicians, had imagined, the Ball still remains in his shoulder he has never laid down

one moment for it, and is at present playing cards in five feet of me, he cannot as a matter of care, use his left arm, although it never pains him.

Bro. John has received three of four letters from home and one from Hansel stating that he wishes to volunteer if it was our desire or if we were willing and would pay him for what time he had served. This I think is a good excuse for him, I am satisfied that he knows it impossible for us to raise the money, and yet says if we will pay up he will go to the war, now if he really wanted to go, this would be no obstacle. All that I will or can say to you, is that if he goes, I will trust the balance to Doc. I cannot give any advice, if he leaves Doc I know will do something, if he does not empty someone, I do not think that I would loan much, even at that. If there was not much made, who there would be no body to pay and so a small crop and no body pay, is equal to a large one and a big price to pay for an Overseer.

While I have been writing a gentleman from Macon, Noxubee County, Miss., by the name of Harper, has been in our camp and says that he has an appointment as colonel to raise a regiment in the state of Mississippi and hearing that there was 6 Miss. Companies here he had to come to see if they would join the Regiment and go to Meridian immediately as this thing will be left entirely to the Commissioned Officers I cannot tell what action they will take, but think that they will say go. If we are ever thrown back to the other part of our Battalion we would have to go under. That Rascally Duncan this to my opinion will be one thing to induce our officers to go into another Regiment that is if they can do it legally. Capt. Nunn, I know will jump at the chance as it is my opinion as well as a good many others that he is seeking for a higher Office, and I do honestly hope that he may be defeated. If we leave it will be in a day or two and then I will write to you again that you may know how to direct your letter. I have received only one from you yet and am getting very anxious as well as impatient. Lis, do write to me often, nothing gives a soldier more pleasure than to hear from his beloved home, it has a tendency to keep up his spirits. This is the 5th letter that I have written to you, have you received them. Farewell Dearest Lis, your affectionate Husband.

G. W. Higgins

On the Env. you will find the correct way to direct your letters. P.S. If we join the Regiment spoken of we will go to Meridian after leaving here. Enclose please find a Gold Pen purchased for writing.

Feb. 10

The Pen enclosed is not as good as I should like to have sent you but is as good as I could find, you will have to learn how to write with a lighter hand than you have been use to doing as this is a very limber Pen. Mr. Jarnagan and others will leave this evening or tomorrow and I will send the letter and the Goods by them.

I have just returned from town and found the Citizens very much excited in consequence of the defeat that our Army has met with, in North Carolina at the Place called Rone [sic] Oak Island where it is said that we lost near 3000 men. I am in hopes that this is false.

I will ask you again to write to me often.

Farewell Lis.

G. W. H.

Dearest Lis,

Mr. Jarnagin will leave this evening and will bear this letter to you. I am very dull in consequence of not having received a letter from you, I have to content myself by reading a letter that I have received from you which I have almost memorized by reading so often, do you not receive my letters often than I do yours, if you do not I am very sorry.

Lis, I have been in town and purchased your Handkerchief, a good articles is very high and I thought that the ones that I purchased would do as well as any. Mr. Jarnagin will carry them. I also purchased a few Papers that might read all the News. Spool Thread is worth 4\$ per dozen it is too high, and I will not get any. Muslin is very scarce. Frank Anderson has purchased all that could be found in Town, perhaps Margaret will let you have some.

I will also send you a bunch of Env. and a five dollar Confederate bill with the enclosed for any use that you may have for it. You must be very saving of all that you have, for I tell you that everything is very high although if you wish anything else please send me a bill and I will try and fill it as soon as I can get some more money. I have only two dollars left after this letter leaves. May God Bless you farewell Lis, write soon and often to your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

New Orleans
Feb. 13th 1862

Dear Lis,

I am again seated for the purpose of writing you a few lines, although I do not know whether they will be interesting to you or not, as I have written so often and have nothing of an amusing or interesting character to write. I wrote you a letter and sent it by Mr. Adams, (you ought to get it to day), which several other things the letter contained a 5 dollar bill, and a Gold Pen. I hope that you may receive everything in good order and for fear that the Bill of goods, sent a few days ago by mail may not reach you I will send another in this letter, containing a full and correct account of all the money that I have received and all that I have spent and what it was for. My motive in sending you the money was that the temptation here is too great, and I could not keep it without spending it foolishly, and thought that you might need it worse than I, and if you didn't need it, you could keep it for hard times. You can see that I reserved but a small amount for myself, and if I had Tobacco a plenty and a few stamps I would as soon as you had every cent as any other way. Pay day will be here again the first of March and all the money that I do not pay for goods, for you, I will send it home. If we do not leave this place before pay day comes I expect to have about 40 or 50 dollars, and should we have to leave I doubt if we get any pay in 4 or five months. The talk about our leaving has rather died away, although we may have to leave any day. The weather has been clear and cold for several days, which I think has improved the health of our Company very much, and if it would only stay so, all would soon be well. My health has improved very much sufficient for me to do all duties of a Soldier, and by taking good care of myself I hope, soon to be as stout and healthy as ever, and to be able to answer to any call that may be made for me, even if it should be to face our invading Foe. This you know would be a trying point yet, it is my earnest desire, (if it need be, or occasion requires) to face them. We hear almost every day of some fight and of the death of some of our Troops, and it is also rumored in our Camp as well as in town that before long we will have a plenty of fighting to do, how true this is the future alone can tell, my opinion has always been that we, that is our Company, would have no fighting to do, but now my notions is different. It seems that the Federals are determined to whip us and are attacking someplace almost every day and the worst for us, is that they have been successful in several engagements. If you will read the Papers that I sent you, you can gain some knowledge of what has been done.

Lis, I have just a minute ago, received your letter of the 6th. The second I have received since we parted, you cannot imagine how much pleasure it gave me to hear from you once more, although it has been a long time in coming yet I appreciate it as much as if it

had only been written yesterday. I am sorry to hear that my Sow has left, but hope that you will attend to having her hunted as Hansel will not do it, you also informed me that Huckaby would not let you have the shoes without money. I will say to let him keep them and as soon as I can get a chance I will send a pair for her before this reaches you will have found out that I have let all my money out and of course cannot get the articles you sent for, but will as soon as I get the Money, which will be if we remain here the first of March.

Lis, there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among our boys, caused by the Partiality shown by the Captain, he has shown plainly what I have thought him to be (a rascal). He has given Frank Prince the unlimited furlough and assisted him in getting a free transportation, given James Scarborough a furlough of 15 days, and refused Frank Anderson one for that length of time but told him that he could get one for 6 days, and has given Sick Furloughs to several others, refusing Penery and Tom Brown the latter has been sick ever since he came in camp. If this with other things does not prove him to be what I have termed him than it is strange to me. I have given up all hopes of ever seeing you until my time is out, do not think hard of me for making such a ascertainment, he will hardly give me a pass to go to town and a furlough to go home would be harder to get.

I will have to close by asking you to write often, tell me how Lula is, in all of your letters her name was not mentioned in the last one. I now bid you Adieu dear wife, and if I should never return may the blessings of God be with you and Lula. Your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

New Orleans
February 20th 1862

Dear Wife,

I am very sorry to say that your letters come so very seldom, I am afraid that you do not write very often or I surely would get more that I do. Bro. can get one almost any time, he has received two this week one dated the 15th the other the 18th also one at the time that I received the last from you dated the 13th. Do not, I beseech you again to think that once a week is often enough to write, you may think that you haven't any news to write that would be interesting, if this is the case you are surely mistaken, for anything from home will always interest me, and I am always glad to get a letter, and sorry when I expect one, and am disappointed. I wrote you rather a length letter the first

of the week, in which I sent you the Bill of groceries, that I have so often spoke of, also sent you two of yours back to keep for me. Enclosed in another envelope the goods sent you by Mr. Adams, I have never heard whether you have received them or not either have I heard anything from the 5 dollar Bill that I sent at the same time. I am satisfied that they went safe, but still I would like to hear that you had received them and how you like my choices. Lis, I haven't but little or no news to write, the Telegraphic Dispatches are so uncertain of late that no one knows what to believe, news of a great victory or defeat one day and the next, it is contradicted, and I haven't any doubt, but what you can hear such news, sooner than by my writing it. I have seen in the City papers, that this City has been ordered to surrender by the first of March or it would then be attacked. This will I think cause our stay to be prolonged, until the expiration of the time mentioned. But few persons are any ways excited at the threat, all the Soldiers are getting tired of doing nothing and are anxious to get into a fight as soon as possible. It will soon be four months since the most of us left home, and we as yet haven't been of any service to our County, Camp has long since become a very tiresome place to me playing Cards, Fiddling and Dancing haven't been any amusement for me. I have seen and heard so much of it that I am sorry a Violin and a Pack of Cards were ever made, and I am now anxious, if I have to fight, to get through as soon as possible. I do not say I want to fight, it is this, if I have it to do, let me do it, and get through as soon as possible. There was a man here yesterday trying to raise a Regiment for the war, a vote was taken, and of the 4 Companies here not a man voted for it. A good portion of our boys might have been in for it, if our Officers had suited them, one year is long enough for me to serve under Capt. Nunn. He is as practical as ever, and I am glad to know that his own side, are finding him out, they say that he is not the man they thought him to be. Lis, I have seen a great many strange, curious and interesting things since I landed at this place, to undertake a description would be useless. I have seen Oranges, Lemons, Bananas, Plums, Strawberries, Corn, Beans and Eng. Peas, hanging on their respective trees and vines, ready for use. Is this not a desirable place to live, where it seems that summer never ends, and you can always have plenty of Vegetables and Misquotes [sic] in abundance, these little scamps are pleagured [sic] troublesome of a warm night, when summer comes what the people do for them, I cannot tell.

The people here are a very mixed set. Some are almost Black, and you cannot understand a word of their language, others are as good English as any one. You can scarcely get hold of a Paper, but what you can see where someone has been killed, the night before they have more guards and fights than a few. I have seen two or three this week and could have seen a man kill his wife yesterday if I had only moved a few feet from where I stood, he stabbed her 4 or 5 times killing her instantly. This is a bad place for pickpockets and robbers and not healthy to be alone in the dark streets after night.

The health of our Company is better than it has been of a long time. Bro. J is nearly well, will be back to camp in a few days. I met with an accident a few days since, as I was walking to the Post Office I stepped on a piece of timber which turned and threw me, almost breaking my leg. I have scarcely been able to walk until today, it is very sore now, but does not hurt so bad as at first. Dear Lis, I have been writing for some time about almost nothing, first because I like to do it, and secondly I had nothing else to do, and have concluded to wind up for this time, fearing that your patience might be worried where you undertake to read it. I will conclude by asking to be remembered by you all, and by asking you to write often to your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. Has Lula got any prettier than she was when I left, kiss her for me.

New Orleans
February 23rd 1862

Dear Wife,

I again seat myself for the purpose of writing you a few lines, if I could only get one of the letters that I think you have written, I surely could write a more interesting one than this may be for it seem that all since the 13th have gone another way, and keeps me always looking just to be disappointed, I did not think that the week could pass without my receiving a letter, but alas, it is too true and now I am trying to write you an interesting letter, after having written three since the reception of your last, if this undertaking be fulfilled, or accomplished, there will surely be a change in my Cranium, for you may be assured that it is well nigh drained of all interesting things. I have never give you any history of our actions and duties in camp, and do not know that you will be interested when I do, but to fill a blank space, here goes. Our duties from the time that the Company first arrived here, until the past two weeks were very light, particular in drilling but the Guard Duty was severe as a great many of the boys had money and it taken more guards than was necessary to keep some of the low lifed [sic] men in camp and in this way punishing men that was supposed to do right, for the misdemeanor of others, their funds are out, and the Guard dismissed for 36 to 6 men, the boys are all getting well and as only 2 or the six goes from our Company it takes a long time to get around, but I tell you we drill very hard lately, particularly so since the arrival of the Capt.'s Wife (Mrs. Nunn) who arrived near two weeks ago. The Capt. has an idea of showing off before his Rib, he will get the boys out and drill for three hours at a time, never thinking how bad some may feel, and almost half the time in double quick. I am confident that my bad feelings for the past week was brought on by one of those long

heats, as many others complained the day was very cold and windy and it seemed that all the clothes that we could put would not keep us warm, we went out wrapped up in our Over Coats, and long before the drill ended we were wet with perspiration, as soon as it was ended, you might see 8 to 10 around every fire, but it seemed to me that there was no use trying to warm my body soon become chilled, the consequence is a severe cold. I am by no means the only one that has suffered by this particular drill, since the first time the boys was prepared their selves by leaving some of their clothes at the Tents. Morning drill from 8 to 11 O.C., evening drill from 3 1/2 to 5 O.C., leaving four hours in the middle of the day that we have nothing to do but go to town if we choose, and as Grimp is the only officer that is here during that time of day, it is an easy matter to get out, you may think that a set of men as sorry even as those with whom I have been thrown, would be always drunk, but you would be mistaken, about 4 of our Company are all that I have ever seen drunk, yet they can get the Whiskey any time, but still it is never brought into Camp, by the bill that I have sent you, it seems that I was drinking smartly, myself.

I acknowledge that I did drink more than I ought to have done for when I drank, it was when I treated one or more and the money was all thrown away, as I never have yet, derived any benefit by drinking, and if I can keep always in the notion that I am in at present I will spend my change for something better. There are some boys that spend all they have and can borrow, and get nothing but whiskey for it at 10 cts. [sic] per drink it does not take many to make a dollar. At any time of the day you can find from one to half dozen groups of boys playing cards, some betting, while others play for pastime. I haven't taken a game since I left you. As soon as night comes the Violin begins and as regular dance commence which is generally kept up until 10 O.C. The Gamblers stay up nearly all night. As I have stated in a letter previous to this, there is but little amusement in camp for me. I pay my time in reading, sleeping, and thinking of you with the last I am occupied nearly all the time, writing is the best amusement for me, and I would be glad to write often if I only had anything to write. February 24th, Lis, I was compelled to cut my writing a very short last night, on account of having to stand guard, which is the second time that I have been on duty since I came here. I was on course up nearly all night, and as soon as I could beg off I went to bed, and never got up until 12 O.C. today. I slept but little and feel rather dull and bad at present. I am sorry that I did not get this letter ready for the mail today, but as it cannot be helped I will write more than I intended, when I began. You will get it on Friday, of you ought to as any rate, if I had got it ready for the mail today you would have got it on Wednesday. [end of letter]

February 24, 1862

Dear Lis,

As you may see I have started on the second sheet, and for what purpose I hardly know. It is wrong for me to be wasting paper, when it is as scarce as it is here in Camp, but as Pay day is near at hand we can get paper, if we have to do without until that time, it will not be long. So here goes something else, no better than the balance. Nothing of an interesting or exciting character has been heard from our Northern Forces, since the surrender of 15000 men at Fort Donelson, and the evacuation of Nashville. This however is enough for a while as it has not been embolden [sic] the enemy but has given them a very strong hold in Tennessee, and a key to other very important points, which I fear will be given up without resisting as Nashville was done. This way of doing business is to my opinion a very sorry one, but our Commanders should know best what to do. I haven't heard anything more about the mediated attack on New Orleans it is as I thought, a false rumor. Nor either have I heard about our leaving here, although we may leave at any time. It would be best for all of us to remain here for a while longer. Lincoln's incendiaries are at work right among us, as everything goes to prove, a few have been taken up since we came here. There was orders yesterday for us to go north, to rejoin our Battalion, it will be some time before we get off, as the most of our guns are at the shop, and not a lick has been struck on them as yet. If we are ushered into a battle with the arms that we have, I think that I had just as well bid you a final adieu. There isn't half the guns of the Battalion that will kill a man fifty yds. and having no Bayonets what are we to depend on. The camp is very lively this morning all anxious to leave New Orleans. But little sickness now in our ranks. Adieu Dear Wife, I still remain your loving husband.

GWH

Direct to G. W. Higgins New Orleans La.
Care Capt. Nunn Company C
3rd Battalion Mississippi Infantry

Enclosed please find Bill of Sugar. I will have to close for want of something to write. Lis, I have a very hard time waiting for your letters. I will try to quite [sic] looking as it does no good, and only tends to keep me uneasy. Lis, I must tell you to write whether I ever get it or not, I do hope that I will get one in a few days. Dr. John is getting weak, will be in Camp a day or two. Give my love to all and yourself, and may God protect you from all harm is the sincerest wish of your loving husband, farewell Lis, Your kind and affectionate feeling husband.

G. W. Higgins

February 25th 1862

Lis, before fastening this letter I thought that I would give you a short description of a fire that occurred near our camp yesterday. It began about two O.C. and continued to burn till night, destroying several Dwellings and Stores, it was eventually stopped by almost super human exertion, the loss is very considerable. A child was burnt to death in one of the dwellings, but little of anything was saved. It was supposed to be set on Fire by someone, but it is not known yet, to be true, there is fire in some part of this town every day.

New Orleans
Feb. 28, 1862

Dear Lis,

Having an opportunity of writing, and it being my regular time, I thought it would be better to write now, than to wait for any better time, for I am fearful that a better time will be a good while coming judging the future by the past. There is but little news for me to write. The boys are all in good spirits expecting their pay in a day or two, how much we will be paid I cannot tell, there is about 45 dollars due the privates, though we may not get half that amount. The four Companies here will leave in the course of 8 or 10 days. We are only waiting for our guns to be repaired before going north. I will be glad to leave this place, but will have to go to Tenn., or K.Y. for I know the change of climates, waters and weather, will be more than half us can stand, and will in all probability, but the death of many of us. Many of the boys are in very delicate health and such a change as we will have to undergo, will without a doubt, terminate fatal and some of us, a fatal accident occurred yesterday morning about 10 miles above here, by the collision of the Cars, the Passenger Train going up and the Freight coming down, ran together, killing a good many Soldiers, that were on the passenger train going to some point in Tennessee. The 7th Miss. Regiment was the Troops alluded to, there is several rumors as to the number that was killed, near 50 is the most believed, but no one can tell. I have seen a man who passed the place yesterday, he says that there may be found almost any part of a man laying on the ground, the place resembling a Butcher Pen more than anything he could name.

The Conductor of the Freight, made his escape and has not been heard of since, it is his management that caused the accident. Lis, the time seems very long since I heard from you, your last letter was dated the 13th. This I think is the fifth that I have written since I received yours, if I could get any news from Home, I think the time would pass off better. You will find enclosed a few stamps which may be better than the money. It

seems very strange, that everyone else, can get a letter mailed Mashulaville, but me. If you write them who do you send them to the office by, perhaps they never get there. Alas! How much better I feel, after just reading your very interesting letter handed to me by Clark who has just returned from the Office. I have found the reason that your letters come so seldom, it is because you do not write often, from the 13th to the 25th is too long for you to wait, you must write oftener, who not write twice a week as you ought to do.

Hansel has not hurt my feelings by quitting. You spoke of buying me a suit of clothing this you must not do, clothes is cheaper here than it is up there, save your money for hard times. In fact I have more clothes now than I can carry, and if you don't write often I do not care much if I have nothing but a shirt.

You spoke of having fear of never seeing me anymore, this alone future can tell. I have feeling that we will meet again in this troublesome world and if we do not I am certainly in hopes that our actions will be such as to guarantee a meeting in the better place God grants that is may. Lis let me beg you to write oftener, God alone knows what suffering I have had to undergo in waiting for a letter. I have almost given over the hope of ever hearing from the Ones that my life would be give to save at any time, this I speak of are you and Lula. And why is it that you will write no oftener, I must close by telling you not to be discouraged, but brave up against all difficulties, and we may again meet to live in peace at our home. Pray for this as I have, and expect to do, and sure our righteous maker will hear and answer our humble petitions.

Write soon to your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

New Orleans
March 1st 1862

Dear Lis,

I have sent you a paper, containing an account of the Battle of Fort Donnelion [sic], and also several other very interesting articles, which if you will read, carefully, you will gain a good idea, of several subjects that I have spoken of, previously. Our chance for getting part is rather bad. We will not leave for several days to come.

I do not want you to buy any cloth for me, I can get pants, ready made, for two dollars, a pair, as good as I want. If we get no money, the clothes that I have will do me as well as any.

I am in better health than I have been for a good many weeks.

I remain Your loving husband till death.

G. W. H.

New Orleans

March 2nd 1862

Dear Wife,

As Mr. Anderson will leave this evening or tomorrow for home I concluded to send you a few lines by him. Camp is a very lively place today. The sick are all improving and the boys generally, are anxious to leave the City, not however until they draw their money, the chance for seeing their pay has become rather doubtful. I have but little doubt that we will leave here before we get it, and if we there is no telling when we will be paid. I have set my calculations to purchase some summer goods for myself, before leaving here, but if we fail to get the money, I will be compelled to give it up, and be contended [sic] with what I have, as I have told you previous to this to keep your money. I am still in hopes that you will not purchase anything for me. My Clothes are all good, and anymore that I have will be in my way. It is believed now that we will leave this place in a few days, also leaving the three other Companies that are with us. Our Capt. has become very anxious to get to face the Yankees, and when talking to the Company about it become excited that he cannot give a correct command. I am very much afraid he will not do to lead men against the foe, his bravery is superficial but he cannot control himself. Lis, I am a long ways from you now but will after leaving here (according to Nunn's statement) pass through Macon to stop but a very few minutes. It will be very hard to pass so near home and not be allowed to stop, but such will be the case, if we go up the road the other Companies say that they are a going to go by home. Capt. Nunn is opposed to all such and will do all he can to prevent such a thing. There is no news of any importance more than you will find in the Paper that I sent you a few days ago. As I am writing with a borrowed Pen and will have to give it to the owner who is now waiting, I am of course compelled to close this hasty letter. Lis, You must write often, at least twice a week. You have no idea how much good it does me to hear from home. Tell Will to take good care of everything particular the hogs and if I leave to get home he will be compensated. Adieu dear Lis, I will ever remain your loving and well wishing husband.

G.W.H.

New Orleans
March 6, 1862

Dear Lis,

I received your letter of the 27th, on Monday last, the perusal of which gave me a great deal of pleasure, as well as satisfaction, on several subjects that you had not mentioned before. I am daily expecting another, before I leave but, as it takes a letter so long to come from that place here, it is doubtful whether I get one or not, as we will be certain to leave here for Decatur Ala., in three or four days, instead of going to Corinth as we first expected. The three other Companies of our Battalion are at Decatur waiting for us to join them, as we have learned by Lieut. Col. McNair, who arrived here Tuesday evening, for the purpose of hurrying us to that place. The chance for us to get our pay, has become so slim, that the boys have given up all hopes and the most of them, as well as myself, will have to leave here, and not a red in their pockets. The chance for getting pay at Decatur is worse than it is here. In consequence of these facts, together with the fact, that our Capt. has said that when we passed by Macon, that he would let none of us stop, has thrown a dampness over all of us, and a gloomier, and a more dissatisfied, set of men, were never to gather, that I have seen. The death of President Davis would not produce such an effect, upon our Company as now prevails. The Capt. is abused by almost every one, but it does no good, he seems to be glad, that an opportunity has been afforded for him to make a display of the power that he has over us. Besides these things that I have mentioned, there is but little news of any importance stirring, either, in camp or in town, but what you will hear before this reaches you, however I will tell you that Columbus Ky. is deserted and has fallen into the hands of the Enemy. According to Telegraph Accounts, it was a military necessity. A good many Soldiers have left this place lately, and there is still many more to go, and also a great many that never will usefull they are drafted.

Frank Anderson asked me to write to him before we left, and tell him what day we would pass Macon, this I cannot do, for I do not know the day that we will leave, it may be on Sunday or not until Tuesday, before long at any rate. Simp Stevenson will go home tomorrow, to inform the boys where and when to meet us, and as this supersedes the necessity of my writing, I will say no more about it at present I will get Simp to take this to Mashulaville for me, as it will perhaps reach you sooner. I cannot advise you to write to this place anymore, send your next by Frank, and then wait until you hear from me again, which will not be long, for I will leave a letter at Macon, provided we go that way.
[end of letter]

Meridian, Miss.
March 10th 1862

Dear Wife,

You will see by the head of this letter that I have arrived at Meridian. We, that is our Battalion, receiving marching orders, sometime ago, and on Friday, we had our Provision to cook for four days, such a time of cooking I never saw, (you just ought to have seen me making Biscuits), and worse than all we are out now, and it will be two or three days before we get to our journeys [sic] end. We could by tomorrow morning have been at our destination, if Capt. Nunn had let us go up the other road, with the other Companies, but for him to be with his wife, we must suffer. As he has always pretended to be so anxious, and in such a hurry to meet the Yankees and does not intend to let any of stop at home. I cannot give any other reason for our being at this place, than the one already mentioned. Well, on Saturday morning, our Tents, provisions and bedding was all packed, ready for transporting them to the Depot, about 2 O.C. P.M. everything was on the Cars, but in consequence of about 500 Soldiers from the City, going on the same train it was nearly dark before we got off. Such a crowd of Ladies and men, I have never seen before, as they gathered around and about the cars previous it its departure. Nothing particular occurred on our trip to Jackson, as night was soon on us, the boys nearly all felt sleepy and tired, except a few who were tight as drunk and they were pretty noisy for some time. We arrive at Jackson about 9 O.C. the next morning, sleepy enough, where we had to wait for a train until this morning, during our stay there it became our painful duty to bury W. Hightower, he had drank too much the evening before, perhaps poisoned whiskey at that, he did not appear sick when we got to Jackson, but in a few hours he was a corpse, and the blackest one you ever saw, after the burial service, we returned to an old vacant house, where we past [sic] the night very comfortably, about 5 O.C. this morning during the heaviest kind of a rain, we were up and off to the Cars, and just about day we left Jackson, for this place, where we arrived at 1/2 past 12, all in good spirits. We have to leave 6 of our boys at New Orleans and 7 at Jackson on account of bad health and as there is 8 at home we at present have but a small company. The 8 recruits that come with Prince helps us out some. I have looked around here and found our Molasses, there is so much here that it is uncertain when they will be shipped. I will look for the sugar before I leave as it is doubtful whether we get off today or not, as there is some troops to come from below. I cannot tell you for certain, how long we will stay at Corinth, but we will stay a few days anyhow, and then to Decatur, to join our Battalion. As I expect to leave this at Macon, I will not close it yet. You must write soon to your husband at Decatur, Ala. [end of letter]

Meridian

March 11th 1862

Lis, Today still finds our Company at this place, without any knowledge of the time when we will leave, it may be today or it may not be in two weeks there is so many troops and munitions of war below to go up that it is impossible for us to get room on the Cars. Col. Fann's Regiment from Pensacola passed this morning, I saw a good many of my acquaintances on board, among them was Capt. Featherson, he told me that there was a great many behind to go up. I have been informed that our Sugar had not arrived yet, and uncertain when it will. As it is doubtful when I will leave here I have concluded to send this by mail this evening hoping that you may get it soon and have a long letter read to send by Frank, as I have not received one in a good while (the 27th of Feb. was the last). If we remain long at this I will write again I will write soon anyhow, and so should you. Farewell Dearest Lis, and remember your ever loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. From every appearance it appears to me that an awful Battle will soon be between the two Armies. All the Rail Roads are crowded with soldiers. The Lincoln Army is pressing towards us. The troops are leaving Mobile, Pensacola and other points, for the Militia to defend while they are being transported for the purpose of driving back the enemy. And very soon we will hear of the largest Battle ever fought. Farewell again, Lis.

G.W.H.

Corinth, Miss.

March 13th 1862

Dear Lis,

Thinking that you would like to hear from me often I have concluded to write a few lines, this evening, send by Mr. Lafayette Anderson, to Mashulaville. There is scarcely any news worth your attention and if there was I would not know whether to believe it or not, as everything is so exaggerated before I ever hear it. We are very loosely confined not being allowed to leave Camp at any time this would suite [sic] me very well if I could get Tobacco. We have moved our Camp twice since I last wrote to you, at present we are with the Battalion, and a large number of other troops, about two miles and a half east from town, on the south side of the Memphis and Charlestown Rail Road. There is no hopes of our ever having a battle at this place. The Yankees have become frightened and gone back, too many troops for them, they still remain on the Tennessee River

about 20 miles distance, in their Gun Boats. Everything seems to be quieting down, to what it was a few days ago, but still there is some excitement. Troops continue to arrive every day and now there must be upwards to 30 thousand near Corinth. I have no way of finding it, and of course this is guess work with me. Every Hill is covered with tents, as far as I have seen. Lis, nearly one month has passed since I have heard from you, still I do not censure you as you could not tell where to direct a letter, but I have become very anxious and will ask you to write to me as soon as you get this, and give me a full history of everything that has occurred since the 27th Feb. and how you have spent the time, also how everything is getting on and in fact a general history of everything or anything. My health is good, better than it has been for some time. Bro. John is sick but not seriously. The Company has but little sickness. The sudden changes of the weather I fear will cause sickness. It snowed some this morning and yesterday was a very disagreeable day.

I will have to close as the gentleman will leave in a few minutes. You must excuse this hurried letter and look for better in future. Believe me to be your ever loving and well wishing husband.

G.W. Higgins

P.S. Tell Frank where our camp is and tell him that he must excuse me for not writing to him according to promise, as I have had but little time, to do anything else but stand guard and move tents. These with the uncertainty of sending a letter I think is sufficient excuses. Bro. John has requested you tell Sally to send him some Hams, if she has any opportunity, he does not say how many. He will not write this evening as he feels so unwell.

G.W.H.

Corinth, Miss.

March 19th, 1862

Dear Lis,

We arrived at this place one week ago today and have been expecting to leave almost every day. The Cars have all been stopped here for the transportation of Soldiers to any point where the Yankees may attack us. And of course the mail has been stopped too. This is the only excuse I have for not writing any sooner after my arrival it is now very uncertain when this will reach you. There hasn't been more than one or two chances to send you a letter, since I came to this place this I know nothing of until it was too late.

How long affairs will remain in the present condition I am unable to say. Everything goes to prove that a great Battle is expected and that very soon, Soldier almost by the thousands are landing daily, at the same time, almost as many are leaving for some point nearer the enemy. It seems that the intention of the commanders is to concentrate a large force here, and near this place, to be ready, in case we are attacked. There is now at this place between 15 and 20 thousand soldiers, concentrated for immediate action, also 6 or 8 Batteries of Artillery and several Regiments of Cavalry. Major Hardcastle with the other portion of the Battalion, has just arrived and I will be glad how soon as we get back under his command. The time for hardships has come. Our guard duty is very heavy, so many being sick and absent, it fall very heavy on the few who are able. There is some thirty odd absent, and 8 or 10 that is present but are sick leaving only about 35 for duty. I have been on duty only three times, this past week, and will have to go on this evening or tomorrow again. As yet, I have stood it very well, excepting a slight attack of the Rheumatism, which I have gotten over. The Enemy is only 18 or 20 miles from Corinth, but as yet they have not landed. There is a considerable army of them on the Tennessee River and they have it on their Banner To Corinth or To Hell, and in my opinion many of them will get to the latter named place if they undertake to reach the former. I would not be surprised to receive marching orders at any time, everything is in perfect confusion and more rumors. I never heard more than I hear at this place, and more Soldiers I have never seen more than there is here. Our Camp is about 1 1/2 miles from town and over 1/4 from any other Camp and South east course from the Depot. I intend this information for Mr. Anderson as it would puzzle him to find us. I am very anxious to see him and hope that he will get here before this reaches you. I haven't any doubt but what we will all soon be in a battle the plans must I think be all laid and just as soon as the troops are landed there are scattered in different places it will begin. In these opposition I may be mistaken. Tell Pa to plant my crop just as he pleases so as he plants some cotton.

I haven't heard a letter from you in a long time, 27th Feb. was the last, I await the arrival of Frank, to get two or three.

Everything is confusion and excitement. No news more than I have stated. I will close by asking you to write soon, and begging to be remembered by you all. Lis you will ever remember, that I am your loving husband until death, Farewell.

G. W. Higgins

Kiss Lula for me.

P.S. There is a small probability of our getting better guns before going into the service.

Corinth, Miss.
April 9th 1862

Dear Wife,

One week has passed since I last wrote to you, and I know that you will excuse me, when I have given you a short history of the past week. In my last letter I stated that we expected to begin our march towards the Enemy about midnight, owing to some cause we did not get off until about 2 P.M. the following day and marched until after midnight, there was but few of us but what was well worn out, and having no tents and many of us with only one Blanket we had but a poor nights [sic] rest on the cold wet ground, to add worse to bad, about day it commenced raining and rained just enough to get our Blankets, ourselves and the road good wet, about 9 O.C.A.M. we began our march in very quick time, the Road was very muddy and slick, our baggage [missing text] and heavy, that it looked almost impossible for us to travel at all. We arrived near the enemy after dinner and after eating what little wet provisions that we had we laid down to rest but soon had to shelter ourselves the best we could, for one of the hardest rains that ever fell, scarcely had the rain ceased when we were aroused by the report of the guns, of the enemy, and our advance guards. In a very short time we were thrown out in line of battle, expecting to be engaged with the enemy every moment they advanced towards us, but was met by a heavy fire of Artillery and infantry, which had been placed back, after remaining for some time in our first position, we redirected a few hundred yards back to the top of the hill and very soon began to make fires and fix for cooking, and darkness was then upon us. Our Cooking was very difficult we had nothing to cook in but tin plates, thus you may know that it was badly dun [sic], about ten o'clock we spread our blankets on the ground and lay down to sleep not knowing at what moment we would have to get up, we lay until about two o'clock, when it began to rain very hard and continued to rain the balance of the night, during the rain, the men sat by fires, and on logs, just as sound asleep, as if nothing was wrong. I threw both my blankets over me and taking a seat on a log, slept very well, dawn soon came and hasty breakfast prepared, we struck out the Enemy in double quick time, after marching for a few minutes the Boys began to throw away their baggage, it being so wet and heavy it was impossible for them to carry it. We were marched in double quick, the better part of 5 miles, up and down the steepest kind of hills to the line of Battle, neither did it stop then fearing that the enemy would out flank and we were moved in double quick backwards and forwards, or right and left, for several hours, halting but seldom, and but a short time at that, by this time nearly all the Boys, had thrown away everything but their guns and ammunition. I still held to mine. The woods everywhere has an innumerable number of Blankets, Knapsacks, and Coats, thrown over them. We were finally halted in

line of Battle, and after waiting for the advance of the enemy for an hour or two, and finding that they would not attack us, we began preparations for cooking our Supper. We had scarcely got the fires ready when an order came for the 3rd Miss. Battalion to go out as Pickets, thus, you see, that we had to do without anything to eat, for the night. Our Battalion was divided into three parts, the first in front, the second in rear 50 yards, the third still in the rear of the second about 150 yards, and over 1/4 mile in front of the main army, the night was very cold, and we suffered severely with cold, hunger and the want of rest. All this was forgotten, and we felt as fresh as we ever did, about day on Sunday Morning, when we were aroused by the firing of our advance pickets the enemy having advanced on them. They retreated back to our second line, and waited for the advance of the Enemy. They waited but a short time while they still advanced, the first and second line of Pickets being together fired and then fell to the third line, all being together we were soon in line of Battle, and in a few minutes the fire became very heavy on both sides, the Balls past [sic] close, and thick around our little Battalion, and thus it continued for one hour and a half. The 3rd Batt. against 2000 men. Finding that if we tried longer to hold our position it would endanger the lives of all our Battalion, we fell back to the line of Battle, and taken our position in it. We had one man killed and 18 wounded in this first engagement, about 5 of our Company was wounded at that time. I was unhurt. We killed of the enemy in this first engagement 1 Colonel, 1 Liet. [sic] Colonel and one Major also 12 privates, in this little fight they had a great advantage over us the light shone from the sun right on us, they taken trees and logs. No shelter, their selves, when we were in an open place, their number being 2000 and our 200. The ball being opened by the 3rd Battalion and we having taken our Position on the line, our whole army began to advance and after advancing about 2 miles with a steady and firm front, the enemy began to fire upon us, and a general engagement along the whole line took place, we still pressed on, the Enemy falling back and firing as they went, about the second round they fired on us. I was wounded in the calf of my right leg. I went on for a few hundred yards, but find that it was impossible for me to keep up I was compelled to draw out. I turned very sick and lay there exposed to the shots of the enemy, for some time at last gaining sufficient strength I made my way back to a creek and got some water, after which I felt a great deal better, a wagon for the purpose of hauling the wounded soon came, and taken me to the hospital about six miles back, my wound was dressed and I felt first rate. The Ball merely glance my leg cutting out a piece or a hole large enough to lay your finger in, and about as long. The fight continued all day, the Enemy was routed, 6000 Prisoners captured, the balance fled to their Gun Boats pursued by our Calvary. Our Army lay that night between the Enemy and their Camps, having captured all their Wagons and Cannons but a few, the next morning the firing began very early and continued all day. Our Army was so neigh [sic] worn out and they having received a large embankment that we fell back, burning their Camps and everything that we could not move. Our Army still held the field and stayed there all

night, they sent a flag of Truce on Tuesday morning to bury their dead. How many was killed or wounded on either side I have no idea but this is the greatest battle that was ever fought, and there are many dead on both sides, more of them than ours, supposed to be 3 to one, besides this we have in all about 8 thousand Prisoners. We have gained a great Victory. I cannot tell you any more now for I was unable to go through with the boys. I left the hospital Monday evening for the Camp and arrived here wet tired and sick after midnight. I did intend to write to you yesterday, but was sick and felt so bad that I concluded to wait until today, that I might hear what had become of all the boys. All of them is accounted for but James Dorroh. It is believed that James Dorroh is taken prisoner. Only one man of our Company was Killed, (Mayo). Two are dangerously wounded, (Halk Finkley and James Scarborough) they will both die, unless they have good attention, fourteen others are wounded.

T. Anderson – slight wound on the forehead
G.H. Brown – slight wound on the left arm
G.H. Roders – slight wound on the left shoulder
James Gray – slight wound on the left shoulder
George Haynes – slight wound on the left ankle
Henry Goodman – slight wound on the left arm
C.R. Penery – slight wound on the left arm
William Hurt – left arm broke
John Calhoun – left arm broke
John Finkley – slight wound in the breast
James Dorroh – slight wound in the hand
Horatio Haynes – slight wound in the Forehead

Since James Dorroh was wounded he has not been heard of. Mr. F. Anderson arrived yesterday bringing me a letter from you be assured that I was glad to get the Tobacco. I have now given you a short description of my trials and troubles since last Wednesday. I do hope that you will not think hard of me for not writing sooner and also hope that this may reach you soon to relieve your anxiety, as you have no doubt heard long before this time that we had been fighting.

I must now close by asking to be remembered by all my relatives and friends as well as by my wife.

Your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

I will answer your questions in my next as I feel so bad today. G.W.H.

Pictures and their Captions

George Washington Higgins was a member of the 45th Regiment and the Woods [sic] Brigade the following pictures depict the battleground where George Washington Higgins actually fought.

[image-Wood's 3rd Brigade marker]

[image-place where troops bivouacked]]

[caption under images] Woods (3d) Brigade

3rd Mississippi Battalion, (Pickets)

27th TENN, 16th ALA, 44th TENN, 9th ARK, BATT'N, 8th ARK, 55th TENN,

Harper's Mississippi Battery

Hardee's Corps

Army of Mississippi

This Brigade with its Regiments in order from left to right as above, and its Battery in rear, bivouacked at this place Saturday night April 5th, 1862. It advanced Sunday morning at 6:30 and became engaged at Rhea Field.

[image-3rd Mississippi Infantry Battalion marker]

[image-picture of field that they were on picket]

[caption under images] 3rd Mississippi Infantry Battalion

Wood's (3rd) Brigade, Hardee's Corps

Army of the Mississippi

This Battalion on picket at this place was attacked [sic] at 4:55 AM April 6, 1862 by reconnoitry [sic] party, set out by General Prentiss. It held its ground until relieved by Brigade about 6 AM.

[image- Hardee's Corps, Army of the Mississippi marker]

[image-wooded area]

[caption under images] Wood's (3rd) Brigade

9th ARK, 8th ARK, 27th TENN, 15th ALA, 44th TENN, 55th TENN, 3rd MISS

Hardee's Corps

Army of the Mississippi

This Brigade made a left wheel and adjusted its line from its Regiments in order from left to right as above, and attacked Raith's Brigade on left flank at 10 AM April 5th, 1862

It is believed by reading the letters that George Washington Higgins was wounded near this position, because of his reference of his leg wound and falling back to get a drink from a creek. There is a creek near this signage.

[image- Hardee's Corps, Army of the Mississippi marker]

[image-wooded area]

[caption under the images] Wood's (3rd) Brigade
9th and 8th ARK, 27th TENN, 16th ALA, 44th and 55th TENN, 3rd MISS
Hardee's Corps
Army of the Mississippi

From this position, Wood's Brigade with its Regiments in order from left to right as above, charged and captured Burrow's Battery of six guns at 11 AM April 6, 1862. The center of the Brigade 16th ALA and 27th TENN came directly upon the Battery.

Third Division, First Brigade

Corinth Mss.

April 10th, 1862

Dear Lis,

Having but little news you must excuse a short letter. The cost of my time is occupied in drilling therefore I have no chance to leave the Camp (even if it was allowed) to obtain any thing that would be news to you. I haven't seen a News Paper since I left New Orleans, and of course I have a bad chance to learn anything more than Camp news and this, even has become scarce. We are the same Camp from which I last wrote, and no prospects of an immediate departure. The Enemy are no nearer, and have perhaps given up the idea of attacking this place, yet there is some occasional brushes between the Picket Guards. I have never learned the particulars of any of them, Generals Johnson, Bragg and Beauregard are all here, which one we are under at present, I do not know. The Brigade to which our Battalion belongs in command by Gen. Wood, a very strict Commander. There is a great many sick soldiers at Corinth, and a great many deaths every day. I fear that Martin Rodgers will not recover, he being the worst off of any our men, about 20 unable for duty. The sickness will increase as the weather gets warmer, from the fact that we are too much crowded. Each and every mess has had to take ten men in a tent, to get rid of so much baggage, as Wagons are scarce. We have taken in our, three more than we had, [missing text] McNair, Bethany and Elliot, all very clever men. The money matter has been stirred up again and it is thought that we will get it shortly. I will hardly know what to do with it. I have plenty of clothing and if I hadn't it would be all the same for there is nothing here to buy and I don't think

that there will be any chance to send it to you. It will be time enough to think of this when I get it. We have plenty to eat, of everything that is commonly given to Soldiers and Paris has learned to cook very well, which helps out very much. I would not be without him for half his wages. In the last letter I spoke of the Clothing that we had boxed up to send home. I afterwards open the Box and put in my Over Coat and 2 Caps and Scarf. The Box is still here, I will write to you as soon as it is shipped, it cannot be done yet. You ought to have seen me darning my socks the other day. I have two pair that I have never worn the other two pair had a few small holes in them, but all rite [sic] now. Unless I loose [sic] them I have enough to last my time out.

The Weather is getting warm, the Trees have just begun to bud and you do not know how lazy we all do get about here. I do not know what to think about not getting any letters from you. I have written several to you lately telling you not to wait any longer on Frank, but to send by mail. I do not think that there is a man in the Company but what has heard from home since I have, letters mailed at Mashulaville are being received by the boys almost every day, but never for me. I think of these things until tears force themselves down my cheeks. Lis if you have not written do write as soon as you get this, 33 days has past [sic] since your last was dated, a few more days and I will become use to doing without hearing from you. I have never experienced anything that gave me more trouble. As this is such a mixed letter the shorter it is the better. I do not know when I will write again, to you my dear wife, Farewell, may God's blessings be with you is the earnest wish of your loving and affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Company Muster Roll Form for May and June 1862
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

Geo. W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Vols. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for May and June, 1862.

Enlisted:

When Nov. 13, 186[blank].

Where Vicksburg

By whom A B Hardcastle

Period 12 months

Preset or absent Absent

Remarks: Wounded at Shiloh, at home

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark: [blank]

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Regimental Return Form for June

(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Mi[cut off]

G W Higgins

[blank], Co. [blank], 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Infan[cut off]

Appears on regimental Return of the organization named above, for the month of June, 186[cut off]

Commissioned officers present and absent:

Station

Remarks:

Alterations since last return among the enlisted me[cut off]

Date [blank], 186[cut off]

Place

remarks:

Enlisted men on Extra or Daily Duty:

Absent enlisted men accounted for: absent sick

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama

Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

[signature cut off]

Company Muster Roll Form for July and August 1862
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion Miss.

Geo. W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 33 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Vols. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above for July and Aug, 1862.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 186[blank].

Where Vicksburg

By whom A B Hardcastle

Period 12 mos [sic]

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] E A Banks

To what time Dec 31, 186[blank].

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Sent home wounded [sic] from Shiloh and been sick ever since

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

September 1st, 1862
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Lis,

I have concluded to write to you this evening although, I feel but little like writing and in my present situation cannot write an interesting letter. I have slept but very little since I left you and as it always does has made me sick. I at this time hardly know whether I will go on or remain at the hospital. I have a very severe headache, a sick stomach and feel very weak, not withstanding if I get no worse, I will be very apt to leave on the evening train, for I do not the place I have seen. Nat Coleman, he is improving as fast as the case will admit, entirely clear of fever and pains, he has fallen off very much and looks very bad, he thinks that he will get to come home as soon as he is able for the trip but that you know is very uncertain. I have also seen two others of my acquaintances. Winfield Coleman and a man by the name of Rite, neither are very sick, I have had bad luck during my trip, so far, as I had my hat stolen on Saturday night, I had taken the precaution to tie it to my shirt bosom before going to sleep but that did no good, as the string was easily cut, which was evidence the ease, as the remaining part of the string gave evidence, and on Sunday night I had the strings of my Knapsack cut, and one of Brother John's shoes stolen, they were tied together with a shoe string, the thief fearing that he would be caught cut it in to [sic] and left one of them. I was lying on my side at the time all this was done and as wide a wake as I am at present, the darkness of the night and the crowd that was around me at the time prevented me from detecting him. I have never been so much pestered before. I am having another shoe made today to match the one I have and by the time I pay for it my purse will be empty. I traveled two nights and one day bare headed and found at last a very trifling cap for 4 dollars it was the best that I could, you must make me another hat and sent it or my cap by the first chance as I feel so bad I will close and write again when I get with my company, send this letter to Mrs. Coleman and ask her to excuse me if she please. Write soon to your husband.

G. W. Higgins

Knoxville Tenn.
Sept. 4th 1862

Dear Lis,

I arrived at this place on Sunday morning, after a long and tiresome ride on the crowded cars, and have been so busy washing my clothes that I have not had time to write to

you before, although I was anxious to correct a mistake made in my last letter. I stated that we were going to Knoxville K.Y. and it should have been Knoxville Tenn., however, it make but little difference, as we will leave here in two or three days and a letter directed to me here would never be received. I cannot tell you where we will go to. There will be Regiments formed and Officers appointed over them today, and it may be that we will not get to our commands in a month of two. An Officer in Gen. Bragg's Army said that he wished the gates of hell would open and swallow all of us, and for this remark he received a good chunking, and has been afraid to show himself today. True enough there is some very sorry men with us, but still here is a many of the rite [sic] sort, and they will not be imposed on by any of the foppish Officers, and if an effort is made to keep us from our companies they will rebel, and go, anyhow, we scarcely get half rations while other Regiments that we found here have provisions to waste. Some of the boys held a meeting last night and appointed a committee to see into this, they went to the commander and told him that if they could get it on other way, that they would take up their arms, and fight, and today he sent us plenty, which is the first time I expect that short rations has been best for me, for I assure you that I have scarcely ever had such an appetite. I am perfectly well and begin to feel stout again, but my legs ain't nor won't get rite [sic].

I am very anxious to hear from you, but fear it will not be soon. You must direct your letters to G.W.H. Com. C 33 Reg. Miss. Vol. Brigade of Gen. Bragg's Army and perhaps I may get one sometime, another. There has been a fight at Bolling [sic] Green a few days ago we were victorious, 70 prisoners were brought to twin [sic] yesterday. Gen. Briel is said to be completely hemmed in by Bragg and Forest. As this is all that I think reliable news I will close and promise to write you a more interesting letter when I get to our regiment. Farewell Lis, and do not fail to write soon to your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

September 6th 1862
Chattanooga Tenn.

Dear Lis,

I arrived at this place Tuesday morning at day light, and have not written to you since I left Atlanta, therefore I have concluded to write to you as it may be a very uncertain when I could contrive you a letter after I leave this place. Our Regiment left here last Thursday was a week ago and no way to get to them but to walk and that is said to be very dangerous, as Old Unionist are thick and are committing numerous depredations. They have attacked several small squads that left here to go to their respective

regiments, killed and captured a good many of them, this is their reason that I have been detained here, there will be no more small squads sent off, but as a great many soldiers have arrived since I did it is probable that we will leave tomorrow. We will all be armed and formed into a Regiment until we get to the Army, there is two men of my company with me and several of the Regiment and men from every Regiment in Bragg's army, about 1200 of us together. I feel but little like taking a march, for I am sick and have a headache all the time, the consequence of having to sleep on the ground and in the open. All our rations are small and nothing to cook it in, but little water to drink and is very bad. The restrictions over the soldiers at this place is very late, none allowed to go outside the line. It is reported that McLedan and 30,000 of his soldiers are captured but is doubtful. There has been several fights in Virginia and Kentucky lately, we have been victorious in all of them. I will write to you the next opportunity as my time is limited. I must close, Give my love to all. Farewell.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. Enclose you will find a two bit bill which is of no value to me and may be to you.

September 9th 1862

Camp Direction

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Lis,

I have but little news to write of an interesting character. I am yet in the same place, that I was when I last wrote to you and no prospect for an immediate departure, it was the opinion of all that we would start for our Regiments today, but as no preparations are being made, we will certainly have to remain here 2 or 3 days, and perhaps longer. The number of Soldiers at this camp in 12 or 14 hundred and others are coming in every day, scarcely a day arrives that brings less than 100 men, all on their way to their different Regiments, but at this place of starvation they are stopped and put to work the greater portion of them are convalescent men from home or the hospitals, and pleayed [sic] few will do anything. About 40 or the 41 Regiments (Docks) under command of one of their Lieutenants deserted this camp, on Saturday night, and struck off to their Command, the Commander of the camp sent ten men (Calvary) after them next morning, the Calvary has not returned yet, and when they do they will not bring the men with them as they all succeeded in arming themselves before leaving, without an alteration there be more deserters in this camp shortly, the men are very much dissatisfied, by the way we are treated. We have since I have been here, drawn only 1 1/2 pounds of meat of any kind per day for eleven men with a part of meal to this is less

than half rations and for two hundred men we have only one oven to cook in being 7 for the camp, it is not the scarcity of things that cause this but, carelessness of Tyrannical officers. It is true I have enough to eat, but I paid for it and now when the last is gone, I will be compelled to suffer. I never was so tired of a place before it is one of the driest [sic], dustiness, nastiest that I was ever at, a dozen dead horses in a place would not smell worse with this the nasty water and the way we have to sleep is enough to kill any man, but less than 25 or 30 are sent to the hospital every day. The body lice are very plenty here, but I hope I am kept clear of them by using caution I am not very well yet and will not be so long as I remain at this place. Col. Hardcastle has his leg broken a few days since by the kick of a horse. Our company reorganized before leaving here. Prince Captain, Brother John 1st Lieutenant, Horatio Haynes 2nd, Frank Anderson 3rd, Capt [sic] Nunn is Major. There is a good many letters advertised in the office for our regiment but I cannot get them out. Tell Pa, Eugenia, Doc and Lizzie that I will wrote to them when I get to a better place. Farewell Lis, Kiss Lula for me.

G. W. Higgins

I wrote you last week and sent a [missing text] bill, did you get it.

Sept. 12th 1862

Camp Direction

Chattanooga Tenn.

Dear Wife,

Today will be the last opportunity that I will have to write for some time. As we will being our march in an hour or two it will be some before we get to a place, where the Mail runs through. There is not less than 15 hundred to leave today and as there has been no rain in this country for a long time it will be very dusty and disagreeable with such a crowd and worse than this we have to cross the Cumberland Mountains. I do not think that I can carry my load over them. I will hate every march to have to throw anything away either of mine or of brother's, but there is not turning back allowed and I may have to throw everything away to enable me to make the march. There is but little news Cincinnati Ohio has surrendered. Our troops are moving their guns from Nashville, a few little fights in Kentucky and Virginia are reported as having occurred recently, no particulars. Our cause is prospering and southern soldiers are very much encouraged, while the Enemy seems to be panic stricken and are moving back to their own soil. I received a letter from you yesterday the perusal of which gave me great pleasure, but I fret that it may be a long time before I get another. I also succeeded in getting all for the regiment, there was one for Brother John. The time past [sic] better yesterday than it has with me since we parted. I heard three of the best sermons that I have heard in

twelve months. The camp is very lively this morning, all are making preparations to leave. It will be useless for you to direct another letter to this office, perhaps you may find out from Sallie where the regiment is. I do not know, my health is better than it was a few days ago. As my time is nearly out I will close, and bid you a long farewell.

I remain your devoted husband. Kiss sweet Lula for [missing text]

G. W. Higgins

P.S. This is the fourth time that I have written to you have you received any of them yet.

Knoxville, Tenn.

Sept. 26th 1862

Dear Lis,

As I failed to get this to the Office previous to this time, I have concluded to write a few more lines, although I haven't any news, when I wrote I then thought that we would leave here in two or three days, but now think it very uncertain when we will get off and I think that there is a probability of us going back to Chattanooga and from there to Nashville Tenn., by the Cars, by so doing we will not have near so far to march. There is some war news, but nothing definite. It is reported that Gen. Buchner [sic] captured 5,000 prisoners without the fire of a gun, at Murphreesville [sic], and that there has been one or two very large battles in Maryland, and in the last one I rather think we got the worst of it, notwithstanding our Generals claim the victory. We now have possession of Army to heights near Washington if report be true. I have to close for want of anything else to write. Farewell to you all and do not forget to kiss Lula for me.

G. W. Higgins

Camp at Clinton on the

Clinch River, Tennessee

October 2nd 1862

Dear Lis,

Several days has past since I wrote to you from the fact that I had not time and to we did not leave our camp at Knoxville until Tuesday the 30th of September, we marched only 6 miles and was halted where we remained till morning and after marching for several hours arrived at Clinch River, 20 miles from Knoxville about 2 O.C. P.M. and

had safely crossed by dark and then marched to this place through the town of Clinton a distance of one mile from the River, here we may remain a day or two or we may leave in half an hour, we have to wait for the troops that are behind eight here or a few miles farther on we are now among nothing but Unionist, and will have to be very cautious how we travel through their country. One days [sic] march will bring us to Big Creek Gap on the Cumberland Mountains, where is it said that the Unionist are in some force. It is the opinion of our Officers that we will have to fight there or some where else before we get through to our command, it will take us at least 20 days to march through, marching at the rate 15 miles per day, will be 300 miles that we have to march to get only 150 miles that is owing to the Lincoln Army that are between us and our command and it may be possible that we will be captured, but I can't believe it, for there will be not less than 8,000 soldiers in the ranks, the most are well armed and will make the desperate stand of attacked. The road that we have to travel, and the one we have already traveled is very hilly, the fater we go the worse it gets. I feel satisfied that if I do not get sick, that I will make the trip finely, for I never was in better health, since I entered the service. I believe it must be the use of such good water that has caused me to improve so much and so fast, a days [sic] march always caused my feet to swell, but this is a small matter, it is generally all right by morning, my legs swell at night and are stiff an hour or two each day. I am heavier than I have been in several years, but not as strong, but would be stronger and heavier, if I could only get enough to eat. I have received only two letters from you yet, and fear that it will be a long time before I hear again. I never want to hear from you any worse, not wanted to see you half so bad before. I almost force myself at times thinking of you and Lula. I want you to tell me whether you are staying at home or not and who is staying with you, how you are getting on, how the clearing is progressing, and everything that is new. You spoke of sending me a hat, coat, and cap. I would like to have them, but you had better keep them, until I write for them. Tell Pa, Doc, Eugenia and Lizzie that I will write to them all as soon as I get an opportunity. I now bid you, Lula and all the family a long farewell, and ask to be remembered by you all, I am yet your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Fail not to kiss Lula for me, write soon.

Camp Starvation, Clinton P.O.
Anderson County Tennessee
October 6th 1862

Dear Lis,

I am again seated for the purpose of writing you a few lines, although there is but little to write we are still at this place, and have no idea when we will leave, it is said that we are waiting for General Breckenridge's command a part of which is now at Knoxville, 20 miles distant. I did not have time to finish writing yesterday but will finish to day the 7th. Everything is in perfect confusion to day in camp as it has been for some time, from three to a dozen desert [sic] almost every day some start for home and others to the Regiments some of them have been overtaken and put under guard, 12 left this morning about 2 O.Clock. [sic] I do not think that it would be wrong for all of us to desert [sic] for I venture to say, that a set of soldiers never have been treated as bad as we have. Flour as sour as starch, and beef half spoilt with salt not enough to salt bread is what we are fed on even at this rough fare, we get but half rations, if an alteration is not made to day, a crowd of not less than 50 will make a charge on the commissary department and take as much as they want sustained by every one in camp even the Captains of the Companies I am not in favor of such movements when it can be avoided, but it seems that we must do this or starve, as there is nothing in this place to buy not even a loaf of bread, it looks as much like starvation among the Citizens of this place, as it does among the soldiers. The bush whackers have been committing some more of their outrages upon our soldiers day before yesterday, a small number of soldiers with out ammunition are set with the wagons after corn (to feed the stock with) and on their return were attacked, by a part of these scoundrels. The Bush Whackers were only 12 miles from this place, hid in the mountain which are visible from where I set. One Captain and 2 lieutenants were killed, the remainder made their escape. A company of Calvary were sent the next day in pursuit of them. They caught 3 and then in last night, the citizens knew all of them, they came in with their guns and Uniforms, these three were the worst frightened set of men I ever saw, they admit that they deserve death and I believe that they think that they will be hung.

A rumor of our return to Chattanooga and then to Nashville is not current, to be the way that we will have to go. I am in hope that it will prove to be true, as this will save a good deal of marching. The weather is very pleasant and exceedingly dry, we look cold weather after the next rain when it comes we will have a hard time for we haven't half enough tents for the men. I have not heard from you in a long time and am exceedingly anxious. I am not able to tell you where to write so that I may get it. Do not attempt to send me anything yet, for I would never get it. I have heard that some of our Regiment have been taken prisoners. I hope it is false. Farewell Lis, write to me and direct to the Regiment if you know where it is, Kiss Lula for me. Tell the family that I often think of them and will write some of these days. George.

Camp Starvation at
Clinton, Anderson County Tennessee
October 10th, 1862

Dear Lis,

But three days have past since I wrote to you, and as this may be the last opportunity that I will have to write for a good while I will write today. Tomorrow we leave this camp (if the order is not countermanded) for our Commands not by Nashville as I wished but through the County by way of Cumberland or Big Creek Gap, in the Mountains a very broken country to march through. General Bragg forces are said to be moving towards Cincinnati, what point in Kentucky they are at I have not heard nor do I hear anything that I can believe. It is reported that our troops commanded by General Price, have been badly whipped in Corinth, that is certainly not the case, although I have seen the account in the Papers yet I cannot think that it could be true. I heard of some little skirmishes about everyday but place no confidence in such reports, the papers have all go to lying as bad as the Soldiers, they publish things that are false and I believe they know it. I am sorry to say that I am among the strongest Unionist that live in east Tennessee it is impossible to get anything from any of them. The ladies if they are here, keep themselves very close, they are either ashamed or afraid to show themselves. Two or three old Irish women have been passing through the camp selling Iron Cladies [sic] is all that I have seen about this place. I have no money to buy anything with if it was ever so plenty. The soldiers hate these people very much and it is with difficulties that the Officers protect them and their property. Five Bushwhackers were captured Wednesday night and brought in Thursday morning. A Company of Mountain Rangers numbering near one hundred fifty have been raised for the purpose of ridding the country of these Bushwhackers, but they cannot do much good, for the infernal Whackers are too plenty and know too much about these Mountains to be caught by a small party. I have no doubt but that we will be attacked in crossing these mountains and perhaps some of us killed, as they will be sure to have the advantage. I do not like the trip and have often been sorry that I left home when I did, as I am doing no good here and will perhaps be a long time getting to my Regiment. I am now situated so that I cannot hear from you and will be worse situated in the respect after leaving this place. You do the best you can to get a letter to me for I assure you that I am getting very anxious to hear how you all are getting along, when I get to the regiment I will give you the history of my trip through the country, provided I live to make the trip. Give my love to all my friends and relatives, Lula and yourself not excepted. I remain your husband with many good wishes I bid you farewell.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. General Buchner's [sic] Command have not arrived we will not wait for them. The weather is cloudy some rain today and appearance of more, then it will be cold.

Chattanooga, Tennessee

October 17th 1862

Dear Lis,

An unexpected opportunity of writing has presented it's self, which I embrace and will endeavor to interest you. We left Chattanooga Sunday evening, marched 3 miles, where we remained here, until further orders. The march will, I think, agree with me very well, as I have improved very much since, I left Chattanooga. The way we have to cook is very bad, worse than I have ever been use to, a board suffices the place of an oven to cook bread on, and a stick that of a spider, to fry meat. The scarcity of cooking utensils, is to shorten the baggage, the road we have to travel being so mountainous, that it is almost impossible for an empty wagon to get a long, for 16 hundred and fifty men there is only 30 tents, and 20 wagons, the wagons are mostly loaded with provisions, we have one tin pan and bucket for fifty men, the only cooking implements except boards, that we can get. This is not such a bad way to cook after all, for I believe that they are the best Johnny Cakes I have ever eaten. I will be willing to undergo almost anything to get to my command, but the time that I will again join it is far distant, not under two weeks. I am certain I have never heard not have an idea where they are, either do I believe that the Officers, that I am under now. We may remain here for several days and then return to Chattanooga, this I know nothing about, I hope it may not be the case. My Knapsack is very burdensome, over these mountains and will have to be made lighter if I make the trip. I received a letter from you yesterday, and was glad to hear that you were all well. I cannot tell you where to direct your next perhaps you may know where the regiment is better than I do. I will not promise to write anymore until I get to the Regiment, but will if an opportunity is offered, the weather is hot, the roads are dry and the dust shoe top deep, which makes our march very disagreeable. James Adams is with me, and 3 or 4 other boys of my company. I am now among the Unionist – 5 Companies far.

Simeons [sic] Army was made up in this Neighborhood, their wives will not sell anything to us. As I have told you everything that I could think of, I will close, farewell; I remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. Kiss Lula for me. Is anybody staying with you and who is it? George W. Higgins

Chattanooga, Tennessee

October 19th, 1862

Dear Lis,

I am again seated at Chattanooga for the purpose of writing you a few lines. Orders came to our camp 12 miles from this place. (On the 17th, shortly after I had written to you). For our return, and on the 18th started back, and arrived here this evening and will take the cars to Knoxville by tonight or tomorrow, by so doing we will not have to march so far, and will get to our regiment sooner, but as yet I have no ideas where it is. I am very glad to make the change, and would have been better pleased, had our commander, foreseen this, instead of making us backwards and forewords, over the mountains. I am in good health at this time, but my legs are so stiff that I can hardly walk atoll. [sic] I think I can beat Anthony pacing, the boys all taught at me a great deal. I have three or four letters for Bro. John, and Frank Anderson, which I will take to them. This is I believe the healthiest country I ever saw and the best I ever drank. Five of the Soldiers that started with us, for this place, were poisoned last Wednesday, by some of the Unionist at the camp we were then at, by eating their Dinner, which they purchased from a little boy and three of them have died, and the recovery of the other two is hopeful. No effort has been made to find the murderer. I do not know any of them, they were South Carolinians. There is nothing new from the army that I can rely on. I must close as it is almost dark, and I have no candle, I wish you to remember Lula for Me. I remain your loving husband. Give my love to Pa, Sister and Friends.

G.W.H.

Knoxville Tennessee

October 22, 1862

Dear Lis,

I have again arrived at this town and now have an opportunity of writing to you. I arrived here last night, very tired and almost worn out, having marched 17 miles since yesterday morning. The bottom of one of my feet is very badly blistered, and is it almost impossible for me to walk at all. Since I last wrote to you I have marched now 150 miles. On the 11th we left Clinton for Big Creek Gap early in the morning, there had a great deal of rain, in fact it rained all that day, the road was wet and muddy and our march was very disagreeable, and only marched 9 miles and camped to await better weather we remained there 3 days without any tent and lying on the wet ground, two nights it

rained nearly all night and everything that I had got as wet as Water could make it. Orders came the last day, that we could go to Cumberland Gap, 40 miles. There being too many bushwhackers and the road being blockaded beyond Big Creek Gap accordingly we left camp early next morning, and that day came in sight of the Cumberland Mountains, turning up the valley by the foot of the mountain we passed a little town called Jacks Borough 20 miles from Clinton and 5 from Big C. Gap and marched 3 miles and camped. Next morning we passed the gap leaving it to the left one mile, we continued our march stopping only at dark until we arrived within 4 miles of Cumberland Gap. This being Friday 12 O.C. the 17th. News was received that General Braggs [sic] army was falling back to the gap, and we were then ordered to leave camp at day the next morning to give room for Braggs [sic] Army, we to return to Knoxville and also a portion of his Army, the reminder [sic] will hold the Gap, and now you see that we have marched from B.C.G. to this town in 4 days, being about 17 miles per day, the route we came, the other road was 8 miles nearer but we had to give it to the train of Braggs [sic] Wagons which have been sent to Knoxville after provisions for this army. The main road is only 10 miles from here to the gap the one we came is 168. Braggs [sic] Army will all left Kentucky except Curly Smiths [sic] command they are at Barbourville, 30 miles from the gap, those that have left will doubtful be here very soon, some perhaps tomorrow. General Buckners and Cheatems [sic] command had a very hard fight last Wednesday 2 weeks ago being the 8th at the little town called Perryville, our side suffered a heavy loss but it is said to be light compared to the Enemy the particulars I have not heard. Our regiment was in the fight and had between 90 and 100 killed and wounded. Capt. Nunn commanded the regiment as Hardcastle was not there nor Williams either. Our company lost several killed 3 is the number that I have heard 15 or 20 wounded. I can not ascertain their names, George Stewart is said to be killed, a very good boy he was. Bro. John was not hurt when my informant left in good health and spirits, this information I gained from one of the regiments who was in the fight and left Sunday evening with all that were with our shoes they having been sent along with the wagons, he said that our boys were very much in need of clothing, shoes, etc. Gen. Wood was wounded in the head, and several of his staff, one killed. Col. Tucker of the 41st Mississippi was wounded in the arm, he and Wood are both in this town. I have seen Tucker but had no chance to talk with him, he told me that Capt. Coger was killed and one or more of his company but neither name I have forgotten, he did not know a great deal about it as he was taken from the field before the battle ended. The 33rd and 32nd Mississippi Regiments have received a great praise by their Officers for the way they conducted themselves during the fight. It is said that Bragg sent compliments to each soldier of those two Regiments. Large quantities of property was captured a great quantity of provisions was burned not being able to get them away, and our boys have since suffered for the want of them. The Kentuckians did not rally to Bragg as it has been reported is supposed to be more reason of his leaving their country so soon, or

else he was afraid of being whipped. I do not know which, only 10,000 is all that are said to have joined him while in their state. Breckenridges [sic] troops are said to be ordered to Nashville also a part of Braggs may go there, some talk of our leaving here before our Regiments come but I hope it is not the case, for I am very anxious to get with the boys once more, and if we stay here we will get with them in a few days, if reports be true, they are this side of the gap now. I am sorry that I am not able to give all the particulars of the fight, and will promise to write again in a few days being so tired and sore to day. I feel but little like writing and will close hoping to hear from you all soon. I remain your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. James Adams has been very sick on the march and left this morning for the hospital. I have been in good health all the time and haven't slept in a tent but one night and that was last night, there has been frost three mornings, two mornings it was on my blankets. I hadn't even a tent shelter me from the weather this I have stood finely, but not willingly, be sure to tell me all about Lula, can she walk or talk or not. Direct your letter to Knoxville just as soon as you get this. I am anxious to hear from you for I haven't heard since the 15th of September. Excuse all mistakes I haven't time to correct it if I send it to the Office to day. Farewell, Lis.

G.W.H.

Knoxville, Tennessee
October 30th 1862

Dear Lis,

I have this week received five letters from you, dated September 19th, 24th, October 3rd, 7th and 21st and you may be assured that I was well interested, while perusing them notwithstanding the most of them were getting old these were the first received in a long time and of course were news to me. Since receiving the four first I have written to you and will write today in answer to the last one received. I have been rite [sic] sick since the last time I wrote to you and infact [sic] I am so unwell today that I can hardly write. I have been to the Doctor and taking medicine, but as it does no good I will quite [sic] and take no more, if we should have to march from here in a day or two I would have to remain in the hospital, but I think that we will remain here several days yet, and when we have we will be sure to go on the Cars, and I think that we will go to Murfreesbroro [sic] Tennessee. The most of the boys are improving since they arrived at this place. Bro. John is but little better, if any. I think we would all improve faster if we

had more clothing, arrangements have been made to draw shirts and two pair of socks, and depend on getting the Over Coat and other things that you have been so good and kind as to make me. The weather here is very cold and thick clothing is desirable. I expect that I will need my overcoat long before I get it. You said that you were in hopes that I would be pleased with it. I am sure it will please me although I have not seen it. You must not fail to give Eugenia my sincerest thanks for being so kind as to weave it for me. The other articles that you have made for me would be very acceptable at this time. I you have not made my coat yet I wish you to make it very long and put a cape of Tippet over the shoulders, so that it can be taken off at any time, something similar to the Yankee coat that I had of Marrion Ruffs. I want it (the coat) long to use in sleeping as Blankets are scarce. You said that Mrs. Coleman had persuaded your companion to leave you. I wouldn't have thought that she would have been so unkind. I think she treated you very unkind, and I was glad to know that you would not let her, Mrs. Dade come back to stay with you any more. I do not want my house to be a home for any of them, that goes and comes when ever they please, if they will not stay all the time I do not want them to stay atall [sic]. You say that Miss Gray is staying with you, and that you like her very much. I am truly glad to hear of this, and hope that you may like her better the longer she stays with you. I am glad to hear that your Sweet Potatoes are so nice, I hope that you may have plenty of them. The Irish Potatoes from what you say, are sorry, but I hope that by being careful, with them that you will have a plenty for seed, the next year. I would be glad that you would come home ant [sic] time soon. I can only say that the chance for me to get home is a slim one and that it will be slim for any one as well as myself. Frank Prince has not received his commission as Captain yet, nor either do I think that he will, my opinion on that Bro. John will be our Capt. By appointment P. Haynes has not received his for Lieutenant, either, it is also uncertain about him, as it is generally believed that he did not stand his examination as well as he might have done, owing to this or other cause the company is very much torn up, the boys are very cross to one another and no doubt it will be worse if Bro. John is appointed as Capt.

You did not say what the Negroes are doing, you mentioned that Will was not discharging his duty. I would be glad that Pa would correct him every time he needs it and make him discharge his duty. I would like to hear how much corn we made, that is if it has been gathered and if it has not been gathered yet, tell Pa to have it gathered as soon as he can in order that there may be a place for the hogs to run it, and there by keeping so many of them from being killed. I was very sorry to hear of those two being killed, but as I cannot help it, I will have to lump it, if they kill all of them they will have to do without meat the next year. Has Pa made any arrangements for getting Salt. I see in the Papers that it is worth 40\$ per sack in Jackson Mississippi and also that it is being dug up in large quantities in Louisiana, and will shortly be worth only 2 cts. [sic] per

pound. I do not know how true this is but hope that it may be so, as it will push me to raise money enough to buy it as such big prices when I have everything else to buy too. Your statement about dearest Lula only tends to make me more anxious to see her, how glad would I be if it was so that I could be with you and her to stay in peace, but I fear that it will be a long time before it happens. As I have written everything that I can think of at present I will have to close. I still remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Bro. John, has advertised Paris, and offered a reward of 50 dollars, I fear that it will do no good, for I have but little hope of ever getting him again. Bro. is doing all he can to get him again. I expect that it will be a good while before we draw any money. I have made some collections among the boys. Some of them are not here, Frank Anderson had collected some but he is not here either. After we draw I would be glad to send some home for I will have no use for so much, as is due me. You must write to me soon and give me all the news in a lengthy letter. I remain your husband.

G.W.H.

Company Muster Roll Form for November and December 1862

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

G.W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Nov. and Dec, 1862.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Lt A B Hardcastle

Period 12 mo.

Last paid:

By whom Maj Walt

To what time Oct 31, 1862.

Present or absent Absent

Remarks: Left at Shelbyville Hospital Dec 5, 1862 By Order of Surgeon

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th

Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Chattanooga, Tennessee

November 5th 1862

Dear Lis,

I have arrived at this point once more and am now on my way to Murfreesboro Tennessee. We left Knoxville about 8 O.C. yesterday morning and arrived more about 6 O.C. this morning. We would have made the trip sooner but for a serious accident that happened to the train just a head of us, when about 25 miles from this town and coming down a heavy grade at pretty good speed an axle of one of the boxes gave way thus causing the front of the box to drop down on the track and broke loose for those in front, those in rear running over and breaking and smashing it as well as themselves, leaving such a mess of Broken Cars, dead and wounded men, as I have never before witness and 4 Boxes were torn all to pieces, several others badly injured. 17 men killed dead and 75 or 80 wounded, several of the wounded will die. This accident fell upon the 33rd Alabama Regiment, it is in our Brigade. [partial letter, rest below]

Wednesday 12th

McCowers Station

Dear Lis,

having started this letter a few days ago at Chattanooga and not having time to complete it I have this morning embraced the first opportunity of finishing it. Our start at Chattanooga was very short we started for Bridgeport on the Tennessee River enroute for Murfreesboro, we arrived on the bank of the river at dark remained at camp to cook 4 days rations, as we had to march through the County of Tullahoma, there not being a

sufficient number of cars to transport us. The Yanks have had possession of all the road from the Tennessee River been 4 Engines brought over the river on boats. On the 7th with 4 days rations, we began our march cutting across the county for a near way, the road to Nashville and run all cars on this end of the Road, and as the Bridge across the River has not been rebuilt since they burnt it here is but little chance of getting cars over here, however there has was tolerable good up to 12 O.C. and from there on I have never in all my life seen just such a road, we crossed a mountain and in many places it was almost impossible to travel atall [sic], you could no more ride down the mountain than you could down a chimney. My trip on Stone Mountain in Georgia is no comparison. Bro. John was sick that morning and got permission to go on the car that night we camped at Anderson's Station having traveled 20 miles, the next day. We marched to McCowers Station 18 miles the road was very bad but not so bad as it was the day before, the Army continued their march the next day for Tullahoma. I being so very unwell was compelled to remain at Camp the most of the day, late that evening I started off to find some place where I could stay until I could get better. I have not gone over 1 1/2 miles until I struck a place that suites [sic] me very well, the gentleman's name was McLeherren, he and his wife were very kind to me. I came to his house Sunday the 9th and think that I will leave tomorrow, if I am not any worse than at present. My Bowels are very much out of order, nothing seems to do them any good at time I have fever for a day or two, and I am all the time getting weaker. I have had the Doctor with me, he does not seem to know what is the matter with me, he says that it is the most singular disease that has ever come his road. The people in this portion of Tennessee are all right, the most sociable and the cleverest that I have met with since I have been in the Army. The Yanks have been all through this country and taken off or destroyed nearly everything. I anticipate a large Battle near Nashville before a great wile [sic]. Our troops are concentrating this side and their [sic] at Nashville. The government are gathering up the Conscrips [sic] all over this state, they are a great many of them too. I have no war news.

The weather having turned so cold. I thought best to get me an Over Coat while I had the chance accordingly I drew one before leaving Knoxville and will not need the one that you have made me. The other articles that you have send them if you have any chance. I am not in need of them yet, and it will not make any differences if you do not send them atall [sic]. I do not think that there will be any chance of me to get home any time soon. Therefore you need not look for me. I do not feel as well now as I did a few hours ago, and will perhaps have told you all that I think of this morning, and being sick too I will close. I am very anxious to hear from you, but it seems that Letters have quite [sic] coming. I do not know where to tell you to direct your letters to Chattanooga, I expect will be the best place or to [sic] impossible for me to tell anything about it. Give

my love to all and accept a share yourself. Kiss Lula for me, I yet remain your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

November 28th 1862
Shelbyville, Tennessee

Dearest Lis,

I have written you a few lines this morning by James Dorroh, stating to you that I was very unwell, and that I would try to get to a private house, in this I failed, and will be sent to the Hospital this evening. Fearing that this would be my last chance of seeing Bro. John before he leaves. I have concluded to write again and give over the money that I wish to send to you the amount of which is one hundred and seventy dollars (170). I may have some more to send before long if we should draw again. I will tell you what clothing to send me by Bro. John, first two white Flannel Shirts, two pair wool socks. one wool cap and scarf and two pair pants. The pants that I have are very good, but God Forbid that I should ever have another pair of the same color that these were or are not. If I cannot send them home I will throw them away. Frank Anderson is with us and looks well. John Clark is sick in the country, our company is now very small. Haynes has received the appointment of 2nd Lieutenant. Bro. will probably be Captain. As I feel so very unwell I will close may God bless you. I am your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Shelbyville, Tennessee
November 28th, 1862

Dear Lis,

As I have an opportunity of sending you a letter by Mr. Dorroh I have concluded to write you a few lines. I am very unwell this morning and have been for some time. I have a Chill every other day. Rheumatism and Diarrhea all the time. I do not believe that I will get well soon in Camp. I will do all that I can to get to a private house again. Bro. John expects to start home in a few days on business for the Regiment. I will send by him all the money that I can spare and will also send word what clothing I want. We now have orders to cook two days rations and be ready for marching. I will not be able to leave with them. A Battle is expecting soon in the vacinity [sic] of Murfreesboro 25 miles from this place. The Non Conserrips [sic] have all got their discharge, this leaves our

company small. Our Regiment has been changed from the 33rd to the 45th Regiment, you must hereafter direct your letters to Shelbyville, Tenn. 45th Miss. Regt. Wood Brigade, Buckners Division. It is very seldom that I hear from you, the last written Nov. 4th. As Mr. Dorroh is waiting on me I will close. I yet remain your loving husband. Kiss Lula for me.

G. W. Higgins

November 30th 1862
Shelbyville, Tennessee

Dear Lis,

As Brother John has not got everything ready to leave yet and will perhaps be several days before he does, and as I was not sent to the hospital as I expected, I thought it best to sent this by Martin Rodgers as he leaves to day. My health is little better than it was a few days ago, but I am not well yet. Bro. John has at last received appointment of Captain (as deadly cut of the Gomerville crowd) his business home will be to get up all the absentees of the Regiment and a sufficient number of Conserrips [sic] to fill up all of these old companies. I still think that I will send you 170\$ by him when he leaves which will be soon, he is now only waiting ascertain the number of absentees and conserrips [sic] wanted.

Tell Pa that I would rather he would not sell any more of my corn that he is obliged to do, that is if there is any to sell, for it will be sure to bring a larger price next year than it will now. I must close for want of something else to write. I still remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Shelbyville Tennessee
December 1st 1862

Dear Lis,

I have written almost everything that I could think of previous to this, but as Bro. John will leave this evening I will write a few lines anyhow. I am yet very unwell, and have no idea when I will be well enough for duty.

I stated in letter that I sent by Martin Rodgers yesterday what clothing I wanted, but for fear that you will not get it I tell you again first is 2 pair Pants, 2 white flannel shirts (these articles may be omitted) 2 pair wool socks, 1 cap and scarf. Bro. John will care [sic] you one hundred and seventy dollars (170) for me. There is no news in camp worth relating. I think the probability is that we will stay here sometime.

You must write to me often and give me all the news for I have not heard from you in a month, tell me how everything is getting on how much was made, how the boys looks and if there is any pigs and last but not least how Lula is getting on. Farewell Lis.

G. W. Higgins

Shelbyville, Tennessee

December 19th 1862

Dear Wife,

Several days have past [sic] since I last wrote you and even now I feel but little in the humor for writing. Friday December 5th our Brigade was ordered to march in the direction of Nashville have previously prepare two days rations. I was unable to march, and almost unable to walk and was sent here to the hospital, where I have been ever since for a few days after I first came I improved very fast, and thought that I would soon be well, and as cooks for the hospital were scarce I was detailed as a cook and had so much to do that it or the disease has put me almost past traveling, although to day is the first day that I have failed to discharge my duty, the Doctors think that I am such a good cook that they will not let me off, they have appointed me chief cook now, and I have but little to do besides superintending the department, I do not like the business much and would leave if I could, but I feel that they have got me regularly set in and will not let one off at all. I have no doubt but what it will be the best for me to stay as I am not exposed to the weather. The day the Regiment left was a severe cold day, and the Snow fell thick and fast all day, when the boys past [sic] the hospital they looked as if they were nearly froze, their clothing and whiskers were perfectly white, and their faces were red as fire, how far they marched that day I do not know, they only went 24 miles that and the next day, where they remained for several days and was then with the whole of Buckner's Division ordered to move forward near Nashville, they are now with in 5 or 6 miles from the town. There is skirmishing every day between the Pickets and only a few days ago our Calvary captured 2100 prisoners and brought them back to Murfreesboro. Nashville is so near surrounded that they will have to evacuate the place or fight, their supplies have been cut off for some time, except in the direction of Louisville Kentucky and our Calvary takes in a part of that occasionally. The Yanks have been on half

rations for some time, but now they have full rations of beef and crackers. This report was given to me by the Medical inspector, who left the army yesterday morning and came here to inspect this hospital. They praised the cooking very much, and told the post Surgeon that he had better keep me all the time to cook. I am glad to know that I can serve my country in some way but this kind of service does not suit. I am fearful that I will not be able for duty any more this winter at any rate not soon for I am so weak that I can hardly get to the door steps. My Bowels pain me a great deal and I have no appetite for anything. I have taken so much medicine that it has no effect on me, and I have yours and will take some more as soon as I can deal with my back and head. As I have told you all that I can think of I will close, you must direct your letters to G.W.H. Shelbyville Tennessee incare [sic] of Post Surgeon, Dr. Burton, or to the Hardee Corpse [sic] Hospital, Shelbyville, Tennessee either will do the latter is preferable. I wish you to write to me as soon as you get this for I have not had a letter from you in a long time. I would have written sooner but I did not have time there was on a few of us to have to cook for near 300 men and we had to be up soon and late, now our task is lighter for, the balance having been sent off to make room for the wounded in case there should be a battle above here. I will try to write oftener. Tell Bro. John that Haynes and Anderson have been promoted and Williams elected over Stevenson, several of the boys wishing me to run but I would not do it. I remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

General Buckner has been ordered to Mobile and General Clailborn [sic] takes command of the division. Our troops after driving the Yanks back to Nashville fell back 20 miles.

Shelbyville Tennessee
December 28th 1862

Dear Lis,

I steal a few moments this evening for the purpose of writing to you, this I should have done sooner, but I assure you that I have been so busy that I did not have the time so many sick are coming and going that it keeps the cooks busy from 4 O.C. in the morning till 9 at night, cooking rations for them to carry off, there is now in the hospital near 200. 50 are sent to Chattanooga daily and 10 or 15 to their regiments, not withstanding this the number increases instead of dismissing, a large lot of sick arrived yesterday from Buckners [sic] division 50 today and others momentarily expected. The Post Surgeon has for some time been trying to get room for the wounded but the sick comes as fast as he can send them off. A great Battle is expected every day near

Murfreesboro, and believed by a great many that tomorrow will be the fatal one, the 30th, 32nd, and 37th passed through this place yesterday in quick time for Murfreesboro. A fight occurred in that vicinity Friday evening last, it is said that 400 Yanks were slain and victory crowned our troops, though our loss was not so great yet it pains us to learn that the brave 13th Louisianians were all killed, wounded or captured. The Hospital steward just from two reports the two armies is 3 miles from each other, and that a battle will doubtless occur tomorrow. O that I could be with the boys in another great struggle. I have made three different applications to the Doctor to let me go with in the last few days, but he says that he cannot spare me from the kitchen and that I would not be able to go, if he could, I have never during my term of service felt more like going into Battle. I have lost all patience and I almost believe that I will never get well again and were it not for you and the others of the family it seems to me that I would just as soon be dead as to live in the present situation. I am bloated all over, oftener in the evenings. I have to go barefooted, my pants and drawers have become to [sic] small. I cannot button them atall [sic] at times, and I suffer a great deal, particular at night notwithstanding the light diet that I have confined myself to for the past two or three weeks. I would be glad to be at home with you, but it is impossible for me to come. I do not have any idea that I can be with you soon. [letter continued below]

December 29th

Before concluding this yesterday evening I had to go to business. Orders came that this hospital should be broken up immediately, accordingly we had to cook rations for the inmates. We have just finished, it being 3 O. Clock, and every one has left but the cooks, we will perhaps leave tomorrow, where we will go I cannot tell. I think to Chattanooga in that direction any how. The cause of this break up is unknown to me. The Yanks are falling back for Murfreesboro, our troops in pursuit, several skirmishes have occurred yesterday. General Morgan captured 1500 last Friday and the road between Nashville and Louisville Kentucky torn up and burnt 15 miles of the railroad also blew up a tunnel. As I have no chance of sending this to the office I will not conclude until I have ascertained where I will go. It has been nearly two months since I heard from you. I am very anxious and feel that a letter would do me a great deal of good. I feel better to day than I have in some time, the weather is warm and has been so for the past 12 or 15 days. I heard nothing from the regiment yet they are still in the vicinity of Murfreesboro I guess. [end of letter]

Tunnel Hill Georgia

January 1st 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

As Bro. John will leave for home in a few hours I will send you a few lines by him. There is no news, only that we are having some of the coldest weather that I have felt this winter. As we do not have to be out very much, it is not so bad as it might be. Your letter of the 21st came to hand a day or two ago. I was glad to hear that you had gone home again, but at the same time was sorry that you were so lonesome, and so low spirited. I would willingly do anything in my power to promote your happiness but I do not know what to do. I cannot leave the army if I would I would not surely for nothing would give me greater pleasure, and be assured that no effort will be spared on my part to obtain a Furlough, but at the same time, I have but a feeble hope of seeing you in the next eight months. I hope you will not become discouraged, look at the bright side of the picture some, the war cannot last always nor will we be always separated should we both live, it is hard, but yet we must be content to endure these privations a while longer and continue to hope for a better time, which will come sooner or later. Keep up your spirits and don't suffer yourself to be overcome. I know it is hard, but yet you must strive to do it if you wish to live easy. I will send by Bro. John (\$100) one hundred dollars for you to dispose of the best you can. I might have saved more if the Government had furnished me enough to eat. When you learned how we lived you will doubtless think that I have done well to save that much. I have three rings which I will send you. Take one, and give one to Eugenia and one to Lizzie. They are not as good as I wished, but my material for making rings was about gone up. If you wish one with gold sets, let me know and I will try to make it. I will begin to look for Dick in a few days. I want something good to eat. I must close for want of some thing to write. Give love to all and yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

George W. Higgins

Atlanta Georgia

January 2nd 1863

Dear Lis,

I this morning set myself of the purpose of concluding this letter. I left Shelbyville Tuesday evening and went as far as Wartrace that night where I remained till 8 O.C. the next morning and then taken the cars for Chattanooga where I arrived at dark and remained until 2 O.C. the next morning and started for this place and arrived here yesterday evening about 3 O.C. Nothing of importance occurred in my traveling. Wednesday morning before leaving Wartrace the roar of canons for Murfreesboro was terrible and distinctly heard by myself and all other that was with me, the distance of 23 miles. 75 prisoners came down to Chattanooga on the same train that I did. They were

captured by General Wheeler's Calvary the evening before with 100 wagons in rear of the Yanks, the fight was furious all day Tuesday and was supposed to have been received on Thursday. There had been a skirmishing everyday, but not a general engagement until Tuesday morning about day light. Our Army was only 1 or 2 miles from Murfreesboro and a half mile from the Yanks, by three O. Clock our forces had driven the enemy back 5 or 6 miles with great loss on our side but that of the enemy still greater. The enemy successfully held the fields. Our Calvary made a charge in the rear of the enemy. Captured and burn 500 wagons also captured 3000 prisoners. Burnt the bridges and it appears cut off their retreat. I will send you some papers that you may read for yourself, if I can get them. This is all the war news I have. 2 wounded arrived here last night. Tell Bro. John that he must stop here to see me as he passes through. I am at the Fairground Hospital Ward No. 6. I wish you to make me a coat. By the pattern of Bro. John's uniform the one I have is almost worn out. I certainly think that if you will write to me on the reception of this that it will not be long before I hear from you.

My health is better than it has been for some time. Direct your letter to Atlanta Fairground Hospital, Atlanta Georgia, and I think I will certainly get it. I remain your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Fairground Hospital
Atlanta, Georgia
January 6th, 1863

Dear Lis,

As I haven't anything to do, I thought that I could not pass off the time better than be engaged in writing to you, although I haven't anything interesting to write. The daily papers of this place haven't been assured for 3 or 4 days, and as I haven't been able to get to town, I cannot give you much war news. I was informed this morning that our forces have fallen back 20 miles below Murfreesboro to Tullahoma to give the men rest. The Yanks have received 30 thousand reinforcements, but did not attempt to follow us, skirmishes have occurred every days, but no particulars. I have not heard from our Regiment although there is a great many wounded here. 6 car loads of Ammunition, Arms, and Commissary stores arrived here last night, a part of what has been captured, this is all that I have heard since I last wrote to you. I wrote to Lieril Anderson before I left Shelbyville but haven't receive any answer, the boys suffered severely no doubt, for this last battle is said to be harder fought one than the one at Perryville, 1200 Prisoners passed here today enroute for Vicksburg. My health has improved since I came here, I

am very nervous and have written all that I can think of. I will close by asking you to be sure and write soon, for I haven't received a letter in a long time (4 November). I remain your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Kiss Lula for me, and tell me how she is.

Convalescent Camp
Atlanta, Georgia
January 18, 1863

Dear Brother,

I have to day been detailed to go on an expedition in the North eastern part of this state, to gather up a few of the Union men in that region which have become troublesome. I have made several efforts to get away from here but the Doctors would not let me go and now I have to go any how, and as Wagoner at that. We leave at day light tomorrow. My health is better than it was when we parted. I still have Rheumatism and Diarrhea, but I can get about pretty well. I would like very much to have my clothing for I begin to need them very much and will need still more before I return to this place, which will be 5 or 6 weeks. I wish you to express them to me at this place, in care of Dr. Orme Surgeon Convalescent Camp, Atlanta, for I may get a chance to go home on my return, enclose letters also for I have not hear from home since the 4th day of November. Morris is yet in the Hospital, Clark stayed only a day or two got a furlough and went home. Over 100 men have been detailed from the same Camp, the expedition will consist of over 1,000. Attend to the above request as soon as you can, and write to me at the same time, direct the letter in care of Dr. Orme, Conv. Camp and you will oblige, a grateful Brother.

G.W.H.

Convalescent Camp
Atlanta Georgia
January 18, 1863

Dear Lis,

I again set myself to write you a few lines before leaving this place, which will be tomorrow at day light, but it is not to go to the Company and to what point it is to go I am

hardly able to tell you. However I have been informed that it is to the North eastern part of this state to arrest some Union Men who have rendered themselves troublesome, how long I will be on this expedition I have no idea. I am sorry that I have been thought of as such a trap, particular when I have tried to get back as often in the last few days. The Dr. always told me that I was too unwell for service, but he thinks in a case of such emergency as this that I might go and drive a wagon, therefore I have to go. I am almost barefooted and my clothing is near worn out, how I will manage in such a case with all strangers, I am afraid will be bad. As I have some business to attend to tonight, and it is now after 11 O.C. I will close. Write to me and direct to Convalescent Camp Atlanta Georgia, until you hear from me again. I have not heard from you yet. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Convalescent Camp
Atlanta, Georgia
February 11th, 1863

Dear Lis,

I returned from my trip to the Mountain on the 6th, and having had the promise of a furlough on my return I could not write to you until I ascertained whether I would get it or not, and now having become satisfied that I will not get it I have concluded to write to you. My trip to the Mountains was anything but a pleasant one, the weather was extremely cold and the ground was covered with snow nearly all the time, which made it very bad with me as my shoes was very sorry and to add to all this I got my leg hurt by a mule and taken Eraeiphalus [sic] in it, which put me past working for several days. We captured 500 deserters and brought them back to Atlanta in chains. Several of them will doubtless be put to death, among those captured are several old Union Men over 60 years of age and with over 100 thousand dollars. I felt sorry to see these old men and their sons chained together and splurging in the mud as they had to do. There is plenty of deserters in that portion of Georgia, we left about 400 Calvary there to keep them down and catch what they can. Their headquarters will be Dahlonega in Lumpkin County. That is one of poorest regions of Country that I have ever seen settled, and cultivated. Not withstanding the whole country had been dug up for Gold and a great quantity obtained, but there still remains plenty. Some of the boys went out one day and found enough to bring them from 5 to 25\$ in a short while. I washed a few pans full of mud, and sold mine for one dollar, and lost the dollar in 15 minutes afterwards which set me even. Since my return I have received two letters from you, one dated the 20th and the other the 30th of Jan. They being the first that I have received since the first of

November. You cannot imagine how much good it did me to hear from you once more although you did not tell me all that I wished to know, how many bales of cotton did I make last year, how many did Papa sell, did I make corn enough, will there be meat enough to do the family this year, has Pa had me any land cleared and does he expect to have me any cotton planted this year. I would rather he would, for I have but a poor way of making money in the war at 11 dollars per month, has he bought you a horse yet or not, how does my stock look, does Will attend to the Hogs as he should or not. I am very sorry to hear to the misfortune that has befallen Oscar, and hope when we hear again that he will be all right. Such is the fortune of war, how soon I may be in a similar situation is more than I can tell, but on a thing as certain, I shall leave this place for my Regiment, the last of the week, if I get no worse, the Doctors have kept me here long enough I have tried often to get away but have failed, the Doctors told me this morning that he would let me go the last of the week. My clothing are nearly all worn out, and I haven't money to buy others with Bro. John I guess has some for me and I want to go and get them. You must direct your next letter to the Regiment, the same place that Sallie directs hers, Shelbyville, Tenn. I reckon, I hope you will write soon and often, I remain as ever your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Kiss Lula for me.

Fair Ground Hospital

Atlanta, Georgia

February 18th, 1863

Dear Lis,

I received a letter from you a few days ago, dated Feb. 6th and be assured that I was glad to hear that you were all well. This is the fourth letter that I have received since my return from the mountain trip, and would have answered it sooner but expected to leave this place before this time, (as I told you in my last letter) and would answer it the day I would leave, but I have again failed in my expectation and do not know now at what time I will get away. And have concluded to write to day. Last Friday morning there was a call for all those that wished to go to their Regiments, I was one among the first of about 50 to step out and give my name, expecting to leave that evening, but what was my disappointment finding that I had been fooled into a trap instead of leaving that evening for the Regiment, I had to leave in half an hour, as a detached guard for this Fairground Hospital and as I have already said, do not know when I will get away. The Capt. that has command of us has told me that he would let me off just as soon as he

could. The duty that we have to perform is light and our officers appear very clever and kind. We are not exposed as much at the weather as when with the Regiment, nor do we have any marching to do, or fighting either, and was it not for the inducements to spend money I would like to stay here a month or two longer, and may have it to do any how, as my leg has got worse, and was yesterday spent in this hospital as a patient, and as soon as I get well will be returned to the guard again. With proper treatment I think it will be well in a few days, although it is very sore at this time.

Everything in this place is very high, Sweet Potatoes 4\$ per bushel, shoes for 15 to 20 dollars a pair, Sugar 80 cents per lb., Calicoes 2.50 a yard and everything in proportion. One dollar in Gold is worth 4.50 in Confederate money. But few cases of Small Pox in town at this time. Everyone seems to be impressed with the idea that we will have peace soon. A great battle daily expected near Murfreesboro. All traveling in that direction has been stopped with in the last few days. Direct your letters to the Regiment if you know where it is, and give me all the news, and if you can have time write a little longer letter than usual. Give my love to all, and remember your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Convalescent Camp
Atlanta, Georgia
February 24th 1863

Dear Wife,

You cannot imagine how glad I was at the thoughts of leaving Atlanta this evening. I was sent from the hospital yesterday, by own regiment and will leave for the Regiment this evening if nothing prevents. It is not that I able for duty that makes me so anxious to get away, but it is to get some Clothing and get with friends once more. My health is but little better now than it was when I came to this place, and besides that I am fearful that my leg will get worse again, when I have much walking to do, although it appears to be well at this time, but it was well once before and then got worse, after walking one day while on guard. I am rather running the blockade to get off and may be caught in it, but I think I have managed it to [sic] sly for the Doctors to detect me before I can get away, and if I am caught I haven't a doubt but, that I will be put under guard and kept here for some time. I have no fear of such a result. I have not ascertained whether the regiment is at Tullahoma or Shelbyville, perhaps Sallie has heard from Bro. John, and knows where he is, if she has you can learn from her where to direct your letters. I wrote to Pa and Eugenia some time ago and will look for an answer when I get to the Regiment. Ask Doc if he ever has an idea of answering the letter I wrote to him when I was at Hospital

or did he ever get it and tell him if he does not answer it soon that I will write to him again (for spite). There is but little war news. A great talk of peace. It is a general opinion that there will be but little fights here after. It is thought to be a case that Bragg's Army is falling back. I do not believe it. The weather is cold, cloudy and disagreeable. As I have some cooking to do before I leave, I must get at it, as the time is near at hand. I would delight in being with you all once more. Give my love to Father, Sisters and Brother, yourself and Dear Lula not excepted. I remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Company Muster Roll Form for March and April 1863

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

George W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Mch [sic] and Apr, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Nov. 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Lt A B Hardcastle

Period 12 mo.

Last paid:

By whom Maj Boma

To what time Dec 31, 186[blank].

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

F D McCaw

Copyist.

Tullahoma, Tenn.

March 1st 1863

Dear Lis,

As I have but little to do today I have concluded to write to you that you may know where I am. I wrote to you the day I left Atlanta, which was Tuesday the 24th. I arrived at Chattanooga, the next morning and taken the cars for this place immediately and made a safe trip to the Depot by 4 O.C. in the evening as the rain was falling very heavy. I did not start for the Regt. I made my way through mud and water, for nearly 2 miles to the encampment of the Regt. and to my great satisfaction found the boys all in good health and a great deal better fixed to stand the winter than you could imagine. As I had never before seen the whole Army in winter quarter, I could not help from laughing at the little rude stick and dirt Chimney attached to each tent, and I assure you that it is very comfortable for the weather has been very bad, not so cold, but rainy. Bro. John looks as well as I ever saw him, the other boys all look healthy. We have but little to do and get plenty to eat. The Army are throwing up breastworks all around this place. As yet our Regt. has done but little of that. The day after I arrived here we had orders to be ready to move immediately to Huntsville, Ala. Accordingly the next day we marched down to the Depot, and after getting all our baggage on the Cars, the Order was countermanded, however three of our companies were sent on, as we had but eight, there is but five left here, and I think it probable that we will go there in a few days, or those three companies be returned. There is but a small prospect for a fight here soon, the ground is so wet that the two Armies cannot get together. Over 1000 Negroes are at work on the Fortifications at Bridgeport, 30 miles this side of Chattanooga. This will be a great place for our army to fall back to, if the Yanks should prove too much for us up here, but I am in hopes that will not have that to do.

I received five letters from you when I got to the Regt. most of them, however were old ones one being as late as I received before leaving Atlanta, but you may be assured that I was glad to them for they gave me a greatest of news. I have been looking for another every day since my return, but as yet have not received it. I also received all the clothing you sent, it was in good time, for I need them very much. I am well pleased with the Shoes, but no better than with the other Articles.

Our Company was mustered yesterday for pay and will be paid soon. I will not draw for nearly three months, yet, as I have already drawn too much, I will like to send about 75 dollars to you if I had any chance, for if I keep it will be spent foolishly. You must write soon and tell me about the Farm, whether Pa sewed [sic] any wheat for me or not, and

whether he will have any Cotton planted or not. I heard that Paris was in Jail at Louisville KY and wanted to get home very bad, this news came from one of the Regt. who seen him there, and has returned. If I ever get him again it will be some time first, I will close by asking you to write soon to your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

I would like to be with you and Lula but as there is no chance for me to get there I am in hopes that you will try and get on as well as you can without me.

G. W. Higgins

Tullahoma, Tenn.

March 8th, 1863

Dear Lis,

I have concluded to devote a few of my leisure moments in writing to you, today. I have no news to write, therefore you must not expect a lengthy letter. I have not heard from you since I came to the Regiment, not either has Bro. John heard from Sallie. The last letter I received from you was dated Feb. 6th and I am getting anxious to hear from you but as there has been much rain, I certainly would have heard from you before now. I expect a letter by Major Nunn but was disappointed. It seems to me that it has become almost impossible for us to hear from each other at regular times. The health of the company is very good at this time and numbers many more than it did at the last fight. Our Regiment and the 32nd Mississippi have been consolidated, we are still known as the 45th. The Colonel is a very fine man (His name is Lowry). That portion of the Brigade that was sent to Alabama has returned, we will not go there now, as the fight has subsided. There is not much prospects for a fight in this region soon, although General Briel has been reinforced by General Sigle [sic] with 20,000 men, if Bragg does not receive some reinforcement soon. I fear they will be too strong for him. The Chaplain of our Regiment who was left at Murfreesboro to wait on the wounded, returned a day or two ago, and report that Yankee Army in a demoralized condition caused he says by desertions, and the numerous defeats that their army has sustained; they are disheartened and discouraged and he thinks that they will fight with the same courage that they have done. If all this be true we can get some reinforcements, we will give them one of the worst whipping that they ever had. Our soldiers are getting very tired of war, and believe as we do that another victory will bring about peace. We feel satisfied that we will have to fight as soon as the weather gets dry enough for the Armies to get together, which will be in April. Our Calvary captured 2,200 Yanks a few

days ago, several wagons and a good chance of provisions. I have enclosed a Twenty Dollar Bill, that I have but little use for here and will probably send another in my next. I do not like to risk it all at once, and will send it at different times, you must let me hear whether you have received this or not and the date of the letter containing it, so that I will know whether you received all or not. Let me hear from you often, and tell me how the work about the farm is progressing, whether you are by yourself or not, how Lula is getting along (God Bless you and her, I would do well to see you both). Has she got to talking so that she can be understood. Give my love to all the family and do not fail to write soon to your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tullahoma Tenn.
March 13th 1863

Dear Lis,

Your letter of the sixth was received yesterday, it was short, but gave me pleasure as well as some very desirable news you stated that you had written a letter on Tuesday and directed it to Atlanta. I will not get it, as I have left there before you wrote the letter. I also received one a few days ago dated the 24th Feb. In these letter you have only answered a few of the questions that I have asked you, you did not state, whether Miss Gray had left you or not, nor you never told me how much Cotton was made last year, nor you ever mentioned what articles you purchased at Mrs. Anderson's sale. I would have been glad, if you had bought one of her cows, at almost any price and am sorry that you have let the chance of getting a good cow slip. You stated that Doc had gone to Mobile to get Bonds for our Cotton and you wish to know what I would have done with it, whether I wanted my debts paid with it or not, if you will have money enough with out it, pay the debts, if not you had better keep it. I would be glad to be able to pay all my debts and want you to pay Mrs. Holmes the 20 dollars that I borrowed when I first left home whether you pay anymore or not. She holds a note on me which you must fail to get when you pay the money. If Pa buys you a horse and then pays the taxes there will not be much left, you had better keep some on hand incase [sic] that you or I one should need it not withstanding the debts are drawing interest and should be paid, and I expect that you had better pay as much of them as you can, by retaining a sufficient sum for yourself. I sent twenty dollars in my last letter to you and have fifty dollars more to send but hate to risk it in a letter. You spoke of sending me some shirts and drawers by J. F. Clark, I do not need anything of the sort, and hope you will not send them for I would have to throw them away when we get to marching. I will always let you know when I am needing clothes in time for you to make them. What you make for me must

be made two inches larger in the waist, than the old pattern, for I have gone away to keg, so much in the last three months that my clothes are all too small. I am in a fair way to get as large as Pa in a few months. The news about the war is severe. Gen. Roserane [sic] had advance halfway between Murfreesboro and Shelbyville, I have understood that the women and children have been ordered out of the latter place and a fight is daily expected. the prisoners captured by Gen. Van Dorn last week passed through here two days ago going towards Chattanooga, some of our company and a good many of the Reg. were sent to guard them, they have not returned yet. Everybody seems confident of success if another Battle is fought there will surely be the case. Enclose you will find some needles that you need. Let any of the family have some of them, if they wish any, they cost me only one dollar.

Bro. John and myself are well, the health of the company is good. There has been a greater of rain in this region and the ground is perfectly saturated with water. The boys are all in good spirits and are anxious to close this terrible war, and no more so than your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tullahoma, Tenn.
March 17th, 1863

Dearest Lis,

As I haven't anything to do this evening and am quite lonely (for the company is out drilling) I have an idea that it would be a good way to pass the lonely moments that is by writing to you. Nothing particular interesting has occurred between the two contending Armies lately. Our advance line is still above Shelbyville, the enemy have made no advance movement lately and probably will not until they receive new reinforcements. It is reported here and generally believed that Gen. Longstreet with about 20,000 men is now on his way to Knoxville in this State, and is supposed to be making his way to some point in Kentucky, through Cumberland Gap. Which movement if at be so will Flerstate [sic] old Rosencrane, [sic] and probably delay hostile movement to an indefinite length of time, and I am in hopes will cause him to fall back to or beyond Nashville. Gen. Van Dorn was a short time since almost surrounded by the enemy, but made good his escape by capturing a good many prisoners, variously estimated from 1,000 to 10,000. Our Calvary command by Van Dorn, Wheeler and Horton is doing us a great service in harassing the enemies [sic] rear, several Regiments of infantry have been mounted and added to their number.

Some desertions on this portion of the Army, almost every week some of the men are brought back and shot. Two were shot last Friday and one that was condemned made his escape before the fatal day arrived, last week about 200 of the enemy deserted and started for our lines a squad of Calvary was sent to bring them back, but the deserters turned about and drove them back and finally succeeded in reaching our lines, where they considered themselves safe. The Yanks captured by Van Dorn and few weeks ago, passed through this place last week and taken the cars for Chattanooga on entering the cars they were compelled to throw aside all their Overcoats and Blankets, Knapsacks and all surplus Clothing which caused them to be very uncomfortable as the weather was at that time very cold. They stated on their arrival at Chattanooga that they were very much surprised by the treatment they received by our men and particular the Mississippians as they had been taught to believe that they were cut throats. The Colonel (Yank) made a speech at Chattanooga and proposed to his fellow prisoners three cheers for the Mississippians which was unanimously received by them and such deafening shouts have seldom rent the air as it did on that occasion as told me by our Lieut. Colonel who was present at that time. Our Regt. was this evening inspected by Gen. Hardee and received great praise for their accuracy in exercising all movements he say that we need not drill any more in Battalion movements as we are perfect.

Brothers' health and mine is very good my leg has never got entirely well yet. I am not required to do any duty, but do not take advantage of this at all times, but drill when I feel like it too much exercise makes it inflamed. We have plenty to eat and not much to do and are all getting fat and lazy. I fatten more about the keg than any where else, was have become too large for my trousers so if you make me any you must be sure to make them about two inches larger than you have ever made.

In one of your last letters you told me that you would send me some clothing by John Clark. I wrote to you that I did not need anything but I would be glad you would send me a colored Cotton Shirt, for an awkward negro beat one of mine all to pieces the other day, when washing. In my last letter I sent you 13 papers, Needles and the letter before I sent you a twenty dollar Bill and will send a Fifty in this one, it is a bad way to send money but I have concluded to risk it as I will not have any other chance of sending it to you for a long time. I hope to hear from you soon, tell Pa and Eugenia, Doc and Lizzie that I have written to all them and have never I received an answer yet and if they do not write soon that I will write to them again. I think if you all knew how anxious we are to hear from home and how much good it does us to get a letter you would certainly write often and a more lengthy letter than you commonly do.

I will close by asking to be remember by you all

I remain your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Enclosed you will find a (50) fifty dollar bill which you must dispose of the best you can for the interest of us both. Yours G.W.H.

Tullahoma Tenn.

March 29th 1863

Dear Lis,

I received your letter of the tenth yesterday. I am glad to hear that you were well, as also to hear that the family were all well. I am sorry to hear that you are so far behind in the farm, these has undoubtedly been a great quantify [sic] of rain down there this spring. I have never seen the likes before in my life, the ground here is too wet to plow now, and there has not been a rain in nearly two weeks, if that has been the case there the farmers are certainly far behind. From your letter I learned that Horses are as high there as they are here you wished to know if I would be willing to give two hundred and twenty five dollars (225\$) for a horse or mare. I will answer you the best I can. If the animals be very fine large and good qualities, I should even then hate very much to give such a price. If Father thinks that he can manage so as to make a good support, without buying I would rather he would do it, as my corn will probably be short any way and if he has to buy, to secure me a crop why then he must do the best he can. I am very sorry that I am not able to furnish you a horse to ride, but I hope that you will try to be contented anyhow after you see that it is for the benefit of us both. I have in my last letter told you to pay my debts as far as the money goes and I am yet in hopes that you will do it, if you can get along without a horse I have begun to believe that now is the best time in the world to pay debts for that is the only thing that money will buy. I have since I last came to the Regt. send you 70\$ dollars at one time 20 and at another 50 which I hope you will receive in good time, and I have over drawn my wages it will be some time before I draw any more. I have saved all my wages of Paris and I could (however there is nearly 30\$ due me for the hire of Paris) (a part of which I will never get) and have sent to you, making nearly 300\$. It is time that I might have saved more, if I had been well and remained with my Regt. all the time. I am here now and in good health. There is not as much prospects of a fight in this region now as there has been. It is believed that Rosecrane [sic] is falling back, and will probably go to Miss. I have no doubt but we will leave this place soon. I hope that we may go to Miss. so that I will be near home. Give my love to all the family, yourself not excepted. I remain your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Write often. Kiss Lula for me. I am anxious to go home and will as soon as I can get a chance which I fear will be long time as there is no chance at this time.

Tullahoma Tenn.
March 28th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received two letters from you day before yesterday, bearing date 17th and 20th you may be assured that I was glad to hear from you, they gave me great satisfaction and I was more than glad to hear that the 20 dollars sent by mail to you had found safe transportation. I have sent 50 dollars since that time which I hope to hear from soon. The pieces that you sent are very pretty, the one with the smallest checks will make much the prettiest dress the ground work of both will turn white after being washed a few times. I am very sorry to hear that the farm progresses so slow and very much impressed with the idea that there will be very short Crops made there this year. I would give two hundred dollars to be there two months. I think by that time I could have the crops in such a fine than it could be easily managed. I wrote to Pa and Eugenia last Thursday for the second time. I hope to hear from them soon and will write to Doc in a few days, in answer to the one received last week. There is no news to write as every thing is about the same as it has been for a long time however Gen. Forest [sic] did capture 800 Federals on Thursday last, only 9 miles from Nashville, which shows that our Calvary are always on the alert. We have no idea how long it will be before we leave this place, perhaps sometime yet as there was the heaviest rain here last night that I ever heard fall this will delay movements for a time. Our boys kept healthy yet and I hope may continue so I am in good health at present, Bro. John is rather grunting today. You spoke of having sold some meat, if you could have helped it. I expect it would have been best, you must try to raise a good quantity of Vegetables, which will help the meat to hold out, if it be possible for me to get home I would like to have some myself. Write soon to your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tullahoma Tenn.
April 5th 1863

Dear Lis,

Your letter of the 27th was received Friday. I was glad to hear that all was well at home and also to hear that you had received the money I sent to you. Today being the Sabbath everything in camp is quite dull and everyone seems to be passing off the time by writing to their friends. April is here, it entered with a snowstorm and has continued to be very cold to the present time, the coldest for April that I have ever experienced. The trees show but little sign of spring, none have begun to bud yet. I am unable to say anything about the grain crop of his country more that I seen stated in the papers that they are very good. I have not seen but one field of wheat, and we are camped in that, you can guess how it looks. We have cheering news of good crops in all portions of the Confederacy in places they are said to never have been better. I hope that there may be an abundance of wheat raised this year, for I am getting tired of cornbread, the soldiers have had but little flour in a long time, owing to the scarcity of flour. Confederate is worth little to soldiers. I will mention the price of a few articles, Envelopes for 1 to 5 dollars per pack, letter paper from 3 to 8 per square. Eggs 2 dollars per dozen, Chickens 2\$ a piece and everything else in proportion. We get but a small quantity and it is very well, for we can not buy anything with it. News of peace have all died away and it remains only for us to fight it out, and in my opinion we are fully able to do that and will no doubt get about it pretty soon. But I have no doubt that we will leave this place to fight, for they are aware that we are well fortified at this point, and will not attack us. It is reported by the Northern papers that we have a large army in Kentucky, and that they have captured Danville, and were marching towards Louisville as yet I have seen no account of such proceedings in southern papers. I have ordered the Triweekly Register of Mobile and the Weekly Intelligence of Atlanta to be sent to you, the first one for 6 months and the other one for one year. If you get these and will read them you can keep well posted about the movements of the army as myself. I consider there are papers the best for general news that the Confederacy affords. With these papers you can, I hope, be able to pass off some of your lonesome hours with pleasure. I have told you about all the news that I can parade. I am still fattening and weigh 173 lbs., my health is good but I have no action or wind. Bro. John is improving and will be well in a few days. I am glad to hear that Pa, he will make plenty corn there. You must write to me often and give me all the news. I like to get a lengthy letter for it always contains more news than a short one. Enclosed I send you 3 rings, of the two largest you can take choice and the other to Sister Eugenia, that small one is sent to Lula, by Bro. John. Ring making is the occupation they all here of late. I hope to hear from you soon, farewell.

I remain as ever your devoted husband,

G. W. Higgins

I wrote to Pa and Doc recently and expect an immediate answer.

Tullahoma Tenn.

April 11th 1863

Dear Lis,

Yours of the third has been received. It was only five days on the route, being the shortest time that any of your letters have ever made the trip. I was very glad to hear that you all were well. You spoke of the slow progress in the farm, bad weather and the idleness of the negroes, these things are rather discouraging that I hope all will improve as the weather gets warmer and that you may yet be able to make a plenty to live on. You desire me to send you a paper to read. I have ordered two, both of which will perhaps reach you before this does. You also wanted me to send the course comb. I have bought one (though it is rather inferior for the price of \$2.50) I send it with this letter. If you will keep it [missing text] there will not be any danger of the teeth splitting. It is the best one that I can find. I have previous to this sent you several rings which you have never said anything about. You never told me whether you have had any of my debts paid or not, I would be glad you have them paid as soon as you can, that the interest might be stopped. I have never in all my life, known a better time to pay a debt and I wish you to use every effort in your power to accomplish this. While at the same time I will be a saving with what little I get as I can, and hope by so doing to be able to pay all that I owe, so as to enable us to live easier after the close of this war, provide that we should live to see it close. If you haven't an opportunity of going to Macon, give the money to Doc or Papa – some day when they are going and either of them will do it for you, that is pay my debts. I am very much in hopes that you will have a good garden this year and hope that the crops may be good also, notwithstanding the wet weather that you have had. It certainly could not have been so cold there as it has been up here. This is the first morning that it has missed a frost since the first of the month, none of the trees have put out yet. We have been anxiously waiting for the approach of the enemy, but at this time there is not more prospects for a fight than there was two months ago, the bombardment of Charleston you will have heard of before this reaches you. It is believed there that the enemy's failure to take Charleston, will have a tendency to demoralize their army. The papers state that two or three of their best boats was considerably damaged and that one has since sunk, it is what is needed to bring about a speedy peace. Our Army is in good condition. The general review taken place yesterday, there was a great many Ladies out but it was so dusty I could scarcely see them. I am in very good health. Bro. John hasn't improved as fast as I thought he would, he has been confined to his bed all the week, and looks very bad but is better today. N. Penry has the Consumption very bad and will not live long in the service. Bro. John will

try and have him discharged as soon as he is able to attend to it as I have told you all the news that I can think of I will close. I remain your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tullahoma Tenn.

April 17th 1863

Dear Lis,

I seat myself for the purpose of answering a letter received yesterday dated the 10th. I was glad to hear from you and the more so by hearing that all was well. You spoke of the slow progress in the farm, but from what you say I think they are getting along about as well as could be expected. I hope the weather has moderated there so that farmers may be better showing. Spring has just begun up here, the trees are just budding out. You spoke of sending me a lot of clothing by John Clark, if you did not receive a different order from me before he started, I hope this may reach you before he leaves, for you may be assured that I have no use for anything, but the shirts, if anything else is sent I will have to throw some away. The orders recently issued in regard to baggage is very strict, the same that it was last year at Tupelo, 6 tents to every 100 men. There is preparations here for big battle, I think it will be pretty soon, it is reported that large reinforcements have arrived here from Vicksburg and others are expected from Virginia. I do not think that the fight will be at this place but will be at or near Murfreesboro. Every one appears to be confident of our success, but we may be defeated. All Surplus baggage, Ammunitions and Provisions have been ordered to the rear also all Soldiers that are unable for duty. We have been ordered to practice shooting and will commence tomorrow. There with other things that I cannot mention is proof enough to an old Soldier that a battle is imminent. Tell Miss Addie Anderson that I am very much obliged to her for weaving my shirts and will fight hard as I can, if I get into a battle. Everyone hopes that this will be the last fight provided we are victorious and there does not appear to be anything to keep us from accomplishing that, everything is in good trim, the brightest guns you ever saw, the healthiest and best clothed set of men imaginable and as well drill as they will ever be. As I have ever before told you, we have good Breastworks here, but I have no idea that they will ever be used in a fight. Our Calvary continued to harass the enemy and almost every day they capture some of the Yanks only a few days since, the [sic] captured two trains of Cars, and a great many prisoners, among them was three of Gen. Kesecram's Staff, and a good many other Officers, papers contain a full account of the affair which you will perhaps see, ere this reaches you. With what the papers contain and what I have mentioned make up all the war news that I can think of and perhaps [missing text-the page is torn off at this point] return with the other he left them at Chattanooga and went home, (he lives in north Alabama) if he

does not return soon he will be reported as a deserter which I would have very as John a good fellow, Owen Haughter was left at Caiet [sic] with the small posse. The boys that have returned say that they have had a hard time and describe their treatment as being severe.

Your last letter was the lengthiest that you have written in a long time. I hope to receive such all the time. The last rings that I sent to you I hope you will receive as there was one for Lula sent by Bro. John. You must not wait to get a letter before [missing text-the page is torn off at this point]

Camp Near Wartree [sic] Tenn.

April 26th 1863

Dear Lis,

I received your very kind and interesting letter on Wednesday last, and would have answered it sooner but Gen. Bragg rather broke into my arrangementy [sic]. I wrote to Sister Eugenia last Thursday and told her that we had orders to cook rations. Orders came before we had got our rations cooked to strike tents which we did, and began our march far before we camped for the night. Early the next morning we struck out and reached this place just before noon. We have a good camping ground and from the way we begun to clean up and fix things about here, we concluded that our stay would be continued for a good while, but movements are now so complicated that it is impossible for a private soldier to arrive at any definite conclusion in regard to future movements of his position of the army he doesn't know to day where he will be tomorrow. After working very hard yesterday all day cleaning off the Camp and had go to bed and the most of us to sleep, we were aroused with orders to cook rations and to be ready to march this morning at six o.c. [sic] about the time we had go at it, we were ordered to be ready at three, and finally after we had completed our cooking, both orders were countermanded and instead of marching as I expected, I am seated at camp scribing to you. I do not now think that it was Gen. Bragg's intention for us to leave when he issued the order, but think that it was done to circulate a report, in order to frustrate the enemy, however it would not surprise me if we were to leave here before night, I cannot believe that we will leave this place for Murfreesboro as we were ordered, for our commander have never until last night told us where we were ordered, and either do I think they ever will tell us where we will have to fight. I have my doubts as to whether we will advance on the Yanks at Murfreesboro, or not. There is some news from Vicksburg, but as I know but little about it I will only say that I am afraid that the Yanks are getting the best of the game, or at any rate that they are getting the advantage. The health of the army is very good. John Stevens has returned to the Company, he came in good time to

keep himself out of the difficulty which he was about to get in. All the boys that was captured at the last fight have got in and are now ready for it again.

You stated that Pa, wished me to send him the Atlanta Paper, which I will do immediately but the editor will not take any more subscribes for a longer period than three months, and it is two dollars for that length of time. I am afraid that Pa, has got the paper that should have went to Mr. Anderson as Frank sent money at the same time that I did and there might have been a mistake made somewhere, I will if not ordered off today attend to it. I promised in my last to Eugenia that I would do it that day, but I had other fish to fry. You said that you were very pleased with the ring sent you which I was glad to hear. Tell Sister Lizzie that I would have sent her one long ago but had nothing to make it out of. You wished me to send you a comb which I have done long ago. I have told you all the news and will close by asking you to write soon, and often. Give my love to all the family and take a share to yourself. Kiss Lula for me.

I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. I expect that you had better continue to direct your letters to Tullahoma until further ordered.

Company Muster Roll Form for May and June 1863
(Confederate.)

H 3 battalion. Miss.

George W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for May and June, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Nov. 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Col A B Hardcastle

Period 12 mos [sic]

Last paid:

By whom Maj Bomar

To what time Apr 30, 1863

Present or absent Present

Remarks: Over paid by \$7.87 cts. [sic] last payment.

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

[illegible]

Copyist.

Wartrace Tenn.

May 7, 1863

Dear Lis,

I have just read your letter of the first, stating that the Yanks have been in that region and that you in company with others of the family have fled to the hills, to evade their presence, perhaps this was well enough, but I cannot see what good it should have gone had the enemy had visited your homes. You also spoke of going to South Carolina, to live with your uncle. I am very sorry to hear that you have such notions in your head. You have a home and if you wish to keep it you must stay there. When you leave for your anticipated journey I advise you to bid farewell to your home forever, of this advice I have several reasons, first the expense of your trip, the expense to which you will have to insure, in boarding a natural destruction of everything at your present home. I anticipate more. Your uncle never asked you to come to his house, do you know that he would welcome you, and have you ever thought that condition we would be left in at the close of the war. There is no move that you could make that would give me more displeasure than to leave your home although you may consider it the best, and the life that you have been living a very lonely one, yet I am compelled to tell you that it is the way to bring us both to want. I could say more but will for fear, and hope that here this may reach you, that you have got over your fright and concluded to remain at home, as you should do, and if you have gone or will go instead of taking my advice I can only wish you a safe trip, and a sincere welcome at your uncles. May God

direct the future for the best. I do not see why the people would be so badly frightened, what had make you so willing to give up our sweet little home to ruin, you of course answer, the Yankee raid. Well Lis, I admit that it has been bad, but not enough to justify you to leave, perhaps this may never occur again and it is my opinion that it never will and even if it should they would not hurt you were you to remain at home. I am sorry that Pa does not advise you different. There is no news in this quarter. The enemy have been completely routed in Virginia. The weather is very cold and damp in this region. I await the arrival of a letter telling me where to direct my next to. I remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. I direct this to Pa, as I am at a loss to know where you are. Please send me as much ground Red Pepper as you can by mail. G.W.H.

Wartrace, Tenn.

May 12th 1863

Dearest Lis,

I received your kind letter this morning mailed at Atlanta and dated May 6th you have no idea how sorry I am that you have left home, the home that I have been proud to own and have endeavored in every possible way (under the existing circumstances) to make comfortable for you. Yes I have been proud to own it, for there was all that made life a pleasure to me and there it was that my hopes for future happiness was centered, but alas you have left it to the mercy of Negroes and thieves and gone to seek protection under a relative, a great way from your welcomed home and may you be welcomed on your arrival there is what I sincerely wish. Unless some accident has happened to you, you have doubtless arrived there long before this time, and can tell me whether you like the place or not, and whether you had rather pay your board, and live with an Uncle, or live at home, welcomed as you know you were and where instead of paying board, you would have full control and by your presence could promote the interest of us both. The expense to which you will doubtless have to undergo in living, and your clothing, which of course will have to be better than if you had remained at home, the expense of traveling and a great many other expenses which you will incur are in my opinion much against my will, yet I cannot blame you with the whole of it, but think, that if you had been anxious to stay at home, permission would have had but little effect upon you. All these expenses added to my previous debts, (which are now bearing 8 or 10 percent) will I fear be more than I will ever be able to pay even if the war would end in the next 12 months and the loved spot will therefore be made desolate instead of peace and

ease, there will be trouble and fatigue. I now ask you with all the solemnity of a loving husband have such thoughts as these ever entered your mind, you may perhaps answer that if the Yanks should come in that country that everything would be destroyed, but mark you, that is hardly possible, for the army of Miss. have been reinforced sufficiently to drive back all invaders and then think again should they be so successful as to invade our country and destroy everything would it not be better to have a small a debt as possible, than it might be the easier paid, for if the negroes are taken from us I will be the only one to make the money and imagine how long it would take me to make 1,000 dollars, for you are aware that that is what I already owe and it is bearing interest as I have already stated. The news of your preparations to leave, came upon me like a thunder bolt. I never was more astounded in my life, and had it been known by me in time, I should have sent a dispatch to you by Telegraph, but alas, you were far on your journey before the sad act. I have no pleasure in anything and if life should always be so dark in future as it is at present I could scarcely wish to live. Immediately after receiving yours of the first, I sat down and wrote you hoping that you would be delayed long enough to get it, but for fear that you had gone I directed the letter to Pa. If he gets it, I know he will be sorry that he had any thing to do in advising you, for in the letter I told you not to go, and also stated that I was sorry that he (Pa) had not advised you different. This perhaps was wrong, as it will of course do no good now, and only bring more trouble on him. I wish to ask you what the remaining women will do what did those of this country do last year while the Yanks were all over this country, they did not flee to another country but remained at home and tried to take care of what little they had and in many instances saved their property from the destruction of the inhuman foe. And more think of it how am I situated all that I love is in one place and all that I own is in another separated by many long miles is my desire to obtain a furlough based upon as good a foundation now as when you were at home, you can certainly see that it is not. I wish to see you knew [sic] as bad as ever and as great deal worse (but I would of course had a delicacy in going to your uncles, whom I never knew and at the same time not knowing that I would be welcomed) and true it is that I would like very much to see my farm, be at home with you and Lula where I could do as it please me best. The first of July will soon come and after that time there will probably be a chance for me to get a furlough as Gen. Bragg has promised furloughs after that time. I had made up my mind to get one if I could then, but the question naturally arises where would I go to now, if I should be so lucky as to obtain one, to see you of course, but there I would be deprived of the pleasure of sweet home, and if I were to go home (which of course I would not do) there would be no pleasure there for me, all that has ever made it happy was you and dear Lula. It is for your happiness that I have faced the foe and am trying to sustain my honor, as a gentleman and soldier. I have already said more on this subject that will do any good, I think I am prepared to meet the worst, if it

be poverty let it come the sooner the better, perhaps for then I will not be so stingy in [missing text] as I have been. [end of letter]

Wartrace, Tenn.

May 22nd, 1863

Dear Lis,

I hasten to answer the long expected letter, that arrive yesterday evening bringing the glad tidings, of your safe arrival and welcome at your Uncles. I guess you were very tired, and was glad to get to a place where you could rest. I am also happy to learn that you succeeded in getting your baggage through safely. You spoke of having a very bad cold which I was sorry to hear, but hope that you will soon recover, and be well again. I was very anxious to hear from you, for I feared that the trip would make you or Lula sick. But learning that it merely produced a cold, I feel that I have great reasons to rejoice. The sad and gloomy state into which I was thrown by you in leaving home has all disappeared, and I now feel thankful that you have a protector in the person of your Uncle, that will take care of you since I have learnt that true statement of affairs, in that portion of Miss. where we lived, for if you had remain you would have been almost alone. I do not know how I would ever hear from my farm. Father, you know will not write and Doc will not interest himself enough to find out anything about it. Therefore I have concluded not to let my mind be bothered by it, but depend of Pa, for its welfare, for I am now fully satisfied that he is doing the best he can for me. The old man is no doubt in great trouble and scarcely knows how to do the best and I am fearful that the letter written to you, and addressed to him, soon after I first heard of your intentions, will cause him to think that I have no confidence in him, and perhaps heap troubles unnecessary upon him, which I would not on him, which I would not have done if I had only knew the circumstances then as well as now. The only thing that I had at that time, from which to draw my conclusions, was the short note that I received from you, giving but a small account of things at home, and not giving me the first reason, why you wanted to leave. Thus you see that I was left to guess at the causes until I could ascertain from another source. Everything is now satisfactory to me that not only Pa and Doc, done the best they could, but you also, done right in taking their advice, let the cost be as it may. And as I have always been ready to acknowledge my wrong, I am in hopes that you will look over the past, and not let your mind be disturbed by what I have previously written, on the subject, for I again assure you that I am now glad that you have acted as you, for by so doing you have gotten with your kinfolks and friends and where you can perhaps spend your time more pleasantly, at any rate you will not be so lonely. I doubt not that you have a good companion and a kind friend in the person of your Cousin [illegible] and also in the remainder of the family. I would like very much to

see you and them, and promise to come to see you the first opportunity. If you have an opportunity, please have your Ambrotype taken and send it to me, that is if you can do it shortly for I do not think you will stay much longer, at this place. Letters and other things sent by mail from that place there should arrive in four days. We have had one of the greatest protracted meetings in Camp that you ever heard of it has been in progress for 12 or 13 days and still continues, although the preaching appears to be in vain for already a larger number have professed a hope and a still greater number or now morning [sic] on account of their sins. We have but one first rate preacher and he is the Col. of the Regiment (Col. Lowery) but few better preachers are to be found than he. From what I can learn the revival of Religion is in progress. Throughout the entire Army and soldiers are becoming Christians everyday, this is no doubt cheering news to friends, Parents, Wives, Sisters that are at home praying for their love ones, that are soon to meet the foe. Oh, have you ever prayed for me, I think I hear you say that you have and that often. I never felt the need of prayer more than at this time. There is no movements on either side in this part of the Confederacy. The Enemy have had processions of Jackson Miss., but have left it burning the Penitentiary and all valuable workshops, foundries, and factories besides destroying a large portion of the railroad, since they have evacuated it here has been a battle fought near however. Your papers are sent to you soon after receiving your last letter you must let me know whether you get them or not, particular the Mobile Paper. You must also tell me where Sister Lizzie's Post Office is for I wish to write to her. As I have told you all the news I will close by asking you to give my love to all the family and believe me to be as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Have you any of my clothing with you or did you leave them all in Miss., if you did I will not have anything fit to wear, if I could come to see you, tell me in your next, be more careful in your spelling, your writing has improved, do not mar the back of your envelopes. Write soon, send your likeness to G.W.H.

Please let no one see this.

Wartrace Tenn.

May 27th 1863

Dearest Lis,

After a very fatiguing march of twelve miles I have arrived at our old camp and after resting for a short while, have commenced writing to you partly in answer to the one just received bearing the date of the 17th and partly to inform you of my marches and

fatigues, since I last wrote to you. Last Friday the 22nd news came that the enemy were advancing in heavy force immediately in our front. Without giving time for us to make preparations in the way of preparing food for the occasion we were formed in line and began our march fully expecting to see them before night, as we had only about eight miles to go, but low when we had marched six miles in quick time news came that they had skedaddled, and as there was nothing for us to do, we after resting for an hour or two returned to camp where we arrived at 9 O.C.P.M., tired and worn out, my feet was blistered near all over. We had scarcely recovered from that trip before we began another, longer and more fatiguing, Monday the 25th. We were ordered to meet the enemy who were advancing in heavy force on our right, we left Camp 1/2 past 4 O.C.P.M. and marched about 10 miles, where we were halted for the night being then in two miles of their force. Pickets were thrown out and every precaution taken to prevent a surprise, fully believing that by the time it was light enough, we would be hard at it, for our Pickets were not over two hundred yards from theirs. This is I believe the hardest time that I have ever had during the whole of my soldiering. We left camp without eating any dinner from the fact of our not having anything to eat, therefore we could take none with us, we marched very fast and the road was as dusty as it could be, the sun shone uncommonly hot and the distance marched being as before stated 10 miles added to the loss of sleep was considerable hard, however, as my post was on the road and in easy hearing of their pickets it was no trouble for me to keep wide awake, excepting [sic] every moment to have to shot at some Yankee, or have one to shoot at me. I never was so tired and sore, before it was almost impossible for me to stand on my feet, the bottoms of them being nearly raw. As it was my time to be on guard I am no complaint, but we were fully only six other from our company were on that night, they with the remainder of the Regt. (after deducting seven from each Company) were 1/2 mile in our rear. I did not like my position very well, for it was too near to the enemy, but I braved it out and determined to do the best that I could. I cannot help from being sorry to tell you that after all our marching to meet them, they taken the advantage of night and went back to Murfreesboro which we discovered at day light, we remained there all day and that night having nothing but a small piece of Corn Bread (meal unsifted [sic] and without salt) to eat, until we could regain our company, which we did at 12 O.C. today, having had almost nothing to eat since Monday at Breakfast until today at 12, and have marched the longest distance, in the shortest time that has ever been done by this army. My feet are very sore and if we have to march again soon I fear I will be unable to go. I think it probable that we will have to go to meet them in a few days again, they want us to attack them at Murfreesboro. Bragg is too smart for that. The News from Vicksburg is exceeding good, the Yanks assaulted our works 4 different times and were repulsed every time loss on our side only 80 that on the enemy innumerable. Vicksburg is safe. As I have ordered your papers to be sent to you, I will let you read for yourself. I must close by asking you if you know the reason why it takes your letters 8 days to

come when Margaret Anderson comes in 4. Give my love to Uncle and Family. Kiss Lula for me. I remain as ever your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. Please send me some ground Red Pepper by mail in an Envelope if you can get it. There has been no rain for 5 weeks but appearance are good.

Wartrace, Tenn.

June 5th 1863

Dear Lis,

Your letter bearing date 30th was received yesterday it was gladly accepted, as I have been looking for one several days. I was pleased to hear that the prospects for good crops in that country was true and sorry to hear that you and Lula were sick. I hope you both may soon recover. You stated in your letter that you would have your Ambrotype taken and sent to me for it was the first time that I wanted it since I had been in the service in this expression you have done me great injustice and I cannot help from giving you my reasons for not having asked you to send it to me previous to the time alluded to. You had no way to get to Macon and if you had I well knew that there was no artist there, therefore what would have been the use for me to have asked you for a thing that you had not, and had no way of obtaining. I have always hoped that you did not doubt my love and esteem for you and still hope the same, I hope in vain. Dear Lis your likeness would have at all times been gladly accepted and I hope that I may get it soon. You spoke of having received a lengthy letter from me and hopped [sic] never to receive such another from you loved so well. I do sincerely join you in your wish for I would not undergo the trouble of mind that existed about the time that letter was written for a fortune. You spoke of having written the reason for leaving that I have obtained was through others. I do sincerely wish that this may not cause any hard feelings between us. You have but a first ideas what other troubles I have to bear besides home affairs. I have never heard from home since you left until yesterday. Sallie has been staying with her uncle and knew nothing about her own affairs. Bro. John received a letter yesterday from Sallie stating that my negroes had broke into the Smoke house and dwelling house, stealing and destroying things generally. This is bad news, but it does not surprise me atall [sic], for I well knew it would be the case. I had Bro. John to write to Pa in his letter yesterday to have all the Bacon and every thing else that you left and that they have not stolen moved down to his (Pa) house and see if he could save it. I have wrote to him twice lately and will write again in a few days and if the negroes continue in their meanness I will tell him to sell all but Ann and Children and everything

else that I would for I will not have them if they are a going to be an expense instead of an advantage. I wanted him to write that yesterday but he persuaded me out of the notion. I will not be troubled by them much longer, if I can help myself, Sallie speaks of going back to her home. The people have not got over their fright yet, in Miss. Sue, Mat and Patsy Clark have been talking about going to South Carolina. I do not know that they are going or have gone. There is not much news in this part of the State. Occasionally demonstrations of advancing on us are made by the enemy. We were ordered to the front Monday, we arrived there in good time although our march was through rain and mud, and formed line of Battle they had retreated, we returned to camp. Yesterday the firing of Cannon was plainly heard at camp. No particulars have reached us yet, only that it was our Pickets and the enemys [sic] engaged and that the enemy were driven back. It is reported that our forces have been near enough to Murfreesboro to shell the town. Troops are returning from this quarter, thus showing that there is no danger of Vicksburg falling into the hands of the enemy. The enemy are reported to be falling back from Vicksburg also that Gen. Johnston had killed and wound 15,000 of the enemy since their attack. Vicksburg and an attack has also been made in which the enemy were defeated with great loss. Gen. Banks. Yankee, was wounded and Gen. Sherman, Yankee, killed. If you get the paper you can read for yourself. I have ordered them, sent to you but you do not say whether you have received them or not. I would thank you or aunt very much to send me some ground red pepper. You wished me to visit you in July I will certainly do it if I can, tell Uncle and Aunt and family that I would be glad to see them, but hate very much to think that I would have no clothes to wear when I get there, but soldiers [sic] apparel, which will be worn and dirty. You must not wait for a letter from me before you write, I am always glad to hear from you. Our big rival [sic] has ended, a large number has joined the Church and been baptized. I will close by asking your pardon for this long letter and cross lining for paper is scarce and very high. Give my love to all the family. Kiss Lula for me. Tell cousin Sibbie to give me a few lines, I remain yours as ever.

G. W. Higgins

Wartrace Tenn.

June 8th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

I take my pen this beautiful morning to scribble you a few lines. My feelings do not justify me in attempting to write, at all, having been in guard duty last night and not having an opportunity of resting. I feel very sleepy and dull, but I will endeavor to write a few lines any way, though it seem to me that I can do nothing but make mistakes, all

these things you must forgive. There is not much reliable news, either in Camp or the Paper. A few of the most reliable rumors is all that I shall mention. Reinforcements are coming in here daily. All large Brigade of Alabamians from Mobile arrived a few days ago, they have been in service a long time and at Mobile all the time, they have never seen the Elephant. A large Brigade of Texas and Arkansas troops arrived Saturday from Yankeedom. They are the best fighters that the Confederacy can boast of, although they have been captured, but bear in mind the desperate struggle they made before surrendering even to a force five times their own in numbers and entirely surrounded this was at Arkansas post about the 10th of January. Last night another Brigade from Bridgeport came in. I do not know whether it was a large one or not. The 5th and 8th Miss. Regt. are in it. I will probably have an opportunity of seeing some of my old friends in the 5th Miss. A Brigade generally consist of 4 Regiments numbering from 500 to 1000 men each. A Brigade will number from 2000 to 4000 men. I am confident that there is almost as many troops here at this time as there was before Vicksburg was reinforced from this point. As to when this army will have to fight I have no idea. I have thought that it would be postponed until the fate of Vicksburg was decided and hoped that we would be victorious and a cessation of hostilities would ensure, which might have a tendency to bring this horrid war to a speedy termination. Whether I have thought wrong and hope in vain time alone can reveal. If I should judge by the preparations in this quarter, I would say that a movement was anticipated. I am uninclined to believe that we are as strong at this point as the enemy are. No doubt they have sent large reinforcements at assist in taking Vicksburg. This place has been again attacked with the same results to the Yanks. They did not come up openly as before, but rolled Cotton Bales ahead for a Breastwork, it did no good for many were killed by them. I hope to hear soon that whole Yankee Army in Miss. is captured. I do not think it unreasonable, Johnson has made his way to the Yazoo and Kirby Smith will cut him off below at Grand Gulf if this should succeed they would be compelled to capitulate as they would be completely cut off from the river and no way to escape left them. I have been dreading a Battle for a long time, but have concluded that I am was well prepared for it now as I will ever by, and am willing to risk my chance again on the Battlefield. The entire army is in better condition but in regard to health and numbers that it has ever been, and I think I may justly add, they are as willing. With great anxiety I await the arrival of your and Lula's likeness and on Saturday last I was almost overjoyed by the reception of it so much so that I obtained a secluded place before I would open it. I could not drive back the gushing tears that broke from my eyes, when gazing on the beautiful and lovely ones that I felt was before me it is true it was only a picture and the thoughts of the real being so far from me and mixed with so many doubts of my ever seeing them again. The sight of this brought these facts to bear so forcibly on my mind that I was compelled to give way to my feeling in grief. Although a soldier with a heart harden against almost every thing by the cares and troubles orders in a soldier's life. I am satisfied that if you had seen me that

evening way off in the woods alone you would have thought that it was not so hard after all for over two hours remained before I could control myself sufficient to join my comrades again. I have past [sic] several troublesome nights thinking of you and Lula the Idol of my affections. They are both very good. Yours has the appearance of an ill humor resting in your eyes and on your mouth. Lula has the appearance of astonishment and innocence. They are both as I could ask for. Lula has changed very much since I last see her. I know she must be a good and sweet child, and how I would like to see her, you must tell her to kiss you for me. You do not look as fleshy as I expected. I fear that your health is not good, I am determined to visit you the first opportunity when that will be I know not. After the battle that is to be fought here, I guess I have already run this out longer than I expected and must close. You will I hope excuse this cross writing for paper is very scarce and very costly, this letter cost only 48 cents. Give my love to all the family and accept a share yourself. I remain as ever your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tell me all of Libby's name. Tell me why did not write a few lines with and send with your ambrotype. It came in the days [sic] mail on the third and arrived on the sixth, please write soon and often to George.

[image of the original last page of the letter showing that the paper had been used twice- lines were written both horizontally and vertically.]

Mashulaville Miss.

June 9th 1863

Dear Son,

I have not much to do today and will write you a few lines, though I have nothing that will much interest you. And will have to confine myself to giving you a history of your crops. Your corn in the Middle field below the shelters is the best corn you have, last year it made nothing, it is now about a high as your Sounders. And looks well. The Corn in the Cotton field looks tolerable well except where you had wheat last year. Peas are planted in it and all the first planting. The new ground piece is about half leg high. I will finish plowing it today and will be ready in a few days to commence laying the old corn by stands in the wet places is almost a failure. We all have the worst stand we ever had. Your Oats looks tolerable well but not a good stand. The Negroes work better more than they did a while back, they are all [missing text]. I received the Atlanta Paper, the Mobile

Paper you sent Lizzie has quite [sic] coming for what reason I cannot find out. Wheat crops through the country is better than ever known.

I received a letter from Eugenia last week, she was well and finely pleasant. The Yanks have marched ten or twelve deep rate charges on Vicksburg, and have been repelled every time with great havoc. They are still hammering away at it yet, but no success. I have written all I can think of and will close. O. is still at home yet, and will not return until he gets able, he has Diarrhea and fever and also has scurvy. Write soon.

M. M. Higgins

P.S. If Vicksburg is taken I am compelled to believe the whole state will be on their hands. If such should happen to be the case what must I do with your Negroes? My notion is in that case that we had better travel and try and keep something as they can take Negroes and cannot land, hundreds of Negroes are passing here almost daily with their masters, all running away, times are exciting. We have had no rain for a month or more and are need it bad enough.

Wartrace, Tenn.

June 13th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

Yours of the 3rd has been received. It was two or three days behind time your Type was mailed the same day and arrived several days before the letter and pepper. I was very glad to hear from you, for I was very low spirited and dull. Be pleased to receive my thanks for the pepper, as well as the Type, it helps us along very much, for our food is the worse quality, and need this to be relished, in fact it is not very plenty, although it is enough. In your last, you stated that Robert Coleman would be out here soon and if everything suited, that he would take this family back to Miss. and they would if it suited me, go back with him and his family. I do scarcely know how to advise you, for Pa speaks of leaving the state himself, and taking his negroes with him in case that Vicksburg should be captured and it appears to me that he has become tired of attending to my affairs anyway, judging from the one of the note written (by his request) by Sallie, to whether or not Bro. John wanted his negroes run or not, incase [sic] that he (Pa) should run his, never the first time asking me what I wanted done with mine. I do not wish to beg him to attend to the affairs of his son against his wishes. I would prefer paying someone else, or selling our tooth and branch. Taking these thing into consideration I think it would be best for you to remain where you are until I find out whether or not Pa intends to superintend my business if he has concluded to let it alone

for the negroes to manage. I will try to get some one else to take charge of it, and who to get I am at a loss to know. Doc, will not write to me therefore, he would not do it. Your Uncle is the only man that I can think of asking, provided Pa will not do it. Father appears to care but little for me anyway. In almost every letter that Sallie writes Pa sends some message to Bro. John, and tells him how his farm is progressing, but my name is never mentioned, nor my affairs either. I have written to him three times since you left, but have not received a line yet. This evening or tomorrow I will write again and unless he write it will be the last for a while, you had better remain until things settle in Miss., before you return. You have a protector where you are, if you should return I doubt whether you would have one or not for the way Pa talks. These things trouble me and I find consolation in nothing else but your and Lula pictures. They have given me more pleasure than I have enjoyed in months before. I have no news to write. Everything in Camp is lively enough, and as healthy as could be expected, for two or three weeks the weather has been wet and cool. Wheat will soon be ready for harvesting. Corn is small, but looks well. Pa says his, Bro. John and Doe's crops are sorry, bad stands and plenty grass, mine is not mentioned. I guess I have some is the reason. There is no late news of Vicksburg. Last accounts, state that the enemies are shelling the town, this was on the 8th. I will send you some rings before long, Give my love to family and accept a portion yourself. I will close, kiss Lula for me, good bye. I remain as ever your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Do not show this letter if you please

[image-photo of handwriting crossed out]

Tell Lula to kiss you for me, George [This was written in mirror image.]

Wartrace, Tenn.

June 19th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

I received your very kind letter yesterday bearing date, 11th June, I was very glad to get it for I had not received one for some time. The last one before this was dated June 2nd, being 9 days between the writing of the two. I did not have time to write yesterday and have embraced the first opportunity. I received a letter for Pa at the same time that I received yours it is the first that I have had from home and gave me a great deal of information about the farm. I will send it to you in that you can see what he thinks about

the prospects for a crop. I am very much helped up at the news he writes. He still has a idea of leaving if Vicksburg should be captured. I have wrote to him and told him to do with my negroes just as he would if they were his, also, if they become unmanageable to sell them, for what he could get, from his statement I hope they are doing better and as for Vicksburg falling into the hands of the enemy I am almost satisfied it will never happen. I have too much confidence in our Generals and Soldiers to believe any such thing, all news from that quarter strengthens the opinion that I have formed in regard to it. Therefore I do not believe that Pa will have any cause from that source to leave out to run his negroes. News came yesterday that the Yanks had made 21 different assaults on Port Hudson, and we repulsed every time the last time our Soldiers left their own breastworks and charged into the enemies. Captured and spiked all their seige [sic] guns. Loss on either side was not given. [missing text] another great victory was achieved in Virginia at a place called Winchester in which the whole of the Yankee force at that place as captured amounting to about 200 men, all the small arms, artillery, wagons and mules, also fell into our hands. Gen. Lee forces are about 10,000 men and are said to be marching into Pennsylvania. The Yanks are terribly frightened. Their old Gen. Hooker has called for 100,000 men to keep him back. I think they getting rather tired of the war and that it will puzzle them to raise so many men. The army here in Tenn. is just quietly waiting to see how Vicksburg will come out. Gen. Rosecrane [sic] has said if the Rebels hold Vicksburg, that Gen. Bragg would go where he chooses and on the other hand if it should fall he would go where he pleased. Be so good cheer for our prospects brighten every day, should Vicksburg fall still remember that many brave and noble men stand between the enemy, and the home you love so well, they will protect Miss. soil should cost the last drop of blood, that flows through their veins. Be not uneasy for me, there is no chance for fight at present. And as soon as I find that there is I will let you know. You must not wait to get a letter every time before you write, for it so happens sometimes that I do not have time to write once a week and it nearly always takes me two days to complete one, besides drilling 5 hours a day, we have our own cooking to do which takes up almost of the time left. Bro. John, Frank Anderson, James Dorroh and myself, constitute the mess. John Clark has worked about and became Wagoner. Sallie writes to Bro. John that Joseph Cannon was killed at Vicksburg. I will stop to eat my dinner.

Well Lissie, I have finished my dinner and assumed writing. I will first tell you what kind of dinner we had and then give you a valuable recipe for baking bread. Our dinner consisted of one of the largest and best blackberry pies you ever heard of, be assured that we done it Justice, for we had nothing else. It was our first effort, but we fixed it up in style it was about 12 inches in diameter and about 6 inches thick and could have been easily sold for 10\$. Now for the recipe. Take as much flour as you think the crowd would eat, salt and soda if you have it, if not it doesn't many any difference, add water

to or eggs either. Bake it thoroughly done and you have the best bread, [missing text] at any rate it is the only kind that we have except Corn Bread. I would like to hear how you and cousin likes it. I will send you the pattern for my pants and Coat as soon as I can cut them out. Give my love to all the family, yourself and Lula. Write Soon.

George W. Higgins

Mt. Pleasant Larkens Dis. S.C.

June 23, 1863

Dear Sister in Law,

Again I am seated for the purpose of writing you a few lines in answer to you I received some time ago. We are all well present and getting along after the same old [missing text]. No good news as usual, I received a letter from Doc, last night but it contained nothing of any importance. He seemed to have some fears of Vicksburg hold and I said He was having his wagons fixed up incase [sic] he has to leave, he also spoke of selling his crop and every thing of that kind if he could meet with an opportunity. I feel very uneasy and fear they will postpone anything until it is too late. I expect Pa will do what ever he thinks best with yours if they find out that Miss. will be over run. I hope Vicksburg will stand and the time will be to [sic] long before we can return home in safety, I have started the children to school often so long a time but they have to board out as it is four miles from here to the school they are going to. They are very well satisfied and seem to be learning very well for the length of time. I speak of moving back to Pa's. Oscar has been quite sick but is up now and was at Pa's when Dr. H. wrote. I have never succeeded in getting any cards yet and fear it will be a bad old chance. Thread is worth 12 dollars a bunch and so on. Times are as hard here as where we lived, only we have plenty of good flour and you know that was a scarce article there when we left, I have been to church only twice as it has rained several Sundays, but I visit my law kin occasionally and that helps to drive dull care away. I am very much pleased with some of Docks [sic] feminine cousins, all the boys are in the army and I have no knowledge of them though from what I can learn there are some very cleaver [sic] [missing text] among them. His brother Ludy came home severely wounded in the hand and would not be surprised if it did not have to be amputated. It seems worse for the last day or two and looks very angry. You must write when you expect to go to Uncle Andy's as I may conclude to meet you there. I would like to visit Newberry first but the rail road is badly out of order and if I were to go round that way I would have to walk a mile to perhaps have my carpet sack to carry. I think now I will take the cars to Hadger's depot and go to Shumpards in four miles of Uncle A's house. You must write how long you expect to remain with them so that we will be sure to see

each other. As I can think of nothing else I will close by asking you to excuse haste as Pass is waiting to carry my letter to the office. I remain your affectionate sister in law.

Lissie

N.B. Write in word where Brother John and George are stationed and how to direct a letter, the name of the Regiment Company DC

Chattanooga, Tennessee

July 6th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

By the heading of this letter you can see that I have left Tullahoma, the place from which I last wrote you, it is doubtful if you get the letter, as the entire army left here that day and night together. We were out flanked and compelled to fall back, we offered them battle there, but they only went around us. Since that day I last wrote to you we have been marching through rain and mud over hills and mountains, both day and night. My clothing has not been perfectly dry, half day at a time since we began the march. I have never seen more rain this time of year night and day it has drenched us, both while marching and trying to sleep. I fell [sic] thankful that I have been able to stand it so well, my flesh is reddened as about all that has befallen me. Boys all stood the trip well. We marched 12 miles this morning, we are now 5 miles from town, have orders to cook one days rations, perhaps will go to Miss. soon. I am very tired, wet and hungry, and I have rations to cook. I have to close, I will add that I was very much disappointed by not receiving a letter from you today, as nearly everybody else got one, you must not wait for my letters before you write for it may 10 days or two weeks before I have the opportunity of writing again. Suffer no uneasiness on my account, I am well and will have plenty to eat, as soon as I cook it. I am sorry to say that with all the care that I could take of your Type that it got wet and is nearly ruined. I will write again the first opportunity. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Kiss sweet Lula for your George.

Camp near Chattanooga Tenn.

July 12, 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

To relieve your anxiety, I give you a more minute description of my recent marches, I embrace this the first opportunity, I have written to you twice since. I first left Wartrace, I have received two letter from you, the last one was mailed the 7th from it I learned that you have not received a letter from me in some time, and that you were very uneasy. I have not written to you as often as I would like to have done, but, when you ascertain all the facts, concerning the retreat, from beginning to end, which I will endeavor to give you I think you would say that I did well. Once I wrote at Tullahoma while in line of Battle, my clothing as wet as water could make them. The last time was after I marched 10 miles, I doubt very much if you get the first one, as Tullahoma was evacuated that night. On the evening of the 24th of June, during the hardest rain that ever fell, we were ordered to cook two days rations and be ready to leave at a moments [sic] warning, it was impossible to cook, for the rain put out fire faster than we could build it. Our tent was old and worn out, the rain beat through and completely saturated everything under it. The rain continued to fall in torrents during the night and next day. Early on the morning of the 25th we left camp and wet as could be, we marched out to Bell Buckle, wading branches and creeks, our Regt. was posted as pickets and we remained at this post we were not allowed to have any fire, and as we had no rations, we were wet, cold, and hungry. On the 26th at 12 O.C. we were ordered 3 miles to the right, here we formed line of Battle, expecting every minute to be in a fight, as the pickets were firing at each other the Yanks was very plainly seen from the tip of the hill that hid us, here on this hill we lay until 9 O.C.P.M. when our company, and one other, from the Regt., was put out as pickets, here we remained in easy hearing of the Yanks until 11 O.C.P.M. when we were ordered to give back to the Regt., it was then the secret flashed over us, that we were falling back and it was the case, for we had to march near 6 miles before we over taken them, as soon as we came up the Regt. moved on, and we continued marching until 4 O.C.A.M. of the 27th. It was the most trying time that I have ever witnessed, being nearly two days and nights without anything to eat, and wet during the same time, and not sleep enough to do any good. Here at this place we lay in the mud and slept till 6 O.C.A.M. (being two hours for one night) we left at 6 and very soon passed through our old camp. A detail had been sent the night before to cook and we came upon the rations like Wolves on sheep. I actually thought that some of the boys would hurt themselves, by getting so much. I governed myself well, eat 2 biscuit only and had 7 left, to last me until next night, or for 4 meals. On to Tullahoma we went, marched in all 20 miles that day, late in line of Battle during the night, rain falling hard all the time, of course we did not sleep much, trying to keep our guns dry as we were. By traveling for a few miles our progress was very much impeded by the almost immnerable [sic] wagons, coming in from different roads, and completely blockaded our way. For several hours, eventually all were in motion again save a good many that had broken down, or mired up and left, late in the evening we arrived in front of our old camp, and rested during the night, it was here for the first time that we had a chance of

drying our clothing. The wagons came up with our knapsacks and we changed clothing, this however did no good for about 12 O.C. the rain commenced and continued for nearly 10 hours. The 29th early dawn found us again in line of Battle, we remained for several hours, without shelter to protect us from the drenching rain that was then falling as soon as the wagons would be loaded with the few remaining tents and knapsacks we fell back behind the breastworks, formed line of battle and remained there until 12 O.C. the next day (it was there that I wrote to you for the first time during the trip). The 30th at 12 O.C. we moved to the right and front about 4 miles and rested for an hour or two and then advanced in line directly to the front for 3 miles expecting to hear the fire of the enemy every moment in this we were sadly mistaken, night came on, and the darkness stopped our further hunt for the scamps, we were drawn up in line and lay down to sleep, but, it was as it has been before on sleep for us that night, about 11:00 O.C. we were very secretly aroused, and began, the long to be remembered retreat, from Tupelo, we marched nearly all night and the following day, which was July 1st we lay in line during that night, left early in the morning of the 2nd, at 12 O.C. we were at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains, after resting a short while we began the ascent, it was very difficult to get the wagons up the steep ascents, and many a thing was thrown from them to lighten their loads, it was until after midnight that we tolled with the wagons, pushing and lifting to get them up, we were then relieved and succeeded to getting to the top, where we slept till day. On the 3rd we followed on after the wagons that reached the top, the road was so very bad that their progress was slow the day, we were working roads and lifting wagons, out of the mud and commenced descending down the mountain, reached the foot about 2 P.M. and continued the march until sun down having marched 22 miles the day was very hot, number of soldiers gave out. On the morning of the 5th we passed through the town of Jasper before sunup. Our march today was quite light only 14 miles we camped this the first night without being in line of battle, the 6th found us pursuing our cows up the Tenn. River, for 5 miles we journeyed on and then crossed on pontoon bridges, 5 miles farther and we camped on the Railroad it was that day that I wrote to you, at this place we remained till the 9th raining about all the time and the 9th at 9 O.C.A.M. we taken the cars passed through Chattanooga and soon arrived at this place which is 10 miles from town. It was not until last night and I could get my knapsack to change my clothing or get paper to write had the opportunity been afforded. My clothes are nearly all ruined by being wet so long, had it not been for the kindness of John Clark they would had been lost else I would have had to carried them which I could not have done, blankets, tents, cooking vessels, clothing of every description and broken down wagons were scattered promiscuously from the foot of the mountain on one side to the foot of the other. Many soldiers lost all their blankets and clothing. All of us lost all our tents, now we haven't a tent in the Regt. Blankets, stretched over a pole supplies the place of tents, now you see what I have to endure given to just the best that I can remember. You may think that I have

exaggerated but I can assure you, that it is worse than represented, for I have not said how much we suffered for provisions and will not undertake it. I have stood it all finely, and perfectly well, and have been all the time, but few have stood it better than myself. However there is none sick, I thought when I last wrote to you that we would probably go to Miss., but as Vicksburg has fallen, it will doubtless change the base. We will go somewhere before long, where I have no idea, and will perhaps be debored [sic] from write to you, which I hope you will bear patiently, it so happens at times that I cannot wrote, you must always hope for the best, and be not discouraged if you fail to get a letter from me every week. There has been some big battle in Pennsylvania lately, but as I have not seen any papers for 15 days I will not say anything about it. It has been raining all day, and I can scarcely write at all being so uncomfortable seated and having nothing to write but my knee, so I will close for the present, I have no way of getting a pattern for pants, but will send you the length around the waist, also the length around my head, the longest of the two strings is the size of my head, both together is size of my waist. I do not believe now that I will have a chance of going to see you for a long while, do the best you can. Remember that I still remain your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Enclosed you will find one ring, which you must keep, till I send you and other then give one to Cousin Sibbie. Excuse bad writing if you please, I am so tired and nervous.

G. W. Higgins

Tyners [sic] Station, Tenn.

July 19th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

I have concluded to pass this Sabbath evening by writing to love ones, who are far away, and of course you come first, after concluding what I have to say to you, I will then write to Pa, Lizzie, and Eugenia. I received a letter from you this morning also one from Sister Lizzie, both bearing date 13th. Sister was well and getting on finely, no other news that would be interesting to you. I was glad to hear that you had received my letters for I know you would be very anxious to hear what has become of me after the trying march recently made by this army and the continued good health of you and Lula was good news and gladly received. Bro. John's last letter from Sallie indicated things in Miss. very much confused. Pa says that my corn is very good, better than his or any other in the immediate neighborhood and will make more this year than has ever been made by me. My wheat made only 12 bushels. I did not know that he had sewed [sic]

any for me before. (From Sallies [sic] last I judged that he has sent all the Negroes that could travel to some other country, his own, Bro. Johns, and mine. Doc will take them and his own also. He did not state where they could be carried more than Alabama or Georgia.) She says that Pa is very low spirited, and he is no worse than all the other citizens of that community. Wiley Coleman will send some of his off also she says that he is the worst off of any of them. A few of the women and children that are not able to travel are all that will be left. I guess that he will leave Ann and her children. Pa will stay himself. I guess that most of our crops will spoil in the field, but it is better to do that than to lose the negros, which is likely to be the case would they remain in Miss. (Vicksburg has fallen and so has Jackson Miss. The Enemy are still pressing our forces there and it will not surprise me if they are compelled to give up that portion of the state entirely, they are out numbered more than two to one.) I do not think it possible for anything like a large force can ever, or will ever pass through that portion of the state where our home is. These reason I give, first the greater portion of the County for Jackson there, is very poor and but few wealthy planters, badly watered, and a long line in his retreat to guard, second, all his provisions would have either to be brought from Miss. River or from Corrithin, [sic] over railroad that is now in bad order and will be made worse if they ever succeed in getting that far from the river, besides this, it would take fully half of this present army to guard the long line of railroads over which he would be compelled to transport his provisions. Long before he can accomplish that end the 20 to 25,000 men captured at Vicksburg and Fort Hudson will be exchanged and be again in the field to battle against the invading foe. It is but too true that our course is rather dark and gloomy at present, and many have already given up all hopes of our ever gaining our Independence, and are so silly minded as to say that we had as well submit to the Lincoln Dynasty at once to stop the war, as we had it to do in the end. I allude principally to Soldiers, but have no doubt that it is even worse with a certain class of men who are at homes and have been, and will be, let what comes that will. This class has been swindling the soldier all that they could and now fearing that they will lose all, have begun to cry for peace, so long as their property was safe, their cry was fight on, never give it up, but even carry it on to the bitter end. I am proud to tell you that I am not whipped, not willing to give up yet and but little discouraged. Gen. Johnston has not accomplished so much in Pennsylvania as was first reported, however he gained the victory and brought back a large quantity of supplies. In loosing [sic] Miss. we have regained almost entire possessions of Louisiana, therefore I do not think that we have lost so much after all. As much as I desire to have peace, I cannot once think of giving up, quite to the contrary it would be sweeter to die than submit to such an unprincipled foe. My hopes of seeing you soon has vanished. I could not get a furlough now if I should try. I would not try now if I thought I could get one for there is too many in the service that are too much discouraged. For one that is not to leave. I will mention this class of soldier are almost worthless there or before they joined the service, and I am

sorry to say that they constitute the portion of our Regt. but few high toned gentlemen in it comparatively speaking. I hope you will not be discouraged at the state of affairs in the Confederacy we will more of being whipped now than ever, take courage and never despair at the same time. I must say to you that it is now my intention to remain in the army until peace is declared or attacked with disease, wounded or otherwise prevented. Several women have arrived in camp lately on a visit to their husbands and relatives, you can imagine what kind of opinion I have formed of them. Bro. John has been sick a few days, he is better and will be able to duty in a few days. My health is as good as ever, fallen off 14 lbs., since I left Wartrace. Our rations are severe but on the whole we are doing as well as might be expected. In my last I sent you a ring in this I enclose you another, give one to cousin Sibbie for me, if she will accept it. Give my love to the family and retain a share to yourself and Lula. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

The enemy may make Calvary raids through Noxubee County but never to stay long or large force, they will perhaps meet with a warmer reception than before. G.W.H.

Camp near Tyners [sic] Station, Tenn.

July 28th 1863

My Dear Melissa,

I am sorry that circumstances has rendered it impossible for me to write to you sooner, and as it could not be helped, I hope to be excused. I received a letter from you yesterday also one last week, satisfy that one of my letter had been broken open and a ring taken out, which I was sorry to hear as it was the prettiest one that I have ever made however since that time I have sent you another and will send one today. I have two to send but unfortunately broke one just before beginning to write. I will prepare one for Cousin Becky, if you get this one and the last one sent you must give one to cousin Libbie, Cousin somebody else, wishes me to make her one, which I would willingly do if you will just let me know who she is which in past you have failed to do. I wish you to send me one or all if you have them of the old gold pens that we had in Miss. and I will make you a better ring than any of the ones sent. (I allude to those that are broken and will not write.) For either of these that I have sent you, I could easily get 5 dollars. I have made and sold several ones as good as those sent to you and if I had the material could sell all that I could make.

You spoke of Cousin Rebecca having made me a very nice hat. I am very thankful to her and cannot help from appreciating her kindness particular so from the fact that she

has never seen me, and I do not know how to compensate her for her trouble and generosity. I am fully satisfied that you are among kind and good hearted people and nothing will do me more good, than to be with them.

I should like very much to have the hat, and if you have any chance of sending it I would like for you to do it, if you can double up, send it my mail, and it will be sure to come. You spoke of making me some pants, I will not need any summer pants and unless I have an opportunity of visiting you I will not have any need of winter ones either for I can get Clothing from the Government cheaper than you can make them and send them to me. I am well willing that you should make a pair or two, for I would need them if ever I visit you. Write me and tell me what Shoes are worth and whether or not you can have me a pair made, and at what price I will need a pair in a month or two. The shoes that the government furnishes are too heavy and rough if I could do any better do not have them made until you hear whether I want them or not. I received all the clothing that you sent by J. Clark. The pants are nearly worn out, the shirts have never been worn but very little. The old ones are very good yet. I will need a couple of pair of socks soon (Cotton) send them if you can, when you send the hat. If it is not convenient to send any of these things it will make no difference for I can do without them. You spoke of hat making as a money making business. I think it would be at 10 dollars apiece, but I think that I can make more by my rings than you can by the hats. It would be no trouble for me to make two a day if I had anything to make them of, a Pocket knife is the only tool that I have to work with, and it is nearly worn out. Camp is a dull and tiresome place numerous rumors afloat, none reliable. We are here yet, drilling hard every day, living on short rations and drinking bad water with the likelihood of staying some time. I have not heard for Miss. in sometime. The enemy have fallen back to Vicksburg. If Pa has not sent his negroes off yet I doubt if he sends them for a while. James Dorroh received a letter from his brother John stating that nearly all of his company has been killed, wounded or captured. Wade Anderson, John Dorroh and Ira Russell are all the wounded that you know, the company entered the fight with 42 men, came out with only 5. The Regt. entered with 450 and came out with only 40. I am sorry to hear of such misfortunes, many of my best friends were among the killed or captured. We know not which.

Continue to direct your letter to Chattanooga. Care of J. J. Higgins Co. C 45th Miss. Reg. Woods Brigade Cleberns [sic] Division Braggs [sic] Army. I will also send you the size of my leg and waste [sic], the short one for the head, long one for waste [sic]. I cannot see why you should get two copies of the same paper, a mistake in the Printer. I will close for want of something else to write. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Sister Eugenia has not written to me in a long time. I will write to her again soon and see if there by any thing wrong.

Camp near Chattanooga Tenn.

July 30th 1863

Dear Lis,

Bro. John received a letter yesterday stating that Doc would leave next morning with our Negroes and that he would take them all, by way of Railroad. However he (Pa has changed his nothing in regard to the number that he would send) and of his 3 of Bro. John's and only two of mine, Charley and Giles, leaving Will and Ann at home. Those of mine, Doc will take to you. Think that you would want my advice in regard of the disposition that you would have to make of them, I have taken the first opportunity of giving it to you. If your Uncle does not wish to be troubled with them himself, ask him to be kind enough to hire them out for what he can get, and if he can do no better let them go for their board and clothes, but I hope that you will be able to get more than that. I would much rather they be hired to a man that will make them know their place and kept from running about as much as possible. You have in all probability seen them by this time, as they started on the 22nd. Frank Anderson received a letter from Oscar yesterday, he is improving. Eaf [sic] Anderson is again at home, having been thrown from his horse and badly hurt. Oscar never writes to either Regt. or myself but corresponds regular with Frank. Since writing to you the other day I have met with a tailor, and had my measure taken for a pair of pants, which I will enclose, you can cut a pattern by the measure, or get a tailor to do it, just as you like. We think that we will move Camp in a few days, as water is very scarce and bad. My post office will remain the same. Rumors of the recognition of the Confederacy by France is current and generally credited. I have no news, my health is good. The weather is hot and dry appearances of rain too. Our Brigade was reviewed this morning by Gen. D.H. Hill, who has taken command of our Corps in place of Gen. Hardee, the former is from the Army of Virginia, and was not much beliked [sic] by his troops, the later [sic] has been sent to Miss. to take command in Gen. Temberton's [sic] place. Ask Uncle to comply with my request and he will greatly oblige me. I remain as ever, Your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Blythe Ferry, Tenn.

August 7th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

Since I last wrote to you we have moved our Camp 25 miles to a very inconvenient place. Mail is very unregular and all our rations has to be hauled from the place we left. Our camp is situated in the south bank of the Tenn. River, a very pretty location, and good water, as of the county before, we have a good place to forage. We left our old camp Sunday and arrived at this place Tuesday evening. The march was very light but the weather was extremely warm and the soldiers appeared more fatigued than they did on the retreat. Our business at this Ferry is to keep it guarded and to gather up all corn, wheat and hay that there is in the country. 32nd and 45th are all the Regts. [sic] that are here, be assured we have a good time. Since coming here I have been permanently detailed to forage on the river. I have been absent from camp all the time, until this evening, my mode of foraging is by traveling up and down the river in a large boat, not a steamer however, It is rowed oars worked by hand and very hard work it is too, but anything to get away from drilling so much. I would rather fight a battle than to drill one month. I received a letter from Eugenia the day before we left camp, stating that you was with her, and that you and Lula were well, which was good news to me. I had not had time to answer it yet and it may be several days before I do. She stated that she wanted your ring very much, tell her I will make her one, as soon as I can. There is no news in Camp, I have not seen a paper in 10 days, I have previously asked you to send my hat but as we are now so far from Chattanooga, I would rather that you would not send it if you have not already done it, be sure to send the pens if you have them. Bro. John has not heard from home since I last wrote to you, there I cannot tell you anything new from that quarter. It is now nearly dark, and as I have to prepare for a three day journey up the river start tomorrow, and new news to write I will close by asking to be remembered by you and all friends. May God Bless you all is the sincere wish of your absent husband.

G. W. Higgins

Blythe Ferry, Tenn.

August 30, 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

It is with pleasure that I seat myself for the purpose of responding to yours of the 24th received yesterday. I am sorry to learn that my letter had failed to reach you, and that those that are received are on the road so long. You must not think that I do not write, for I assure you that a week never passes that what I wrote to you, unless I am absent from Camp. We are about 35 miles from Chattanooga, and all the letters have to go by

hand to that point to be mailed, they must be thus detained. I am very glad to get the pen. You spoke of sending other pieces of broken jewelry, but I do not want them now. I would be glad if you could send me a good pair of jeans pants and a couple of pair of socks, and the hat if you like, if you send the articles, sew them up in a small of a bundle as you can, and get your uncle to send them to me by Express, to Chattanooga, it will cost less and be sure to come that way. Send in the bundle a sack of red pepper if you can get it (to season bulk beef). I received a letter from Eugenia a few days since, she spoke of having received a letter from me. I started one to you the same day that I started hers, I cannot see why you failed to get it. Bro. John received a letter from Sallie last Tuesday stating that they were all well, also that old man Noy and old Mr. Bracket were both dead. Sue Coleman has sold everything and was at Pa's waiting for Mr. Robert Coleman to sell all of his property, that she might go to South Carolina with him, it appears from these facts that people do not consider themselves and property safe in Miss. yet. In your last your appeal to me for my advice where you should stay where you are or return to Miss. I advise you as I have done before, to stay where you have friends to protect you. There is no news worth your attention. The Yanks make their appearance on the opposite side of the River every day. We may stay here for some time to come without a fight or we may have a fight almost any day, let what come that may. I will try and keep you posted. I find from your own letters that you never write to me unless it is immediately after receiving one or in other words that you will always wait to get a letter before you write. I hope you will not wait every time, but write every week. Oscar is still at home abusing Captains and other officers generally. I think that he had better be in the army where he belongs. I must bring my letter to a close, as you do not like long letters, judging by those that you write. I remain as ever your old worn out broken down no count husband.

G. W. Higgins

Company Muster Roll Form for July and August 1863
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

George W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for July and Aug, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Nov. 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Col Hardcastle

Period 12 months

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] Shearer

To what time June 30, 1863.

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Newberry C.H.S.C.

Sept. 7th 1863

Dear Sister,

I received your very kind letter a few days ago and was glad to hear that you and Lula were well. I was very much surprised to hear that you had joined the church however it was a very agreeable surprise, after reading your letter I was at a loss to know what to do about going to [missing text] yesterday; as I had made my arrangements to spend this week in the village. I came in Saturday and learned that Mr. Mendinghall would continue his meeting here so I concluded to stay there will be preaching this evening and tonight. You must come and see me, I will stay until the last of the week. I went to church last night the house was crowded there were several mourners, no white persons have joined since I came in. I have understood that Sue Coleman came in last week. I am very anxious to see her, she is in Edgefield staying with her sister. Dr. Forster came yesterday on the cars he is at Uncle Frank's. I have not seen him yet. I have seen Mrs. Coleman and he is very anxious that you should be baptized with Frannie; for what I can hear they are going to wait until Mr. Brantley comes home and

get him to do the baptizing. I received a letter from Brother John yesterday they were well not other news of interest. I received a letter from Lizzie since she went home I will send it to you as there is something in it she requested me to tell you. I will not trouble you to knitting a Net as I have brought one. As I have no other news I will close. Your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Camp on the Mountain
at Dug Gap, 5 miles from
Lafayette, Georgia
September 17th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

Perhaps my long silence has caused you considerable uneasiness in regard to my welfare. I will assure you that I have and do not enjoy the best of health. We left Blythes [sic] Ferry the second day of this month and have been on the move ever since. All mail matters have been stopped and no chance to get letter or send one, and the only chance at present is by a sick man who will go to the Hospital in a day or so. Since I last wrote to you I have had some very hard and trying times. We have marched at day and at night, some of the dustiest roads, I have ever traveled. I have also seen the Yanks and heard the hissing and whizzing of Bullets and Shell. We have been in only one skirmish very little damage done on either side. Every possible preparation appears to be on foot for a furious battle and a long march immediately afterwards but soldiers never know less than they do now, therefore I cannot tell you anything more, and as for a minute detail of my march up to this time. I haven't time to give but will say that we will give the Yanks the worst drubbing that they have ever had, when we are brought up before them. Our Regt. has been on our post all the time, and at present we are not over one mile from the enemy. We have been listening for orders to advance all day, but up to this time, everything is quiet. I will add that I have not slept on the same ground more than two nights this month.

If you have not sent my clothing please keep them until you hear from me again. If you have sent them I fear they will be lost, as everything on Rail Road is in such confusion and Chattanooga is now in the hands of the enemy.

Everybody is in good health, and appears anxious to meet the enemy.

As I need all the rest that I can get I will close promising to write again soon. Give my love to all yourself not excepted, direct to Chattanooga as before for we will soon have it back.

I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

P. S. I have a ring for Lula but am afraid to risk it in this letter.

Line of Battle on Missionary Ridge

4 miles from Chattanooga Tenn.

Sept. 25th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

To relieve your anxiety, I have concluded to write you a few lines, which I would gladly have done long ago if I had had the time. Only once before during this month have I had the least opportunity of writing to you and then like now I have to hurry so much I cannot give you a full account of our movements. Since I left Dug Gap in Georgia on the 18th we have had a very hard and trying time. Fatigue, dust, hunger and cold nights have been only a few of the inconveniences that we have safely surmounted. No doubt you have heard ere this reaches you of the Bloody battle that has been fought on Chickamauga. For several days the pickets have been fighting but the ball never opened outright till the 19th and our Brigade was not into it until after sundown of that day. Then it was called upon to make a charge on the enemy line, where a Brigade of our men had thrice been refused. The charge was to be made through an open field against the enemy who were in line behind the fence on the opposite side. The charge was made and the enemy driven back for nearly one mile. We then halted and camped till morning. Fire was not allowed, and of course we were cold as there was plenty of frost the next morning. At 10 AM on the twentieth we began to advance as a few hundred yard brought us near them again we charged them but finding that they did not give way, we halted and fought for an hour then we were compelled to fall back to get ammunition. It was at that time a Brigade came up and taken our place for we were worn out. Brigade after Brigade charged this point but the enemy could not be moved till late in the evening, but at last they were forced from their Breast Works which they had built the night before and we had so often charged unsuccessfully. After they were routed they continued to fall back till they reached Chattanooga, where we followed them to and are now living in line to await their approach, we have been here for several days. Come cannonading and picket fighting every day and last night at 11 o'clock there

was considerable fighting on our left. The battle was fought on the 19th and the twentieth was called the Battle of Chickamauga, it was one of the most furious that has been fought during this war. I cannot tell you anything about the loss of our army. Our regiment lost in killed and wounded 160. Our company had 2 slight wounded, none killed. I was hurt by the fall of a limb, but have been with the company all the time, and now have entirely recovered. Our Army captured all their wounded and a great many other prisoners numbering in all near 10,000. Their dead did not far surpass ours in number owing to the advantage they had over us, we did well to loose [sic] no more. I do not think that we will fight again for a few days, the enemy are well fortified and I hope we will not have to attack them in their fortifications.

My time is nearly out and I must draw this hastily written letter to a close, I received two letters from you while on the battlefield also one from Sister Lizzie and the hat and socks you sent. The handkerchiefs were gone, please sew the next bundle up in cloth and they will not be so apt to be opened. I thank you for the Articles, the socks are so small that I cannot wear them, I will let Bro. John have them. Give my love to all and accept a share yourself. Write often to your loving husband.

G. W. Higgins

Sept. 30th 1863

Missionary Ridge 4 miles
from Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Melissa,

Again I attempt to write you a few lines, to give you some idea of past events and to let you know that I am yet among the living. In the beginning I will ask you to look for but little news and you will not be disappointed. My information is very limited that it is impossible for me to give you much news. On the 19th, 20th, and 21st was through the bloody Battle of Chickamauga of which I have previously give you a few ideas, and perhaps you have gleaned more from newspapers than I am able to tell you concerning the battle, the completed route [sic] of the enemy and their retreat to this place with their losses and ours, perhaps you have better information than myself. However I will state according to the best information that I have obtained our losses in killed, wounded and missing (but very few of the latter class) are supposed to be about 10,000 of which 8 percent was killed, large numbers of the wounded have returned to duty and others are coming in daily of the enemy's loss. I think it would be safe to say 15,000 which would include 7,000 captured on the field and their dead which over balance ours but little if any, some say 3 percent, but I fear the differences was not so great, for the fact that

they had strong log breast works to protect themselves which our men were in open field. Besides this our army captured 30,000 small arms, 36 pieces of Artillery (supposed to be enough, yet on the field to make in all 30) which our Army has not had time to move. With this 100 wagons and teams, make up the principle [sic] profits that have crowned our army. Besides these things the Army generally supplied themselves with blankets, Knapsacks, canteens, paper and envelopes. All that I gathered was some paper, a sample of which you will see when you get this Va. Knapsack. The enemy are now in and around Chattanooga, and so nearly surrounded by our army that it is difficult for them to get their supplies, they have to haul it over two mountains and about 60 miles. Their number is about 90 to 10,000. Ours are near the same, they are well fortified and so are we, but not so good as they. From where I now sit their work camps and occasionally men are plainly seen. There has been no firing for the last three days on either side. Their wounded have been paroled and the Yanks have been employed in hauling them off the battlefield into town since the firing ceased. On the morning of the 26th while on picket our company and one from the Regt. were ordered to advance on the enemy. We started about day and in a few minutes balls were flying thick and fast around us, we still advanced and drove them through a shower of shot and shell, such as I haven't often see. All escaped unhurt, except Newton Penry who was either killed or captured. It was a complete surprise on the part of the enemy for they fled before us like chaff before wind, leaving guns, knapsacks and everything else behind. Only those that were on foot fired at us, had we known their confusion in time we could easily captured the party since that time we had been quietly resting. What the next move is I cannot say. I think though it will be to flank the enemy and get them out of Chattanooga. We have an army large enough now to do this since Longstreet with his Corp has come to our aid. Among his men I have found a great many of my old schoolmates and friends. Among them are John Galloway and Jerry Gorgins of whom you have heard me speak. There is also a cousin of Mine, John Neal, but I did not get to see him. You may be assured that I had a pleasant stay with these old friends, but I could not stay with them long. As I have told you all that I can think of I ask you in conclusion to remember me in your daily prayers to God. As I trust you a praying woman. Give my love to all and yourself also, I remain your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

[images with the caption: Views of the National Battleground at Chickamauga, these pictures were taken where George Washington Higgins military company were positioned. The pictures were taken the summer of 1994.]

Missionary Ridge near Chattanooga
Tenn.
Sept. 30th 1863

Dear Sister,

There has been so many changes since I received your last letter that it has been almost impossible for me to write even to Melissa, which I have done only twice this month. It has caused me to postpone answering your kind letter so long that if you were not some extent acquainted with the obstacle that have been in the way I would ask your forgiveness, but hoping that I am forgiven already. I will proceed to tell you a few things about the battle of Chickamauga which was fought on the 19th and 20th of this month, and resulted in a glorious victory for us. we captured over seven thousand prisoners all their wounded for 35 to 50 pieces of Artillery and 30,000 small arms, also 30 colors and 100 wagons and teams routed them completely and drove them to Chattanooga, where we now have them in rather a close place, where they will either have to come out and fight, retreat or surrender in either we have the decided advantage. The battle was a bloody one in which our losses in killed and wounded was near 10,000, theirs is a little larger. Our company lost none killed or badly wounded. I was hurt by a limb but have never left the company and as well now as ever. Bro. John was not hurt. Since the battle our company has been in a very hot skirmish. Newton Penry was either killed or captured except him all were safe. Everything is very quiet considering our proximity to the enemy, from where I write they are plainly seen moving about. I have seen several of my old friends that have come from Virginia to help us among them were Jerry Gorgins, John Galloway and have enjoyed myself for several days with them but did not get to stay but a short while, as it is raining for the first time in 3 months and I have no shelter I must close. Excuse this hasty letter and I will do better next time. Give my love to the family and yourself. Yours as ever.

G. W. Higgins

Dear Melissa,

I received this letter from George yesterday and thinking you would be glad to hear from him I have concluded to send it to you. I have not heard from home since I wrote to you, only through a letter I received from Elvira Russell yesterday, she said she had seen Pa a few days before she wrote, he was coming from Mr. Anderson's. Nothing more. [end of letter]

Bellmont S.C.
Oct. 4th 1863

Dear Sister,

Your kind letter came to hand last Sunday. I was glad to hear from you. I am a thousand times obliged to you for sending me George's letter for I never had any thing to relieve my mind so much in my life. How thankful we all ought to be to think they came through safe. I have no news of an interesting character. I have not heard from some since I saw you. Lizzie has quit writing to me too. I am afraid there is something wrong with her and the children. I went to Church last Sunday at Zion there was quite a small congregation out. Mrs. Jane Glenn was baptized she chose a cool time for it. Sue Coleman's child was not buried until last Wednesday, they kept her out waiting for Nate, he came the next day after she was buried. I have not seen either of them yet. I was very sorry to hear of Crows [sic] death. I was afraid she was worse than they thought she was when I was there. Please send me my crotchet needle. I want it to knit Aunt Nancy's gloves with. If you sent it to the Village to Mr. Lake or Peterson, I can get it from there. You must come to see us soon. Nothing more but write soon. Give my love to Libbie and tell her to come to see us too. I will help you and her to visit some. My love to Mrs. Welch and accept a share for yourself.

Eugenia

Bellmont S.C.
October 12th 1863

Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter last Friday and was glad to hear from you. I received a letter from Brother John today dated the 4th of Oct. he was well but said George was complaining a little, but it was cold he had taken from exposure. I suppose Nate Coleman has gone back to his company as his furlough was only for ten days. If I had known that you wanted to send anything by him in time, I expect we could have made the arrangement. But it is to [sic] late now. I received a letter from Lizzie last week she and the children were well with exceptions of the Mumps, Jimmie has them. She is getting very tired of her present way of living and has written for Dock to move out or come out after her just which he chooses I think he will come after her from what Brother John said in his letter he said Sallie had written to him that he was undecided yet, but sometimes Dock about coming after Lizzie. She wants to know if you don't want to go back too. What do you say about it are you willing to go and risk the

consequences or not. Tell your Aunt I cannot spare my black thread as I have given away a good deal of it and I will need the rest about making my homespun dresses when I get them. I found my crochet needle in my basket. I had not thought of looking there for it. Don't you want to take a trip down in Edgefield to see the rest of your Law Kin. I would like very much to go and stay two or three months and would like to have you to go with me if we can get away to go. I think you would be pleased with the trip. I cannot get away conveyance from here to go in as uncle is busy hauling his corn he will be busy all the winter so if we get to go we will have to get some one else to send us. As I have no other news of interest I will close. Please write soon and give me all the news. Give my love to Libbie and accept a share for yourself, respects to the entire family. Affectionately.

Eugenia

I heard a few days ago that they had the Diphtheria at Grandma's.

Bellmont S.C.
Oct. 14th 1863

Dear Melissa,

Again I take my seat to write you a few lines. I received a letter from Sallie today she said Pa and Dock have an idea of carrying us home but they had not decided yet she said I must tell you to be on ready that Dock might come at any time. I think you ought to go down in Edgefield to see the rest of our relations before you go back. I know they will not like it if you don't go, perhaps you can get your uncle to send you down if you only stay two or three days it would be better than to not go attal [sic]. I will go with you if you will accept my company if you conclude to go you ought to go as soon as you can for fear that Dock might come while we were gone. I am very sorry to inform you of Don's death, he died of pneumonia the 4th of Sept. As I have no news of an interesting character. I will close, write soon and let me know that you will do.

Eugenia

Bellmont S.C.
Oct. 19th 1863

Dear Melissa,

I wrote you a note yesterday morning in great haste and forgot to direct it in care of Mr. Welch. I thought you might not get it and it would be better to write to you again this morning. Dr. Henderson has been here and requested me to let you know that he would leave for Miss. next Saturday which is the 31st day of this month and if you feel like going back to Miss. you must meet him at Newberry village on that day. I will meet him there also with the expectation of going back. Dock will come down on the Greenville train as the Lawrence road is so badly worn out. My friends are very anxious that I should stay longer but for fear of wearing my welcome out. I believe I will go back with the rest. Tell Libbie I would be pleased to see her and her Ma at the depot on Saturday, Aunts is going down with me to see you and Lizzie before you leave. Patsy Clark and Sue Coleman came out with Dock, Patsy is going back with us and Sue may go as far as Atlanta. He succeeded in getting her baggage when she went back, that she lost as she came out. Excuse this scribbling my pen is so bad I can't scarcely write attal [sic]. If you get this answer it so I will know you have received it, direct your letter to me at Newberry C.H. in care of Mr. Peterson and I will get it sooner.

Eugenia

Bellmont S.C.

Oct. 20th 1863

Dear Melissa,

I wrote to you last Thursday and have been looking for an answer every day, but have been disappointed in knowing whether you received it or not. I have concluded to write to you again. I received a letter from Sallie last week stating that Pa and Doc have an idea of taking us back to Miss. and that we must all be ready to go at any time. How do you like the idea of going back are you willing to go or not. I am very well satisfied yet but if Pa thinks it best for us to go back I haven't a word to say. Melissa I wrote to you to know if you didn't want to go to Edgefield before you go back to Miss. you out [sic] to go if it isn't a stay but a day or two they will not like it if you don't go attal [sic]. I will go with you if you want me to, we needn't be gone more than three days. I cannot get any conveyance to go from here. I want you to write tomorrow and let me know that you will do about going. I have several other places to go to and I want to know immediately whether you will go or not so I will know how to make any arrangements. If you conclude to go you ought to go as soon as you can as we don't know what day Dock will come after us. I will expect an answer tomorrow don't disappointment me. They were all well at home. Affectionately your sister.

Eugenia

Bellmont S.C.
Oct. 22nd 1863

Dear Melissa,

I received a letter from you today and one yesterday and now hasten to reply to them, the reason I did not get the first one sooner you directed it to Bellmont and of course they did not send it until Wednesday. Melissa it will be 10 miles to Grandmas after we get off the cars at the nearest point and it will be a risk to run to write to them to send for us they may not be there when we get there and then we would be in a pretty fix. If that is our chance for going I will give it out and not think anymore more about going. I believe I will try to go to see Sallie Payne next week if I can get off before Dock comes. Sue Coleman went back with Nate and has gone all the way back to Miss. to hunt her things that she lost as she came out. Aunt and I spent the day with Mrs. Gilder today. I have not received a letter from home in more than a week. I wish I knew when Dock was to start after us. I can't have any pleasure going any where I am so afraid he will come while I am gone. I went to see cousin Sue Lloyd last Sunday their Child is very sick, "Uncle Sam" was there and of course I enjoyed myself finely. Give my love to Libbie and tell her to come to see me before we go home. With much love I remain your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Bellmont S.C.
Oct. 25th 1863

Dear Melissa,

I received a letter from Dr. Henderson yesterday stating that he had come out after us, he has gone up to Lawrence I suppose. He requested me to inform you of his arrival and if you wanted to go back with us to be ready he did not say when he would start. But said he would be in Newberry in a few days and we must all be ready. He is to take all the negroes back too. He didn't say one word about how they were at home, not anything else but what I have told you. I suppose he will let you know how they were at home, not anything else but what I have told you. I suppose he will let you know what day he will start as soon as he finds out himself. I will look for him here Monday or Tuesday. But I may be disappointed as he didn't say a word about when he would be here. I will let you know as soon as I find out. I am going to Zion today to bid my friends all adieu. No other news. Affectionately.

Eugenia

Company Muster Roll Form for September and October 1863
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

George W Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Sept and Oct, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Lt Hardcastle

Period 2 years

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] Shearer

To what time Aug 31, 1863.

Present or absent Absent

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Missionary Ridge

Chattanooga Tenn.

November 16th 1863

Dearest Liss,

I have been sadly disappointed this past week by not having received a letter from you. I am very fearful that something has gone wrong or you certainly would have written to me from Atlanta if you had reached that place in safety. I directed my last letter to Mashulaville, and hope that you have received it before this time. I am very anxious to hear from you to hear how you stood the trip and also to hear how everything looks at home for I have heard nothing about my Stock, Farm, Crop or anything else since you left. I have not heard whether any or all of the corn has been gathered or not, whether there would be enough to live on the next year or not, and whether or not there would be any Hogs to kill. I hope to hear a full account of all these things in your first letter, also whether Pa has sewed [sic] any Wheat for me. I may get a chance to visit you some of these days and I would like to have something good to eat when I get there. My time will be out in twelve months and I think I will be able to come then if not sooner. Our Rations are very short, I wrote to you to send me some provisions by John Stevenson, and I hope that he will be able to bring it through safely. I told you then not to send any clothing, but now I wish you to send me one pair of Pants only send them to Shuqualak to be brought in a box of the Clothing of the Company by the 4th of December. Bro. John has written Pa how to manage it and you can find out from him. I also want you to send me some of your broken Jewelry with the Pants send the plain pieces for I haven't any use for the flowered ones, if I had the files that I wrote for I could make \$20 to \$30 per day as easy. I sold one ring last week for 15 dollars. I have been trying to save one to send to Eugenia and one to Lizzie but everybody is bidding for them as soon as I get them finished and I am sure to sell. Tell Pa to get me a round sided wood rasper [sic] if he can and send it to me also a new hand saw file or another kind of a small file he can get the two for about eight dollars. I have made enough to fall [sic] all my debts in the company and have some left, and if I have luck, will be able to send you some in a week or two. Tell Pa to send with the Shoes enough Leather to half sole them. It is impossible to get any thing of the kind here. Shoes are almost played out in the Army.

Tell Sister Eugenia and Lizzie that I will write to them soon. There is a perfect remodeling going on in the army. All troops of each state are going thrown together. In my next I will give you a full account of our position in the Army. I send you a description of the battle of Chickamauga. If you will read it you can see the part we performed. I promised not to be so hurried, but the same thing has overtaken me again. Give my love to all and accept a share for yourself.

I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

November 17th 1863

Missionary Ridge

Chattanooga Tenn.

My Dearest Melissa,

Your very kind and interesting letter was received yesterday evening immediately after I had sent the other to the Office. You appear to be anxious to know what clothing I need. I have written to you for all that I want, and thought it useless to tell you what I did not want. But now I will ask you to send me two woolen over shirts if you can get them, which I have not asked for before, and will also give you a list of what I have previously ask for: 1 pair Jeans Pants, 2 Wool over Shirts, 1 pair Shoes, with leather to half sole, Provisions, if you can send any and a lot of files, embracing the Cargo. Rush one or two of my best hand saw files, and wood rasp or a small round sided files.

You also spoke of sending me a Hat you can do as you like about that. Bro. John likes his very well but it will do for the winter. I wish you could conclude to save mine until next summer. All other of clothing excepting what I have written for, I have plenty and when I need them with be sure to let you know. I am sorry that you did not let your Uncle send the provisions as it appears that he was so anxious I would rather wait for until I see you, before we make any arrangements about the grave of dear Lula, or even select an Epitaph. Your Uncle would attend to it then as well as now. I was extremely glad to hear that you all had arrived in safety, but was very sorry to hear that everything was going to rack about home, and equally as sorry to hear that Pa had not sewed [sic] any wheat for me. I was that he had sewed [sic] a few Acres as he had promised. You also spoke of your intention to live with Sallie, until you could get some one to live with you. I hope you may soon be able to get some one to stay with you, for I would much rather you would stay at home than any where else and if you stay anywhere to have protection, stay where there is a man to protect you. Our troops again occupy Knoxville.

Give my love to all.

Yours

G. W. Higgins

[image with caption: This is a photo of Lula Higgins gravesite at Headspring Cemetery outside to Newberry, South Carolina.]

Camp near Tunnel Hill, Georgia
December 2nd 1863

Dearest Melissa,

As this is the first opportunity to write to you, that I have had in ten or twelve days, I will try to make use of it by giving you a short history of our ups and downs during that time. On Sunday the 22nd of November we were ordered to Chickamauga Station with three days cooked rations, for the purpose of taking the cars to Knoxville, to assist Longstreet's Corps in whipping out old Burnside's, who was then surrounded, but before we could get off the enemy began to make furious demonstrations against Lookout Mountain and also Missionary Ridge, and as there had already been a great many troops sent from our lines around Chattanooga, we were ordered back to the ridge, we arrived there Monday night and lay in line of battle. Our positions being near the center of our line, and to the rear and right of Gen. Bragg's quarters. Tuesday we (our Division) were moved to the extreme right of the line, and the day was taken up in maneuvering for a good position at dark our Brigade was sent a mile or two to the rear to burn some bridges, which consumed most of the night. Early Wednesday morning we were moved back to the top of the ridge and began to make us some breast works, as there was a chance for a fight during the day, for the enemy had gained the foot of Lookout Mountain the day before, with that advantage, the reinforcements they were receiving and knowing that we had but a small force, it was evident that they would strive hard to get the ridge. We were but a few hours in completing very good log works, but as good luck would have we were not engaged through [sic] our logs sheltered us from many stray balls, during the day. Other Brigades of our Division were not so fortunate as ours, General Smith's Brigade of Texas troops immediately on our left were hotly engaged for several hours. I will here state, that although I have been in several battles I have never seen as much of one before as I did of this. I saw the enemy advance in four lines, and was those Texas troops repulse them. The enemy charged them three times with not less than four lines each time, but were repulsed each time with great slaughter, and compelled them to fall back always in great confusion. The Battle had been raging furiously heavy all day, along the whole of our lines to our left, and had all the troops fought as did the three Brigades of Cleburns [sic] Division, we could easily have repulsed the enemy and yet held the Ridge, but this was not the case. The men in some Brigades would not fight at all, some through [sic] down their guns and run like cowards while others lay as close behind their breast works as they could get until the enemy came up and captured them. A bad whipping Gen. Bragg's Army has got this time, a

shameful one, all were whipped but Cleberns [sic] Division. It is said that during the fight and while some troops were acting so shamefully Gen. Bragg rode up and begged his men to stand by him, for God sake never to give it up, but it had no effect on the cowardly rascals, Clebern's [sic] Division was the one that held their positions during the day. As the enemy had gained Ridge on the left and center of our line, the army was compelled to retreat began the night with Clebern's [sic] Division to bring up the rear we only marched about 3 miles that night. Thursday morning at three o'clock we moved a few miles father on and after waiting for the train of Wagons to get on we marched till near 12 o'clock at night, yet we had gone but a short distance not exceeding 10 miles. Friday morning about 2 hours before day we left camp stripped ourselves and waded a creek, a cold bath we had of it. After passing through Graysville we halted in an old field for a few hours, after leaving there we formed line of Battle and waited the approach of the enemy, as they had been pressing our rear too close. Gen. Clebern [sic] had concluded to give them battle at this place, it being an advantageous one the enemy were not long in showing themselves, the fight began, and was continued with fury for two three hours, immediatly after it began it was ascertained that the enemy were about to flank us, our Brigade was moved to the right up one of the steepest longest hills you most ever saw to prevent it, the enemy skirmishes had already reached the tip of the hill. Our Regt., being on the right of the Brigade we came right up with time, and just shot them down like they had been wild animals, several were in 20 yards of our lines, and all that was not killed or captured was driven down the hill in confusion, we continued to fire on them for several hours with good effect, as it is a well established fact that there was 1305 of the Blue bellies killed besides their wounded which must have been very great. Our train having moved on out of the way, we left the hill and fell back a mile or two formed line and waited for them again but they never came, evidently satisfied with way they had received, not have they molested us since. They burnt Graysville and left in the direction of Knoxville, We are now camped one mile from Tunnel Hill, but I think we will move shortly to a better place. I came through the whole safely without a scratch, but have had a slight chill or two since we have been here. The weather has been very cold and being exposed so much is the cause I guess. [end of letter]

Camp near Tunnel Hill, Geo.
December 4th, 1863

Dear Lis,

As John Clark will start for home tomorrow or next day I have concluded to write you a few lines by him although I have nothing new to write, everything being as it was day before yesterday when I wrote, however there seems to be a little better chance for a

fight in a few days than there was then. I have heard some cannonading, but it was a good ways off, whether the enemy will advance again or not I do not know. I fear they will and I also fear that our army is so badly demoralized that we cannot check them soon. From what I can hear Gen. Longstreet is in rather a bad situation, being cut off from all railroad and telegraphic communication from Atlanta, I will send by Dick the Ambrotype and the knife you sent me, as I have no use for it, and may want it worse some day than I do now. Tell Eugenia and Lizzie that I will write to them as soon as I get stationed.

I have just received a letter from you dated the 27th and containing some broken jewelry which I will send back to you as they will not suit for the purpose I wanted them and I am rather fearful that I will not need the files much more, as the Yanks have run us from the Tennessee River, and now I have no place to get shells. John Stevenson has not arrived yet and I fear he will not soon. Bro. John has just received a letter from Eugenia, he says, tell her he will answer it before long. I wish you to give my love to all the family and accept a share to yourself, I remain as every your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Camp near Tunnel Hills, Georgia

December 13th 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

As I have but very little to write, I hardly know how to begin. I have just returned to camp off of picket, we had rather an unpleasant time of it. The rain began yesterday morning just as we started and has continued up to the present time. The weather being very cold the rain makes it uncommonly disagreeable. I cannot say that I feel like a well man, this morning, not having rested so well last night, but as soon as I have the chance of making up lost sleep I will be all right again. Our Picket duty is not as heavy on us now, as it was at Missionary Ridge, although I believe we hate worse to perform it, and the enemy are not near us unlike it was at the Ridge, there we were in the easy talking distance. The most of our Brigade as well as our Regt. have erected very comfortable quarters, but a few are without chimneys to their huts. We will in a very few days be prepared to live comfortable, through the Winter season, which is now on us and promised to be severe, though I fear that a flank move of the enemy will cause us to leave our quarters as yet I have heard nothing to create such a fear. I learn from the paper that they have sent a heavy column after Gen. Longstreet in east Tenn., also another in middle Tenn. to drive back Gen. Forrest who is said to be giving them great trouble in that quarter. Gen. Longstreet's advance into east Tenn. has proven to be

nothing but a failure, he has not accomplished any good whatever and is now retreating towards Virginia by the way of Bristol North Carolina, whether he returns to this army again or not, depends on the movements of the enemy if they reinforce their Virginia Army, he will not be apt to return, if not, he will, his troops have had a hard and trying time, and not done with yet. Our troops begin to be worse disheartened than ever, the defeat on Missionary Ridge, Longstreet's defeat in east Tenn. scarcity of rations and a dark future with no prospects of getting to visit their families looks like enough to dishearten almost any one, but still, there are among us yet those who do not appear to think times gloomy. I haven't any doubt but that you have heard some wonderful tales since our defeat, in truth the case was a bad one, but it could easily have been worse. The people at home are not doubt low spirited and many have perhaps almost concluded to give it up, but as yet I can see no use for such conclusion all that we want to gain our liberty is for some of these home generals to shoulder a Musket and enter the ranks, quit talking and writing so much about the Generals who are in the field doing all the good he can and instead of trying so much to discourage the Soldiers they should encourage and assist them. Let all those speculators and those that have substitutes, also a large amount of the Calvary that are yet in the state and stay at home all come and get to work in good earnest and the day will be ours, though they may yet over run our whole country and destroy a large amount of property and cause our troops to suffer much for food and clothing in this or any other case our motto should be fight and never yield. Gen. Cleberns [sic] Division has not been whipped yet, and I hope that it may never be. I do not like the fun of fighting, but I would rather die than to do as some did on the Ridge. I may yet be killed in Battle and if I do, I live with the hope of doing my full duty up to that time, so that my friends can say for me that I acted as a good soldier should do. I am very anxious to see you and all the family, but I must confess that my chance for a furlough is slim and there is but very little hope of getting off at all. The only hope that I have is that Pa or Doc will succeed in getting a recruit for this company in my name, this would be sure to get a furlough for me, for 40 days, while no other excuse that I could farm up would get one for 10 days, The chance for them to obtain this recruit is very bad I know, therefore you see I can have but little or no hope. I am anxious that they should try any way whether successful or not. I am in hopes that I will hear from Pa soon, I am also very anxious to hear from you, as I have not received a letter from you since the one brought my Maj. Nunn. I hope that sickness is not the cause of the delay. I received all the clothing sent by Maj. Nunn. The box of Provisions that we are so anxious to get has never arrived and I hated it very much on your account as well as my own. If you will ask Pa to send the box in the name of Clothing I think that there is yet a chance for us to get it. Tell Pa that Bro. John says that our Chaplain (Parson Atkins) is now in Aberdeen getting clothing for the Regt. and will be coming on soon and if he will fix it up tight and leave it at Shuqualak as clothing, that he would bring it to us.

I wish you to send me a cake by Dick (John Clark's Boy) he told us that he would bring a small box for us. I never was so anxious for something good to eat in my life. I will write to Atlanta today about your paper, does Pa get his Atlanta paper or not. Give my love to all the family and yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia
December 21st 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

Yours of the 10th came to hand a few days ago it being the first that I had heard from home since Maj. Nunn came. Bro. John and I had almost concluded that something had gone wrong either with the family or with the mail, but you may be assured that we are gratified to find no such news was in either of the letters received by us. The time has been long and we was over anxious to hear, judging by ourselves, we have an ideas how uneasy you all were, after the recent Battles until you heard from us. We were both very short that the circumstances at that time rendered it impossible for us to do any better than we did. I was exceeding sorry to hear that you had a sore throat. I hope that it will soon be well. My chills have all left me and I am again in as good health as usual. Parson Atkins arrived a few days ago and brought a long looked for Box of Provisions and I tell you that we are having something good to eat at our house now. Everything was slightly damaged, but none so bad as the cakes, they were mashed all to pieces. Potatoes were considerable rotted. Butter and meat was molded, but not to injure it. The box has been in the rain, which caused the damage, after all we are having some of the best eating that we have had in many days. I believe if the Box would last long enough that we would both get fat. I know that you and Sallie would be glad to see us eat Potatoes after Supper, they appear to be better, for the fact that they came from home not only the potatoes that appear so good but the Butter, Bread, Flour, Lard and Bacon are all so good that we hardly know when we get enough so much difference between these things and the Beef and meal that we have been living on for the last 6 months. I wanted some good cake and as I failed to get it this time I hope you will send me some by Dock, as he returns, also some red Pepper, if you have any. We cannot help but think of you all, when we go to eat, and often talk about how good you all are to us, how nicely and promptly you granted every request that we make of you. Tell Sister Eugenia that I often wish that I could take dinner with her some day when I am hungry, to get some Cabbage, Potatoes, Milk and Butter and last some good Sliced Potatoes Pies, a thing that I have not had since I left there, also tell her that it was my intention to write to

her yesterday, but my house was so crowded with visitors that I could not write then but will be sure to write one day this week. I also intend to write to Sister Lizzie very soon, news is so scarce that it is a hard matter for me to find enough to write one letter a week, instead of two or more. You must write oftener, or as often as once a week, anyhow.

Camp is rather a dull place, the principal conversation among the soldiers is about going home, and many appear to encourage desertion, but I hope that practice would be abandoned now, as there has been an order to furlough one man for every twenty that is present for duty. My time may come after a while, but it will be a long while before it does not come, not under six months. It is so long off that I feel but little encouraged by the order, and haven't any doubt but the order will be changed before my time arrives and thus cut me out entirely. If Pa and Doc can succeed in getting that Recruit for me I will get a furlough any how. There is no late news about the movements of the enemy. I hope they will let us remain quite [sic] during the winter, for the weather is extremely cold and bad and I do not believe that we could stand to leave our quarters and take the weather now. My clothing is very good, but I wish you to make me two Cotton Shirts and have them ready by the time that I need them which will be two or three months yet. You spoke of being anxious to get back home. I hope that you have succeeded by this time. Tell me whether you can make my hat or not. I would like to have a cloth hat made as I told you, they have six pieces in the crown, which I neglected to tell you. I will close by asking you to write soon and use ink so that I can read it. The pencil writing rubs out. Give my love to all and yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia
December 27, 1863

My Dearest Melissa,

The year will soon close, and yet there has been a chance for me to visit you. I am very thankful that the pleasure and privilege of writing is still left me. I received a letter from you a few days ago, bearing date 14th which is the last news that I have had from you. I learned from your letter that you expected to move home in a few days. I hope you may have a good time there, I also learned that you would have a plenty of meat, and some to sell. I guess you had better sell it as soon as possible, if you do not wish the Government Officers to get it, for they will soon be round and will barely leave you enough to live on. I expect you will do well to hide a few hundred pounds in your house,

rather than be cut too short and not get the price that you could get elsewhere, however I am opposed to the plan of hiding, provided the Government Officials would act, as I consider justly. You must try to manage the most profitable way whether it is to hide bacon or not. I would be very glad to have all my debts paid, the sooner the better for me, and I would rejoice to know that you had money enough for the occasion. Bro. John will go home in a few days, and I will send some by him, which will be some help. I have thought of buying a little negro, but I guess they are too high and I doubt it we could raise funds enough. It has become a very hard matter for me to save in camp, as I have to buy half that I eat, and pay such outrageous prices, besides it comes in very slow, only 22\$ every two months. I fancy that I have done extremely well to have sent you as much as I have. Bro. John had made application for a furlough, which I haven't any doubt, but he will get, in a few days. I have never applied, for the fact that I knew it to be useless. Officers have the advantages over privates, in the furlough order, as they have in everything else. I haven't the least idea that I will be home in six months, so you need not look for me, and you will not be disappointed. Bro. says that he will give me the chance of drawing, which I consider as good as no chance at all where there are so many against me. To tell you the truth I am worse out of heart now, than I have ever been, in regards to going home. I am very sorry that I cannot go with Bro. John, for I know that You will hate it so bad, to see him, and to know that there is no chance for me to come. I hope for better times. There is no news of any importance, everything is quite [sic]. The weather is bad. Cold, windy and rainy, Christmas was dull only half a dram, no Money, but plenty to eat. That comes from home, near all out now. Send me some more next chance, a cake anyhow. I close hoping to hear from you soon. My love to all, I remain your devoted husband. Write soon and often.

G. W. Higgins

Company Muster Roll Form for November and December 1863
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

Geo W Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Nov and Dec, 1863.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Col Hardcastle

Period 12 mo.

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] Shearer

To what time Oct 31, 1863.

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Tunnel Hill, Georgia

January 1st 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

As Bro. John will leave for home in a few hours, I will send you a few lines by him. There is no news, only that we are having some of the coldest weather that I have felt this winter. As we do not have to be out very much, it is not so bad as it might be. Your letter of the 21st came to hand a day or two ago. I was glad that you have gone home again, but at the same time, was sorry that you were so lonesome and so low spirited. I would willingly do anything in my power to promote your happiness but I do not know what to do, I can not leave the Army if I could, I would, most surely for nothing would give me greater pleasure and be assured that no effort will be spared on my part to obtain a furlough, but at the same time, I have but a feeble hope of seeing you in the next eight months. I hope you will not become discouraged, look at the bright side of the picture some, the war cannot last always, nor will we be always separated, should we both live, it is hard but yet we must be content to endure these privations a while longer, and continue to hope for a better time, which will come sooner or later. Keep up your spirits and don't suffer yourself to be overcome. I know it is hard yet you must strive to

do it if you wish to live easy. I will send by Bro. John (\$100) one hundred dollars for you to dispose of the best you can. I might have saved more if the Government had furnished me enough to eat. When you hear how we live you will doubtless think that I have done well to save that much. I have three rings which I will send to you. Take one and give one to Eugenia and one to Lizzie. They are not as good as I wished, but my material for making rings is about gone up. If you wish one with gold sets, let me know and I will try to make it. I will begin to look for Dick in a few days. I want something to eat. I must close for want of something to write. Give my love to all and yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

George W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia

January 10, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Unavoidable circumstances have caused me to postpone writing until the present time. Dick arrived last Monday, the 4th, and brought everything for me through safe. I found in the bundle one Ham, some Butter, Sausages and some cakes. They were all very acceptable, and as good as I could wish. The cakes were exceedingly nice, and suited my taste exactly. Dick was not quite so lucky with Bro. John's things, having lost the Cake, Sallie sent to him. I am satisfied that Dick done the best he could, to bring everything through safe and I think he did well to get through with no greater loss than the cake. He had two boxes and one large bundle, he brought a letter for me, which was gladly received, as I am always anxious to hear from you. I wrote to Lizzie a few days ago and also wrote a note to Bro. John, which I enclosed in hers. I am in hopes that it may not be delayed on the route, as Bro. might be put to some inconveniences in regard to his shoes, which I sold for forty dollars, they were too large for him, being large enough for me. If Lizzie has not received the letter that I wrote to her please inform Bro. John that I have disposed of his shoes and that he had better have him a pair made to fit him as every pair he gets is too large. Let him know immediately, if he had not received the note. John Stevenson came Thursday he looks better than I ever saw him before, he is using every effort in his power to keep out of field service, he has not succeeded yet, and will not for some time to come, as all the vacancies are filled. The weather is very cold, the ground has been frozen for more than a week, our water is beginning to be very scarce on account of the freeze. Col. Hardcastle is now acting Brigadier Gen., which leads the regiment. We have been doing finely, since we came here, but tomorrow we begin drilling again, which will be anything but agreeable to the boys, Tinsons, smartness, he wishes to do big things hoping no doubt, to displace

Hardcastle, in command of the Regt. I was sick a few days ago, but have been very well ever since, but have a swollen leg, from what cause I have no idea it is not sure, but is so purple that it is about blue. I thought at first that it was erysipelas but have concluded that it is something else, for it does not affect my leg, like it did last spring, when it was so sore. I would have gone to the Doctor this morning but have to go on guard and have concluded to wait until tomorrow. You have before this time seen Bro. John and heard all the news. There is none stirring, since he left, that I have not written. You wished to know what to do with the meat that you have for sale, I have told you in a letter before this, to sell if for all that you could get, to Mr. Anderson or anybody else that pay you the money for it, be sure to keep enough for the use of the family. I hope Doc may be successful enough to obtain the recruit for me for I am so anxious to get home once more. And that is the only chance that I will get, tell Doc to do his clean best. I wish you to give me a full account of everything about home, have you got any Irish potatoes to plant this spring, do you expect to try to have any vegetables this summer, did the Negroes destroy your Sweet Potatoes last year, is there any young pigs, are your Chickens all dead, how many head of Cattle have you, have any of them been killed, or sold for Beef, is there any large enough for Beef Cattle, if there is do you desire to kill it at home or sell it, all such things as these, I would like to know, you have no idea how glad I would be to hear something about the little that I left there, whether or not it is all squandered. Tell Pa to let me hear from him, Eugenia the same. Give my love to all and yourself. Be sure to send me some paper.

I am as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

After concluding the enclosed letter, Yours dated the 22nd was handed to me, it being the first news received from home since the arrival of Bro. John. I was very sorry to hear that our hogs have dwindled down to such a small number, but I can do nothing to better the matter. You can tell the negroes that if they don't take care of the hogs, that they will have to do without meat, for I do not intend to buy one pound of meat, if there is not the first hog to kill except enough for you. I think the neighbors might do some way to rid the country of Dr. Jackson. I would like to be there and catch him stealing some of my hogs. I bet he would never steal another. Doc has promised to attend to my affairs as much as he could there for I hope that matters will change for the better. I have not heard that Amelia was dead, I haven't any ideas that we can get an after prospect, if that is the property that you have reference to. As for settling the estate I can do nothing in my situation. John Gage is the man, I will write to him soon. My chill passed off yesterday and I feel tolerable well this morning. Some rain fell last night and the appearance for more is very good.

I am as before yours,

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia

January 17th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I hardly know how to begin writing this Sabbath morning as I have not received a letter from you this month and have written several. The letter sent by Dick is the last received I have been very anxious for the last few days to hear from you but have been sadly disappointed. I will not loom any more until Bro. John arrives. Camp is rather a dull place there is nothing of importance going on. Regimental inspections every day that the weather will admit and a drill occasionally is about all the military duty we have to perform excepting guard and picket duty which is about every 8 or 10 days. After supplying ourselves with wood and water both of which are very inconvenient we haven't much time to spend on drilling. The weather has been very cold, and unpleasant as yet there is no prospect for a change. Last Friday morning was the largest frost that I ever saw, very much resembling a small snow. The ground has been hard frozen for several weeks. It would be a bad time to leave our quarters and take the open air, such would be the case, were the Yanks to attack us. Some of our troops are said to be moving to the rear. Supposed that they are going to Mobile or to Savannah. I wish that we could be lucky enough to get to the coast this winter, but it appears that any other command is luckier than ours. I received a letter from Mr. Mose Anderson of South Carolina last Friday, they were all well and doing finely he also sent me a quart of Corn Whiskey which was very acceptable in this cold weather. He told me that Uncle Frank Higgins was dead also several others that you do not know. He spoke of seeing you when you were there and express himself as being very sorry that you did not visit them according to your promises [missing 5 words of text] have been well pleased with the family, they gave me very flattering invitation to visit them, when this war shall end, of before if convent. [sic] Mrs. Anderson sent me some dried fruit and potatoes which helps us very much. I have been living finely for the last month and have fattened on it if I could always do as well as I have done for the past month, camp would be a very good place to live. I am very tired of camp life and wish to get home for a while, any want to rest and to see you all, but unless you can get a recruit for me I have no idea that I will get there soon. I will send you a Fine comb and a few Pens. I do not know that you need them but will send them anyhow. The Pens are very good I think and the Comb is the best that I have ever seen in the Army by taking care of it it would last you a life

time, almost. The weather has been too cold for Preaching consequently that has not been any in camps for a long time, until today, this morning our Chaplain gave us a short sermon also one this evening. The boys pass off a great deal of time in singing. Small Hymn Books have been given to each and every soldier, also a large lot of Religious tracts have been circulated in camp, but yet there are those who put but little attention to religious matters and are constantly engaged in gambling, swindling and all kinds of [missing text] practices. The majority of the army is I believe better satisfied now than they have been for some time, any way there is not so much talk of desertion, but if they are not allowed to reorganize and elect new Officers when their time is out many of them will desert and I fear it will do a great injury to our cause. Congress has not decided on this point yet and I do hope that it will decide to let the soldier elect new company Officers anyway. It is not that I wish an office myself, but for the good of the cause, and to throw some in the ranks that have the swell head so bad. I cannot write anymore until I hear from you again and as I have told you everything that I can think of at present I shall close and continue to hope for a long letter, bearing me glad tiding of health and plenty with you. My love to all I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia

January 24th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I have seated myself this beautiful morning for the purpose of writing you a few lines in answer to two letters received the last few days one by mail Wednesday night dated the 11th the other by the hand of Bro. John who arrived Thursday night. You may be assured that I was glad to hear from you for the first time this month. There must be a great deal of carelessness with the mail somewhere. Bro. John says that he never heard from me from the time he left until he returned and I know that he had been gone only a few days when I wrote to Lizzie and enclosed a note to him. I was very sorry to hear this, for I had sold his Shoes and it will probably put him to some inconveniences. I have also wrote you two or three letters and none of them had reached you, when he left. I am fearful that you think that I am getting careless about writing to you and do not write often, but I assure you that this is not the case. I write once every week, the fault is in the mail. Your letters are always very old when I get them. You wish to know whether my keg was as large as Pa's or not. I tell you I am getting rather fleshy, but not near as large as my own Daddy. I am so large I can not get about without a great difficulty and in fact I am in my own way. I only weigh 175 lbs. My health is very good and would remain so, if the provisions you sent me would last, it has never been much better since

I came in the service. We are trying to make the provisions last as long as possible by adding in the beef we draw (which is only half pound a piece) and I fear that the fresh hams will spoil if the weather remains as warm as it has been for two or three days past. I was truly glad to hear that you had begun to enjoy yourself in your lonely situation and had at last got some one to stay with you though I fear that she will not stay with you long. I was also pleased to hear that you had so much meat. I guess you had a good time in tending to the killing and weighing and salting of the meat to say nothing about drying your lard and making Sausages. Some of which you have been so kind to send me. They are very nice, I like the seasoning better than any that I have tasted yet. The Cakes you sent are as good as I ever saw, though I did not wish you to deprive yourself of all your Flour and Sugar for me. All the other articles that you sent me have been received and I am well pleased with everything and thank you kindly for your kindness so plainly manifested in sending me so many good things and I have no doubt but you would do more if it was in your favor.

The subject of reenlisting for the war is causing quite an excitement. Last night our Brigade and an Arkansas Brigade got together and called on several Officers for Speeches, among whom was Two Brigadier Generals, several Colonels, Majors, Captains and one Doctor a private. Several very eloquent and Patriotic Speeches were made in preference to the Subject; and to add to the pleasure of the night, we had the best music that I ever heard, four large Brass bands together. We were out until after 12 O.C. and I feel rather nervous and sleepy this morning and can hardly write a legible hand which you must excuse. There is but few of our company in favor of reenlisting. They had as well all be for they will be Conscripted if they don't, furthermore there is little inducement offered to all those that reenlist. A furlough to every ten, which will be drawn for. I am in favor or reenlisting and guess that I will in a few days, whether I get the ten or not. I know of no chance to get home and I have just as well go for the war. Tell Pa that I am very much obliged to him for the Tobacco he sent me. You wished me to send you five or six rings, I haven't the material to make them, but will send you one in a few days, of a different color to any that I have sent you yet. I can sell all that I make for 10 dollars a piece. Tell me if your Atlanta Paper comes to you or not. I will close. Give my love to all, I remain as ever, Your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia
February 7th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

It is with pleasure that I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines, and perhaps may have a chance of conveying it to you by hand, as T. Anderson and George Haynes will probably leave tomorrow. They having applied for Furloughs, under the order granting one furlough to every ten men that will reenlist. Eighteen men of our Company have reenlisted for the war. I am one of the number. We drew for two furloughs. Haynes and Anderson were the lucky ones as soon as they return I will have another chance to draw, but I am such an unlucky creature that there is no such a thing as my drawing it. If you have my hat completed send it by the first opportunity for I have no idea that I will get the chance of coming after it. Great excitement exist in camp on the subject of reenlisting. I wish every confederate soldier would reenlist at once, nothing would do our cause more good, two great victories would fail to compare with such a noble action. The Yankee army are reenlisting very slow, most of their troops leave the service as soon as their time expires, the Ninth Army Corps was mustered out the other day, and two or three Brigades have 40 having one in for the war, this is good news for us, and should encourage us to do everything in our power. Our troops are in such better spirits now than they have been for a long time, we all feel confident that we will gain the next Battle, when ever or where ever it may be fought. Though there is none of us that wishes to be in another fight, yet every one is determined to do his whole duty. The people at home must revive up, for the Soldiers is no near whipped yet. Our scarcity of rations may whip a good many, but there are some that will not be whipped. The rations all present are good and plenty, but I fear that they will not hold out. The weather has been the best for the time of year than I ever saw, it makes me think of corn planting time. I guess you have begun gardening by this time. I hope you may have a good Garden, this year. Have you not any Irish Potatoes to plant this year. If you have planted them good, for they may be of great help to you, and who know, but what I may get the chance to visit you this summer. I hope to anyhow. There is rumors of our division going to Mobile or to Miss. whether it be true or not I cannot say, but there is no doubt, that this army is now preparing for a move to some place, and I will be glad if it is to Mobile or Miss. I guess we will go to East Tenn. I have no news to communicate. I will try to get George Haynes or T. Anderson to carry the coverlid back that you sent me, for fear that I may lose it. Send my hat to T. Anderson when Sallie sends Bro. John's shoes, he will bring it for me. I am as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tunnel Hill, Georgia
February 14th, 1864

My Dear Melissa,

Your very kind and interesting letter of the third has been received. It did me a great deal of good for it was the first that I had from you in a long time. I was exceedingly gratified to hear that you enjoyed such good health, but grieved to learn that you were so lonesome. I hope the girl will soon return to you, by yourself I know that you are very lonesome, and I am truly sorry that my situation renders it impossible for me to add to you comfort, which if I know myself is the greatest desire of my heart. You know my situation as well as I do, therefore, I hope you will try to get along as well as you can and look for a better day which will surely come. I know your situation to be even worse than lonesome (not for what you write, for you seldom say anything about how you are letting on and when you do you merely say that you are lonesome). You perhaps think that the family cares nothing for you, this I cannot believe to be the case, they surely would not be so inhumane on my account, if nothing else, would induce them to respect you. But if they do care nothing for you I merely ask you to act your part in such a manner, as to leave yourself entirely unblemished. If they do not visit you as often as you may think they ought to do why you can stay at home by yourself, but be sure not to mistreat them at any time, neither at home or abroad, (which I know you would not do intentionally.) You do not know the reasons they have for not visiting you, they may be good, such as would justify them in staying away. I do hope that everything will get on finely nothing would give me more pleasure than to know such is the case on the contrary to know that everything was in a jungle, it would grieve me more, than almost anything you could [missing text]. When there is peace and harmony at home I can get on finely. I feel then like I could stay in the war to the end, (which I will have to do anyway). You say that you can not hear from me and that you wished me to write oftener, and you think if you could hear from me oftener that you would not be so lonesome. Lis, you must not blame me for I assure you that I write every week and I cannot help the delay which is in the mail and I tell you another thing, I write nearly twice as many letters as I receive, for instance, in the month of January I wrote you five letters and received only two of yours written that month, you certainly do not get all that I write, if you did, I know you would be satisfied. Your situation gives me more trouble than the thought of going into battle, and yet there is no remedy in my reach, to aid you except to council you in this trying time to us both. From the letters that I have received I guess you have a counselor high up in the world to come and by his assistance I hope you will be able to undergo all privations and troubles which may come upon you. You have joined the church and have received your letter, by which you may attach yourself to the some [sic] church to which I belong. I have in the past said but little about you having joined the Baptist church, for several reasons, a few of which I will mention that you may be satisfied, by my silence on this subject. I wish you to exercise you own judgment in regard to this matter. I do not wish others to think that I have influenced you and I was so unworthy to be called a church member myself, that I thought the least said was the best and acted accordingly, although I am glad that you have joined. I am

satisfied, that you acted thus, on pure motions for I have never given you any reason to believe that I wanted you to join the church to which I belong, on this subject I have been always on my guard both in my conversation and letters since I left you. I hope you are a true and worthy member more than I can say that I am. I would write you oftener if I had anything to write. I seldom leave the camp, unless it is to drill or to go on picket. We had a little march a few days ago. We left camp at 12 o'clock with two days rations, and started to the front, for the purpose of cutting off and capturing a squad of Yanks, that was scouting out in the county, rather too far from their main body to suit our Generals, but we had proceeded but a couple of miles, until it was found that they had returned, accordingly we retraced our steps back to camp and have been quite [sic] ever since. Our army is in the best kind of spirits, and will be sure to whip the enemy in the next battle. As you can see by the papers that I will send you our Reg. have all reenlisted for then so has the most of the Brigade, also the Division and the army generally has reenlisted, this would give courage to the people at home, to see that the old soldiers are not willing to give up, to the tyrannical rule, of our abolitionist foe, but determined to fight it out to the end, it should also encourage the weakness of those men that have been climbing out of the war on some frivolous pretext also the speculators who have been imposing on the soldiers [sic] wives at home while they have been fighting [end of letter]

Company Muster Roll Form for January and February 1864
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

George W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above, for Jan and Feb, 1864.

Enlisted:

Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom Lt A B Hardcastle

Period 12 months

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] Shearer

To what time Dec 31, 1863.

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

[footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Dalton Georgia

March 6th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I guess you are getting anxious to hear from me again and as Maj. Nunn will leave for home tomorrow I have concluded to write you a few lines as it is the only Chance that I have to conveying you a letter and the only once since the Yanks came out to Meridian. I have been looking for a letter from you, for several days past, but as T. Anderson and George Haynes has not arrived I have fail to get it, they have been due for several days and I am very anxious that they should come for I think one or the other of them will be sure to bring me a letter. The people of Miss. have no doubt been badly frightened by the recent raid of the Yanks. I guess the people in that neighborhood suffered from the same complaint but as yet I have not heard the first thing from Noxubee since the raid. I do not know but what you all have run away from home as they have done in other portions of the state. You are perhaps as anxious to hear from me for I now [sic] that you have heard a great many things about our Divisions within the last two or three weeks. We have had quite a lively time for a week or two past, but we are again in camp as quite [sic] as if there was not an enemy near us. We left Tunnel Hill on the 23rd of last month and marched to Dalton for the purpose of going to Miss. as we then thought as there was no cars to convey us we were detained until next day. The enemy in the mean time having advanced in our front. Causing Gen. Johnston, to feel rather uneasy after the departure of Cleberne's [sic] division. Which was immediately ordered back (the portion that had gone) and our Brigade sent back to the front where there was considerable fighting going on however the Sharpshooters of our Brigade were

skirmishing all the evening and many of the Yankee Ball passed near us, but did no damage. The Yanks being thus repulsed concluded it best to retire and accordingly at 10 O.C. that night left and have been quite [sic] ever since we remained in line for a couple of days and they returned to Dalton. We have changed camp two or three times and are now comfortable camped. There is no news in camp worth you attention. Frank Anderson has got a furlough and will leave this evening for South Carolina, he is very much helped up. No one was more anxious to go home than he. I have no furlough yet and do not know when I will get one. I am an unfortunate being. If I can get a furlough soon I will not be able to get one at all this year, and I see no prospect of one soon. Mat Coleman has come over today to see us he is in good health but is very much reduced to what he used to be. I am larger than him myself, he is not reenlisted and says that he will not like many others he is very tired of the war and would be glad to get out almost any way that would be honorable.

As I cannot think of anything else to write I will close.

Give my love to all, I reman as ever, your devoted husband.

George W. Higgins

Dalton, George

April 4th 1864

Dearest Melissa,

According to promise, I seat myself for the purpose of writing you a few lines, although I hardly know how to begin, after a tedious trip as I have had. I arrived in camp yesterday evening safe and sound and found all the boys well and very glad to see me (at any rate they appeared so). They were looking for me consequently they were not surprised. They have drawn for furloughs since I returned. Ed Edwards, Joseph Swindle, and Augustus Parker were the fortunate ones. They will probably leave in three or four days, if they get off. I shall send you a few lines by some of them. You have heard that I was just in time to be too late for the Cars at Macon, which set me back one day, at all other points I made the connections. I came by Mobile rather than to lay over at Meridian 24 hours, which I would have been compelled to do. From Meridian to Mobile I have to pay my own way which was only six dollars. I was also fortunate enough to get my watch mended in Mobile at a cost of only ten dollars, which I considered very cheap as it was badly broken. It runs well now. My boxes got through all safe, cost only \$10, and that was to Mobile. There I got transportation through, passage for Jim was not quite so low. It cost me forty three dollars to Atlanta, from there I paid nothing. I done my best to slip

him through but he was too green. The price for passage has raised on all the roads and a servant is charged full price. My money was all discounted consequently I had to borrow to get him through, which I did very easily from Gilbert Clark of our Company. He and Jack Bateman got on the cars at Shuqulak and came through with me. I arrived just exactly at the right time to keep from being reported absent without leave. The Cars were very much crowded during the trip allowing but very little pleasure to be seen, and as I traveled night and day, I slept, but very little and feel rather dull. I haven't any news to communicate with relating. There is no prospect of a fight soon. The prevailing opinion is that the first big fight will be in Virginia. Some talk of a portion of this army being sent there but I do not believe it. Frank has got back from South Ca. and says that the people generally are getting along finely and are in fine spirits, he hasn't any other news worth relating. Only that Mr. Moses Anderson and his family asked a great many questions about you and I, and expressed themselves as being very sorry that You did not visit them, and also that they were very anxious to see me and sent very pressing invitation for me to make it convent [sic] to visit them at some future time. I will close by asking you to write soon, give my love to all and yourself. I remain as before your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Excuse brevity – as news is slim.

Calhoun George

April 7th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I received your very kind and interesting letter (of the 4th) a few days ago and would have answered it a few days ago, but for the other duties. We left Dalton last Friday morning (the 15th) and came down to this place to guard Commissaries and ammunition. this is the first time that our Regiment has ever been on any kind of detached service our guard duty is very heavy but I had much rather do it than drill as much as we had to do. Breaking up the consolidation has been beneficial to us, it left our Regt. very small and as the vacancy occurred for a small Regt. to be detached we happened to be the one detached. We are now about 25 miles in the rear of the army and may possible avoid the next fight. The weather has been very unpleasant since I left you and there has been a great deal of rain too, this morning was very cold and the ground was almost white with frost, at present the sun is shining and the day bids fair to be warm and pleasant. I wish it may for I would like to attend preaching in town. Frank received a letter from Margaret today requesting him to ascertain from me whether you

had received your Church letter yet or not, if you had not written to her yet you must do it soon as she is very anxious to hear from you. I have almost concluded to write to your Uncle William one of these days, but I hardly know how to begin and I am rather afraid that he would not answer it. I have no news of any importance. Everything is quite [sic] and likely to remain so until the weather turns warmer and dryer.

Our camp is near a river, I will look for shell the first opportunity and if I find any suitable I will make you all some more Rings.

My health is good. I remain as ever yours.

G. W. Higgins

Direct your letters to G. W. Higgins
Co. C, 45th Miss. Regt.
Calhoun Georgia
Until farther [sic] ordered.

Dalton, Georgia
April 8th 1864

Dear Melissa,

Since my last writing I am compelled to say that I have gathered but little news that would interest you. The weather is very changeable, at this time it is rather too cold to be pleasant, a heavy rain fell last night and the sky is yet threatening, the wind is very high and may blow the clouds away, leaving the remainder of the day clear and cool. The fruit in this country is not yet killed, simply for the fact that the trees have not bloomed yet. Everything is very backward but few of the trees have begun to bud yet. I am compelled to think that this bad weather will soon change into calm and pleasant days which soldiers would hail with joy. Yesterday at the great shame battle came off, one portion of the army against the other. A large concourse of people were out to witness the proceedings. Numbers of both sexes from several states attended, the conduct and appearance of the troops was said to be magnificent. I was on guard and did not get to go, though the firing was audible and resembled a hard contest, as much as any that I ever heard so far everything passed off finely and no one hurt. To day as cold and windy as it is we have been to preaching and will go again this evening. Do you remember that to day has been set apart by our chief Mastrate [sic] of Dairsil [sic] for fasting and prayer? I hope you and many observe it as such, not only you but it would do my heart good to know that the hold [sic] Confederate inhabitants would

observe it. The army generally are more concerned than on any previous occasion. Our entire mess is fasting and nearly all of the company, if it does no good it can do no harm. In my last letter to you which was the next day after my arrival in camp I told you that I expected Edward Parker and Swindle would go home next as they had drawn the furloughs, but before they could get them ready to send up, the order under which they drew them was countermanded and the order under which I went home was relinquished rendering it necessary for a new drawing, James Dorroh being the lucky one, he may leave tomorrow morning as he expected this furlough this evening, if he succeeds he will bring this letter to you.

G.W.H.

Calhoun, Georgia

April 25th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Your very kind and interesting letter of the 14th came to hand day before yesterday and s [sic] I have been on duty all the time until this morning, I have not been able to answer it sooner. Our Regt. is still on duty at this place, but I do not think that we will remain here much longer, a fight is expected at Dalton soon, and I think that we will have to be there. Active operations have almost fairly begun in both armies preparations are being made, to receive the enemy. I thought when we first came here that we would probably avoid the near fight but my notion is changed. We have been looking for a Yankee raid on this town for the last few days, as yet they have not appeared, nor either do I believe that they will come, so long as we remain. The weather has been warm and pleasant for the last few days and begins to look like the beginning of spring, the trees are everywhere beginning to bud, but none have hardly leaves on them yet. Fruit is not killed out very badly. There will be plenty in this country if no accident happens. You spoke of my having told Pa that I expected to come home in a month or two, there will be no chance to get off now as the furloughing is all suspended and will be for some time. I was very sorry to hear that Sallie had lost her house. Bro. John appears to be anxious that Lizzie should be hung. I think it would be a good thing as there appears to be no doubt that she did it intentionally. My health is good, also that of the Regt. News is scarce. I must close as I have to go on fatigue. I remain as ever your husband.

G. W. Higgins

Company Muster Roll Form for March and April 1864
(Confederate.)

H 3 Battalion. Miss.

Geo. W. Higgins

Pvt, Co. C, 45 Reg't [sic] Mississippi Inf. [see second footnote below]

Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization names above, for Mch [sic] and Apr, 1864.

Enlisted:

When Nov 13, 1861.

Where Vicksburg

By whom A B Hardcastle

Period 1 year

Last paid:

By whom Capt [sic] Shearer

To what time Dec 31, 1862. [see first footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

[first footnote: As shown by ditto mark]

[second footnote: This company subsequently became Company C, 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry.]

The 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry was formed about November, 1861, of seven unattached companies and, by the addition of Captain Charlton's Independent Company, Mississippi Infantry, and two companies formed of that part of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry which was not captured at Fort Donelson, the battalion was increased to a regiment in April, 1862, and called the 33d Regiment Mississippi Infantry, which designation was changed to the 45th Regiment Mississippi Infantry in November, 1862. The men composing the two companies formed of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry were transferred back to that Regiment by S.O. No. 49, headquarters Department No. 2, dated November 29, 1862, and this organization was ordered to resume its original designation as the 3d Battalion Mississippi Infantry by letter from the A. and I. G. O. to General J.E. Johnston, dated April 9, 1864.

Book mark:

Book mark:

F D Mc[illegible]

Copyist.

Calhoun, Georgia

May 1st, 1864

Dearest Melissa,

Your kind and interesting letter by the hand of James Dorroh came to me last night at two o'clock. I must thank you for it was the longest, the most interesting and best written and neatest that you have written to me in a long time. I congratulate you on the improvement and hope that you may continue to improve in each successive letter, as much as you have in the last one. You said that you did not have any news to write and yet you wrote a long letter and everything was new to me, if that would always be the case, I believe I would rather would never have much news. You have no idea how much good it did me to get such an interesting letter, if you did you would certainly write them oftener. There is but little news from the front. Skirmishes are of daily occurrences, and a heavy battle is daily expected, our army is ready to receive them as soon as they choose to come, our line is well fortified and our troops are in good condition and there is not the least doubt that the enemy will get badly thrashed when they undertake to whip us. As to the numerical strength of our army. I haven't much idea. Though I would suppose it numbers near about thirty-five thousand men, exclusive of Calvary. The entire army is of the opinion that this year will end the war, provided that we whip the Yanks and almost every soldier is determined to fight his best fight when brought before the foe, we are sanguine of success, the whole army not our Regt., Brigade or Division but the entire Army. This army was never in such a good condition as it is at this time, better discipline better clothed and shod than ever before, or rations too are better than they have been for a long time, we get one and one half pounds of meal and 1/2 pound of bacon with rice, sugar and hominy each day. I haven't had any beef but once or twice since my return. James brought us some nice meat from home, also some butter, that you sent, the weather has been so warm that it had wasted some. I thank you for the ham and butter, for it rather surprised me and I had negligent to write for anything, but your goodness needed not persuasion or even asking, only a chance to send. You are so good that I wish I could be with you always. I would be glad to get a couple of pair socks in two or three weeks. The wool ones that I have are good, but scald my feet so bad that it is almost impossible for me to stand them, send them if you please by the first opportunity – send them by mail if you have no other chance, be sure to sew them up in a rag before sending them. I do not need any other clothing yet. I will need pants but can get them from the government. Tell Pa that I wish he would send me some tobacco the first chance he gets, if he has any to spare. I am out and can't get any for a few days, as I haven't any money and can't borrow any for there is not any money in the Regt., among both Officers and men. I have never seen it so scarce before, and yet everything remains as the old high price, if it does not come down after the tax is due I fear we will have a bad state of affairs. The army will be paid off in a few days, in the new issue, we will be paid this week. I have not sold my watch yet, money has been so scarce that I thought best to wait a while. I am sorry to hear that our farm progresses so slow, tell Doc not to stand back when the negroes needs a thrashing, but to like it to them light. I hope that he may make enough for us to live on. It appears that you have

bad luck with the girls that you get to live with you. I hope Miss Mott may be better than the others you have had. Tell Sallie w. that I have her ring but have not had the opportunity of having my name put on it if she desires and have been holding it back on that account, but if she wants it anyhow, I will send it to her. I have not had the chance of having your Breast Pin minded yet. I will make you one soon. Being in town and so much duty to do I have but little time to devote to ring making. I am rather surprised to hear of Mrs. Mays [sic] visit to Mr. Coleman, if I have been the old man I believe I would have asked her to sleep with me, perhaps he did it for what I know and more too, if he did I am inclined to believe that he was rather anxious, for a bed mate ha ha. You state that you are larger than Emaline, goodness, how will I hug you any more, you must quite [sic] eating and try to fall away some. I will not be very uneasy about the young men cutting me out if you are so large, they will not have you. Goody, Goody. I hope you are only jesting when you say that you are afraid that you are getting larger, I hope it is not the case. If it is really so you must let me know by the next letter that you write. We have had such bad luck with our children that I would beg to know that we would never have another. Tell Pa, Eugenia, Doc and Lizzie that I will write to some of them as soon as I get some paper. You give my love to all and accept a share yourself, I remain as ever your husband.

G. W. Higgins

May 6th 1864
Calhoun, Georgia

Dearest Melissa,

As this may be the last opportunity that I may have of writing to you in a good while to come I thought best to drop you a few lines although I will have but a few minutes to devote in writing. Orders have just arrived for us to return to the front, it is now 12 O.C. and we will leave at one P.M. I have many little things to do before leaving. A great Battle is expected to begin at any hour. Troops are all ready to receive the enemy. I was in hopes that we would miss this fight but it appears that they cannot do without our Regt. If we are needed it is all right but of course I would rather not go for I am not anxious to fight. I will write to you again the first opportunity and I beg you not to suffer any uneasiness for me for I feel like I will come out all right be not uneasy if you do not hear from me soon. I expect that we will have quite a lively time. Rest assured that I will write every opportunity that I get.

Dear Lis if it should be my lot to fall a victim to the Leaden Messenger I have a hope in heaven and I do pray if it should be our lot never to meet on earth again that we may

meet in that bright and better world where parting will be known no more. As my time has run out I must close. Farewell and may the blessing of God be with you.

I am as ever your devoted husband. [end of letter]

Line of Battle near Resacca [sic]

May 12th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Your kind and interesting letter of the 4th has just received the first that I have had since James Dorroh arrived, therefore you may know that I was glad to receive it. By the reading of this you will see that I have changed my position since I last wrote to you which as the 6th that was the day we left for Dalton. After we arrived at Dalton we marched out to our old camp ground there we remained until next evening and left the camp and went out to the Breast Work, there we remained until the next day at 2 O.C.P.M. working on the Breast Works, we were then ordered to change our position to the left, where the enemy were trying to take a gap in the ridge that surrounds our position, we moved the whole distance in quick time before we arrived the enemy had been repulsed, however we formed lines which taken until near midnight the ground being rough and the night was dark, after the line was formed we had to build some Breast works which taken up the whole night consequently we rested none atoll,[sic] we lay behind them all day and that night. At light next morning we were marching towards Resacca [sic] which is 16 miles from Dalton, south on the railroad, we marched there by 9 O.C.A.M. being a forced march. After resting for a few hours and having ascertained that the yanks had gone, we returned to the foot of the ridge that we had left in the morning, having marched 32 miles in the day. Everyone was well neigh worn out and could have enjoyed our hard beds if the rain had kept away, but it woke us up about 12 that night and we slept but little afterwards. That day we marched to within five miles of Resacca [sic] and meet the enemy, but as yet he has not come since we arrived we have built fortifications and if he comes us to us he will be sure to get whipped but I think we will move to another position before we fight any. We have not had a fight yet but other portions of the army are fighting every day. [end of letter]

Camped on the Banks of Etawah [sic] River

or HighTower Cass Co. Georgia

May 21st, 1864

Dearest Melissa,

This morning finds me a long ways below Dalton, only about 40 miles from Atlanta, Johnston's entire Army crossed the above named river yesterday, and are now camping on this side. Whether we will make a stand at this place or retreat further toward Atlanta is more than I am able to say. However we cannot get much further back without giving up Atlanta, as we are in two days journey of that town. Gen. Johnston has not attempted to make but one stand since he left Dalton, that was to Kingston about 15 miles back, but after getting all our lines ready and breast works built (which taken up all the night of the 19th). Gen. Hood found that he would not hold his position and seek a better one. We yet feel confident that victory will crown our arms. By this retreat we have lost a large portion of Georgia and some very fine and rich land, but I think the day is not far distant when it will be regained. Our Regt. has lost 3 or 4 killed and 8 or 10 wounded. The boys have stood the trip well considering what we have had to endure. We have been on the pad 15 days and have rested not more than 3 whole nights, have built 5 sets of Breast works and our rations have been good and more abundant than ever before in fact we have had more than we wanted. The enemy have followed us close and are now in a few miles of us, but they have not hurried much. Also quantity of plunder has been lost on this trip than any one that I ever saw. I am in as good health as ever, my feet is worsted some. Boys are all well, as I am not prepared to give you a full account now. I promise to do so as soon as we get settled which will be after the fight. My love to all, be sure to write soon to your devoted husband.

G.W.H.

Direct your letters to 45th Miss. Regt. Lowery's [sic] Brigade
Cleberns [sic] Division
Army of Tenn.

May 22, 1864

Mrs. M. E. Higgins

Kind Friend,

I received yours of the first instant last Wednesday your letter found all well I began to think you was never going to write any more I received a letter from Mr. Anderson last Friday, he said they were all well they were camped near Rasacca [sic] G.A. he said they had had a hard time of it this week but had not been in any fight they had been uneasy about. Some, they were expecting a fight at any time, I would be so glad if we could have peace. Lis, Mr. Anderson was looking very well when he was home (he is pretty as ever). I was not looking for him, the children were so glad to see their Pa, there is no use in trying to tell you how glad we were to see him. Ella knows him I thought she

would have forgotten him but she has not. I was glad when I heard George had gone home. I was very sorry when I heard Sallie's house was burned. What so greed less to do so much this is hard times any way but it is still worse to lose everything even half is a great loss. I am in hopes Sallie will meet with good friends. Lis I have been weaved little since Mr. Anderson came home I have woven ninety yds. and have in twenty now for dresses. I will send you scraps or two the scrap with blue in it is like what I have in the loom it makes it very pretty dress. The scraps you sent me I think will make very pretty dresses there is some very pretty double weave dresses made. I have not many any but I think I will this summer. I will get my corn plowed over tomorrow (that is I will finish tomorrow once over) we have had lots of rain here this spring. I have my garden all set out everything is looking very well. I have not had my cotton yet everything is very high here meat is selling for three and half \$ per lb. Corn ten dollars a bushel, wool ten and hard to get at that, I think ten dollars is a handsome price to pay for a lb. of wool, don't you suppose jeans will be high that is mat this year factory thread is selling for fifty \$ a bunch one have to pay from to one and half to two dollars per yd. for weaving so make a small calculation what jeans will sort wool being factory yarn fifty \$ two \$ per yard for weaving ha ha that aint [sic] much these days is it or not.

Lis, tell Genie, Alice Dalrymple is married to Mr. Sanders Griffin, tell Mother, cousin Alice Dalrymple is married to Mr. S. Griffin and Nancy, Jane Dalrymple and Mr. Banage is married also Nancy J.J. is a daughter of Aunt Jimmie Dalrymple there has been a great many marriages there this year. I think as many as ever, I heard in one spring. I have not had any news from Newberry for several days. Lis, I would like the best in world to see you and Ginie and Lizzie and Sallie and Mr. Higgins and Dock and the children if I could see you. All I think I could maybe ever on laugh. I often think of you all but there is no use in pretending this being of talk for I can't get to see you unless would have peace and I fear it will be some time before we have that. I hear the Yanks are in possession of Dalton. I get some news in the papers about the boys but not much I can learn if Col. Lowery [sic] or and of their commanders has been in a fight and where they are and in this way have some while about them but do not get any casualties unless it be some big officer on account in yesterday paper were Lieut. General Hardee had a horse shot killed under him so you see all the chance I have to hear from the boys.

Well Lis if you can't read this just bring it over and I will read it for you then I can tell more than I can write you must not waist [sic] so long next time before you write tell Ginie and Sallie and Lizzie I think long of their answers to my letters. I hope got them my way be sure and don't forte [sic] to write soon. Ask Sue and Addie if they have forgot my post office if they have please tell them it is Martins Depot S.C. give my love to all your Sisters and their families also to Pa Anderson and family and except a large portion for yourself.

I ever your friend.

M. E. Anderson

Camp near Marietta Georgia

May 25th 1864

Dearest Melissa,

I have just received your kind and interesting letter bearing the date 18th, also received on the 9th about 4 days ago and the socks was received two days since, being two days ahead of the letter that started with them. They did not get to me any too soon, for my feet is badly scalded by these wool socks, which I hate to throw away for they are not worn out, but they will have to hold high as I cannot carry them. Since I last wrote to you we have fell back towards Atlanta we are now about 22 miles from that town on the west side of the railroad and 15 miles from Marietta and 5 miles south of a little town called Dallas and about as far north of Sulphur Springs. We have had no fighting since I last wrote to you but some of the severest kind of marching, a good many of the soldiers have given out, the weather has been the hottest we have seen this year. John Clark gave it up this morning and left for the rear, he is a little sick but not much. Our wagons are not crossing the Cossa [sic] River which is 10 or 12 miles nearer Atlanta than we are. I guess the army will cross tomorrow and on the other bank make a stand but I assure you that I do not know anything about the movements. Johnston, I fear has been out generaled [sic] through everything has been working smoothly. The army is not all discouraged are in fine spirits, but need rest. this is the 19th day that we have been on the move, we are getting very dirty and but little hope of a change for the better soon, we have another Battle to fight and a large portion of Georgia to regain which I hope will not be long in transpiring for we are getting closely hemmed and will soon hope turn on the invader and give such a thrashing as he has not had in a long time. I have not sold my watch yet, therefore I have not money and cannot borrow any, is the reason that I have not sent you your paper. We will draw as soon as the trouble is over, I do not want any money till then. A fight occurred yesterday between the Yanks and Gen. Stuart's Division which resulted most dastardly to the Yanks, they left 1100 dead on the field, this was done in a single charge they made on the Rebels. They got within 40 yards before they were fired on. Times at present is rather hard we have to keep in line all the time been the case for several nights. The big fight will take place soon if it ever does. I can distinctly hear the cannon in the distance, it is near Dalton, the Yanks are trying our lines everywhere to see if they can break through, fortunately for us they have been beaten in every attempt and many have already been made to bite the dust with almost

no loss on our side, thanks to Almighty God, the giver of all victories. I feel confident that he is with us and that the Battle now pending will be victorious one for us and if so I think it will be the last general battle that will be fought here. In answer to your question concerning the war I am compelled to say that I am yet of the opinion that the war will end this year. I think that every one should be engaged in prayer for its termination. I am sorry to hear that so many of the Church members are doing so badly. Such revivals were hardly ever known, as we have had in the army several hundred recently been baptized lately, May 15th in the ditches 2 miles from Resacca. [sic] Before I could finish my letter our Company was ordered to the left and at 8 O.C.A.M. we marched and go in position about 12 O.C. here we built more works and remained till next morning very peaceably but at 10 A.M., the Yanks charged our works and were handsomely repulsed. There had been heavy firing all along our lines for the last two days so far we have been successful. Ball are whizzing over my head as I write consequently I am not much composed. The fight has not ended. All of our company are safe although several of the Regt. has been killed and several wounded. My health is very good and so is that of Bro. John, Frank Anderson and James Dorroh. I close my letter by asking you to excuse this. I remain as ever your husband.

G. W. Higgins

In line of Battle near Atlanta, Cob. Co.

Georgia

June 5th 1864

Dearest Melissa,

Your kind and welcome letter of the 23rd was received a few days ago. Only a day or so after I had written to you therefore I have delayed answering it until the present time. I have no news of importance to communicate to you, there has been no engagement since I last write between the two contending armies though there is heavy skirmishing and cannonading every day and kept up most of the night. The two armies appear to be afraid of each other and are maneuvering for advantages. Johnston however is ready and moves only to defeat the movements of the enemy, who is a cunning and sly fellow. Our division has been held in reserve, consequently we have had a great deal of marching to do to check the enemy, have built only one line of works since I wrote to you, which made the 9th line that we have built, we have march at night, in rain, mud, water and darkness and have stood it finely. The enemy have moved to the east side of the railroad, or rather they are moving. We have before been 6 or 8 miles west, but as they have failed to penetrate our lines they have concluded to change their position to the other side of the road among the Altoona Mountains. I think Johnson will fail them,

in their attempt to get nearer Atlanta, if he does not wish them to get nearer this base. Our line runs east and west and is from 7 to 10 miles in length. I have no idea when the decisive fight will come off, but I yet think that success will crown our efforts. The most of the boys are doing finely. Dorroh, Frank Anderson and Bro. John are all well, Abe Warr has been sent to the hospital being sick. Joel Swindle has not been here from since the last fight that he got into. I have no idea that he is badly hurt, tell Doc that I would write to him, but I haven't any paper only as I borrow it and no money to buy with. I think you had better sell our cotton and pay our debts, for nothing pests me so much as the debts I owe. Tell Pa that he must excuse my negligence in not writing to him according to promise for I have not had paper or money to buy with, but to think as much of me as if I had written ever so often for my will was good, I close remaining as ever your devoted Husband.

G.W.H.

Line of Battle 5 miles South West of
Marietta, Georgia
June 11th 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Nothing of very great importance has transpired since I last wrote to you although we are almost continually on the move, which of course was disagreeable as there has been a great deal of rain for the past 10 days and not infrequently have we had to march through the rain as well as the mud which is getting very deep and only once have we had to march in the night and it was raining then, although it was almost impossible to travel the road being so bad and the darkness so thick yet we never halted till near 12 O.C. However for the past two or three days we have been remarkable still not having moved over half mile. The fatigue and exposure to which we have been subjected have been very great and to producing sickness to some extent and I greatly fear that sickness will increase if the weather does not moderate soon, none however have been seriously ill as and I think the most of them will return before the great fight comes on for I have no idea that it will come off until affairs are settled in Virginia which may be yet a month however I doubt not but we may have some severe engagements that time has half expired there is skirmishing every day and occasionally cannonading. The two armies confront each other and are but a short distance apart and either seems to wait for the other. [end of letter]

In the ditches 2 miles west of
Marietta, Georgia
June 23rd, 1864

Dearest Melissa,

I was just trying to borrow a sheet of paper to write to you and your letter was handed to me containing 4 sheets, which saves me the trouble. Your letter bore the date of the 15th being just 10 days on the road. Although it was old I was glad to get it for it was in time to practically relieve a troubled mind. I think this is the second letter received from you since I wrote to you but I wrote to Doc, therefore you can hear from me, by that letter. The times have been so pressing for a few days past that I have not had time to write, if I had had the paper and it has become so scarce in the regiment that I had to ask anyone for it, and the worst of all is none of us have any money to buy with. The government has not paid us any wages this year and owe us nearly 6 months [sic] wages. A few of the Officers were paid a small amount yesterday, perhaps we can get paper easier after this. A minute detail of my hardships, fatigues and trials since I last wrote to you would consume more time and take more paper than I can spare. I will begin with the 22nd on that day our company was sent out on picket where we remained tolerable quite [sic] until 12 O.C. the enemy charged us and drove us back to our works, we were reinforced by another Company and drove them back until we arrived at the same position that we had just left, here we remained till dark contending against a line of battle and being the hardest fighting that has been done by our Regt. since this campaign began. There was but few of us that did not fire over one hundred rounds. I fired at least 125 times, and more than half that number of times I saw Yankees when I shot for they were as near as 50 yards of us for 2 hours, but we poured it to them as hot and fast they could not shoot with an accuracy and we being behind Barricades say [sic] many of our lives, and enabled us to hold our position. Many of the Yanks were killed and wounded for we could see them fall and hear them holler. Only one of the company being slightly wounded (Bob Stewart). The Regts. [sic] on our left gave way about sundown, and consequently we had to fall back or be captured. They moved up their line of battle and we could not drive them back and that night they fortified their picket line within 200 yards of our line of Breast Works, since that time we have to keep very close, every man shows himself has at least one dozen guns fired at him, we lay in the ditches night and day, a very hot place on a sunshiny day as we are in an open field and a muddy one on a rainy day, there has been many wet days of late, we are all very dirty and muddy, having no opportunity of cleaning up during the campaign, this being the 48th day. Our troops after all their fatigues and exposures remain in excellent spirits, but are getting anxious for this campaign to end. Our rations have been more abundant than when in camp. The fighting qualities of our men are

better than ever before and they have more confidence in our Commander, Gen. Johnston than in any Gen. we have ever been under. There has been some fighting on our lines lately, but as I know nothing but what I get from the paper. I will leave you to get it the same way. Maj. C.H. Massey of the 20th Miss. was killed, all of your acquaintances that I have heard from. I have been unwell since the fight on the 22nd caused from being over heated, but feel better today. All the other boys are well including Bro. John, Frank Anderson, Dorroh, and Warr. A merciful God has protected us thus far and I pray for this protection daily. I doubt not but you do the same. I must close, will your write often, I hope you will. Give my love to Pa, Eugenia, Lizzie, and Doc, Sallie and all my friends not forgetting yourself, I remain the same devoted husband as ever.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. In directing your letters it is not necessary to put in care of Capt. Higgins, dire I hear after in this Manner and it will come just as same and as quick as to put anything else on it. Here is the way to back your letters and you have all that is necessary.

G. W. Higgins
Co. C 45th Miss. Regt.
Lowery [sic] Brigade, Cleberns [sic] Division
Army of Tenn.

In the Ditches two miles west of
Marietta, Georgia
July 1st, 1864

[Image-plaque with Confederate soldiers called the Dead Angle]

[image-plaque printed with Confederate Lowrey's Brig. Cleburne's Div. Hardee's Corps. set in a wooded area]

Dear Melissa,

Your kind and interesting letter came to hand a day or two since, date 22nd and as I have just written to you I concluded to wait a few days. I have also received one from Doc this morning bearing the same date (22nd) I was glad to hear from Him. I wish I could get a letter from some of you everyday for if ever I needed stimulation it is now. Our duty has been so hard that most of us are well night worn out, and no prospects for an immediate change, for better. The time is certainly near at hand when this terrible struggle that is now pending will come off. God alone knows how it will terminate. Our

army still thinks what we will be victorious. So far success has crown our army. You will have heard, ere this reaches you that a part of our Division has again been engaged with the enemy. The engagement came off on the 27th. The two left regiments of our Brigade 32nd and 45th Miss and Polk's Brigade were all the troops of this division that were engaged. The enemy came up in front of the 32nd Miss. and approached as near as 50 yards, when they were met by such a volley of Balls that seemed it unnecessary to advance further, but retired leaving their dead in piles behind them. The slaughter was said to be terrible considering the length of their lines, which was short (1,000) one thousand. Attacks were made at several different points at the same time, and was repulsed, with severe loss to the enemy. Each place during that day their loss could not fall short of five thousand men. While it is said our own will not reach two hundred and fifty. Our division lost only about 15 men including missing, wounded and killed, among the wounded is Lieut. Anderson, he was wounded while attempting to shoot, his wound is severe but I hope not dangerous. Frank was badly frightened and thinks his wound fatal. We have one Lieut. of Co. F killed and one man of the same company slightly wounded. The Yanks are entrenched in 300 yards in our front, agreement not to picket fight any more, we see them passing all the time. Bro. John and the Boys are all well, John Clark has got back to the company. I have received the tobacco that you sent, and am much obliged to you and Pa for it, do not send any more, till I wrote for it. I am sorry to hear of so much rain, but hope it is all for the best. I must close give my love to all, reserve a share to yourself, I am as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

[image: same wooden plaque in woods as above but taken farther away from the plaque]

Near the West Bank of
Chattahoochee River
July 6th, 1864

Dear Melissa,

This evening finds myself and the Boys all well, rather remarkable considering the loss of sleep and fatigue that we have endured for the past six days. Since I last wrote to you we have changed our position twice. On the night of the 2nd at 11 o'clock we began our retreat and marched 15 miles by sunrise next morning, the night was very dark and the road bad being mostly a new one, we of course had a very fatiguing march, for it is much harder and more fatiguing to march after dark that [sic] in the day light. It was not until near 10 A.M. that we got it into position and then had another line of works to build which takes us until the next day. We were so near worn out that the boys would

scarcely work any at all, this makes the 14th line of works that we have built, and have fought behind only two of them. We remain at this position two days and part of the two nights. Working the most of the time and resting but little. Accordingly to the morning of the 5th at 1 AM we left our works just as we had got them completed and fell back 5 miles being now only about 1/2 mile from the river, through the fields, and 2 and 1/2 to the ferry. this last mover [sic] although it was executed in quick time, and not without the loss of sleep and the usual amount of fatigue yet its [sic] marked by several facts that one of the rest of our retreats have had, first the retreat was in straight direction, not having to march 2 miles to get one as on former marches, and next the Yanks were not so pressing as before, they have not made their appearance directly in our front as yet, and it will soon be the close of the second day since we arrived at this point, and lastly, but not least, Breast Works was ready built for us when we arrived, yet we have some work to do on them. Our works were built by negroes impressed by order of Gen. Johnston and are quite different for anything that I have seen. There is a fort built every 100 yards, large enough to hold fifty men, is built of logs and dirt and is very strong between these forts there is a row of a fence of post sent up in the ground as close as they can get them, with holes every 3 feet to shoot through. The line is thus arranged in order to enable us to lengthen our lines. The enemy has flanked us out of every position that we have had, as they were enabled by their superior number to stretch their lines longer than ours and thus compel us to fall back, however I think that we can make our lines as long as the enemy may dare to make his. It is considered not to [sic] impossible for the enemy to break our lines, as we have them completely fenced out, and where the men will fight as ours will they certainly cannot break as strong a position as this. Our core that is Hardee's will occupy this side of the river while Hood's and Polk's which it becomes Smith's, will occupy the other side. Ours being at this time on the right with both our flanks resting on the river covering over 5 miles, twice as ground as we ever occupied before and have more reserve troops. How far the other two cores will reach beyond the river I do not know. There is some skirmishing firing and some cannonading both to our right and to our left but nothing more than common these days and we have learned to pay but little attention to it. Some of our Regt. and a good many of the army was captured the night of the 2nd, they could not keep us, and fell out on the side of the road, went to sleep and the Yanks came up and captured them. Bro. John says for you to tell Sallie to send him two pair of Socks by mail as soon as she can, he will write again in a few days. We heard from Frank Anderson two days ago, he was at Atlanta and doing well, he says that his wound does not hurt him at all, but he cannot help himself up. I am very anxious to get through with this Campaign, I think it will be the last of the War. I also want to hear from you soon. Tell Doc, to write soon I have got some paper at last, and will write to Pa and Eugenia soon, I think Eugenia might have written to me or Brother John once, during this campaign. I close remaining as ever, Yours.

G. W. Higgins

Line near Chattahoochee River

July 13, 1864

Dear Melissa,

Yours of the 8th had just been received and I hasten to answer it. I have been looking for a letter from you for more than a week, the last received previous to this was dated 23rd of June, if I am not mistaken at any rate it was in June sometime. I have during that time wrote to you three different times, this the fourth and would have written this one yesterday but was so anxious to hear from you that I concluded to wait until today per chance I might receive one before writing, which is already stated is the case. I was anxious to know the cause that you have not written a letter to me in nearly two weeks when Sallies you say has in that time received two. The cause of the delay in my letters I cannot help, I write them and send them to the office, how far or where they go I do not know. I assure you that I have not been sick or ever have I forgotten you. I am afraid that You have been despondent and have suffered yourself to give up the blues too much anyway. Lis, I assure you, that you never before written such a desponding letter to me and I can but say that I am sorry that you are so dissatisfied with your situation while as you are aware that my own situation is such that I can give you no assistance. You are satisfied with your home, with our garden, the crop and the water, all of which I know is bad, but I yet think as I have always thought before that I have the opportunity I will make it better. I know it is bad, to do without water, or to do on bad water, particular when anyone has the blues, after all it does appear to me that some arrangement could be made to keep you furnished with water, even if it had to be brought from a distance. You must learn to live with by little until it gets to be more plentiful. And shouldn't be spared to return, I will not only try to fix up your garden and your home so that you may like them both better. I am very sorry indeed that you are so much out of heart and have taken such a dislike to our home, where we have in days past enjoyed so much pleasure in each other's company, and where I have prayed time and again to meet you in person. Let me beg of you to try and contend yourself, do not be so desponding, let your hopes brighten us and look and pray for a better time of it never comes. In my humble opinion (as you have asked it) this is the last year of the war. Have not our armies everywhere been successful, though some of them have given up a great deal of valuable territory, what of that when the armies are as far from being whipped as they were two months ago or as they were. Johnston will soon regain all the lost territory and more too, he will certainly give Sherman the worst thrashing an army ever had and that soon. From all account Gen. Lee is getting the upper hand of Grant in Virginia already. The raid to Jackson amounted to nothing nor either can they make a successful one far

into Penn. State. Look at Forrest success in the northern part of that state, only a few week since, and you have an example of how they will fair if they venture too far. I have no news worth relating, our army is in front of Atlanta and some portions of it but a mile or so from that city. We are not camped about two miles from that town, here we arrived fatigued and worn out on Sunday Morning last having been up all night. We have been resting as easy ever since our arrival, as though we here in regular camp and no enemy near. Portions of the army are not so fortunate, they are skirmishing every day which can be heard in the distance and occasionally some cannonading, which has become so common that it is hardly ever noticed. We have had a hard time and need rest, this the warmest weather I ever felt. We still continue to get an abundance of rations occasionally some vegetables enough for one meal. I could have been glad that you have given me a more full account of your trip to Webster. You did not even tell me who you visited, how long you stayed or how you got there or anything about it. It appears that you admire brevity and I guess that I will have to adopt the same rule, or your patience may be worried by my lengthy communications, however I cannot do it, unless you tell me to, for I feel ashamed to write a few lines and then beg off. There is times when brevity is unavoidable and should be excused, but it is not always the excuse, you have plenty of time, or else you have become over industrious, which is certainly not the case. This hot weather would not interest me on these grounds haven't the patience to write about what you may term privations matters. I wrote to your Uncle William a few days ago, do you guess that he will be surprised or not. Give my love to all the family and yourself. I remain as ever before, your.

G. W. Higgins

Tell Pa to look for a letter a few days after this arrives.

In Line 5 miles North East of
Atlanta, Georgia
July 20th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Your letter of the 13th was received on the 18th and would have been answered sooner but my health of a few days past has been bad and I felt little like writing. I feel much better today though I am not well and would not write only that I wish to keep you posted as to my welfare. July 26th, 3 miles south of Atlanta since beginning this letter and before I had time to write any atoll [sic] we were called to attention and after moving to the right 1 mile and back, we moved over the [missing text] in support of Walters [sic] Division who attacked the enemy and drove them back capturing about 500 prisoners at

dark we marched through Atlanta and down to the Augusta road 1 1/2 miles from town and back through town and traveled nearly all night getting round the left flank of the enemy formed line and began the attack about 11 O.C.A.M. on the 22nd. Granberry's [sic] Brigade being in the advance supported by Lowery's [sic] Brigade. The battle was not for a while but Granberry's [sic] Brigade carried the enemy works and captured many prisoners and 15 pieces of Artillery. Lowery's [sic] Brigade was then brought up and charged the second line of works but owing to the condition of the line that our Brigade was in we were repulsed with heavy loss. We had marched in line for 2 1/2 miles through the thickest woods that I ever saw, and the weather being extremely warm that many men were completely exhausted before the charge began. Our men were badly captured and had almost no time in the charge which account for such [missing text] as our Brigade has suffered. The loss of the Brigade was near 800 men in killed, wounded and missing. Our Regt. lost 42 killed, wounded and missing only 2 being killed on the field. What the loss of our Army is I have no idea though it has been severe but few were killed on the field, but there was many wounded and some captured. Had our lines been in order when the charge began our loss would not have been so heavy and we would certainly have carried the enemy works many of our men wounded in 15 or 20 steps of their works, but wounded, 2 or 3 I fear will terminate fatal. I am sorry to say that Bro. John was wounded, I have not seen him since he was wounded, but have been informed that the wound was in the back part of the head where the neck and head join. Abel Warr was wounded in the knee and may have to have his leg amputated. Ben Bethany was severely wounded in the leg, T. Anderson the side, J. Stevenson in leg, Dereck wounded right in back, a few days ago and other slightly wounded too, you are not acquainted with. My health is yet bad but I hope to be well soon. Our Communication has been cut for some time and this may be old when you get it. There is no letters coming from Miss. now, [illegible] hasn't been for a week. I close hoping to hear from you soon my love to all I remain as ever, Your Husband.

G. W. Higgins

P.S. Rumor says that there was five thousand prisoners captured by our Army on the 22nd. Cleberns [sic] Division captured 2500. Excuse this jumbled up affair for I have had only limited time to write.

Atlanta, Georgia
August 2nd, 1864

Dearest Melissa,

The mail came in today for the first time in nearly two weeks, and I assure you it was the occasion of great joy among the Soldiers, as nearly every one received one or more letters. I was fortunate enough to receive two, both from you one dated 20th the other 22nd. Both bearing testimony of your good health and neither spoke of sickness in the county, this is all good news, such as I like always to hear. The news you gave me about the farm was not so good, but I am yet in hopes that it is not as bad as you think. I am sorry to hear that pa's corn is so sorry, as well as ours, it appears that there is no good luck in Miss., of him. It certainly is not as bad as you wrote that it was. Your last letter was written on the day that we had a hard fight (22nd). I have wrote to you a few days after it was fought, and told you then, as much as I know can tell you about the fight – but as you may never get that letter I will give you a few facts connected with that memorable day. On the night of the 20th after dark we received marching orders and was soon in motion, marched on through town and 1 1/2 miles out on the Augusta Railroad, we were then on the right of the army at this point we built a line of works and left them at 11 O.C. on the night of 20th and marched all night occasionally halting for half an hour as if to ascertain that there was no enemy in the way. The direction for the first part of the time was south or nearly parallel with the road leading out to West Point but before day we had made an elbow to the left and was pushing on towards the Augusta Road. At or near 11 O.C. we halted and formed line of battle in rear of Grandberry's [sic] Brigade keeping for 300 to 400 yards in rear for two miles before they encountered the enemy. Many of our enemy were by this time completely exhausted. Grandberry's [sic] men charged the Yanks and drove them from two lines of works killing and capturing many prisoners and 18 or 20 pieces of Artillery their line was eventually broken and ours rushed forward to supply their places. Our line moved on and passed theirs and had there been no impediment in the way they stirred line of the enemy works would have been carried by us, but we had to charge through a marsh that was almost impossible to cross which broke and scattered our lines so bad that it was impossible to accomplish anything then to having time for form, many of our men were wounded and killed in the 10 to 20 steps of their works, while many others crossed over and surrendered. Among them was our Lieut. Co. Williams. Our losses was heavy 42 our Regt. near 800 out of the Brigade and there was 7 of Comp. C wounded. Among whom I am sorry to say is Bro. John he is wounded in the back of the head severely but not dangerous. I have not seen him since he was wounded and have heard from him but once and that was next day after the battle. Abel Warr is wounded in the knee and may have to have his leg amputated, T. Anderson was seriously wounded in the side, Ben Bethany seriously in the leg, John Stevenson slight, Bob Richardson slight, John Vineen slight, James Dorroh slight, and has returned to duty, tell Mr. Dorroh not to be uneasy that Jim is all right. As for not as gained by the attack on the enemies [sic] flank is more than I can tell. The loss on our side has [sic] heavy, but the enemy was greater, on the portion of the field that I was. You can get more news from the Papers than I can

give you. I have not seen a paper since the fight and have no other way to get news. The Yankee Gen. Stoneman and 500 of his men surrendered yesterday, they have been capturing our Rail Roads considerably, the remainder of the raiders are scattered and demoralized and many others will be captured. Other news unimportant I wrote to your Uncle also to Pa but have received no answers for either. I will write to friend Jerry soon. I expect you will be anxious to hear from me. Consequently I have embraced the first opportunity since the opening of the mail, to communicate to you. We moved back in the edge of town east side of the Augusta R.R. I remain your devoted husband.

G.W.H.

In the trenches west of
Atlanta, Georgia
August 10th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

With an anxious head I have looked for a letter from you for more than a week, but have looked in vain, the mail today will surely end my anxiety for a while at least by bringing much coveted epistle. I have been very lonesome since so many of the boys have been wounded and have wanted to hear from you worse than ever before and why is it that I cannot get a letter, even one of you Brief letters would be worth a great deal to me at this time as would one from Pa, Doc, Lizzie or Eugenia but none will come they appear to have forgotten the boy, but I hope they will they let me hear from them and won't I be glad when they do for I think a help of my kind, tell them all to write and that soon and if they will not write to be sure and remember me anyhow. Our Company at this time is very small only fourteen men present and one of them sick, ten of that number carry guns with Company F we have four guns more making in the two companies 14 men bearing arms quite small don't you think. Since writing to you before our Division has moved two or three times but have not been engaged with the enemy only in skirmishing at long range. Our position at this time is west of Atlanta about six miles and the left of the army a mile or two north of the West Point Rail Road there being nothing to our left but Calvary. The Brigade to which Oscar belongs is here but his Regiment has been detached and sent to the right. I have not seen him yet, or even hear from him lately. Tell Sallie that Moses Coleman is not a prisoner, as has been reported. I saw Hiyer a few days ago and he told me that he had seen worse two days before and that he and his brothers were all well and safe but that Moses had just returned from a scouting expedition in the enemy rear where he had been for near a month. There has been some fighting along the lines a few for near a month. There has been some fighting along the lines a few days ago principally in form of Gen. Bates [sic] Division

which joins us on the right. The Yanks made several charges but were repulsed with heavy loss each time, while his Division sustained almost no loss at all. [sic] I wish that they would charge our works from one end of the line to the other, and I'm satisfied that they would get so badly whipped that this tiresome campaign would be brought to a close shortly afterwards. The news from Mobile is rather discouraging had it not been for the traitorous Col. Anderson time would not have been so gloomy in that quarter but yet they have not got the city, although one fort has surrendered and one has been blown up and destroyed there are yet obstructions in the way before they can get to the City. The news from Virginia continues favorable, Petersburg and Richmond are yet out of the possession of the Yankees. They have been blowing up some of our troops around Petersburg, but after all they were wasted. They had better keep their eyes open or Gen. Lee will blow up some of them. The principal Raiders Yankee have been captured with 2800 of their men and the balance scattered from [missing text]. The Rail Road to Montgomery will soon be repaired and I hope will not again be broken, as we have scattered the raiders. I have heard that there was another Yankee force in North Miss. but cannot tell what they are a doing. I guess Gen. Forrest is there to attend to them. But as the papers has no news from that department we have to rely entirely on floating rumors for news which is anything else but reliable. Our country is certainly involved in one of the bloodiest wars ever waged against a civilized people and I believe that the people are beginning to realize the fact that they must fight or be subdued and are rising from their might and will before the closing of this year drive back the vandal hordes of Abolitionist that are now arrayed against us. I am not at all [sic] discouraged yet, and hope never to be even if they get Atlanta, Richmond, Mobile and Charleston. The war will certainly terminate this year and before another 12 months, passes by peace will rein with us. There is scarcely an hour passes by or even a minute but what is disturbed by the noise of the enemy Artillery on some position of our line. The noise has become so familiar that we pay little or no attention to it, as they so seldom hurt any one. I got a letter from Bro. John dated 1st, he was at Forsythe getting on finely. The boys of your acquaintance are all well and I am distressing so Write soon to your devoted husband and give me all the news farewell.

G.W.H.

In the Trenches west of
Atlanta, Georgia
August 17th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

Doubting that you will ever receive this letter I will make it as short as possible. There is scarcely any news floating about in camps at this time and what little there is it is a discouraging nature, though I have no confidence in them. Gen. Wheeler with his Calvary force left Atlanta a few days ago for the enemies' rear, whether he has ever got there or not I have not heard. Confidence is felt in his ability to accomplish his mission what ere it to be. There is no news from Virginia and the same may in truth be said of Mobile. While the cloud thickens in Miss. not one word of news by paper or letter can we get from that state. All the mail has stopped coming from that quarter and yet our papers say that there is nothing wrong with our communication. It has been so long since I heard from you that I have forgotten when it was that I received the last letter, I always destroy them and have to depend on my memory which is bad. You have no idea how anxious I am to hear from you if my letters are delayed as long as yours I know that you must be anxious to hear from me. I have written several friends in So. Ca. but as yet have received no reply. The mail is proving to be a humbug and I certainly would get a letter from somebody. There has been no fighting of any consequence since I last wrote to you, nor either has there been any important move that I know of. The usual amount of cannonading and picket firing is kept us [sic] both day and night with but little effect upon either side. We are kept busy every day strengthening confines, which is now very long being at least 12 miles. Our division is in single rank and 4 feet apart and covers near 2 miles of the line. This causes picket duty to be very heavy on us, every 3rd day we have to go on. Rations are getting shorter daily and I get heartier. I do want something good to eat so bad, but there is no chance as there is nothing in the country. Tell Bro. John that his clothing is all safe, the Yanks did not get any of our Brigade Wagons. I am not in need of any clothing therefore you need not trouble yourself to send me anything in that line. But if Bro. John will bring something to eat, I would be glad to get some. I would not advise you to send much, but I want some. Send me some Onions if you have any and anything else that you please. As I have already written more than I expected to I will close. Give my love to all and accept a share to yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

On the line near
Atlanta, Georgia
August 25, 1864

My Dear Melissa,

This will inform you that I am yet in the land of the living, and as anxious to hear from you as ever for not the scratch of a pen have I received in I do not know the day when,

but according to the best recollection that I have, the latest news from you was July the 22nd, which is over a month ago. It is astonishing to me that others have for the past week been getting letters from Miss. and I get none. I hope that the lane will take a turn this evening.

We have been very quietly resting for some time. Our position remains the same as it was when I last wrote to you. Nothing of any particular importance has occurred lately at any point on the line. The Yanks still have a desire to extend their right flank but I hardly think that they will accomplish much by so doing. Their principal object is to destroy our communication, retaliating for the injury that Gen. Wheeler is doing them, but unless they are more successful in future, that they have been on former occasions, they will fail to effect anything that will do us much injury or them much good. Their raiding parties have been defeated and driven back to their starting point and before they have time to accomplish their desire, always too using many men under one Artillery. There is a rumor this morning that two other raiding parties have just started out, both said to be large and going in different directions, but where they are going I did not hear. I am confident that Gen. Wood is watching them and will be able to send a sufficient number of men after them to bring the rascals back faster than they went. Nothing official has been heard from General Wheeler, though it is evident that he has cut the road in their rear, has shortened their supply of Ammunition. I expect provisions too. They have almost quit firing their Artillery and their Pickets shoot but seldom. We hear so much good news (by Grapevine) from all quarters, that if only half were true we would soon have peace. Our army is encouraged and gaining strength daily and there is no such idea that Atlanta will fall. Though almost every home in the town has been struck by one or more cannon balls.

Our rations are a little short for hearty men, however, if it gets no shorter we can live without suffering. If we only had money we could get along fine. We could get peas for a dollar a quart and rice one dollar a pound. I will begin to look for Bro. John in ten days and hope to get something by him. John Stevenson and Bob Richardson have returned to the Company. I have not heard from Abel Warr in a good while, I fear that he is not doing well. I heard from Eaf Anderson and Oscar this morning, Eaf is well and with his company. Oscar is complaining and is with the slow train, and has been for near a month. I have been offered two hundred dollars for my watch but would not take it for a while yet. I think I would get 300 for it as soon as the troops are paid off, which I hope will be soon. I would like to know if you have any funds on hand and how much. I would also like to know what has been done with my Cotton, have you any wheat or flour, will you make corn enough, how many hogs that will do to kill this fall, and have you become contented with your home, or are you as much dissatisfied as ever. Tell Pa, that I wish him to have some wheat sewed [sic] for me this year. If he cannot find land

on my place that will do, to rent some and sew. [sic] I would be glad to raise wheat enough to make bread anyhow. As I cannot think of anything else to write I will have to quit for present. You must write often, and give me all the news I would be glad that you would not abridge your letters so much in the future as in past. Give my love to all my friends and accept a share to yourself. I remain as before your devoted husband.

George W. Higgins

Love Joy Station, Georgia

Sept. 5th 1864

Dearest Melissa,

Having an opportunity of sending you a few lines as far as Meridian I have concluded to embrace the opportunity as the mails have all stopped. Since the last I have had a trying time, fights, retreats, marches to Atlanta has fallen and with it a large amount of Ammunition too. A portion of our Division has been overpowered in battle and some three hundred captured, but many of the enemy have been killed. On the 31st of August at 3 PM we charged the enemy in front of Jonesborough and drove them from three lines of works with but little loss on either side. On the first the enemy charged our line and gained the ditches occupied by a portion of our Division, but as I have already said many Yanks were killed, the lines were broke and Atlanta was compelled to be given up, as the enemy had the railroad, the only one by which our army received supplies. The road that I speak of is the one leading from Atlanta to Macon Geo. The first station from Atlanta is called East pint and is five miles from town. The next is 10 miles from East Point and is called Jonesborough and the third is Love Joy and is about 8 miles from Jonesborough around which our lines are now formed. The country is very level and but little advantage can be gained in the choice of position by our Generals and as they have flanked us from Atlanta I have but little idea that we can make a successful stand anywhere soon. The Army is not at all demoralized by the disaster but remains in good spirits and all think that we will yet be victorious, though we may meet with many reverses yet. In the first of the 31st we lost two men wounded from our company, Ed Edwards in the hand, McNealy in arm, I was struck on the shin by a spent ball which crippled me for a while but not sufficient to keep me out of the charge that day. I am now in very good health but as near worn out as you ever saw anyone. August 29th we were working all day, at night were on picket, 30th moving backwards and forwards all day, at night we began to march and marched all night and until 7 O.C. next morning, formed line in an open field and charged the enemy, the fight lasted till dark. That night I was again on Picket next day the 1st we had to build Breast Works then retreated to this

place which taken till day light, formed line and built works again which has occupied all of our time since we first arrived at this position for we had built two, one about 100 yards in rear of the other. The works that the Yanks captured was not more half completed else they would never have taken them. The latest news from you was the 22nd. I fear that it will be the last that I can get by mail for some time but you must write anyhow and it may be they may come. I hope you have not sent the Pants that you spoke of. Be sure that when I need anything I will let you know it. The stamps were sent by mistake, but I can do without them. I must close by asking you to remember me, my love to all the family, write soon and often to your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Jonesborough Geo.

September 14th, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I have not written to you for several days, from the fact that I did not have not either could I get envelopes, no excuse this morning and I find myself scribbling you a few lines. I received a letter from you yesterday evening written 24th of August, having been nearly 20 days on the journey in it are several questions asked in regard to my wants in clothing, these questions have all been answered in previous letters but I will simply state that I am not in need of anything if I knew that we would stay in camp any length of time this winter I would like to have a Blanket but if there is marching to do, one blanket is as much as I can carry, if you have an opportunity to send me anything in a month or two send the blanket then. My clothing is all good yet and will last a long time. I have been disappointed by Bro. John's arrival. I have been looking for him for several days as yet he has not appeared. I fear that something has gone wrong with him, you spoke of sending me a pair of pants by him. I can take care of this this is time but I do not need them. Tell Mr. Anderson that Frank is at home in South Carolina, with a furlough of 45 days and was on the 8th of August doing finely. This news I obtained from a letter written at that time to Bro. John by myself and I taken the responsibility to open it, it was not received until last evening. Frank arrived at home about the 4th of August. I also received one from Mr. Welch which according to your request I will send to you. I have begun to think that he was paying on attention to the one that I had written to him. I am happy to find that the fault was in the mail. The only news that I have is that we are having a quite [sic] rest which begun about the 7th of this month and are getting cleaned up once more and besides this we have had a good meeting going on in the Brigade for several days, and should everything prove favorable will continue indefinitely. On, what a change just think, that for four long months that was not a day that we did not hear the sound of Artillery and small arms in deadly conflict, and now, that such a noise is

hushed and in its place we have the ministers of God explaining his holy word. It appears to us that we now have peace. [end of letter]

[image-Invoice of goods purchased by A.P. Bush and Sons. For and on account of Mr. G.W. Higgins and shipped per [missing text] to Macon Miss. 1 Set Buggy Hubs. September 24, 1864.]

Palmetto, Georgia
September 28, 1864

My Dearest Melissa,

I have had no opportunity of sending a letter to the Office for more than two weeks, even had I written one which I have hardly had time to do. Since I last wrote to you we have changed our position from Jonesborough on the Macon Road to palmetto on the West Point Road. Our position is about the same distance from Atlanta. Since we arrived here we have built a strong line of works, but little to do we expect to use them. The Yanks are 10 or 12 miles off and on appearance of a move on their part at this time, but I anticipate a long march for this army soon, which if successful will draw the yanks from Atlanta. Pres. Jeff Davis has been there for several days, and made several speeches, to the soldiers, though I have heard none of them. Bro. John arrived day before yesterday, he looks as fat as a buck, he does not give me any more news from home than I have learnt from your letters. One of which I received this morning bearing date the 14th and as the mail goes not this evening for the first time in a long while I have endeavored to write a few lines, though I assure you that I am in a poor plight for letter writing this morning I have had a slight fever with a severe headache for several days, and at this time am quite nervous so much as that I could not write with pen and Ink. I have taken medicine and think that I will be well soon. Give my thanks to Sister Eugenia for the Cakes she sent, they are the best I think I ever saw. Tell Pa to sew [sic] some wheat for me without fail. I feel so bad that I will have to close. Give my love to all. I am as ever your husband.

G. W. Higgins

On the road to Rome
1 mile from Acworth
Oct. 6th 1864

Dear Melissa,

I have no doubt but that you would like to hear from me and as Capt. McLeod will leave for home tomorrow I have concluded to write you a few lines and send by him as it may be the last opportunity of sending a letter that I may have in some time, for we are long ways from the Rail Road and have no way of sending letters only by such chance as this and when we will return to the road I have no idea. You will have heard of our move before this reaches you, but I will give you a few ideas concerning it any way. On Thursday the 29th of Sept. we left Camp at Jonesboro and marched in a southwesterly direction towards the Chattahoochee River and camped, 30th we crossed the river and marched a few miles having turned our course directly towards Marietta as soon as we had crossed the river. Gen. Stewart Corps being in advance Gen. Lee next and Gen. Hardee (now Cheathams [sic]) Corps in rear. Our marches each day were short and not very rapid till Oct. 3rd at 3 1/2 O.C.P.M. Gen. Stewart struck the Rail Road in rear of the Yankee Army a few miles above Marietta at a station called Big Shanty, our Army then formed line and built works a portion of Gen. Stewarts [sic] men were put to destroying the road. All the Yanks at Big Shanty were captured, but a few, also all at a station above making in all about 500. The enemy must have been perfectly surprised as they did not molest us atoll. [sic] Our army remained on this line until the morning at daylight when we turned directly back the road we had previously traveled and retraced our steps for a few miles and then turned to the right towards Rome where we will get here is more than I can say. Gen. Hood's intention is to get the Yankees out of Atlanta. I am inclined to think that he will succeed and it is the opinion of the army that we will not stop this side of Tennessee River as we are not between Gen. Sherman and Chattanooga and his communications cut. (I think him in a lute.) Today has been a trying time to the Soldiers, we got up in the rain this morning and marched about 10 miles and the rain falling nearly all the time, the roads are very bad muddy, a caution we halted to day at twelve and will stay till morning then try it again. I received a letter from you a few days before I started on this march and was glad to get it, and would be very glad to get another one at this particular time. My health is not as good as I would like to have it for such trips as this, particular when we have rain everyday and almost every night as we have had on this trip. The worst complaint that I have at this time is a sore leg caused by my being careless enough to stick my knife in it, it is almost too bad to march on but I keep going. I am rather fearful that it will get worse. As it is about to rain again and my news is out anyway I must close. I will write every opportunity that I have. Give my love to all and yourself. I remain as ever your devoted husband.

G.W.H.

P.S. Please don't put your name on the outside of the Envelope anymore nor do not put in terrible haste as you have been doing a great deal lately. My reasons for making this request is to keep them from being criticized as they sometimes goes through the hands

of all the men in the Company before I get them and further it doesn't hasten the letter to me one minute. Please be governed by this request and oblige.

G.W.H.

Gadsden Cherokee County Alabama

October 21st 1864

Dearest Melissa,

I have just received two letters from you one bearing date 2nd and the other 10th also I received one from Sister Eugenia, it being the first that she has wrote to me in a long time, but it [missing text] I [missing text] to get it first contained many things that was new to me. I was also glad to get yours for I had not heard from you in some time. I am sorry to hear that the negroes does so bad, but I am so situated that I cannot do anything to remedy the evil. I hope the time will soon come when I can be there to attend to my own affairs. Lis I have had the hardest time on this complain [sic] that I ever had in my life though I have had plenty to eat, I have had the piles very bad, and have been compelled to march or be captured. I am getting better now and think that if we will stay in camp a day or two that I will get entirely well. We have made some very hard marches going 25 miles per day our marching is generally very moderate being about 15 miles per day but sometimes we have to go fater than that, and is the best conducted march that I ever saw. There is no stragglng all appear to be anxious to keep up. Though many of our Soldiers are greatly in need of Shoes and not a few are barefooted, they are making Rawhide Mokasons [sic] today. I will have to come to that in a few days myself, as my shoes are about worn out. I would be glad to get a pair from home now I wish you to have me a pair of shoes made and send by the first chance, also send me a pair of Pants, two pair Wool Socks and two shirts if you have any chance. Send the Shoes any how, whether you send the clothing or not. I will soon need a hat too, have it made, but wait till you hear from me again, before you send it. We have been on the march now 22 days and have traveled over a great deal of country some as pretty as I ever saw, and some very sorry. I have traveled over some of the same roads that I traveled when we were going to Miss. We camped one night at the Cave Sprint that you have heard me speak of. I could scarcely remember any portion of the road, it has been so long since I had traveled it. We were at Lafayette last Sunday if you remember we were there two weeks last year just before the fight at Chickamauga. The town is very much dilapidated, the houses all torn down and shot to pieces, it was at this place where Gen. Pillow had a fight with the Yanks in the Spring. We stayed there all day Sunday, but I felt so bad that I could not write to you. Bro. John wrote and he told Sallie to tell you the reason that I did not write, as this is the first time

that we had stopped long enough to write I have embraced the opportunity and now I have no idea when I can send it to the office. You must not think hard of me if you, do not get letters regular for I assure you that I do not have much time to write these days, and a bad way to get letters to the Office. I am greatly surprised at having this opportunity. The Army is all here at this place and will leave this evening and tomorrow but I do not know where we will go to. I yet think that it is Gen. Hood's [sic] aim to get to Tennessee however we are traveling a very circuitous route, probably to deceive the enemy, or to evade crossing the mountains that a straighter route would have carried us over. We carry very little supplies with us, gather it from the country as we go principally and it may be that this is the cause of our crooked march. A richer country than through the mountains. I am glad to hear that Doc has concluded to sew [sic] some wheat for me. Tell him that I am very glad that he has come to such a wise conclusion. Bro. John has a chill nearly every night and begins to look very bad, he speaks of stopping to revive his health if we could get near a rail road. If I get any worse I will stop too. We have plenty of Potatoes and Apples on this march. Some of the citizens are very kind and will give the soldiers almost anything that they have got, while others part with nothing except for the biggest prices. Our monies is about out, and how we are to get anything except what is given to us I do not know.

I must close, Give my love to all and accept a share for yourself. I am as ever Your Husband.

G. W. Higgins

Tuscumbia Alabama

November 1st 1864

Dear Melissa

I hope you will excuse me for not writing any sooner. I wrote to you when we were at Gadsden and since that time have had no opportunity until the present. After leaving Gadsden we made our way to Decatur Ala. surrounded the town by finding the enemy too strong in numbers and too well fortified we did not attempt to get possession of the town but remained there the greater part of three days while Lee and Stewart's Corps were moving on down the river after leaving there we turned our course directly down the river (Tennessee) and passed through the town of Courtland which is a beautiful little town we continued our march on to this place where we arrived yesterday at 3 O.C.P.M. having marched from Decatur to Tuscumbia a distance of 43 miles in 2 days and 2 hours and for the most part of the time had nothing to eat but parched corn, but now the cars runs to within 8 miles of this place and we get plenty rations. The scarcity

has been caused by the rains which made the roads so bad that the wagons could not get to us. Up to this time there has been no fighting between us and the enemy except skirmishing but some of the hardest marches imaginable and I tell you we have in instances suffered for provisions at Decatur it could not be had as the wagons were behind and could not get up they did issue corn in the ear to us and we were glad to get it. I have got to where I can eat as much as a common horse anyhow. The country that we have traveled in for the last three or four days is the prettiest country that I ever saw and as rich as any use for but there is scarcely any thing in it. Large farms are laying uncultivated the fine houses that once stood in the beautiful groves have long since been consumed and nothing but the chimney remain to mark the spot. Most of the inhabitants have gone, but occasionally you can see a house that has been spared by the invaders and the white family with only a few negro women and old men and a small portion of the large and beautiful fields cultivated.

This is the Tennessee value land, and Railroad that I have spoken of is the Memphis and Charleston Road, which crosses the Mobile and Ohio Road at Corinth. I am glad that our commander has seen fit to change their base, for we can hear from each other oftener after the army gets settled which may yet be some time. Our army is all camped around this place and will perhaps remain for a day or two and then I think we will cross the river and strike for Tennessee it is the supposition of the army that we will make our base at Jackson Tenn. on the Mobile Road but Hood has fooled us so often that we may expect to be fooled again. I hope that it may be true that we will stop on that road, for I would like to be as convenient to home as possible for I want to get some provisions as soon as we stop for the winter. Our money is out and we get nothing but what is issued. I am very anxious that they should pay us off. I know we would live some better if we had some money. If we go into Tenn. we will have to do on short rations again until we get through the march let that be long or short. I hope it may be short for I never was so tired and worn out by marching in my life. I have fallen off a great deal, but my health is tolerable good at present, I feel as stiff as a foundered horse.

Be sure to have the shoes made for me, and send them by the first chance also 1 pair pants and 2 pair wool socks. I need the things now and will need them worse, for the Shoes I am very anxious. I wish to hear from you soon. Give my love to all and accept a share for yourself.

I remain as ever your husband.

G. W. Higgins

Florence, Alabama
November 17, 1864

Dear Melissa,

As I still have the opportunity of writing you a few lines and not knowing how long this opportunity could last I deemed it best to write this evening. By the heading of this letter you will perceive that I have moved, but only a short distance the day after I last wrote, we crossed the Tenn. River at Florence and marched out of town about 1 mile and camped where we have been ever since, since we came on this side of the river we have built a line of works, but as yet have made no preparations for winter quarters. We are looking every day for orders to leave therefore I cannot say when we will leave, the boys are getting anxious to go, as they all know that they will have to go anyhow, however the campaign is greatly dreaded for we expect bad weather at this season of the year. I do not know whether the delay at this place is intentional or not but rather think it is for there is nothing that I know to do prevent us from moving on if Gen. Hood would direct it. The past two or three days has been cloudy with showers occasionally, the weather is yet unsettled. We are having a rough time at present without shelters only such as our Blankets affords. Shoes have not been issued yet, I am yet in the opinion that they will be before we move from this place. Gen. Hood may have given out the idea of going into Tenn. but I cannot believe it yet. Our rations are better than they were a while back, but sorry enough now. Parched Corn is used a good deal yet, to make our bread hold out. News is a thing that I have lost sight of entirely. I have not heard from you in some time, but have a couple of letters for Sallie to Bro. John which I will send to him today. You surely do not write as often as she or I would have received one sooner. The Smoke is getting so bad that I will have to quit, excuse me this time. I am as ever your devoted husband.

G. W. Higgins

Head Quarters of Army of Tenn.
April 27th, 1865

General Order No. 18

By the terms of a military convention made on the 26th inst. by Maj. Gen. W.T. Sherman U.S.A. and Genl. Joseph E. Johnston S.C.A. the officers and men of this army are to bind themselves not to take up arms against the United States until properly relieved from their obligations and shall receive guarantees for the United States Officers gains molestation by the United States authorities so long as they observe these obligations

and the laws enforced where they reside. For these object duplicate muster rolls will be made immediately and after the distribution of the necessary papers the troops will be marched under their officers to their respective States and there disbanded. All retaining personal property. The object of this convention is pacification to the extent of the authority of the commander made it. Events in Virginia which broke every hope of success, by war imposed on it Gen. the duty of sparing the blood of its gallant army and saving our country from further desolation and our people from ruin.

J.E. Johnston
General

Order of Genl. Sherman
Headquarters Mil. Div. of West
In the Field
Raleigh N.C.
April 27th 1865
Special Field Orders No. 65

The Genl. Comdg. announces a further suspension of hostilities and a final agreement with Genl. Johnston which terminates the war as to the armies under his command and country east of the Chattahoochee. Copies of the Terms of convention will be furnished Maj. Genls. [sic] Scholfield, [sic] Gilmore and Wilson, who are specially charged with the execution of its detail in the Dept. of N.C., Dept. of the South and Macon, and Western Ga. Capt. Jasper Myers Ord. Dept. U.S.A. is hereby designated to receive the arms, at Greensboro and any Comdg. Officer of a Post may receive the arms of any detachment and see that they are properly stored and accounted for. Genl. Schofield will procure at once the necessary blanks and supply the other army Comdrs. [sic] that uniformity may prevail and great care must be taken that all terms and stipulations on our part be fulfilled with the most scrupulous fidelity whilst those enforced on our hitherto enemies be received in a spirit becoming a brave and generous army. Army Commanders may at once loan to the inhabitants such of the captured Mules, Horses, Wagons, and Vehicles as can be spared from immediate use, and the Comdg. Genls. [sic] of armies, may issue provisions, animals or any public supplies that can be spared to relieve present wants and to encourage the inhabitants to renew their peaceful pursuits and to restore the relation of friendship among our fellow Citizens and Countrymen. Foraging will forth with cease, and when necessity or long marches compel the taking of forage or provisions or any kind of private property compensation will be made on the spot or when the disbursing Officers are not provided with the funds vouchers will be given in the paper form, payable at the nearest Military Depot.

By order of
Maj. Genl. W.T. Sherman

S.M. Dalton
A.A. General

Official

Joseph E. Johnston, General
Archer Anderson
A.A. General

Gen. Johnston, wishes this to be published to the troops of his command.

Copied by G. W. Higgins
on the 30th day of April 1865
Near High Point Ga.

George Higgins' Pass for his return home after the Civil War
To [illegible] Miss

GREENSBORO', NORTH CAROLINA, May 6th, 1865.

In accordance with the terms of the Military Convention, entered into on the twenty sixth day of April, 1865, between General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, Commanding the Confederate Army, and Major-General W.T. SHERMAN, Commanding the United States Army in North Carolina, George W Higgins Pvt Co "F" 8th Miss Batt Iny [sic] has given his solemn obligation not to take up arms against the Government of the United States until properly released from this obligation; and is permitted to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as he observe his obligation and obey the laws in force whwre he may reside.

[illegible signature]

U.S.A., Special Commissioner.

G.A. Williams

Captain C.S.A., Commanding

[stamp: [illegible] MASTERS DEPT U.S.A. MAY 1865]

[image-possibly back of the above transcribed form]

George Higgins' Oath of Loyalty

OATH OF LOYALTY.

HEAD-QUARTERS, U.S. FORCES,

MACON, MISS., June 16th 1865.

I, G.W. Higgins do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and all laws made in pursuance thereto.

G.W. Higgins

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of June 1865:

R G Leslie

1st Lieut [sic] 13th Ind Cav

Provost Marshal

DESCRIPTION.

Residence, Noxubee Co. Miss; Age 27 yr [sic]; Occupation, Farmer; Where born, No. Ca; height, 5 feet 10 ins; Complexion, Dark; Color hair, Black; Color eyes, Black

[NOTE – No persons that have been disloyal to the United States will be permitted to buy or sell goods of any description, or transmit any business whatever until they have voluntarily taken the above oath.

Mobile

Dec. 9th 1865

M.M. Higgins, Esq.

We will make a deduction of 25 per cents in the debt you own the late firm of Carlisle Smith and Co. That is to say we will take seventy five cents in the dollar if you in a reasonable time. Say as soon as you can ship us your cotton, which we expect to sell. Please let us know if you accept our proposition. We would advise you to have your Cotton to the Depot as soon as you can before the Roads get too bad. All the Govt. Cotton will be off the Road next week and private cotton will come down rapidly.

Respect

Carlisle and Humphries

P.S. Please [missing text] your son, Geo. W. Higgins that he is owing [sic] us a small debt of about \$35.00.

Mobile

December 28th 1865

M.M. Higgins Esq.

We are today in receipt of your letter of the 26th addressed to our Mr. Humphries, proposing to deliver cotton enough in Macon to pay your debt due Carlisle Smith and Com. at 50 Cts. [sic] per say fifty cents per lb. We will accept your offer provided the cotton is in good order and is fair average Cotton. Say from middlings [sic] to middlings [sic] and is not damaged in repacked cotton. We simply require merchantable cotton to class as above. We have calculated the interest to the 15th of Jan. making \$1686.89 which will produce 3373 lbs. of cotton or about 7 bales. You can deliver the cotton to Doc Bevill at Macon and we will instruct him to receive in it payment of our debt. We enclose you a statement of your acct. to 15th Jan. if you want.

Respect,
Carlisle and Humphrey

Louisville Winston Co. Miss.
June 4th 1866

Dear Sir,

Yours reached me by last mail I saw Mr. Baker he will not come for less than \$3.25 a day for him and the boys but will come for that. If you can find out where Ted, a negro who once belonged to me let me know and also the person with whom he is living that I have a written agreement with him for this year. I am told he is in Mashulaville but do not know with whom he is. Do not give yourself much trouble about it.

Yours,
E. Foster

Macon Mississippi
June 4th 1866

Mr. G. W. Higgins
or Lis

Your letter of the 28th was not received until this day. The mail from Mashulaville only stays here long enough to deliver and mail another received another, so that I had no opportunity of sending this one until next mail day, which is Friday. The two children can be obtained by their mother only by serving out a writ of Habeas Corpus before a Circuit Judge, which I will do any day you can come down. The judge will command Mrs. McBride to bring the children here before him, where he will immediately hear the whole matter and [missing text] the children to be delivered to their mother if the facts are as your letter states then it will cost the mother twenty five dollars which must be paid or [missing text].

Very Respectfully yours,
Israel Wilson

Mashulaville
Nov. 30th 1866

Mr. Thomas Croft

Sir,

Your Propositions to me through, Father, was not made known to me until late this evening, too late for the mail of this week to bring you an answer. I like the proposition in part and think if we were to gather that we could come to an agreement that would be satisfactory to both of us. If you have any desire to farm in this part of the Country I am certain that I will give you as good an offer, if not better than any one else and if you will come and see me I am almost certain that we can agree.

I may be in Macon one day next week but I do not know what day. I would be glad to meet you there if luck could have it so.

I am your Friend
G. W. Higgins

[image-notice that a debt that is due]

[image-tax receipt]

[image-Letter from A. Bush and Sons to G.W. Higgins March 26, 1869 talking about a missing letter]

94 Chatham St. N.Y. City
July 31st 1869

Dear Sir,

Your favor has been duly received. My French Protectors are an ingenious article imported by me designed as a shield from conception or disease made of the finest India Rubber of Bold beaters skin and guaranteed a certain Protector. I furnished two kinds Caps for the head only and Capotes for the entire Penis.

An Elastic ring holds them on to their place. Price \$5 per dozen warranted to be of the best material.

I should be pleased to receive your order of a number of them which will be promptly attend to.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convinces. [sic]

I Remain
Yours very truly

Mr. Geo. W. Higgins

Louisville Ky.
Oct. 11, 1869

Mr. G. W. Higgins
Mashulaville, Miss.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 8th asking for price list is to hand. Please find one enclosed. I keep a large stock of every thing in the wood work line for wagons, carriages, and buggies and can give you a good article at list rate. You will notice I have two grades of spokes if you want the best article order the "selected". I have also second grade buggy spokes which I can sell at \$5.00 per set.

Yours Respectfully,

Wm. J. Fulton

[image-Invoice from Wm. H. Barney and Co.]

[image-Letter from Wm. H. Barney and Co. to G.W. Higgins]

Worcester, Mass.
October 13, 1869

G. W. Higgins, Esq.
Mashulaville, Noxubee Co. Miss.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 8th is received and contents noted. We send you with this one four catalogs with price list. And will warrant our machinery as to be equal to any in the market for the price. Hoping to hear from you again. We are

Yours truly,
R. Ball
Geo. Wilder

Philadelphia
Oct. 14, 1869

Mr. G.W. Higgins
Mashulaville, Miss.

I have send you cuts and price of spoke machinery. I do not manufacture [missing text] machinery for the Manufacturing of Wheel but I can get them for you if you wish. I can get you a hollow outer for cutting round pennons for spoke which is used in a Bitt Stock for \$10 or other hand machinery in proportions.

I know of firm where a letter of power wheel machinery have used it about one year can be bought of \$1000.

My terms for machinery is generally cash but do sometimes half in notes at 3 or 4 mons. will be endorsed.

John Gleann

[image-receipt from Wm. H. Barney and Co. dated October 22nd, 1869]

[image-Life Insurance Policy bill from Beauchamp and Yates dated November 1869]

[image-Invoice from Wm. H. Barney and Co. dated December 1869]

[image-letter from Wm. H. Barney and Co. dated December 6th, 1869]

[image-letter regarding credit from Wm. H. Barney and Co. dated January 19th, 1870]

[image-Letter from T. J. and J. W. Patty and Co. dated May 19th, 1870]

[image-letter from T. J. and J. W. Patty and Co. dated May 31st, 1870]

Gholson P.O. Miss.
July 27th 1870

Dear Brother,

We have again been disappointed in regard to our visit to Mashulaville we have had sickness on the place which prevented us from laying in the crop as soon as we expected. We were coming to day but Dr. Inabnet sent us word he would be down the last of the week so you see we are detained again but if nothing prevents we will come up the first of next week. But if it does not suit you to wait so long as that just go on and it will be all right with Jasie. We are all well not, as ever yours.

Eugenia

Delta, La.
Jan. 23, 1871

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Sir,

You will please send me a bill of what I owed you besides the 400\$ on the place I know of all except the cow. I do not know how much corn Pa recd. from you. Please make a bill for all the sundries I purchased from you, also send me the amount Shumaker and Bro. has paid you all together on reach. of which I will send a draft to pay the balance. Please attend to this immediately as I wish to settle the matters up. I was under the impression until today that you have about collected all.

Yours very truly,

J.C. Beand

Mr. Higgins – you will notice this is dated Jan. 23, I sent it to you at Macon and need it back to day marked “stunned” – you will please act in accordance with the letter and oblige.

Yours truly,
J.C. Beand

[image-letter from N. L. Hardy and Co. March 2, 1871]

[image-letter from Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company dated Sept. 1871]

[image-Receipt from T.J. and J. Patty or Williston’s C.S.I. dated July 3rd, 1871]

June 30th 1872
Col. John Weirs

Dear Lis,

I arrived here Wednesday after dinner, but did not begin work until the next morning since which time I have been exceedingly busy, and at night very much fatigued, the weather has been excessively warm and I think my work in the warmest place that can be found in this country, and to add to our difficulties the Gnats and Misquitoes [sic] are as bad as at any place I ever saw for the time of year. Col. Weir has considerable

trouble in getting hands to help us work and those that he has had are the sorriest hands that I ever had anything to do with, he thinks that he will get better hands this week. James Lipscomb arrived last night and is about trying to hire at Col. at this time I have made considerable progress with my work in three days, and if no bad luck will be able to put in the dam across the Cut-off next Thursday there will be nothing to prevent us making good job as there is no water.

My health is good, and if not providentially prevented will be at home Saturday night, next. I wish to be remembered by all and more especially your own dear self.

Kiss the Children for me and many others that thinks of me friendly. Farewell dearest.

Your devoted husband

G.W. Higgins

P.S. I have been hurried in order to get this taken to Louisville today excuse every thing that is badly done. G.W.H.

July 15th 1872

Newprospect, [sic] Winston, Miss.

Dearest Melissa,

As Mrs. Weir speaks of going out to the Office today I thought it a good chance to get a letter convey that far toward you and it is the first opportunity that has presented itself since my arrival this time.

The week has appeared very long and has been rather disagreeable owing to the Cloudy and damp weather. My health has been very good and I think that we have made considerable progress with our work so much so that I have obtained my own consent to see you one or two weeks earlier than I promised anyhow think that I could have ample time to build Mr. Richard's Screw for it is very doubtful when the Machinery will arrive, we just ordered it last week. I feel confident and I will be compelled to quite [sic] before it makes it appearance, for the want of work to do. I have [missing 5 words of text] up, the water house will be completed today, and in about 5 days I will have counted for raising will give 4 weeks from this time, and then the work can be carried on without my presence. I have three good agreeable hands and I tell you that we move things during the day. Tell all the girls that I will be home next Saturday or Saturday week sure, and would be glad to see all of them there and then as it may be the last

time for a long while. I cannot tell whether I will come next Saturday or Saturday week it is owing to the condition in which my work is at the time, but will come just as soon as it is possible for me to live. [sic] Give my love to Jenia, Carrie, Bellie and Emma and others. What gives me a good wish occasionay [sic]. Look for me Saturday next or Saturday week sure if no providential hindrance. I must close by asking to be remembered by you all and particular by your own dear self, goodbye dearest. Minnie and Maggie must be kissed for me.

Your affectionate husband.

G.W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co. Miss.
Sunday. August 4th 1872

My Dearest Melissa,

I feel quite lonely today, I have tried to sleep but the flies [sic] were a little too much for me and I feel too tired to read and have concluded to write you a few lines, knowing that it will be time pleasantly passed. I have but very little news to write. My work has not progressed as I expected, the heavy rains on the head of the Creek has given us too much water and we of course had to postpone raising until the creek fell, we succeeded in getting our dam in yesterday and think that we will be able to get through tomorrow. I hope we may for I assure you that such work almost wears me to frazzle.

I will perhaps go to get the mill locks for Col. Wier next week, and maybe I will come home on the third Sunday which will be Sunday week but cannot say for certain at this time. I will if circumstances will permit. The difficulties that were troubling me when I was with you have been partly stopped and I hope completely so. I cannot say anymore on this subject for fear that it might reach other eyes than yours. My mind is easy not. Write soon and often to one who will love you as long as life keeps Soul and Body together. Be contented Cheerful and happy and pray for a better day. I think it will surely come.

Kiss Minnie and Maggie for me, my love to Friends and you.

Your affectionate husband.

G. W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co. Miss.

Sept. 15th 1872

Dear Liss,

I will endeavor to write you a few lines to day, that you may know how I am progressing with my work, the condition of my health, the news etc. My work has been heavy and disagreeable for the most of the week, a very sudden an [sic] heavy rain on Wednesday last prevented us from closing the dam, and raising the water as I expected to do, but if nothing happens I will close it up this incoming week and will then be through with all the wet and muddy work, but will have a plenty of work to do after that is done, for I expect that I will be alone most of the time, as Mr. Lipscomb expects to quite [sic] next Saturday and Col. Weir has so many other things to attend to that he has no time to help me with my work. Mr. Weir expects to start to the R. Road Wednesday to see if his machinery has arrived, and to express balance of money for the same, however he does not think that he will be ready to haul it till week after next for he has not got through hauling his lumber from the mill yet. I am not far enough along with any work to tell you anything about when I will get through. I will have to do nearly all myself for rough hands cannot do much towards fixing to place Machinery and that will be all the kind we can get after Mr. Lipscomb leaves. We have our press timbers hauled up and they are as good a lot of timbers as I ever saw. The leaver is the largest piece of hewed timber that I ever saw.

My health this week has been very good and if it will only remain so I will get through sometime, but cannot tell when, and if I was not so far from you I would not care how long it lasted, for it is (I think) good pay. You must not think the time long, be cheerful and lively, and try to make all those you may chance to be with enjoy themselves and by so doing you will pass the time more pleasantly. Tell Minnie that I say that she such be a smart little girl and learn her letters and learn to spell and I will get the Tea set for her. Maggie, bless her little heart, kiss her for me, and kiss Minnie too. Mad dogs are plentiful 10 or 12 miles north of her, [sic] report says that thirty seven have already been killed also some cows and a good many hogs, that have been bitten by the dogs, others still remain, mad and are running at large, the people are hunting them, fierce, so says the Louisville paper.

As I cannot think of any thing else to write I will close by signing myself.

Your devoted husband.

G.W. Higgins

P.S. I do not know exactly when I will come home, it may be that I can you in my next letter.

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co. Miss.
Sept. 18th 1872

Dear Liss,

Mr. Lipscomb has just arrived and handed me a letter from you which I was very glad to get, but very sorry to hear that you was or had been sick. I hope that you will soon be well again and attend Church every chance from what you write I fear they are having rather cold meeting, but hope that it may do some good anyhow.

There is to be several protracted meeting up here soon. I do not think now that I will go to but one, it is only about 2 miles off. I have but few acquaintances and feel rather lonesome even in a crowd. Mr. Lipscomb will leave me in the morning by my self, Col. Weir has gone to the Depot to see after this machinery, don't you think I will be lonely for a few days sure enough. I have closed the water at last, but the pond filled very [missing text]. I believe it will take nearly a week to fillup. [sic] My water working is all over now, and I assure you that I have had some very disagreeable working since I last saw you. The framing is nearly all done but the Cotton press, yet I have lots of work to do yet, and I am afraid that I will be here a long time. Mr. Weir thinks he can help me most of the time, but I doubt it very much.

I have no news to write. My health has been good, I do not think that I can come home Saturday week as you wished and cannot tell when I will come, but be assured that I will come just as soon as I can leave and at the same time do Mr. Weir justice. I think of you and the children a great deal and would like very much to see you all, but so it is. Tell Pa not to sell the Sow.

I will come home next time to take you and the Children to Macon if it is possible for me to leave and I think it maybe you may therefore wait for me to come. Give my love to all my friends and be sure to accept a large portion yourself. Tell Minnie and Maggie howdy and kiss them for me.

Your affectionate husband.

G.W. Higgins

P.S. I will write every week until I come, Farewell Lis.

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co. Miss.

Sept. 30th 1872

Dear Melissa,

but five days has past [sic] since the one on which I left and it appears to have been almost a month. I am so lonesome that contentment has, or appears to have abandoned me entirely, and unless I can govern my feeling more than I have the past few days, Co. Weir may have to get some else to complete what I have undertaken. Our Machinery has not come yet, that we know of, after this week I will have every thing ready to put in place as soon as it arrives, however I will not be out of work if it does not come, for I yet have to build a Cotton Press but that will be a short job as the Col. has purchased the Pin and Tap ready made. I know exactly what is to be done, but cannot tell how long I will be in doing it for the fact that I cannot tell how much help to count on, two days and a half this week I have been by myself and cannot count for much more this in coming week. I do not mind anything that I now have to do except covering the house and I feel that Col. will give me a lone hand on that job. My health has been as good as usual. Mrs. Weir and family have all good health, but very little sickness among the whites in the neighborhood. Negroes do not fare so well, considerable mortality among that race.

I guess you have by this time received the Barrel of Flour that I bought for you at Louisville from Lindsey and Co. for (\$12.50) they promised to deliver it without any cost for transportation.

I attended Church to day but did not enjoy the sermon preached by Bro. Dobs in the first place I felt lonesome and before the sermon ended I was so sleepy that it was with difficulty that I could keep my eyes open, the meeting broke up for want of preachers.

I cannot think of anything else to write consequently will close, you must not look for me until you see me coming, and I assure you that will be as soon as I can leave and do Col. Weir justice.

My sincere love to you and the children also to all [missing text] friends, tell Minnie to be a smart little lady. Bless you all, farewell.

Your devoted husband.

G.W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co., Miss.

Oct. 7th 1872

Dear Liss,

Your very welcome letter was received yesterday and you may be sure that I was glad to hear that you were all well.

I do not know whether I will come home next Saturday or not, you must not look for me, my work is such that it will not suit me to leave anytime. Our machinery has not reached the Depot that we know of yet. After this week and next I will be done the houses and Cotton Press and will then have but little to do until the Machinery arrives.

I was out at the Presbyterian Church near Newsprospect [sic] yesterday, there was a large crowd and but few pretty women, for the number present.

As the person by whom I wish to send this is now waiting you will please excuse me for being so brief this time. My love to friends, Yourself and Minnie and Maggie. Your affectionate husband.

G.W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co., Miss.

Saturday Night, Oct. 26, 1872

My Dear Melissa,

I attempt to write you a few lines tonight, although I feel worried enough to be in bed having done a hard days [sic] work. I was quite sick last Wednesday and Thursday and would have come home but had loaned my horse to Col. Weir to go to the Rail Road. I had a chill and Fever for about 12 hours and one of the heaviest sweats afterwards, I have had in a long time. I think it was caused from a bad cold, as I have got well without taking any Medicine. Col. Weir started with his wagons after his Machinery, this morning and wants me to come on and overtake him tomorrow which I expect to do if nothing prevents for you know that I like to look a new places for then I might find us a home. I have little or nothing to write have done all the work that can be done until after the Wheel and Machinery arrives, which will be Wednesday next. I will come back Tuesday to have some road fixed so that he can get home. Tell Brother John that I cannot attend

to our matters until next week and will then attend to Joseph also, and hope that will be time enough, and how it is the best that I can do, could have done better, but did not know until this morning that I could go to R.R. some sickness in this region. Miss Mattie Black has been dangerously ill for several days, I do not know whether she is better or not. Others are quite low but I do not know any of them. Mrs. Weir has been complaining but like myself is about well now. Give my love to all my friends to yourself take a share and to Minnie and Maggie (O bless their hearts). Kiss them a dozen or two and charge to my account and it will be paid as soon as you can get to see your devoted husband.

G.W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co., Miss.

Nov. 17th 1872

Dear Melissa,

Your kind and interesting letter of the 10th was received today, you may be assured that I was glad to hear from you and the children the time since I left has been very long and lonesome and I hope will soon end for I am growing very tired of this kind of living and am more convinced that this will be the last year that I will live this way than I have ever been before.

Liss, I have no news to write and cannot think of enough to write to make a long letter, consequently you must excuse the short epistle this time. I have progressed with my work about as well as I expected, will have the Cotton Press ready Wednesday, the Gin has been running since last Thursday and performing as well as any one could wish. If no bad luck I will be done in a little over two weeks and if I can get any help I will be done in two weeks for I assure you that I am closing things out rapidly. I am very tired of this kind of living and am determined to close it out just as soon as possible. My health is good, and hoping that my dear wife and children are enjoying good health. I must close in order to get Mr. Miller to carry this to the office for me. I will write again next Saturday or Sunday and will then tell you what day to look for me. I remain as ever your affectionate husband.

G.W. Higgins

P.S. Tell Pa not to let the time pass for paying Taxes without paying mine if he pleases he can get the money from Bro. John.

G.W.H.

Newprospect, [sic] Winston Co., Miss.

Nov. 22, 1872

Dear Liss,

As the Col. expects to go to Louisville tomorrow I thought it would be a good chance to send you a few lines, but I tell you that it has bothered me to get paper enough to write on, although I have but little to write, the gin and Press are both complete and are doing as well as anyone could wish, we packed 6 bales to day. Can Gin near about four and we have plenty of water to run the Gin all the time, that is every day. Col. will get a good deal of ginning to do not withstanding he has had such a late start. I began work on the Racks today for the first, as the racks have been used and some of the Irons that are now in them will answer our purpose. I think it will not be long before I can get them started. I will have them to dress which is a considerable job I assure you, for they are very hard being the regular French Burch. I am not certain that I can get through next week but it will not take more than two days on the week after to finish consequently I will not be at home until I get done unless something happens. The weather has been so severely cold that it has been impossible to do much work and if the weather remains cold work will still be slow. Be assured that I will come just as quick as possible for I am very anxious to see you all and I am getting very tired of staying away from you and the Children so much. My health is good, have very sore hands for the cold weather. I have not been any where since I came up this time and I don't know that I will. I see a good many persons who come to look at the mill but have no time to have somebody to pay my Taxes. I will close by asking you to pass the time as pleasantly as you can until I come. Tell Minnie to hurry up with her spelling. Christmas is almost here. Kiss Maggie and Minnie for your affectionate husband.

G.W. Higgins

Newprospect, [sic] Winston, Co., Miss.

Nov. 30th 1872

Dear Melissa,

Having an opportunity of sending a letter to Louisville I thought I would write a few lines to inform you that I am well and that I do not know exactly what day I will be at home. The weather has been so cold that I could not get along with my work as fast as I anticipated and it may be possible that I may not be at home until about the 10th of Dec.

but I think I will be there before that time, if not you must not be uneasy, for I again assure you that I will be there just as soon as I possibly can, but I want to finish first. I would have come home today but the weather is entirely to [sic] cold to ride, unless I was done and then I would not stop for the cold. As the boy is not [sic] waiting I must close I will not write any more until I come. My love to you and the children.

Farewell Dearest.

G.W. Higgins

Mrs. Melissa Higgins
Mashulaville

Mrs. Higgins,

I was up at Col. Weirs this week and saw George. He requested me to write to you and let you know how he is doing.

He is very well, said he wrote to you he was coming home next week but can not come quite to town but will be there before long.

He is going to finish the mill before he comes. He told me it would take him nearly two weeks, possible not so long.

Hoping these lines may find yourself and family well. I remain your sincere friend.

My family are up and wife sends her love to you.

Respectfully yours
Geo. E. Haynes
Dec. 1st 1872

Macon, Miss.
July 10th 1880

Dear Etta,

I have been looking for you to come down her [sic] ever since school has been out. As your Mama said that you could come then. I thought sure that you all would come last Saturday to the Barbecue, but I did not see any of you all except Uncle George, and did

not get close enough to speak to him. All, Bubber and I are going to a picnic out at Macintosh's lake next Tuesday. I wish that you were here to go with me. Sallie Phillip had a calico party on the 2nd of July. All was invited, and she represented a huntress and looked very sweet. There is a dancing school here now. The one that is teaching is named Prof. Gass. We has a good many scholars, I think. We are not taking. I was sick all day yesterday, last night and today. Etta, have you hand paper ladies not? I have 16, I think. Mama is going to Alabama in 2 or 3 weeks. When are you going to come down to see us. mama and Grandma are talking about coming up there next Wednesday or Thursday. And I do not know anything that will interest you I will close.

Hoping to hear from you soon I am ever.

Carrie

P.S. Mama says tell Aunt Liss that her and Grandma are thinking of coming up one day next week to spend the day with her, but for her not to look for them until she sees coming down the road. If they do come it will be Wednesday or Thursday. Kiss Eugene for me and write to one soon. Louis sends much love to you and Eugene.

Your little cousin

Carrie

Mashulaville, Miss.

Feb. 26th 1881

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Brother. I received your letter some time ago, have been thinking every week that I would write to you, but have put it of [sic] until now, we were glad to get a letter from you, nothing assigned one more pleasure than to receive letters from my friends especially those that has been neighbors to me so long, and I love to write to my old friends. George, we all miss you a great deal, would been glad you could have staid [sic] with us, we are all well, the health in this neighborhood is very good. There is a great deal of excitement through the country about small pocs [sic]. I heard the other day that there was a case of it near Summerville but do not know whether it is so or not, it is reported Mat one of the Miss cooks has it. Times hare [sic] is very dull we have had a great deal of rain this winter it commenced to rain the last of January and has been at it every [sic] since, the farmers has plowed but very little yet. There is but very few that is done sowing oats yet, it has been raining all day to day, very few has gardened any yet. We have a very good school at Mashulaville this year. Mrs. Annie Perkins is

teaching she is a very good teacher. The children all like her very well, she has about twenty regular scholars, we are speaking of employing her for all the year. I think she has given satisfaction up to the present time. We have organized a Sabbath School at the Baptist Church, it is to be the Baptist School. They have opened at the Methodist Church, so you see Mashulaville is rising. We hear from the boys in Texas every week, they are very well satisfied.

I guess you have heard that Miss Tea. Godwin and Sam Adams is married, they married on the 16th of this month, Sam is living at the Bob Walker place. Our Sheriff DeWhit Taylor is dead, he died on the 15th of this month.

Tell Lis, Margaret says she is glad that she is so well satisfied, she says she would like to be with her but do not think she can go to Florida, you must write to us as often as you can we love to hear from you. Father is about like he was when you left here he speaks of you very often, write to us soon and give us all the news the family all joins me in love to you all, nothing more but remain you Friend and Brother.

T.F. Anderson

[image-from office of F.M. Woodward, a machinery shop, June 13, 1881]

[image-from office of F.M. Woodward, a machinery shop, June 15, 1881]

[image-from office of F.M. Woodward and Co., a machinery shop, August 31, 1881]

[image-subscription receipt from Mississippi Sun Office for September 1882 until September 1883]

[image-subscription receipt for Mississippi Sun office dated September 1, 1883]

[image-subscription receipt for Mississippi Sun Office dated January 1, 1884]

[image-letter from N.L. Hardy and Co. to G. W. Higgins asking to be given a bill of sale]

[image-image receipt from J.M. Devlin, a dry goods dealer]

Mashulaville, Miss.

Jan. 4, 1882

G.W. Higgins Esq.

Dear Friend,

yours of the 9th Dec. came to hand proudly. In reply I will inform you that news of great importance is scarce with us. The best I have is that we are all as well as usual, and the people generally in as good condition in regard to health and are usually one at this season of the year.

The weather since you left has as the general principal been mild. Some rain, good seasons but no floods to raise the water courses. Some of our friends have died since you left the State. Miss Kate Dobbins died from Yellow chill on last Friday Morning. Miss Kate Perkins from the same form of disease, died some weeks since. She was a patient of mine, rather delicate of broken down constitution never rallied from the chill. George Dismulers came near going in one of these Yellow cases. His being young and of good fair constitution rallied after so long a time. He was also a patient of mine. Juo. [sic] I. Lriplett was killed by Dr. Hall on last Saturday evening, some where on the road from Louisville, not far from but beyond Nauewanyer Creek. The particulars I cannot give, but suppose that if all the facts were known they would present a horrible aspect. I hear that L. was coming from Louisville Hall, going the other way, met. Some whiskey aboard I suppose, don't know who commenced the farces, [sic] tis said that one of the Ruare boys passed while they were fighting but would not stop or have anything to do with the matter. They with this exposition had it all by themselves. Don't know who was to blame.

Capt. Day Members elect to the Legislator from this County, as you are aware, died of Yellow Chill some weeks since, Sterling Toy is the nominee or [missing 2 words of text] ticket to fill the vacancy. Some indefiniteness are spoken of can't tell how all will go, good deal dissatisfaction [missing text]. Son hears and the rest [missing text] for office, it seems will ultimately so derange the party that it will be in greater danger soon of a complete disorganization.

Money matters gets no better as the season rolls on. This in my opinion, will be one of the most difficult seasons to pass through, that we have went in many years. Money scarce, supplies scant, credit almost played out, confidence shaking, nearly destroyed [sic]. What will be the use of these things is more than I can [missing text] at present. Hope that all hands will go to work, make bountifully, all the needful supplies for another year. The deficiency in the labor system is what is the matter with this country.

How these things are going in your country, I can't tell, but hope better. I feel quite gloomy at times, less capacity, to meet the difficulties around and ahead than ever before. but for all this and more ahead I am compelled to go day and night just as if all was well, prospering and full of exquisite pleasure and delight. I imagine that I would feel good if I had all my worth in money, but that might turn out to be the worst thing for me in the end that could be brought upon me. It sometimes so happens that we work hard to make changes that result in disaster rather than good. At the same time perhaps if we had spent the same amount of time and energy in adapting ourselves to the

situation all would have worked out well, in all probability. At any rate when the whole, I will be compelled to hold on and endure all and do the best I can.

I would like to have money plenty, time sufficient to look at your country. I imagine the scenery, the climate at this season of the year would be pleasant to a man of leisure. I do not however expect ever to have the means or the time to devote in that way.

In your next, or in some future epistle give me as clear description of the face and character of the country as you can. health, Manners, and Customs of people, water, soil, timber, trade, occupation and all else you can think of.

I find out but little rom Juo. [sic] as to how he is please now, concluded he is up to his ear at least, in business of a perplexing nature and often unable to go [missing text] than one eye the scenes around him. Have hope, that you all will succeed well in the end. Write soon.

As ever your friend.

J.W. Henderson

Mashulaville Miss.

Jan. 25th 1882

Dear Brother,

Yours very welcome and long looked for letter was received yesterday and we are rather surprised to hear of your being so well pleased as we heard a few days ago that you were badly dissatisfied. I don't know exactly how the news came but think it came from Carrie Combs. We have had a great deal of rain but two or three fair days this month no very cold weather yet. the river has been very full the boat was expected up to Macon today but did not get there. Mr. Mose Woolberg broke a few days ago supposed to owe about sixty thousand \$. Mr. Boggris was robbed of 70\$ a few nights ago. Mr. Hamby and Young were putting up there the same night and had a few dollars taken from them also. Mr. Bock and Will Farrer are accused of it. Bock took the train and went north as soon as they commenced talking about it. The [sic] searched Farrer but did not get anything. Someone broke into the mill house last week, Mr. Richard's did not miss anything, since that Mr. Ben Heill has moved into the house you left to take care of it. Bud Hill has moved to Mr. Rolles. We have had two letters from Mr. and Mrs. Stowers, the land is very rich where they are and very muddy. Mr. Stowers thinks he will come back to Miss. if he ever gets able to buy land. They say the negroes does better there

than the white people do here. I expect that is partly the cause of their dissatisfaction. I have heard that Willie Colburn is delighted with Texas. Hemmie and Jose Crabtree are going out there as soon as the [sic] can teach another school and get the money to go on. Phitoc stayed two weeks with me before Christmas. I received a circular to day from Mrs. Beville and Haynes says they would open at the residence of Mrs. Beville one of the largest of Millinery and fancy goods ever offered in Miss. including bonnets, Hats, Ribbons, laces, Flowers. the dress making department will still keep up. Bennie Ford brought his wife out the Sunday after they were married, she was dressed in white satin looks like she might be about 25, is not good looking but for all that I think Ben out married his self. Dewt N. is thinking about moving to Meridian. Mr. Durham has moved there and is very anxious for them to move too. The Guy boys started there Monday, I expect they will work of the railroad. Ella Dorroh and Eugene Edwards were to marry yesterday. I have not heard from them. Mrs. Annie Perkins is teaching the school here, has 23 scholars is boarding with us, has a little girl with her about 10 years old, we like them very much. Josie has caught about 50 birds in the net since you left here, 14 is the most he ever caught at one time. Old Mr. Dancer is broke completely up, Mr. Griggs took all of his corn and everything else he had. Will Coleman's place is advertised for sale under deed and trust. Pa's tombstone has come it is a very niche [sic] one we have not had it put up yet on account of bad weather it cost 50\$ laid down at Macon. I think the old place will be out this year, the old lady asked two bales of cotton for it, and every one thinks it too much, the campers have taken possession of the house. I was at Dr. Henderson's a few days ago he has a carbuncle on his neck. Lizzie is complaining some but they were all up, they have not hired a single negro yet and can't get any, not even a cook. Drate and Rufus May hired there the first of the year but got miffed about something and quite [sic]. Arthur is at Oklahoma working at his trade. I understand Mary Eichellberger is coming home soon. Dr. Dobbins has written for her to come since Hate died and perhaps to pay her way if she will come. Tell Liss I hope she will find time to write to me soon. How did her provisions hold out and what are her flowers doing. Tell Bud, Boas came back here that night after you left and has been here ever since he went down to the mill a time or two, but would come back, I suppose he was hunting him, we will take good care of him he is a very good dog and no trouble to keep out of the house. Is Etta going to school, tell her to learn all she can, and don't forget us she must write as soon as she learns now. Nothing more at present write soon to you affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Ocala, Fla.

Jan. 26th 1882

Dear Uncle George,

Your letter registered cause to hand this evening containing Twenty-five and 30/100 Dollars (\$25.30) which is balance due paid on freight. Rest assured that it was a pleasure to me to accommodate you and will do so again if called upon me.

I am getting on as usual. Nothing has transpired to cause me to believe but that I will remain here for some months. Although such positions as I occupy are wholly [sic] unreliable and uncertain. If it should happen that I lose my situation soon I'm told to make my way to your neighborhood and therefore I ask you to be on the lookout for something that will suit me for employment. I know of noting [sic] now that will end in my [missing text] my place but it is always well enough to look ahead and especially to give you an idea of my situations. Trade is growing duller since Christmas but instead of 9 clerks we have but six and most always enough to keep us busy.

Am in hopes you will strike a streak of luck and thereby get where you can take things as you choose. No one can have satisfaction and peace of mind when he is involved in some business based on uncertainty. I can hardly realize that I am so far from my parents and the people with whom I was raised and to hear from home reminds me and causes me to imagine that everything is not so agreeable as should be. To hear of hard times and difficulties modes of getting along causes me to do some hard thinking and planning. I am pretty sure Pa will miss all of us and most especially me at this period of his age together with all the disadvantages with which he has to contend. I cannot get my consent to induce him to attempt to immigrate to this country notwithstanding the sad reverse in the condition times there. After living here a year or so we all will be better judges what can be done.

I wish you to write to me often as you can conveniently. Tell Uncle John and Orville they need not be so scarce with their writing material.

Your nephew,
Jas. L. Henderson

Mashulaville, Miss.

Feb. 12th 1882

Dear Brother,

Your letter was received in due time to it reception afforded us a great deal of pleasure. We are glad to know you are satisfied with the country. Though you may not be all together so well situated as you would like to be, we feel encouraged to think you will only remain a short while in your present condition and when you get permanently settled you will know better how to appreciate it. Tell Lis I think she might get [missing text] and mind the fleas off until you could write as she won't write herself. We received a letter from Jimmie yesterday he stated she had a cousin, Wm. Welch, visiting Florida and had gone to some of the lower counties in company with another young man from So. Car. he married Maimie Harrington, she died about six weeks ago, perhaps he will pay you all a visit before he goes back. Cousin Burr Ramage has also been out there looking up some old claims of his brothers [sic] estate. I expect he knows something about hard times about now. Cousin Sara Ann Zarr knows died two or three years ago. May Eichelburger has got back trouble Dr. D. wrote for her after Kate's death she seems to think Jimmie is doing well if he will continue. There seems to be some dissatisfaction with the proprietor two of his clerks left last week and the book keeper is getting sixty five dollars per month but was not satisfied and could not be induced to remain any longer. When we last heard from him Laster he had been sick eighteen days, but suppose he was on the mend as he was able to write. Hillery has sold out with the intentions of moving to Fla. but could not make the arrangements and is staying at Dr. Fosters again. Old Uncle Can has moved to Meridian. Doc and [missing text] expect to go down tomorrow and try to get into his [missing text]. Eugenia and the teacher, Mrs. Perkins spent the day with me yesterday. Ben Hill has moved in your house but is very much dissatisfied and says this is the last year on that place. He wants some one to foot the bill for him as in former days. We are having pretty weather now for the last day or two but have had a great deal of rain it rained nearly all Jan. and has been raining most of the time the past week. The roads are in a awful condition though I seldom travel them myself. I have not been off the place but once or twice since you left. We have not gardened any yet but will commence soon if it don't rain. The farmers are terribly behind with their work. We have plowed only one half day before it rained after the land was in order. So you see the present prospects are gloomy enough. We can do nothing but make fires and sit by them and my hamper is running over with ashes not. I must make haste and make up my soap before the Rail road comes and have it all to move. We have A McAfee, Will Edwards and Alack Higgins hired this year. The first two for wages, Alack for part of the crop. I reckon they will be like Bud's dog by the time they get to work, good and fat. Gene says ask Liss how her police is getting on and tell her to write. We will listen to no excuse. She can do like myself write with a pencil in case she forgets how and what letter to make, rub out and try again. Gene failed to sell her turkeys sent them to Macon but could not get as much as a bid made on them, speaks of trying it again before long. You must write soon and often and let us hear from you.

Do not let the children forget us. The family joins me in sending love to all. I remain your affectionate sister.

E.A.H.

Dear George,

As Lizzie has a blank page I will give you a request for L.B. Richard, Robin Hughes bought of your sale our article had to learn them over in the house until such time as could work the bill out. During this time he, Robin, says several persons opened the house and extracted some of the goods. He speaks of writing to you claiming a deduction. L.B. says his information is that Robin was the man that did the extracting. So you can govern yourself accordingly.

As Ever your friend
J.Y. Henderson

Mashulaville, Miss.
Feb. 27, 1882

Mr. G. W. Higgins and Family,

Kind Friends

We received your welcome letter two weeks ago found us all as well as we usually are. I will try and give you all the news as far as I know perhaps I have nothing that will interest you we have a good school Mrs. Anna Perkins is the teacher and we have organized a Bapt. Sunday School started in with 35 names. The Methodist also has them one the Methodist Bay has come round as usual to Preach for them looks to be about 20 years of age, and very small at that. I believe most every family is where you left them except the Hill Family once it would take a hole [sic] sheet of paper to tell all their moves but I will give you a sketch of the moves. I have to move Ben Hill up in your house to keep people out of the mill and away from the house garden and let Dick then moved in Ben's house but got dissatisfied and went to Summerville hired to Edwards moved down on Saturday, Sunday he was back wanted his father to take him back so Monday he moved back. Bill Hill is living with me for wages he is living in Nations [sic] house there is one matter of business I want to State to you, the Dining room was broken open and one of the Mattress was taken out and Robin Hughes wants you to refund the money what the mattress cost but if I was you I should not do it for we don't know who got the mattress it mite [sic] have been the owner. I reckon you would like to

hear about the hill it is standing like you left perhaps the water house sunk a little something of the upright [sic] shaft tap of water. I have made 103 1/2 bus. corn this year after paying Ben Hill for his work at mill. We are half done [sic] planting corn except [sic] to finish it this month but the rain stopped us. I forgot to tell you Dr. Killis has moved back in the neighborhood but I reckon your Relatives has wrote you about that and also the Murder of John I Triplet by Dr. Heal and Cap. has mortgaged to John Chapel to the amount of \$1500 crop stock and firm so we have heard and I think it so and never a cent has he paid me yet. Mrs. Laura Perkins has moved to Florida. Leesburg about 25 miles from where you live so she said.

Our Sheriff is dead, died of Typhoid fever but I suppose you have heard it before this as you take the Beacon we were all glad to hear from you and glad you thought enough of us to write to us and hope you will do so again.

Our kindest regards to you and family as ever your

Friend and Brother
L.B. Richards

Well Miss Lis you did not send me no letter when Bro. George wrote but I will not think hard of you for that but will drop you a line not that I have any news for I seldom hear any I have been one visit since you left here and except to visit Mrs. Henderson one day this week but I have been expecting to go there ever since you left and have not been yet the weather has been to [sic] bad I think it has rained enough already this year to make a half dozen crops we have gardened some, have 25 young chickens, 6 hens setting, the children going to school and I have a lively time with Rice. Lis she is walking everywhere can get in and out of any of the doors worn out 3 pairs of shoes this winter and winter is not gone yet. She can say some words. Rice talks about Bud very often tell Etta the children often speak of her and wish her here oh I must tell you Tee Godwin and Sam Adams is married beyond a double.

I will close by asking you to answer if agreeable with you feeling I am always glad to hear from a friend.

Remember me when it goes well with you, your friend.

C.S. Richards

Mashulaville, Miss.

Mar. 12th 1882

Dear Friend,

Yours bearing date the 23rd came safely to hand and was gladly received. I began to think you were not going to fulfill your promise. I know at times you feel very little like writing as very thing is so different there to what you left. You must not be altogether based off with surrounding circumstances, but make the best of the matter you can and let us hear from you occasionally. We are still having rainy weather and even now it is raining again. We have only two or three days sunshine and the land does not dry enough to work, from one time to another before it rains again and all work stopped so we can have no preaching at Shulaville this month. Last Sunday as you have doubtless heard Dade Colemans [sic] youngest child was buried and preaching was postponed until next time. Our school is still going on for another two months. The teacher Mrs. Perkins is tight enough in some respects. Whenever the children do any thing she draws them up and switches them without an explanation or ceremony whatever has had to correct several [missing text] among the balance. She has a little girl eight or nine years old I call the fast case and Think will give her a plenty to do after a while. Dr. Killis has vaccinated nearly the whole school but few of them took worth any thing. The suppose case of small pox in Shuqualak turned out I am told to be chicken pox and has all disappeared. Ellen ford has moved there to live with her brother Will who has been there some time. Gene received a letter from Abb the other day, they were all well she and Mary talk of coming up as soon as the roads get better. They are high up for her to go out to Florida with them next fall. Abb says she is going to see you all certain if she goes, I would be very willing for Gene to visit the country if she had any way to get back, but I do not approve of girls traveling alone and cannot now tell any thing about it. I have been trying to garden a little most of my seed have come up, my peas are ready for sticking. I am anxious for something in the vegetable line to come in. I am heartily tired of turnip greens. I have four little calves and will soon have plenty milk and butter if I lived near enough to Brooksville I could divide with you but as Brother John used to Say. You see how it is. I have all of three chickens left now had nineteen at the start, been feeding the hawks for these people around us until I have fed nearly all away. Gene sold her turkeys in Macon at last, got six bits apiece for them, intends trying her luck raising again. Our fine gobbler died so we had to turn out a young one I have three chicken hens setting and have only had one mess of eggs this season to eat. I think the negroes get them is the cause of such a fall off. There are a great many negroes in the country almost entirely destitute of any thing to eat at this time and are stalking about with their fishing poles on the banks of the creek pretending to fish a good many negro fellows went to the railroad near Meridian to work there and will not return until it will be

too late to make a crop. Joe has charged of several hands at this time to superintended what causes Jenia to be left like you use to be alone. Mr. Lit Richards spent the day with me one day last week. She says that Capt. R. has had to mortgage his place to get supplies for another year. She was terribly upset about his borrowing two bales of their cotton just before he did it. Well I saw Charley hitch up to the buggy last Sunday and you would not know him he looks like hard times and worse coming, it made me feel bad to look at him but this you must not say anything about out of the family.

You spoke of several ladies having called on you, a Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Neavel, and the Smith family if I mistake not are I expect all connected and originally from Anderson So. Car. I knew persons there by that name and would be glad to know if they are one and the same. I wish you would find out and let me hear in your next. I should be delighted to meet the Smiths again. I was better acquainted with them than the others all were good plain unassuming people. As I have written all I can think of at present I will close by asking you to write soon. The family joins me in sending love to all. Tell Etta to learn fast and write to us when she learns how and But not to let the alligators get him. Ed wants to go out and take a hunt with him. Purr George up to write soon and often, I would like a full description of the country from him and if he thinks he has bettered himself or not. How are the fleas getting on now. I remain your affectionate friend.

E.A.H.

Mrs. Perkins our teacher is still board at Eugenia's and will continue the next two months of school.

Mashulaville
March 20th 1882

Mr. George Higgins

Dear Friend,

It has been so long since I received your letter that I am almost ashamed to answer it, but of the rendering my excuse, I think you will be kind enough to forgive me. At the time I received your letter I was entirely out of paper, and the river was so that I could not get to Macon and it remained so for nearly three weeks, for some time after that it was neglect. I was then sick, cause from Vaccination, and my arm is not well yet. We have had a great deal of rain, it has been raining nearly ever since Christmas, have had but very few days that would plow; but we are having pretty weather and the farmers are making good use of it, very little plowing done, and very little corn planted. I will get

through I think, in two or more days, last year as you know, was very dry and very short crops, and it is making times very hard, though there has been a vast deal oats sown and if the blackberry and plum crops hit I think we will come out all right. I think farmers generally have come to the conclusions that they must not depend on cotton altogether for a support that we must raise all we can for home consumption and let cotton be a surplus. We can, I think by using fertilizers, raise our corn, oats, peas, cane and potatoes and I believe that we can raise our flowers cheaper than we can buy it. Our country is without a Sheriff, Mr. Taylor is dead had Typhoid Fever. I was very sorry, I think that he would have made a good sheriff. We are going to have another election of the 30th of this month. There are six candidates in the field: Williams, Thomas, Berry Smith, Perry of Bro. [missing text] and Nolen of Macon, and it is thought that Dillard will come out. I think Thomas will get the office, this side of the river will go solid for him and he will get some votes from the other side, had no convention. Tee Goodwin and Sam Adams were married the 16th of Feb. Miss Josey Crabtree and a Mr. Mines of Neshabee was married a few weeks ago. Tom Hughes and Philo H. expects to start for Tex. the first of Apr. the object is for Tom to visit some springs there. Mr. Barley Coleman's youngest child died a few weeks ago. the health of the neighborhood is good. I hear of no sickness there are several sore arms. Father requested me to state to you that it is his wish that Erie should have that land of his in Fla. He wants you, if you can have it fixed so that he cannot sell it until he is twenty one years old. I hope that you will be well pleased and do well. Write to us, I will promise to do better next time.

Yours truly,
E.F. Anderson

Dear Miss Lissie,

As Mr. Eph is writing to Brother George I will write a few lines to you. We are all tolerably well, we have bad colds, but not serious ones the health of the neighborhood is very good. We have a very good school at Mashulaville our little girls go from home and never seem to get tired. The teacher is Mrs. Perkins. She is (I think) a nice lady and a good teacher she boards with Miss Genie she has a little girl about the size of Etta, tell Etta the children would be delighted to have her here to go with them. We have organized a Sunday school at our church the Superintendent is L.B.R. assistant Dr. Henderson, the teachers are, Mrs. Perkins, Eugenia Henderson, Mr. Harris and Mr. Eph. The Methodist have one also. Ida Watkins has a little girl.

You would not know my baby now, she has grown so much. She can sit alone and has one tooth. We call her Minnie Lee. Our gardens are very backwards, in consequence of the heavy rains. There are very few young chickens in the neighborhood. I got a letter

from Willie about the same time Mr. Eph got Brother Georgies. She is living 12 miles from Fort Worth she is highly pleased with the county, also with the people. I wish you would write to her, she would be so glad to get a letter from you.

Dr. Henderson's bay horse died last week. Miss Lis, write to me and tell me all you think of. How do you get your washing done? How do you like that country? do you expect to stay there? Are you near Mrs. Laura Perkins? If not I can't tell you where she is now who she is with. I only know she first went to Mr. Speer's. It is getting late and I have written all I can think of so I will close. Give my kindest regards to Brother George and the children and accept the same. Write soon to your true friend.

Minerva A.

P.S. If you want to write to Willie you must direct your letter to Fort Worth in care of Mr. T.F. Rogers.

M.A.

March 20th 1882

Mashulaville, Miss.

May the 21, 1882

My Dear Brother,

Your long looked for and highly appreciated letter reached me at last, and as it raining and I am all alone I thought I could not spend my time more pleasant than to write to loved ones that are far away. Oh how often do I think of you all and wish that it was so I could visit you as I once did. I have spent so many happy hours with you all and not to think we are separated and perhaps forever it is almost more than I can stand. There is no one on earth left to fill the vacancy. I will have to change my subject or I will not be able to write atoll [sic] for crying. Josie has gone to Meridian I hope for the last time, he will be home in a day or two. Our crop is rather backward we had so much rain that the [missing text] washed up some of our corn and we had to plant it over, our cotton is small has just been chopped out. Our garden is fine, we have plenty of Beans, Peas, Irish Potatoes and Beets, and my Cabbage is heading nicely. Josie and Mr. Bolls took a contract to rebuild and straighten up some bridges that had been washed about by the high waters and will make 30\$ clear each one of them, but every dollar we get has to go to buy corn. This is the day the Masons have set apart to have a sasses sion [sic] over John L. Triplets [sic] grave. I guess there will be rather a small turn out as it has been raining all the morning. The gilt you gave Josie has six pigs three of them are very fine,

the one Brother John gave me had six but three of them have died. Our prospects now is very good for a peach and apple crop, watermelon are just coming up, the first we planted did not come up. Mr. Richards had never used his saw mill since you left. Joe May has commenced again to blow about putting up a steam mill at Mashulaville again some think he will make it this time as he will have the money to buy it with he sold his land in Texas and is to get \$2400 for it. I don't think he will have the energy to put it through. Old Phillips of Macon and some others are speaking of putting up one between here and Macon some time soon on the Walker land. I received a letter from Arthur last week he said he was well and found a plenty of work to do he is at Oklahoma. Mrs. Laura Perkins has been quite sick since she moved to Florida she has a congestive chill and came very near dying and before she recovered Eulah was taken very sick they wrote back here that the people were very kind to them, carried them all kinds of nice things to eat and offered their services to wait on them, they received her lost trunks after a delay of eight weeks, their clothing and bedding being very much damaged. Eulah has been assistant teacher in a school at ten dollars a month, that will make rather a scanty living for them all. We have two Sunday schools organized here now. I think the Methodist will soon fall through as they have quite a small attendance and I hear that Ben Hill's family are going to draw out they have asked for letters of dismission from the church they can't get along with Dr. Kellis and he is the leader now, they say they won't live at the mill another year they have moved in the house you lived in, they don't get along with Richard atoll [sic] he watches him too close on mill days. Lizzie's health is about the same. Gene comes to see us right often and looks about the same. I went to a candy stew last week at Mr. Lipscombs but the candy was so soft we could not pull it, had a few old fashioned plays and broke up. I know you will think I have run of something to write so I will close by asking you to write soon to your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

I hope you will be successful in buying you a nice home.

Mashulaville Miss.

May the 21 1882

Dear Sister,

As I have just finished writing to George and yet have ample time to write to you I thought I could not pass off the day more pleasantly than writing to loved ones far away. Oh how I wish I could see you all to day. Carrie Combs reached home last Monday. I was in Macon the day she came as she passed the store she hollered howdy to me but

she passed so quick I did not recognize her. I am very anxious to see her I have a great many questions to ask. Mrs. Cade is still very sick she has the dropsy, Dr. Mullis says she can't live much longer. I have been wanting to go to see her but have not had an opportunity yet. I think I will try to go soon. the public school term is out now, and Mrs. Perkins is teaching a two months private school and will divide her time between Mr. Richard and Lipscomb, she has only ten scholars. They had a very interesting exhibition at the close of the school, they all acted their pieces very well. They are trying to get up another one at the close of the other two months if they can get some of the young men to take a party with them. Bill and Eheia Under took a part in the other one but failed to get their part and they were compelled to throw that piece out. I went to Mrs. Bevills when I was in Macon, they all appeared very glad to see me they were all well but Johnny, he had just gotten over the measles and had relapsed. They asked a great many questions about you all and said they had been looking for letters from you and George. I bought my hat there simply because Mrs. B. had an interest there and I wished to patronize her. I do not like the style of hats now, they look as coarse and common. I gave four dollars for mine and 25 cts. [sic] a yard for my dress and got Satin to time [sic] with it, won't I cut a dash with it on. My winter dress I sent for like yours was beautiful. mat Hughes is at Mr. Anderson's now, stayed some with me last week. Minnie is teaching school at [missing text] Factory has 28 scholars. Willie has a fine daughter and has written for Philoe to go out there, she is going soon. Tom is going with her. My Flower garden has been beautiful this spring you ought to see my gladiolus they are beautiful now. The roses that I bought are growing nicely but have not bloomed yet, I think one of them will prove to be a pink rose instead of white from the looks of the buds. I bought some flower seed they have not come up yet. If they do anything and are worth sending I will same [sic] you some seed and send them to you. I have ten geraniums growing nicely. I have a pink and white peana [sic] they will not bloom this year. Mr. Huckaby has bought Mollie a second handed piano he gave 75\$ for it. How does your organet [sic] hold out does it sound as well as ever. I have a cotton patch this year and if I make a bale I think I will get me one. I help Jane cook and she works my patch. I wish you lived near enough so I could send you some of my nice milk and butter. Ma's health is still very bad they are thinking of selling out to Joe May and if they do she will stay with us a while and then go to Meridian to Durmans. Charlotte was very much disappointed when I told her I had received a letter from you and you had not sent her any. I told her I knew you had forgotten it. Tell Etta she must write to me as soon as she learns how. Give my love to her and Bud and kiss them for me. As I have no other news of interest I will close by asking you to write soon to your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

I send you a sample of my dress. I seen in the Sun to day that Mrs. Beville and Manny have desolved [sic] partnership.

Mashulaville, Miss.

June 19th 1882

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Friend,

Father wishes to know if you have received the papers in regard to the land of his in Fla. I mailed them to you a short time after I received them and have never heard whether you received them or not. He is very anxious to know if they have been received and if they are all right, please inform him. We are all well, very little sickness in the neighborhood. Mrs. Cade is very sick will be apt to die in a short time. Crops are tolerable good needing rain, had a little this morning and I think will have more if we can get a good now I think that the majority of the farmers will make corn enough to do them, the oat crop was never better in this county. Cotton looks well but about three weeks late. I caught a twelve (12) cat the other night. No more news, write soon. Yours truly.

E.F. Anderson

Mashulaville Miss.

July 20th 1882

G.W. Higgins

Dear Sir,

Some several days since I received a letter from you and have neglected responding until now, for the fact that I had nothing of much importance to say to you. And now, the most of the good news her [sic] consists in good crops fine health. Two blessings, wonderful in their nature. We have had scarcely anything for MD to do here this season. Some to them nary put on a dry [missing text] and long face in consequence there or, but I assure you that I will not take position in that [missing text] feel rather inclined to say bless the good Lord, O my soul for his goodness and mercies towards the children of men. Crops are better than they have been in many years. Corn is especially good, cotton we can't say much about, as yet, only that it is growing fast, good size and will make well in case all things go well with it in the future. There is ample time for many

changes, good or bad to take place with that pant, before it can be converted into money.

All things go on much after the same old sort here, as before you left us, Littlton has been ginning generally, smooth and with success. I suppose in regard to his mill and gin. If the fact, that J.J. May has put up a 8 horse paver in the City MV does not interfere with his calculations he may continue still so to run. He (LB) requested me to interview you in regard to the notes of yours in my hands for collection. Wishes to know what percent or discount you would allow or make in case he desires to take up both notes this fall. I hear a little something in the shape of flying news, that he has a notion of buying his father out. If he does that thing it is possible that he will not call for more than [missing text] of your notes this fall. You can instruct me nevertheless. So I can be ready in case the occasion arises. I had the misfortune this spring, to loose [sic] my Mollie manidn [sic] a few days thereafter L.B. paid me a visit had a good deal to say on fiancees [sic]. Smart trade on the brain. Cause to the point at last, which was in substance about this. He had found out when source money could be had, and if I so destined would secure some for me. The ensuing as the vote of % brought the answer 22. Well I destined taking the proposition at the time, but said that I would take the matter under advisement, and if I could not get along without applying to him, he would be so advised. The matter, still stands as it was left in the spring. He says that you ought to be willing to deduct 12 1/2% - 10 anyhow. These things are here mentioned for the purpose of giving you points. Govern yourself accordingly.

You inform me that you have bought land will have to build houses and improve generally such being the case, I conclude that you will have plenty to do for some time to come as it is a considerable job to improve a place, hope you will succeed well, be pleased and longingly benefited by the change.

The health of the family is so good assured. Lizzie is improving in health to hope she may get stout. Her and Jane has spoken frequently this year of wanting to go to Fla. but has said but little on the matter of late. They both can see that we are not able to move than keep and sparse living here and to think of raising means to travel on is simply out of the question. I would like to see Fla. at certain season of the year, but am so tied down here, that I never expect to be relieved for that length of time.

I will close for the present after requesting you to write soon. give all the news, how you are still pleased.

As ever your friend,
J.Y. Henderson

Macon Miss.
Sept. 11 1882

Dear Etta,

We received your nice letter about two weeks ago, had have commenced you one several times, but something would always prevent my finishing it. Our school began last week, and I go to Miss Mary still. When will your school begin? You said in your last letter that it was out the last Friday, before you wrote. I study French, Latin, algebra, arithmetic, spelling, history and I will begin music in the morning. I have my hands full now. I hardly have time to do anything else. We went up in Winston this summer, and had a very nice time, but not so nice a time, as we had when we were with you all. Tell Uncle George that I hope that "fortune will favor him", as he says, for I want to see you all so bad. I know that it is a pretty sight to see you and that little girl with your satin slippers and gloves on dancing. I am glad that you like Florida, but wish you didn't and you all would come back here and live. I reckon that you get plenty of pretty shells and such thing there. Have you all many mosquitoes over there, we have a plenty here. Enough to share with you all, and then we would have too many. Have you taken music lessons yet. I know that you all have a good time eating oranges, lemons and pineapples. We have about 40 scholars now. Mrs. Buck has the free school now, and has about 110 scholars. I was 13 years old the 11th of last month. Mama didn't get Aunt Lis's until a day after we got yours. Well Etta, I believe that I have told you all of the news that I know I will have to close. Give my love to all and keep a large share for yourself. All send much love. Please write often to your loving cousin.

Carrie

Ft. Dade, Fla.
Sept. 25th 1882

Mr. Geo. W. Higgins Esq.

By your request I have this day received 400 orange trees set out by W.A. Rowell on your place. They are set out nicely and in good condition as the nature of the land would admit of. They are of a pretty size and healthy growthy little trees and set out very aaset [sic], line beautifully. I will vouch for the number being correct and in the way and the pains taken with I am satisfied they will all live. Mr. Rowell is a man that always do what he says that he will do. I don't think you could get a man to have done the work better or have got nicer trees.

Yours Respectfully
W.M. Dowling

Mashulaville Miss.
Nov. 4th 1882

Dear Sister,

Yours bearing date 9th of last month was gladly received and also one from George to day. We were beginning to think the time long we did not hear from you hope you will do better in the future. The health of the family is very good at this time, with the exception of a few aches and pains. You know that to be common with some of us all the while. We have no news except marriages and warmth relating Lisa Richards and Pinkey Cade were married last Thursday three o'clock. Lula Rosser and Mr. Whitle and Pinkey R. to Zoe Combs the same day. Coreen Doss to Terell Hines. Will Dathrow to Miss Stavall were also married a short time ago. The Matrimonial secretions seem to have awoken new life in a good many young folks, but just about the time it was at its highest point, the prop gave way and the whole thing fell through, leaving some minus of a few dollars and cts. [sic] worse than when they started. I do not recalled to have heard of as many marriages in one season in my life before. Chastine Cade's wife gave birth to a fine daughter the night after Pinky was married. The crowd made a lucky escape. Gean and Eve ware [sic] there they only had a marriage but invited a good many to witness the ceremony. Ben Fords [sic] wife also the same night. Sam's wife had a fine son the week before. Annie is at her fathers at this time on the lookout. Then Carrie Combs will probably be the aunt on docket. Nellie Rosser had the misfortune to loose [sic] her little babe, was buried at Mashulaville week before last. Was sick but a short time. Give and I spent the day with Aunt Polly last Friday. They were all well. Dade has a daughter looks a good deal like her little baby that died. We spent the day with Eugenia on last Sunday she was well has a cotton patch which she claims keeps her more at home as she does a good of her cooking. Mrs. Nicholson has sold out to Joe May, thinks of moving in January, some were [sic] I except to Meridian. She got \$250 for it. I reckon Mr. May thinks of settling some of his daughters there some of these days. Abby Dobbin spent six weeks with us some time back. She, Gene and Jim all went to the Association of Shuqualak had quite a nice time. Abby has been in very bad health but had improved a good deal before she left. Dr. and Mary came for her, stayed a day and two nights with us. Mary and Abb spoke of going to Florida. Some time next month and remain until May. Adam paid them a visit in the summer. Gene was there on a visit at that time. What a beautiful spell of weather now, crops are turning out better than was anticipated some time back. Potatoes, peas and C. are splendid. We have no school now since

summer. Ed is learning to work but it does not seem to sober him any, he is the same old Ed yet. Ben Hill has brought some land from Littleton, the place he lived last year. All on this side of the creek back of the road on which his houses are. Mr. Van paid us a visit after the Association. That night about the time we were making preparations to retire he received a dispatch that one of his children was dying so he hastened home. We have not heard from him since. He said there was a good deal of Dyptheria [sic] at Westpoint. I am fearful we will have trouble if it gets in this region. I was sorry to hear of you all being sick so much hope you have entirely recovered in this time. As I can think of nothing else I will close. Kiss the children for me. Give my love to Brother J and S and accept a share to yourself and family. Write soon and tell them it is about time they were writing to us. As ever your affectionate friend.

E.A.H.

Mashulaville, Miss.

Nov. 19th 1882

Dear sister,

I received your very kind letter yesterday and was so glad to hear from you and it is with no reluctance I hasten to reply. This is Sunday and is a very dull rainy day, we have had very little rain this fall infact [sic] almost none, the prettiest time for gathering crops I ever saw we had a cold spell last week a thin skim of ice last Monday and three frost since that time and this is quite a cool rain. Josie went to Meridian last week with two bales of this cotton and sold at 9 1/2 cts. [sic] There is all most sale atoll [sic] for it in Macon unless you owe it all on account. Mrs. Barnhill stayed with me while he was gone and we quilted out a quilt I will put in another one next week as I have several on hand that is ready. Moving to Florida must have given you renewed strength and energy. I must say that I am surprised to hear of you doing your own house work and then take in sewing. Your health must have greatly improved. I still have the same cook and will hire her again if I can. There has been a large crop of Syrup and Sorghum made this year, ours is as good as I ever saw will be about half sugar. We ate the last of our apples last Sunday they rotted so badly we have a great many away. They were very mellow and nice. We gathered them too soon and the weather was too warm we ought to have let them alone until frost. Bob combs arrived about the 8th and he and Carrie has gone to his fathers. I have not heard what he intends doing or where he will live. Pinky Cade and Alicia Richards was married on the second of this month about three O'clock in the evening and come up to Mr. Richards that night noting [sic] to do at either place there was quite a crowd to witness the ceremony and I among the rest, I think they intend living at the mill next year. I understand Mr. Hill has purchased all on this side of the

creek around his house and will move back there to live. Mr. Bealls is trying to sell out to Mr. Lipscomb. Jimmie and Quit have sold their place to Mrs. May they are all in Meridian at Mr. Durhams. Quit is hired to Durham. Jimmie and Ma is down there on a visit will return in a week or so I don't know where they will go or what they will do. Pinky and Loula Reasser were married too Jane Combs and Dr. Whittle some time ago both couples were married at the same time. Nat Reasser's baby died about three weeks ago. John Dorroh died about a month ago he left some property. Zack is going out there soon to try to get some of it. Terry Cade has another daughter. Bennie Ford has one also and Sam Ford has a boy. Aunt Caroline has gone back to Texas, Tom Burrage and Ellen went with her they all arrived there safe. Aunt Caroline stayed with me over a week. She thinks Texas is a great country. Alma is to be married soon. Eliza Durham is married to a commition [sic] merchant they say he is big rich. Josie received a letter from Mr. Stowers last week he had ginned 13 bales of cotton and would make 9 more, his wife and Sallie had made 4 on their patch. He made 400 bus of corn and had a good potato patch and said you could raise chickens in abundance, but they had all been having chills for the last six weeks. I think if I were ever to move atoll [sic] I would prefer Texas to Florida, but I am still so well satisfied, I don't care to move atoll. [sic] Mary Eichelberger and Abbie Dobbins still think they will take a trip to Florida this winter. I don't think Gene will go Lizzie is opposed to her going. We heard here that Adam Eichelberger got into a difficulty with his brother in law and had got hurt but not dangerous. Frank Smith's son Jim has been arrested and put in jail for horse stealing one of the Gully boys was into it too but they had not caught Josie says he has not collected any for George yet, he has not seen but very few of his creditors. Mr. may says he will pay his in a short time but Josie thinks it will be the middle of January before he pays it, as it will be about that time before he received the other payment on his land in Texas. Do you take the Courier Journal now and are you reading the new story it is very good so far. I am very sorry to hear of Etta's having chills so much and could not keep from crying when I came to the part of your letter saying she wishes I should send her something to eat. I wish it was in my power to do so, she should have the very best I have, as for butter and milk I do not get any only as it is given to me as we do not milk any cows now, but hope we will have some before long. Josie has been trying to get some of the neighbors to go in with him and get a jersey male and improve our stock but has not yet succeeded. Why don't George get a cow, it is so hard to make the children do without milk and butter. I have brought my Geraniums in the house and will try to keep them through the winter you must tell me when to send your flowers and how. Tell Etta Christmas is not far off and I will soon begin to look for that letter she was to write to me, don't let the children forget me kiss them for me. Tell George I have been looking for a letter from him for some time, for fear of worrying your patience with my long letter I will close by asking you to do likewise. Josie joins me in love to you all and

will write to George soon. Josie has taken a very bad cold from his trip to Meridian all the rest are well as far as I know. I remain as ever your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Please write soon. Mr. Meass has come back to collect and says he would give one thousand dollars to be set back on his place like he was before he broke, why his wife is very much dissatisfied too. Monday and it is still raining, this leaves all well no other news at this time.

Mashulaville, Miss.

Dec. 10, 1882

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Geo.,

Your letter received time since, I have delayed answering expecting to be able to forward you some money everyday, but as yet have only promises. I have rode around to see almost all of those that I hold claims against for you. J. [missing text] says he can't pay until about the fifteenth of Jan. Ben Brackett says he can pay at Christmas, Ben Hill next week, New Walker also about C. Jim Higgins in a few days, Dugan Dent knew he can pay, Stovers is in Texas, of course I can't collect his. Joe Martin says he does not owe you anything that you and him balanced accts. at his shack before you left. Green Robinson claims not to owe you. I have not seen Capt. Billy but I wrote to them yesterday; also Tucker old man Richards has not sold cotton, Elijah Walker claims not to owe and it seems that I have an unfortunate lot of accts. I shall do all I can to collect all of them at an early day. You had better write Bob C. I have not seen him since he got home he is living at Summerville with his father. Lipscomb has bought Rauls out \$800 cash. Zach expects to sell to Watkins and Harris, he wants to move beyond Macon, he is collecting delinquent taxes, and will be a candidate for assessor next fall. C. Lewis is likely to be a candidate for Mat Senior next fall. Mr. Tyson will be hard to beat for sheriff if he will run, it is thought that he would rather be Chancery Clerk, the ticket is being prepared this non, there is almost a full ticket made now nothing more at this time accept our love and best wishes for yourself and family.

J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.

Dec. 22, 1882

Mrs. Lissie Higgins,

Dear friend I will try to answer your kind letter I received some time back and will tell you why I have not wrote sooner. Mr. Richards kept telling me to wait until he got ready to write, him thinking and expecting to collect some money for Bro. George and as he makes such a [missing text] out collecting I told him I would wait no longer he has taken up [missing text]. Dorrah note is all some tell him they cant [sic] pay a cent. All my May and Shep May is too that say they can't pay (Mr. R. says to ask Bro. George how to send the money when he gets all he can collect.) I believe that is the way he said, I reckon you have heard before this that Elisha and Pinky Cade was married and now living in your House. Mrs. Hill in her house and Dick in his house where you left them. Bill Hill and family went over in the Parries in September for their health last one of their children over there he was back here not long ago hunting a home but found none as I know about. Mr. Rawls has sold his place to John Lipscomb. Mr. William Combs has taken his place back at Mashulaville, he wants to rent or sell it some thinks he wants to move back but is ashamed to. I must tell you something about Liss lesteen, she is talking not and every time anyone is fixing to go any where she asks if they are going to the mill. She thinks the mill is a great place. Huldah is over at Georgia, been there two months and don't know when she will get home. Georgia has another girl one week old getting on very well Saturday after being borned [sic] Thursday. Tee Adams has a girl. Mrs. Mey is not going to catch up with you and Me, Miss Liss I was glad you thought of me and wrote. Hope you will think of me again soon and write. I wish you could be out here with us, this Christmas we often think and talk of the pleasant times we have spent together and one hopes now of ever meeting again on this side of Eternity but I want you and Bro. George to remember us as ever your friends.

We all send love to you all, hope you are all pleased with Florida, but Mrs. Laura Perkins has wrote for help, back to Miss. Write soon, Mr. R. says tell Bro. G. he will write soon.

C.S. Richards

Another word to you as Mag has not filled this side I didn't want to send it blank. Billy got Willie a fine accordion the largest I ever saw at Auction in Meridian. Four \$ and we can all play on it after Mr. R. showed us the scale of letters how to sound them and Mag can play any tune she knows the notes of when we get out of debt we will get us an

organ, then who will play on it if it is no more trouble to learn than an accordion we can soon learn. Love to you all. Bye Bye.

Mashulaville, Miss.

Dec. 22, 1882

Dear Etta,

It has been some time since I received your letter was good to hear from you we are all well and hope you the same. I have no news to tell you we have no school. Our Sabbath school suspended until second Sunday of next march. I have 3 dozen eggs for Christmas, I hope I will have a nice time. Sister has a girl. Etta, Ma has cut off Liss hair, she looks heap better. She can say what ever she wants to say. Rod and Rid has 3 puppies. We have two little calves. Etta we have an accordion, I can play several pieces on it. Write and tell me what has become of the organette.

Well Etta I reckon I had better close, excuse bad writing.

By By, Love to all.

Maggie

Mashulaville, Miss.

Jan. 6th 1883

G.W. Higgins

Dear Friend:

Yours to Lizzie bearing date Dec. 28 came to hand yesterday Jan. 5th. We were glad to hear from you and learn that your prospects seemed to be flattening in the way of getting along financially and C. The outlook here is something after the same order as it was when you were with us. There are some shifting and changing around among the people as is usual at this season of the year. Mrs. Rolls has sold out to J.J. Lipscomb and is going to Arkansas. Mashulaville is changing around. One new family from NC coming in W.R. Combs place. The free negro Frank Lewis goes in the big house of the City, the May place. Mrs. Nicholson and James I suppose will take possession of your Pa's place. The free negro aided by a few claming [sic] to be white will take possession of the City of M [missing text] and surrounding country in a few more years. Upon the whole the country has not improved more than twenty five or thirty percent in my

judgment since you left. The good crops this year past would have put the county in a better condition, if cotton could have been sold for a better price. The crop did not on an average sell for more than 8 1/2 cts. [sic] This note paid debts very slow. There was a good corn crop made. Hogs did well and the Wheat, peas, a little corn added [missing text] meat. More plentiful than it has been for several years. This has been the general principal a healthy year. Dr. has had no great harvest, but so far as I am concerned, was glad to have no [missing text] paper on the people I work for as they already owed me more than they could pay. It will take something more than I have seen yet, in this country to make it a lively upheaved [sic] community.

Money is scarce and had [sic] to come at and ever will be in this and all other countries, until there is a system adopted making every branch of business life sustaining. The merchant has had the farmer by the [missing text] for several years. The moneyed monopolies controlling all. the only chance of all classes is to adopt a place independent of all others so far as the nation of [missing text] will [missing text]. It seems that your County is still buoyant, flush of money and will be for some time are easy to get along in to those who have the energy and industry to lay hold and hold on to work. It all means work, work economy [missing 2 words of text] management. It seems as if Bob Combs made a flat of the trip to Fla., as will as soon often. All for want of the proper decision of character determined I will coupled to a strict system of management.

We were much pleased to hear of the shipment of the box of fruit mentioned in letter to Lizzie. Also [missing text] a cord from the [missing text] stating that it had arrived on the 4th, Trust [missing text] changes \$3.25. We are having so much rain for the last three or for [sic] days. The waters up. I [missing text] the fruit will [missing text] before we can get it out. Nevertheless accept many thanks for the part, which you have performed. Was also glad to hear they had [missing text] the chick. Don't hear anything from your other agts., [sic] as to how they are getting on collecting your claims in this poor hard [missing text] community. Lizz's health is better than it was before you left, but still [missing text] a heap. All the balance of the family is as well as usual in hog killing. By the way I have put up some eight nice hogs. If I can only save them good. Out of the lot of six had killed recently the lightest weighed 165 pounds dressed. The heaviest 231 pounds. The balance among 185-190-195. I feel very [missing text] concerning the matter of saving it well as the weather turned rather warm in a day or so and has rained much since. You will pleas [sic] excuse me for being so short in my two last to you as they were interested as business letters entirely. This is but little better, however, As ever your friend.

J.Y. Henderson

Mashulaville, Miss.

Jan. 18th 1883

Dear Brother,

I received your letter almost two weeks ago and though [sic] to have answered it before this, but by some means or other have postponed doing so until now. We are having more gloomy weather, it rains every two or three days and is raining now, have had one very cold spell hard freezes and it has not snowed of any consequence yet. Well we sent to Macon a few days after Doc wrote you relieved the oranges found them all right and but one spoiled one in the whole lot. We are very much obliged and can assure you they were highly appreciated by all. You would have laughed no doubt could you have been a mouse and seen Gene and Ed seated over them the night after they came. Doc told them to help themselves, they did so and seemed to enjoy the treat exceedingly. We had had nothing of the kind for Christmas so your box came in a very good time. Next winter we would be pleased to have another should you feel disposed to fix them up for us. Christmas was one of the dullest I ever remember to have spent, went to see Eugenia on that day. Met Eaf A. and family there they like myself seemed unusually dull, although Genia had everything niche [sic] as could be, and gave us a nog besides. I did not feel in the condition to enjoy it. The young people however had a party given them every night somewhere in the burg and had quite a gay time all week. Doc has some very bad patients at this time. Mr. Sebrizler died you perhaps know of Pneumonia some weeks ago, his son is now lying very low with the same disease. Jim Finkly has also been very sick, he has gone not to see Mrs. Cade. She had been a good deal better for some time until this spell. I am fearful they will not be able to get over it. Our school is progressing rapidly and now about twenty five pupils. All are sending and the young ladies of the place have given out going to Oxford as the talk was a while. Mr. Dent our teacher boards with Eugenia. the children are well pleased and think him a nice man. The Rev. Mr. Foster played off on us and has gone to Kosciuska but perhaps it is for the best. Joe has leased the place over the way from [missing text] Ma L., he lifetime and has moved a family of negroes in the old house. His mother will perhaps occupy the other one soon. I think Genia the proper one to won the place but I am afraid it will do her but little good fixed up that way. She had a cotton patch last year and made over a bale but he appropriated the money to his own use last fall, and left her the privilege of planting another if she chooses. Old Man Rawl has sold out and moved to Arkansas. As I can think of nothing else at this time I will close the family joins me in sending love to all. Write soon and give me all the news. As ever your affectionate sister.

E.A.H.

Uncle George the oranges you sent was heap better than all the poultices "rheumatiz" [sic] plasters and yarb tea that could be started. I enjoyed them highly, I assure you I eat four the first night they came. I don't believe I every would tire an item. I am more in the notion to go to Fla. than ever now since eating such delightful fruit. Write soon and tell Aunt Liss to write too. Give my love to the children.

Sincerely your Niece
E.C.H.

Mashulaville, Miss.
Jan. 18, 1883

G.W. Higgins

I today rec. of J.J. May Seventy Dollars for you. I pd. Sharleatt \$9.86 as her order, leaving a balance of 60.14 which you will find enclosed less Registration. Will write you again shortly.

Yours,
J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.
March 16, 1883

Mrs. M. Higgins and Family,

Kind friends. As I have looked for a letter from you and received none I will try and write again this leaves us all well except bad colds and shore [sic] throats. I can hear of several cases of Pneumonia but none in this neighborhood. I will tell you of some that has died of Pneumonia, Dr. Minor's Wife, Judge Foat's Wife, I.W. Potty's Wife all of Macon the children all going to school except Miss Till and the cryer to go Huldah stayed 4 months with Georgia and she had not been home over than two weeks until Georgia was taken down again with her old complaints. Georgia has 3 children the last girl. Now I will tell you about Mrs. May Valentine it is a girl and she calls it Cornelia Valentine. Mr. Richards told me to write to you and tell you all the news and he would write to Bro. George this evening but not one bit of news can I think of yes I can tell you that Mrs. Adda Austin is to be married the first Sunday in April to Mr. Bogin C. Harold the all over man this the name he calls himself. I have not seen him but everybody that has seen him says he is half crazy. Mr. Richards finished planting corn yesterday he

has been at work this being plowing his health is better than it has been since he had Pneumonia, he has one hand hired besides Billy. Tell Etta and Bud that Mag and Rice says they are looking for a letter from them. I will close as I can't think of anything that is interesting.

Write soon love to all as ever your friend.

C.S. Richards

Dear Bro. George and Family

Enclose you will find \$42 forty two dollars the whole amount I have collected except ninety cents I will give you the names I have collected: T. Dorrah, Ben Ford, Ed Dorrah, Ivy Nickleson and Andrew McAfee paid all except one dollar and he said you owed him one dollar for his bay helping you strip cane and remind you of it and you would remember if and the other party, says they can't pay anything. Old Alvey and Shep May please instruct me could have sent some of it sooner but was waiting until I got all I could and have just got the last this week. I remain your friend and brother in Christ.

Pray for us.

L.B. Richards

Mashulaville, Miss.

April 18, 1883

G.W. Higgins

Yours of April 8 was received yesterday, we were glad to hear from you and Family, and especially to hear that you all were enjoying good health. I hope you may find your new home, all that you may expect it to be. You certainly have a valuable place, if it is not yet improved to your satisfaction. I was surprised to learn of your disposal of your interest in the steam mill, that also must have been a valuable investment. As long as the tide of immigration continues to flow in to you state money certainly will be easy to make, but there is a time when this will cease and there will be a tumble in prices, hope that success may attend you in all of your efforts on the road to fortune. As for the news here I am afraid there is none. Every one is busy planting corn, no one done yet. Corn is about ready to plow, oats are small. I have 3 acres of wheat which is looking well it is now heading out, we had English peas today the earliest in our vacinity [sic] (of course this is not early for your state). Elder Carroll is pastor of the Baptist Church, a very good

preacher and good Company. A.L. Lent is teaching School, staying with us, his time is almost out but expects to teach a pay school fin none this year. We have some new families from Carolina, relatives of those that are here they are about like the rest of them. Elisha Richards is living at the mill the rains have not hurt the mill any yet. I suppose you have heard of the burning of the Factory and Store at Perkinsville, insurance on Store \$1500, Factory \$4000 it was set on fire, both at the same time.

I can't do anything with Hill he goes from one promise to another, there is some of you acct. that is nearly out of debt, would it not be well to take notes in stead or have [missing text] to collect the same under a special contract. I have delayed writing this long in order to get to see Cap. Richards and others of his family but they have failed as yet to get any money for you. George, I have done my best to collect for you but the people seem to be entirely destitute of money though most everyone is in a better fix than last year. Corn and meat at homes. Schurn is going slow, barley is planting late so many has two gates across the Macon Road and will put on Bugg Ferry Rd. Most everyone was opposed to it but the order was granted when there was no one there to oppose it. The law is so changed that it will not require a petition, but it will kill Bill Garners chances for Sheriff. Ben Walker, Tom White, Tom Boggers, Thomas Perry and others are candidates for sheriff. Patty, F.G. Nichalson and Jno [sic] Tyson for Chancery Clerk, Bob Bracy and D. Williams Circuit Clerk. Dillard Lewis and Hunter are mentioned for senate, Madison and Densmore of District Atty. and other is district, the other offices have some candidates mentioned but not authorized. I suppose you take Beacon yet and are posted on the convention and I expect to give them a race for the Legislature, if a man never aspires for a position of Honor he is not apt to reach it, however I have promises from leading men at several [missing text] that Mashulaville shall have the member this time, though promises are often broken to effect and end that could not be gained otherwise. Jack Russell is a candidate for Legislative from Clay, rather a greenback, he will have a hard fight to make. As you have seen I have been doing some county work, have a repair job on Cranford Bridge now at \$2.50 per day would not care if it would last several days. The Dismukes Bridge will be let next meeting and Woodward's Creek I expect to bid on both but not at \$2. that is payed [sic]. Write soon we are always glad to her [sic] from you and family, accept our best wishes and a good night.

J.A. Nicholson

Chislon, Miss.

May 28th 1883

Mr. George W. Higgins

Brooksville, Fla.

Dear Friend,

I have been thinking of writing to you for a long time. I have been so busy that I have neglected every one that I promised. Carrie is very well. she has a fine girl born Jan. 6th. I am building a store for Uncle John Evans. I have also nearly completed a dwelling for Henry Evans. I have all the work I can do but times are better here than wen [sic] I left, everybody made corn plenty to do last year but wages are not so good as in Fla. I am not going to stay here very long I think I will come back to Fla. in the course of a year as I am not at all satisfied here. I have not hear from a single person in your state since I left although I have wrote to several. I hope you will answer my letter. The crops are looking fine up to this time corn is nearly big enough to lay by, cotton nearly all chopped out. I have not been to Mashulaville in a long time so I don't know how your folks are getting on. I expect you heard from them as often as I do. Mr. Higgins I wish you would make a statement on my account and send me what ever balance is due you, I will send it soon. Give my best regards to Mrs. Higgins and Capt. and family also to Oscar. Write me a long letter tell me how land is selling and all the news generally.

Carrie has written several times to Mrs. B. Bilingleas but has never heard from her she is I believe in debt to Carrie some \$800 is more but she can't hear from her.

Carrie says tell Mrs. H. that she has the sweetest baby in the world. I want to save money enough by time to come to improve me homestead and I want to get down near the coast where it is healthy. Please write me now you all are getting on and how is the health of the country.

Write soon and tell me all you know and I will write you a long letter next time.

Your friend,
R.C. Comb

June the 6th 1883

Dear Friend,

I now attempt to answer your kind letter I received sometime since would have written soon though I would hear something new, though times are dull out her [sic]. I attend the S.S. Convention in Brooksville last week and enjoyed it very much. Crops out here are not so good. Ma has a fine garden. Johnnie Anderson and family has returned from

Texas and Jimmie and Sallie Stover is to be married today. I guess I will be able to marry me an old man someday (if I can't get one any other way). I have five of the prettiest little pups you ever saw and two hens setting have a pretty cotton crop. Hired a hand today to hoe it for me. I got me a [missing text] brown bunting dress trimmed with brown [missing text] and white lace. Hoops are all the go here now all of the girls have one but me. I reckon I will have to get me one. We have had a nice little rain today but we need more. I have now a very pretty [missing text] and some very pretty crochet some you left. I have not seen Miss Gene since February, want to go and stay some with her before long. You asked about Tee, she has a very sweet little babe named Mary. Fannie, call it [missing text]. Tee looks very unnatural with baby. Tee and Sumner had been having the chills. Josie is at her Ma's no she lost her little boy which was a very fine child. Miss Lissie you remember Ben Gay the young preacher who have a married sister living in Shuqualak. She had three little babies the other day, which makes her five children at two births. I received a letter from Willie last week, they are doing very well their crops are the finest they ever saw out there. She has a very sweet little girl named Pearl. Well as I have no news I will close, write soon to your true friend.

Philo

Tell Etta she has no little Willie to write to now but she must write to me I will answer her letter.

Mashulaville, Miss.

June 17, 1883

Dear Sister,

I received your very kind letter some time ago and no doubt you think I will never answer it. I thought I would treat you as you do me and see how you like it, and perhaps it might spur you up. I am afraid you all are getting weaned off from us, and have found other friends that have taken possession of your affections. The school is out and we have a nice picnick [sic] at the close of it down on the creek where they had it two years ago. We miss you all very much, all enjoyed it finely considering there was no preparation atoll [sic] on the ground, no seats only the chairs that was used in going there and on table, that was the worst part of it. I think it is the last one of the kind I want to go to. Johnny Anderson and family have moved back from Texas they were sick so much they could stand it. They are all at Franks Anderson's now. Jimmie Anderson and Sallie Stovers are married by this time they were to be married last Thursday she bought a black satin dress for the occasion, don't you think they have taken a rise since they moved. Henry is going farther west. I have not seen Manda since she came back,

think I will go this evening. Mr. Hiram Lipscomb is going to get license to preach next conference day. I am afraid it will be rather a poor preach. They think Miss Mattie Hamiter is loosing [sic] her mind she has excluded herself entirely from society and wants to keep her bed all the time, if they make her get up she will just sit there and won't do anything atoll. [sic] Lena Bly has been out and spent a week with Mattie Huckaby. I went to Macon some time ago and called on Mrs. Beville, she has been sick and was looking badly. Alice is coming out to stay a while with me she things [sic] very strange you don't answer her letters, they all inquire about you and Mrs. B. seems quite anxious to move to Fla. one of Mage twins died I did not get to see her. Mary and Abb have come home, Gene received a letter from them a few days ago they said they were coming over soon. I would like very much to see them. I spent the day at Dr. Henderson's last Friday they were all up. Lizzie has a very bad cold and was complaining some. Mr. Lipscomb has bought his girls an organ. Mr. L. Richards has bought a fine hack, they are coming out sharply since they bought the mill. Billie is visiting Mollie Huckaby now. My garden is splendid the best in this neighborhood, fine Irish potatoes and cabbage and a plenty of raspberries, plums, and some June apples and very few peaches, fruit will not be as good this year as last, plenty of chickens large enough to eat. I wish you all were here to day to help us eat chicken pie. My gladiolus are in full bloom and my [missing text] roses are budding they did not bloom last year until so late the frost caught them. I think they ought to be taken up and divided occasionally. I don't know what else was wrong with mine if that was not it. You must write and name everything you want me to send you this fall as I won't know exactly what to send when you send mine please send a small Magnolia if you can get it conveniently. My new flower seed that I doubt has not proved to much as far Monday morning. I went to see Manda Anderson yesterday evening she looks very natural but rather thin they have all improved a great deal since their arrival. They gave a glowing [missing text] of Texas if [entire next line illegible] be the country their little boy favors but. I am very much obliged for the picture you sent me, he looks very natural but will be more obliged if you fulfill your promise by sending the whole family. Sis Herman died yesterday of consumption, they are still living with us. Tell George I think it is time he was answering my letter. All join in love to you all, do write soon nothing more but remain as ever you affectionately sister.

Eugenia

Arthur was at West Point the last we heard of him, we are looking for him home.

Mashulaville, Miss.

July 29th 1883

My Dear Sister,

Your very kind letter was received about two weeks ago and was very glad you did not postpone writing as you have done before. Old Mr. B. Anderson died about ten days ago, he had pneumonia and was sick about two weeks he had lost his mind before he was taken sick and at times would go about and turn over every piece of plank and even chips looking for his wife, he run himself down one day looking for Pa said he was there and wanted to find him, he would go all over the fields down to Mr. Frank's and then back home. I would not be surprised if Addie don't marry that old man yet, she has written to him to come back and he says he will have her yet. Johnny Anderson and family are still at Mr. Frank's. I don't think he does much else but hunt and fish. The Methodist held their quarterly meeting here last Saturday and Sunday they gave Mr. Shipply Lipscomb license to exhort but not to preach.

I attend a barbarque [sic] and picknick [sic] combined last week near John Guy's and old man Gaungs at the new school house it was intended as a Sunday School picknick [sic], the meat was splendid all kinds of cakes, custards, pies and everything else that was nice and plenty of ice water and was well conducted. I met with several of my old friends and among the rest Alie Mae Hasel he inquired a great deal about all the boys and said he would like to see them he says tell brother John he would like for him to fulfill his promise that is to write to him and give him a correct account of Florida and how he is pleased with the country. Josie has just got through repairing a bridge at Horse Hunter and will put new flooring and Dry Creek next week. He says if he could get bridges enough to work on he would not want to go to the Legislature he made a very good run considering he did not loose [sic] any time riding around, but was defeated as you will see in the papers. He says to tell George he was like Oscar when he run in Winston. Lizzie and Genie spent the day with me about two weeks ago. Lizzie's health is not so good not as was some time ago. Jimmie has gone up near Webster to reach two months school. Jimmie and Quit have been sick but are up now Ma is not so well now she waited on the boys too much when they were sick but she stands it, my cook is sick now, I was pretty tired today before I got through. Thought of you and wondered how you got along with your work. We will not have any peaches this year that will do to some seeds from to plant. I have a few left over from last year that I will send you. My Tube roses are in full bloom now. They are doing better than [missing text]. Mrs. Lit Richards has been on a visit to Ponteote to see her relatives she bought a fine dress to wear and scalloped it and trimmed it with tatting, don't you think they are coming out. Joe May has bought a shingle machine and has one to make shingles if he does not succeed any better with it than he does with his mill I think he had better quit and put his money to some other use. Ellen Ford has been down on a visit she spent the day with me she is looking very well. Nattie Reasser has another girl.

We are needing rain very much it will be eight weeks tomorrow since we had had any thing like a season, the corn crop will be very short it is burnt up and the cotton has quite [sic] growing, grass will burn not like old broom sedge our gardens are burnt up too. I have taken off 123 young chickens in the last month and have three more hens sitting. Tell George I think it is time he was writing to me if he ever intends to write again. I will write a few lines to Etta and Bud. You don't know how I appreciate their letter although there was no news in them, it was their first attempt and I will keep it to look at. Please write soon. Josie joins me in sending much love to all.

Affectionately,
Eugenia C. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.
Sept. 2, 1883

G.W. Higgins

For want of information that would be interesting to you, I have delayed answering your letter which was received some time since; we have had and still have the longest dry spell ever known to this county; early corn is good but late corn will not make seed. Cotton is not half it usual size, but it is well formed; most of the cotton will be gathered in this month. Our castle are as poor as ought to be in December. I have been on grand journey [sic] for nine days past, we will have two negroes hung this fall one for killing his wife and the other for killing another negro man, our District Atty. was tried for bribery and came out all right it was the work of Rieves, Madison and O'Neal. They are in my opinion considerably injured by the way they acted in the months. We have a Baptist meeting going on but not much good can be seen yet; the members do not seem to be warmed up to their work.

Rev. Caroll is a good preacher, and has no help but it seems to think he will accomplish much good yet. Mrs. E.A. Higgins died, day before yesterday did not learn what was the matter but suppose it was from the old complaint. Lipscomb and Brother will open a store in a few days at the place. Mr. Kent will begin a four month pay school next week, he seems to have given satisfaction and is a good teacher; have has also been elected to teach in Macon, but will continue here. I shall do my best to collect your claims this fall, by commencing early and continuing late in season; though this County will be in a bad fix next year; I have been to Meridian since I received your letter it is a growing city and if I could sell I would go there but no sale for land here at anything like its value. Guess I will hang on a while longer.

I suppose you have seen the result of our Convention in Beacon, it was a quiet and pleasant [missing text] also a pleasant convention, no hard feelings between the candidate as there usually are, it is quite lately [sic] that T. Anderson will represent Winston county in legislature. He was nominated in first primary; Jack Russell was nominated in Clay County for same position. Think I shall try and be Sergeant at Arms for the boys. You must excuse the short letter as we must go to church.

Good bye George,
J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.
September 20, 1883

Mr. G.W. Higgins and Family,

Dear old friends after a long silence will try to write all though every thing seem to work against me even trying to write. I have neglected writing some time, as everything looked so gloomy I did not feel cheerful enough to write. We are all up, but not very well. Some sickness in the neighborhood but all seem to be on the mend. Father got kicked by a mule three weeks ago and is not able to work yet this has been a remarkable dry year and it seems like the later it gets the dryer it gets we have had no rain or in other words a season since June and it has not rained one bit in six weeks to day and only enough then to lay the dust. Sowed turnips but to [sic] dry they didn't come up. Crops exceedingly short, corn short and cotton nearly ruin. I think I will make three bales cotton on 25 acres the best land I have got and by failing in a crop I will be unable to meet the payment when it is due and I want to ask a favor of you I want some indulgence. I am confident you will grant it if you are not needing the money I will save to you the time the note is die [sic] I will try to have half the amount and perhaps \$300 and pay the rest as fast as I can. I prefer your holding the note not trading it. Business at the mill dull, customer good deal shorter than when you left here as there is some mills and gins set up since you left no cuss words but the old mill Dam is like you left it more than I have an apron to it. Write soon and let me hear from you. My family all joins me in sending much love to you and yours.

As ever your friend
Bro. L.B. Richards

Mashulaville, Miss.
Sept. 28th 1883

Mrs. M.E. Higgins

Dear Aunt,

Your ever welcome letter came safely to hand last week and I take pleasure in replying at once. I as usual have little to communicate in the way of news as the mimes are dry as well as everything else. We have had no rain of any consequence yet, the gardens and vegetation generally is dried completely up. I never remembered to have seen the roads as dusty as they are now and water as scarce as it is, many are without entirely and have to haul it.

the Crops have been cut very short and the times will be harder than ever next year. Some are beginning to complain already and what will they do by next July if they should live to see it. The corn has pretty well all been gathered and the cotton will soon be picked out.

The health of the neighborhood is exceedingly good, a few cases of chills occasionally is all that I heard of.

Mr. Harris is able to set again after his protected spell of fever and erysipelas, at one time he was considered to be in a very dangerous condition.

The Methodist tried to have a protracted meeting last week but every one was too busy picking cotton making Sorghum to attend so they had to suspend after the second day. We had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Hiram Lipscomb exhort on that occasion which is all that he will ever be able to do unless he improves wonderfully, and there is not much probability of his doing that with the mind he had, he acts like it wouldn't take much to make him go deranged poor man he is to be pitied. I suppose you have heard that Jim Jarnigan had also started out preaching I haven't learned what progress he has made yet, as a minister, but don't imagine it is very rapid.

Mary spent two weeks with me not long since she is looking badly has had a few chills which has worsted [sic] her to some extent, though she is as lively as ever. Abb was to have returned from Tenn. the 25th of this month. Jim Foster has been out on a visit he and Mrs. Grayham (Miss Carrie) called here last week on their way to Fla. both seemed to be in good spirits. I guess Jim will not be so lonesome out there now as his sister will be a good deal of company for him. Mr. Grayham thinks of going out in a month or two,

but if Jim had his way about it he would remain in Miss. all his days as he don't like him any way he is too lazy and trifling for any thing and will be nothing but a nuisance when he does [sic] there. One of David Holemans [sic] daughters that married Obunion came down to see old Mrs. Coleman last month and died on her return home with a congestive chill. She lived in Sunflower County leave two little children to morn [sic] her loss.

Mary McMorrie (Mrs. Cunningham's daughter) who married her cousin David Coleman died in Texas not long since. I was in Macon last week saw [missing text] B. she inquired about you all. Alice is [missing text] the railroad somewhere teaching school. I reckon you know that she has graduated.

Ma's health is much better though she is very low spirited at times. Aunt G. is as well as usual and as fat as ever. Tell Uncle G. I'll write to him some other time I'm too tired and sleepy tonight to write anymore. All well and send love to you and the family.

Sincerely, your niece,
E.C.H.

Sept. 29th

I'd like to have some of your nice vegetables now I think I could do justice to them. the Widow Austin is over staying with C. Russell and old man Waett's family has been there for two months or more. Some say she is trying to catch George but she is "waisting [sic] her sweetness (if she has any) on the desert air" if that is what she is after it will do her no good. W.T. Coleman and John Anderson are building Dr. [missing text] house some where near old man H. Ford. I don't know exactly where it is. Edwin is going to school to Dr. Dent. He had about twenty pupils. Well as I have written all the news I'll desish [sic] for the present again asking you to write soon to [sic].

Your niece
E.C.H.

Mashulaville, Miss.

Sept. 30, 1883

Dear Brother,

Your very welcome letter was received some time ago and I ought to have answered it some time since but not having anything of interest to communicate to you have

postponed writing from time to time and at last have concluded to write anyway. The weather is still very dry in some places people are suffering for water, in the parries people are driving their stock to water, the crops are cut very short too. Our Louisiana cane will not get high enough to grind so you see we have made a failure all around. Josie has just got through building a bridge at Bognechitto, it came to 280\$ he and Tom Stowers went together they had a nice time. They were gone nearly two weeks. Had plenty of birds and squirrels to eat. Josie is going to Macon tomorrow to see if he can't get some more bridges to build he can make more at that than his farm. I am very anxious for him to try stock raising. I think it will be more profitable than his farm, the old place would make a splendid stock farm. The cattle drivers are still going through the country. I think we will get rid of all the scrub stock after while. Our cattle looks very bad not it has been so dry they can't get anything to eat. Fire had done great damage in some places. This dry spell we had had to fire all around our Wolf Creek fence.

Oct. the 7th

Another week has rolled about and my letter not finished yet. Lizzie and Gene came in and stopped me from writing and I have been very busy all the week sewing, so I will endeavor to finish it to day. Mr. Dent is teaching a small private school here again and is boarding with us. Mr. L. Richards is very anxious for him to board with him but he would not do it he stayed there one month last spring and satisfied him. They get up too soon for him. Nellie Dorroh is also boarding here and is going to school. Dr. Kellis has bought that piece of land that old Henry Walker lived on and is building on it. Barly Coleman and Johnny Anderson are his carpenters. They are putting up a framed house two rooms with a hall between. Sam Ford wrote to his wife about two month ago and told her the reason he left was because he was so badly in debt and said he would be home in the middle of Sept., but has not returned yet. Quit and Jimmie took a trip to Meridian last week with cotton and lost our old mule from eating sneeze weed before they got home. It has been nearly three months since I have heard from Arthur he was not doing anything then. It is still very dry and no appearance of rain yet, people still are giving out around here. Charley Russell has been driving his stock to Noxubee and haul his drinking water too. We haven't anything in our garden to eat but a few winter cabbage and they are not fit to eat now. We won't have any sweet potatoes either it is the driest [sic] time about something to eat I ever saw. Cap. Conner is running for sheriff and stands a good chance to beat Ben Walker. Will Coleman and family have moved back to South Carolina. Did Liss get the bean seed I sent her. The protracted meeting at the Methodist church was a failure had only one preacher and he was very sorry one, it only lasted two days. Wiley Foster has bought him a place three miles from Meridian near Mr. Durkams. Carrie Grayham has gone to Florida with her brother Jim Foster, she left Grayham being he is to go to in November some think it is a final separation he gave a

mortgage on their place and lost it she had to pay 40\$ rent for the place the last few months she lived there. She had to feed and clothe them both, they say she left him rather raged. She ought to have left him long ago. Tell Liss and Etta I will write to them before long. Josie joins me in sending love to you all. Please write soon to you affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Old Mr. Richards was thrown from a mule some time ago and was badly hurt and cannot walk any yet, some thinks he will be a cripple for life.

Macon, Miss.

Oct. 22, 1883

Dear Etta,

I have been thinking I would write to you. I have been to see Sister. I went Sunday morning and came home Sunday night. I have such a nice time. Tell your mama thankaman [sic] for that pretty trimming she sent me. Everybody saw it they thought it was so pretty. I will try and get you some crochet samples if I can get any. Carrie is making some pretty trimming. It is so wide it is about 2 inches wide. I wish I could come and see you and your family could come to see us. Every body says that Miss Mary Dobins is going to marry a young man in your State. Have you heard anything about it. Etta you must try and come to see your dear friend Louis. Write soon.

Your friend,
Louis E. Bevill

Mashulaville, Miss.

Nov. 11th 1883

G.W. Higgins Esq.

Dear Sir:

It has been some time since I received your last letter. In consequence of such delay felt a degree of compunction almost amounting to guiltiness. Hope to stand excused to some extent, ask least then I tell you that my business and summoning has almost overwhelmed and so taxed the mind that leisure hours and compared thoughts came in few and far between. I must say that in the future will try and do better. The health of the people now is better than it has been for some time in the past. For some months back,

Typhoid fever prevailed in this country to a considerable extent in many families amounted to deep distances. Several have died of that form of disease. I have been as fortunate as to loose [sic] but one case thus far. One family consisting of seven children and their parents all except one child and the Father and mother went through a seigh [sic] for from four to six weeks. My professional career, this year, has been somewhat laborious, near times exciting, perplexing, but in the grand aggregate [missing text] I have never had a greater number of bad cases or near so many agreeable disappointments in regard to cases recovering then I was almost certain in my judgment that there was no probable chance for a recovery in a number of cases. This all came in on the principal of a fool for luck I suppose. No [missing text] effort on my part has been made or any extra new plans adopted.

The financial condition of our country is better I am inclined to think, than it has been is more of the past Seasons, notwithstanding the short Crops. The effects of the short crop is not as yet fully realized, or the result known as that part will be more sensibly felt, next spring and summer, than it is at this season of the year. Political matters are not in a first rate condition in Noxubee county now, especially around and about, our little burg M.V. Too many disappointments, Sore-Heads, Office Seekers. With past help the negroes could get for that source, including soft wads the regular nominee for Sheriff was beaten at M.V. But is [sic] the County at large the regular ticket was elected by a majority of over four hundred. It make me feel bad (often) to know that we have so many two faced double dealing unprincipled men in our portion of the County. All things in the vacinity [sic], roll on something after the same order, as the same did during your sojourn with us. A few new concerns; relatives of J.J. Lipscomb; some deaths. Jas. Frileley came to this death in rather a shocking way but this, you have probably heard of ere this time. Pour [sic] fellow; his family was in a bad condition before his death, but worse since, I suppose. L.B. Richards has deposited the money due you on the \$500.00 note in my hands for collection in the hands of J.W. Patty, and as soon as I can get it off to Macon, get a check will send it to you. I get to Macon these months but seldom, but will have the matter attended to in a short while, some way or other. L.B. sometime since requested me to write you begging day; but, I concluded that his talk on that point was all for make poor appear, where there was no special grounds for the pleadings.

The weather this morning is quite cool rather a snap, makes me feel as if I would like to step down to Herando for a few days, I am fearful that we are going to have a rough winter here, this as the fall was so extremely warm and dry. In this country as a general thing one extreme follows another. The stock especially cattle is in a bad condition to go through a rough winter.

The health of the family is generally tolerable good. Lizzie I think has the appearance of an improvement less symptoms of heart trouble, than in former years. Gene is at home working with [missing text] feeding chickens, pet pigs and don't forget the cats altogether. Minie [sic] is now in Macon working for Griggs at 50.00 per month, that will do pretty well if it would continue for the year.

Ed is going to school progressing tolerable well I suppose, but is somewhat Ed still. He is often putting in a petition to have a farm next year, or a patch that he can call his own. The labor system is growing worse, so far as the negro is concerned and will play out in a few years unless a radical change can be brought about. A majority of the last hands among the negroes age [sic] getting off, renting, buying and [illegible]. Some white people are foolish enough to sorter think they can't get on well without the negro labor, and rather inclined to curry favor with them in order to be enable to control them. I hope soon to have more leisure and by the next time of writing be more collected in mind and thought and more to give you of interest.

As ever your friend.

J.Y. Henderson

Mashulaville

Nov. 12th 1883

G.W. Higgins

Friend Geo.

Your letter and papers was received some time since. From the description of your country by the newspapers you certainly have a delightful country. I don't see what more your or any other man could add to it to better it, you have the soil, climate, health and necessary convinces [sic] combined with most excellent society, school and churches, all to make man happy contented and enjoy life; if the citizens in and around your Little city are not happy I can't imagine what would make them so. I have nothing of a promising nature to say for our Country. We are jogging along as usual in the same old ruts nothing of an encouraging nature. Crops have been extremely short this year; most of the cotton has been sold and a good many are still in debt with nothing to on next year. Corn is plentiful at fifty cts. [sic] and meat will not be high as in years past; I have been doing some Bridge work this year which has paid very well; there is not so many bids as in past days for work, and we agree among ourselves as to who shall bid off a job. Enclose you will find receipt from Miss Sun for two dollars, I sold your old

wagon to Elisha Richards for three (3) dollars, will send the other dollar in a short time with other money, as I am promised money for you, by several about the first of Dec. It is a hard matter to get money even from those that are considered good. Mr. Harris is improving has been confined to his bed nine weeks. Barly has been building a house for Dr. Kellis he has bought where Old Henry and Ned Walker was living. Sam Ford was returned but has not been to see his wife yet. Can't say whether they will live together any more or not. Zach is to commence collecting delinquent taxes in a short time; he is hared [sic] up as usual. Schurn is going slow but has increased his stock this fall largely; no other business here yet, our election is over, and the democratic tick was elected in full though our box gave Cah Connor the largest vote for sheriff. Metts was elected J.P. and Scott Jackson for Supervisor over C.B. Russid and Halk Thomas no interest taken in the election by the white voters they cast their vote and left all to the negro. I am fearful of the future politics of our county. Independents are gaining ground. Geo. what is your way of getting the bend or slope to a post in a bridge where the posts are inclined and what is the usual incline to ft. and will the same level fit the cap for post of different lengths. I should have learned all this before you left but I did not but it is not too late to learn, it is late and I must go to Macon to meet the board tomorrow, so I must close by bidding you good night and sending our love to your family.

J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.

Nov. 23, 1883

Dear Sister,

Your very kind and affectionate letter bearing date of 8th of last month was received and read with interest, and I have now taken my seat for the purpose of answering it. Although news of an important character is rather nearer with me at this time. I have rather a poor chance to gather up much Doc being the one to bring it in as we seldom get out from home these times. There will be no more preaching this season at Shulaville I suppose so I will have to content myself in the corner as usual the remain portion of the year.

Doc has a great deal of riding to do at this time and has had for several weeks. Kellis has been confined to his bead [sic] with malarial fever. Dr. Minor has been out to see him a time or two he is better now he and Sallie have moved in their new house. Sallie is looking to be sown soon. Mr. Harris has been quite low also with the same fever. His and Jonas Watkins [sic] gin was burned one night last week with five of six bales of cotton. I suppose it was insured for enough to cover the loss. Zoe Dorrah has sold his

place for seven hundred and something. Expects to rent next year. Billy Combs expects to move back to his place in Shula. Mrs. Wood's sister intends moving out from Georgia soon it is thought they will rent the Wester field house. Harris's brother is here waiting on him to get well and return home. Georgia Poindexter is visiting her father now. Poindexter got beaten badly for Magistrate. I do not think he would suit the office very well not way. Eugenia spent the day with me and Monday last. She is in better health than she has been for some time. Mrs. Nicholson and family well, I think, remains at the same place another year.

Mrs. Dobbins has been quite sick, Mary and Abb have given out their trips to Florida. If Gene goes she will have to undertake it alone. I do not see how I can spare her so long although my health as greatly improved to what it has been in former days. I am far from being well yet and almost get out of here and sometimes and feel very low spirited. I know you will all take as good care of her as if she was your own child. Therefore have given my consent to let her go if she chooses. She thinks now to taking passage the first of next month if the weather will permit. As I have written all I can think of at this time will close by asking you both to write soon. Tell George Doc has sent his money on to him would have done so sooner had he not been to [sic] busy to get to Macon, hope it is all right, Gene says she loves chickens and thinks she can help you hide yours when she gets there. Edwin will be terribly upset when he finds out his sister intends leaving us. We have not told him any thing about it yet. With much love to all I will bid adieu this time.

E.A.H.

Dec. 7, 1883
Mashulaville, Miss.

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Friend and Brother,

We received your kind and [missing text] appreciated letter some time ago but being pushed up at business neglected answering but hope you will not think none the less of it this [missing text] all us but not well. some complaining and all has been having chills all the fall same sickness in neighborhood. John Anderson is very sick but thinks he is something better, Typhoid fever, also Dr. Keller's child. Our crops not as bad as we thought when wrote to you last turned out a little better for which I was very thankful after receiving your letter I strained every nerve raked and scraped to pay off the Note you held against me and it took all I could get. I have made one bale cotton since which

is not next years [sic] supply. I left your money in Macon at Dr. Henderson's request subject to his order Nov. 3, 1883. I suppose you have received it some time ago I will send you a receipt which I wish you to sign and return to me as soon as you receive this perhaps I will have some more money for you after a while. Will try to finish collecting up for you what Notes I have hoping to hear from you soon we all send much love to you and family.

Your Brother,
L.B. Richards

December 7, 1883
Mashulaville, Miss.

Dear Mrs. Liss,

I am all most ashamed to write it has been so long since I received your letter but I kept waiting on Mr. R. to get ready so we could both write at once and everything so busy but I am glad to say we are out of debt one more time but nothing left I am [missing text] thankful we have all lived to see out of debt one more time if we are hard up for next year we will do the best we can but there was one time this fall we thought we could not pay out but have been blessed to do so. I don't believe there is any news in the neighborhood well yes I set up with Mrs. J.J. Lipscomb last nite [sic]. She has another girl. Sally Richards has a girl. Georgia Harris has twin boy and girl. We have not as good crop of babys [sic] here as you write you had in Brooksville. George was over to see us three weeks ago her health is better and she says she is getting stout again. I received a letter for [missing text] yesterday and she wrote as if they wanted to sell out. I think they have Florida fever or a [missing text] attack. Miss Liss we have killed hogs now is the time to come if you ever in tend to come, good sausage and crackling bread and I can eat as much as ever I hope you have raised a hog for your own meat for next year, we often talk of you and Brother G. and wish to see you. Tell Etta and Bud and Maggie and Rice have no room to write this time. Rice won't go to school he is afraid of the teacher and we can't make him to go but they have helped their pa at the Gin. Just saved \$10 per month for him which is better saved than spent and they answered every purpose. [missing text] has had chills ever since August. I don't hear of any weeding [sic] only Dr. Mines. I have heard that Billy ask to marry the [missing text] but it is not so he tells everybody he is, but I tell him times is to [sic] hard to marry. Elish and Pink is getting on very well now. I think I have told all and will close. Write soon.

Love to all as ever,
C.S. Richards

Mashulaville
Dec. 9th 1883

Dear Sister,

As I am due you a letter I have concluded to write you a few lines this evening although I am afraid I will fail to interest you as it has been such a short time since Gene left here and I know she has told you all that is worth relating by this time. The masons had a procession last Sunday at the Ruff grave yard over Jim Finkly's grave there was quite a large crowd out, tell Gene I went and wore my new dress and hat. We went out to the Methodist church to day and heard Burroughs preach and Shippy Lipscomb left an appointment for himself for next Sunday. Sam Ford has moved his wife back to his fathers. I guess they will be all right now until he takes another nothing to leave her. Johnny Anderson and Gertrude Lipscomb are improving slowly. Mrs. Lipscomb has another fine daughter the men are teasing Mr. Lipscomb a great deal about his fine boy. We have had a nice time eating birds lately. Josie, Quit, and Mr. Dent went hunting the day that Gene left, they caught 18 and caught 28 yesterday all together they have caught 130 this fall. Quit and I went one evening last week but did not catch any. Tell Gene I have finished Jimmy's coat and pants and will make the rest this week. I believe I had rather make a niche [sic] dress anytime than a suit of clothes for a man. The young people here are talking a little about having a Christmas tree but I think they will fail as there is no one to take the lead. Mr. Harris is up and walking about some, his brother will start home about the 18th. Billie Richards carried Mollie out to church in his buggy to day and have not been over to their house yet but think I will try to go next week they are all well so far as I know, Lizzie was not out at church to day I guess it was too cold for her. As soon as I get with my sewing that I have on hand I will send your flowers and raspberry cuttings. I can send the roses now but will have to wait for the hyacinths to bloom so I will know what to send. As I can't think of anything else to write I will close by asking you to write soon. Jose joins me in love to you all and Gene included. I remain as ever your affectionate Sister.

Eugenia

P.S. Mr. Jimmy Jackson was married last week to a Miss Trimbol. I have heard from Carrie Grayham she is well pleased and is teaching school. I don't know whether Grayham has gone out to her or not.

Mashulaville, Miss.
Dec. 27, 1883

G.W. Higgins

Enclose please find five dollars collected from Ned Walker in part from his note, which I have credited. The registration of which will be [missing text] in future, with last remittance. No news.

Truely [sic] your,
J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville
Jan. 14, 1884

Friend George

Enclosed please find fifteen (\$15) dollars. Collected from Jim Higgins with one year [missing text] which will leave three dollars in my hands – registration from three letters will leave a balance of two dollars and fifty five cts. [sic] due you which will be forded [sic] as soon as I can make change or go to Macon so I can get an order for that amount.

Yours,
J.A. Nicholson

P.S. This will be sealed with wafers at end, as I made a mistake and had to open it.

J.A.N.

Mashulaville Miss.
Feb. 7 1884

Mr. G.W. Higgins and Family

Dear Brother,

I received yours of the 30 December have delayed answering until now, in fact I was trying to get up your money which I have succeeded in doing except some small amounts and thought I would not send until I got it all which I think will be soon.

This leaves us all well except Rod, he has had chill ever since Aug. there is some sickness in the neighborhood. Typhoid fevers, Sallie Kellis and Mrs. Frank Anderson is rite [sic] sick don't think Mrs. Anderson has Typhoid. Capt. Conner is dead, buried yesterday, don't know what ailed him unless it was his old habits. As to business about as usual worked through the hard season plenty of corn and meat on hand, plenty of stock to make a crop with but with out any money hope I will be able to keep out of debt. Grinding tolerable fare some savings. Mr. Heill still with me. Dick gone to John Reeves. Enclose you will find a release please go before some competent officer and sign and return to me as soon as convenient. Please register the letter. My family joins me in sending much love to you and yours. Let us hear from you soon. As ever your

Friend and Brother
L.B. Richards

Mashulaville
Feb. 10th 1884

G.W. Higgins

Friend George I owe you a letter, but am at a loss to know what to write. Capt. Conner died last Tuesday of Pneumonia, as sick only a short time. Mrs. Kellis is dangerously ill with Typhoid Fever. Mrs. T.F. Anderson has been quite sick but us again. Johnnie's wife has also been quite ill he is living for the present at the mill in Bud Hill's house. Ben Hill expect to run the same this year and not farm. We are very backwards in our farming owing to the rain and it still rains. Noxubee Rivers is backed up toward Connors further than I ever saw it. Owing to the leaving I would guess I expect to hear of a large number of Bridges washed away. I am getting so much as I can do in that time, am full one month behind now, but the bad weather is cause of my being behind.

During January I did 145.00 of work as bad as the weather was, the expense was probably thirty five. I am not boasting of good fortune, for I am still pressed. Jo Tucker got his house and all he had burned up a short time since. There is several that lost cotton in the Gin of Harris and Watkins that have sued them in same. It will be lively here for a while in our Magistrate Court. Foot and Foot represents the lost cotton, it is not known who will represent the other.

I am afraid Capt. Richards [sic] son is in a bad scrape as there is positive evidence that will appear in circuit court against him, it would be in my humble judgment be better for him to pay the mayor's fine and stop the case. I suppose you have heard of Mrs.

Dobbins [sic] death. Abbie has not been over, yet to see Dr. Henderson's family on account death of her mother. Enclose you will find receipt from Smith of Subscription and C. Suppose you receive former receipt from him which I sent you. Hoping all will be satisfactory.

I am yours,
J.A. Nicholson

Mashulaville, Miss.
Feb. 26th 1884

Dear Brother,

no doubt you have come to the conclusion ere this that I am tired of our correspondence and have given over ever writing to you again, but that is a mistaken notion and I now ask pardon for my seeming negligence hoping I shall be able in the future to be more punctual. Nothing affords me more pleasure than to hear from you all. We are all tolerably well at this time except Doc, he still has a severe cold and complains a good deal of pain in his head and soreness in his limbs and puts him almost past traveling. I have tried to persuade him to leave off some of his practice and take care of himself, but it seems hard to convince him that he doesn't belong to the public is not disposed to take advice. I do not know how It will terminate he has certainly failed within the last five months very much. We have had some very severe weather this winter and some hail storms that have done considerable damage in many places, though I am happy to say this neighborhood escaped any serious troubles except the killing of a mule belonging to Cal Hunt a negro living at the Patterson place.

It is said Rod Triplelle negro suffered very much to by the tops of houses blowing off. We have not been able to ascertain a correct account of all the damage done yet by the storm of the 19th. Bob Shaws [sic] dwelling was also unroofed and the timber blown about considerable. Bill Eichleburger also had some out houses blown about and Mrs. Bill Hill was hurt about the arm or shoulder from the falling of some of the timbers. I have heard of no other person being hurt though several made a narrow escape. I see accounts in the paper that the storm did considerable damage in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Ala, and Texas I fear all has not been told yet. The Mashulaville items have yet being published. The cause I suppose is our friend G. Russell has gone to take charge of his brother jack's school until he gets back from the legislature. Our brother in law did not get to come in. He is away from home a good deal now building bridges and C. Eugenia is left to take care of herself and has quite a lonesome time. No one about the house until this week. Emily Edwards is cooking for her at this time. Jim

or Quit stays with her at night, when Joe is absent. We all have a good deal of trouble in hiring hands more particular cooks. They are getting rather scarce more so if anything than when you left. I have my second one already and can't say how long she will remain she is a better chance than the first one and as I am not able to do all my work myself I would be glad she would stay although I can see now we will not make any thing over for next year. 22 dollars per month is more than our sort can well stand these times all the hands are hired for wages and of course included in that sum. I went out to preaching last Sunday heard our new preacher. We are all much pleased with him, he is far ahead of any we have had in some time. The Baptist I think will secure the services of Mr. Nicholson for their pastor, he is to preach for them next Sunday. Tell Gene Will Calime's wife has a pair of fine twins. Benny Ford has gone back to his father, paid our Sammy and his wife are at the old man's doing might well. Haven't heard anything from Mary and Abb in some time. My garden is rather late this spring nothing up but my pears. Two hens setting and very few eggs only had one mess yet. No butter lost two of our best milk cows. Lost a fine calf supposed to have had Hydrophobia. Mrs. Anderson recovered. Ed has taken down now but is not dangerously sick yet. Write soon give my love to all.

E.A.H.

Mashulaville, Miss.

Feb. 29, 1884

Mr. G.W. Higgins

Dear Friend and Brother,

Your welcome letter just received will haste to respond this leaves all well except Rod he is still having chills the health of the community some better than when I wrote last. The weather is very wet and cold farmers doing but little toward planting we had a storm on the 19th which laid all the fences flat dun [sic] no serious damage in our neighborhood blowed [sic] down a great many trees. But blowed [sic] all the houses down on Mr. Eiclehleberger except his dwelling. bill Hill was living on Eiclehleberger place blownd [sic] his down to the floor his wife confined in bed no one hurt much. Over about Dr. Anabil's old place it dun [sic] considerable damage blowing down house killed Calvin Hunt's mule it is the same store [sic] that passed through Ala. Georgia and South Carolina. I lost a calf last week to Hydrophobia I had sever to come and see the calf. Dr. Henderson for one. They all seemed to think it was mad it was not more than three months old it commenced bleating. Several days before we noticed anything in fact we never thought anything until it commenced to fight and slobber it would make at a dog

or fite [sic] any of the family it would fite [sic] except myself it never seemed to want to fite [sic] me. Enough about the calf I have not planted a seed yet, want to plant as soon as the weather will admit. I will advise you to correspond with Bro. Webb president of Clinton College if you want a good preacher.

Enclose you will find twenty five dollars which is all you left in my hands to collect except the dollar that Andrew McAfee refused to pay the interest on his present amount. He retained if I ever collect it for my troubles now [missing text] quite [sic] correspondence became business matters is settled. I will answer all the letter I receive from you for I always will consider you a good friend of mine, my family all joins me in sending much love to you and yours. Write and let me hear from you accordingly. Your friend and brother.

L.B. Richards

The Mississippian Sun
Macon Miss.
March 22, 1884

Mr. G.W. Higgins
Brooksville, Fla.

Dear Sir,

I sent your subscription in promptly to the Canon Journal office, giving your address of Brooksville Florida underlining the Fla. in order that they might make no mistake. I fear however they have been sending your papers to Brooksville Miss. and have this day written them in regard to the matter. If you don't get paper in due time prior this date let me hear from you again.

Very truly
G.R. Smith

[image-original of letter from The Mississippi Sun March 22, 1884 to Mr. G.W. Higgins]

Mashulaville
March the 30 1884

Miss Etta Higgins

Dear Niece,

I received your letter in due time and was pleased to know that you still think of us sometimes. You must continue to write, you are improving very fast and will soon learn to write a good letter if you will try. I hope you all have quite [sic] having chills by this time and you and Bud have started to school again. Mr. Ben Hill and family have moved from the mill and have gone to hire on Mr. G. Evan's land. I expect he will attend to his mill too. Annie is a very good looking girl but Ell gets wiggly every day. Johnny Anderson is moved back to the Bud Hill houses, he and Elicia Richards caught some fine fish last night one weighed ten pounds the rest were smaller though very nice size. Mr. Dent is getting on very well with his school. I don't think he intends teaching any more when this term is out. He is boarding at Mr. Lipscombs. Alice Bevil is teaching school has twenty five scholars. She is a good school mistress. You must come home with Gene when she comes and spend some time with us, tell your pa it is time he was bringing you all to see us anyway. Write to your affectionate aunt.

Eugenia

Tell your Ma I will write to her before long.

Mashulaville, Noxubee County

May the 4th, 1884

Mrs. M.E. Higgins

Dear Sister,

Your very kind letter has been received some time ago and I have postponed answering it longer than I intended to. I have been waiting to see if I could not gather something new and of interest to write, but I have not made anything by waiting so I will try my hand anyway. I think the cold weather is over now though we have not had much warm weather. [Editor's Note-This letter has been cut in half, therefore it will skip around.] gone now to work on a levy. Arthur came home more than a week ago and will stay with us a while until the busy time of the crops is over then he will return to his work at Pinebluff, he says you and George must write to him. My garden is looking very well now I have peas and Irish potatoes for dinner yesterday and my cabbage are heading up, mine is about the best in Mashulaville. I have about one hundred and fifty young chickens some near large enough to eat. I have only nine turkey eggs sitting. I fish a good deal now catching bait to set out on hooks with Josie caught some nice ones last week one weighted nine pounds. [Editor's Note-Again the letter is cut.] You must tell me

if any of them are hot house plants. I know the oleanders can't stand the winter here the one I had was killed last winter and all of my cape jasmines are dead but one. I thought my tuberose were all dead and I sent off for 6 more and the same number of Gladiolus if they prove to be pretty I will send you some when they multiply. Mr. Eph Anderson and family spent the day with us last Sunday. Mrs. Bracket has been up staying a while with Pink, they came up and spent the day with me while she was there. I have not been to see Lizzie in some time think of going this week. I saw Edwin to day he says they are all up Doc has been [Editor's note-Again the letter is cut.] coming back alone more than she did to go. We are getting very anxious to see her back here again but I don't blame her atoll [sic] for staying for I know she is having a nice time and that is more than she could have is [sic] she was here, tell her to hurry up and write to me it has been over three weeks since we have heard from any of you. Please excuse this uninteresting letter as there is no news of interest to relate. Arthur and Josie join me in sending much love to you all. Please write soon to your affectionate sister.

Eugenia

Hasellville, [sic] S.C.

July the 1st 1884

Miss Etta Higgins

My dear friend as I have been writing to my brother I thought I would take the opportunity to day to write to you to [sic]. Miss Etta I have not any interesting news to write this time these few lines leaves me well and hoping they may find you the same. Miss Etta you are a stranger to me and I don't know hardly what to write but my brother is acquainted with you and I often here [sic] him speak of you. He talked me to write to you he appreciate you very high he says that you are the prettiest girl he has seen since he has been in Florida. Etta don't mistreat him for he is the only brother that I have got he is a good boy and you need not to care what you say to him he will not get mad he is a good boy. I do sadly miss him I am going to Chester now before long and have my picture taken and send it to him he has sent me his. I think he is so well pleased out there. Etta tell brother Jeff that Mr. Billy Young is dead and I say he can come back and take Miss Ivy yet she is left a widow and tell Jeff his old sweet heart sent us a basket of apples yesterday, his girl that lives in tick town. I wish you and him was here to eat apples with me. Etta I want you to send me one of your pictures and I will send you mine. I want to show it to the boys out here. I know they will think that you are pretty. There is two boys that says if I go to Florida they will to [sic]. I am coming this fall if nothing don't happen. Etta I don't want you to say that my boys is ugly you must say that they is pretty if they is ugly. I am going to swap them to you for one of the Florida

boys. I want you and Jeff to pick me out one of them and know that you can beat me [missing text] picking for beauty tell Jeff that name [missing text] she has got a present for him. I don't know that it is but I think it is a mocking bird she has got four pet birds they is so pretty. Well I will hafta [sic] close for this time for nothing to rite [sic] you must excuse bad writing and spelling and not think of me not writing no more. I will try to do better the next time. Write soon. Give my love to my brother and all the other boys. Write soon to your friend.

Ella F. Price

Mashulaville, Miss.
Sept. 4 1888

Mr. G.W. Higgins,

Dear Sir,

I am fixing to build me a dwelling house with two rooms 16 x 16 with a hall 8 ft. between I wish you would make out a bill of lumber for me. I want a house similar to the one you lived in when here. I want all the lumber sawed but the sills and sleepers if it does not interfere with your business. I would like to have it immediately. I will have my lumber sawed about the middle of this month.

Mr. Higgins I don't know that I don't know that I have any news to write you we are all complaining Neal and Carrie both have very bad colds have fever with them. As to crops they are sorry enough old corn is tolerably good cotton not more than half crop we have had the driest year that I ever saw. Sugar came in almost a failure want more than make seed. The Protracted meeting closed Sunday night it went on a week only one joined. [missing text] court closed last Saturday two Negroes to be hanged the first Friday in Oct.

There is an oil meal being put up in Macon. Bob Patty and Dr. Heill are many the parties.

School open at Mashulaville Next Monday, T.A. Dent Teacher. Write soon with best wishes to you and family. I remain yours.

J.M. Watkins

[image-Undated invoice from F.M. Woodward and Co, a lumber company]

Soldier's Application for Pension

[stamp: COPY reproduced by FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
R.A. GRAY BUILDING Tallahassee, Florida 32301]

STATE OF FLORIDA,
Hernando County,

On this twenty-second day of January 1904 personally appeared before me, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for said county and State, George W. Higgins who being by me duly sworn, declares he is the identical person who enlisted on or about the Nov 13th 1861 inlisted [sic] day of Feb 9th 1864 in Captain Nunn's Company, county of Noxubee, in the State of Mississippi and that while in actual service in said company [blank] Regiment of the State of Miss and in line of duty as such soldier, at Nashville, State of Tenn [sic] [crossed out: on or about the] in the [crossed out: day of] Winter of 1864, (and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his services on the [blank] day of April 1865) in [crossed out] Near Greensboro county [crossed out], State North Carolina; he was [Here state fully and clearly all the facts showing the injury, its character, and especially the extent of the injury and disability resulting therefrom.] shot through his left ear and wounded in the left side of his head at Nashville Tenn [sic] in the last battle fought there and came near dying from the effects of the wound; that he has never fully recovered his hearing from the effects of said wound; that he was shot through the calf of his right leg at the battle of Shiloh. He further states that he is more than sixty-five years old, is in failing health and by reason of age, exposure in the service and wounds aforesaid he is now unable to make a livelihood [sic] by manual labor and that as the result of said injuries, thus received in line of duty during the war, age and failing health, he is now unable to gain a livelihood by manual labor; that he has continuously since January 1st, 1885, been a citizen of Florida; that neither he, nor his wife, nor both combines, own real and personal property to the value of \$800 in this or any other State, and have not purposely disposed of any property for the purpose of availing themselves of the provisions of the pension laws of Florida; that he is not otherwise enabled or in a position to earn, and has no income from any source sufficient for a livelihood by manual labor, and that he never deserted the Confederate service, and that he receives no pension from any other source.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 22nd day of January 1904 Frank E. Saxon Clerk Circuit Court Hernando County.

George W. Higgins P.P Address Floral City Fla

Pension Application Document January 1904

I do solemnly swear that I was born on the Fifth day of [illegible month and year] Newberry District county [crossed out], State of South Carolina and that I am now past the age of sixty-five (65) years; that I was a bona-fide citizen of this State on January A.D. 1885, and have continuously resided in this State since that date; that I do not own property, real or personal, or real and personal, to the value of eight hundred dollars (\$800), and that I am by reason of age incapable of providing a living by manual labor for myself.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 22nd day of January 1904 Frank E. Saxon Clerk
Circuit Court Hernando County. By S.A. Wilson DC
George W. Higgins P.O. Address Floral City Fla

STATE OF FLORIDA,
County of Hernando

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for said county, Frank E. Saxon who being duly sworn says he is Adjutant of Camp No. 13 W.W. Loring of Unitd [sic] Coenfederate [sic] veterans at Brooksville in county of Hernando and that George W. Higgins is was [crossed out] at this time [crossed out: of his death] a member of good standing of said Camp.

Frank E. Saxon acting Adjt [sic] [illegible] camp no 13 [illegible letters]
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of January A.D. 1904
Stephen A. Wilson Notary Public

NOTE.- Fill out the one of the above affidavits most suitable to applicant's condition.
We do solemnly swear that we are familiar with the value of all property owned by George W. Higgins and his wife, directly or indirectly, in this or any other State, and that the actual combined value thereof does not exceed \$800; that they have not disposed of any property for the purpose of availing themselves of the provisions of the pension laws of Florida, and that he is not physically or otherwise able, or in a position to earn a livelihood, by manual labor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of Jany [sic] 1904 J.W. Knight Notary Public

J.W. Williamson P.O. Address Floral City Fla
S.D. Moon P.O. Address Floral City

Report of County Commissioners

We, the undersigned, County Commissioners in and for the County of Citrus, Florida, do hereby report that at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held this day, the foregoing application of George W Higgins for a pension under the Laws of Florida, was investigated by us; that we are satisfied that the applicant does not own property (including the property of his wife) to exceed the value of \$5,000, and that the representations made in the petition and affidavits are true, and that a pension should be granted to the applicant.

Witness our hands this 9th day of August, A.D. 1909

- (1) J W Barner
Chairman.
 - (2) Jas S Rawls
 - (3) David Turner
 - (4) J D [illegible]
 - (5) Floyd J Rooks
- County Commissioners.

By the County Commissioner. Attest:

[illegible signature]

Clerk Circuit Court.

NOTE.- All blanks must be filled out. All information required must be fully and accurately given.

Claim for Pension Cover Page

Former Claim No 3133

Application No 17834

Pensioner No 5664

CLAIM FOR PENSION

BY

George W. Higgins

OF

Floral City Postoffice [sic]

[blank] County

LATE OF

C Company

3 Miss Regiment

FILED IN PENSION DEPARTMENT.

[illegible date]

APPROVED

Nov 2 1909

With pay from July 1st, 1909

At the rate of \$120 per annum

[blank line]

Secretary of Board.

FILED IN COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

[blank date]

Form B

STATE OF FLORIDA,

County of Citrus

We, the undersigned citizens of Citrus County, State of Florida, do hereby certify that we personally know George W. Higgins, who is an applicant for a pension under the laws of Florida, and that from our own personal knowledge, and from the best information available, we believe that the applicant does not own property (including the property of his wife) to exceed in value the sum of \$5,000, and that the statements made by him relative to the value of his property are true and correct.

(To be signed by two citizens.) M.M. [illegible]

J.T. Preddy

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 31 day of July 1909

[illegible signature]

Physician's Affidavit Form

Physician's Affidavit.
STATE OF FLORIDA,
County of Citrus

Before me personally came J F Miller MD, who being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is a physician; that he is a resident of the State and County aforesaid; that he personally knows George W Higgins the applicant named in the foregoing application for a pension. This deponent further says that he has carefully examined the said applicant's physical condition and finds:

(Here state nature, character and extent of wounds, disease or disability. Please avoid technical terms.)

He had a gunshot wound in the left side of the head from front to back of ear and right leg below the knee and [illegible]

This deponent further says that the said George W Higgins is permanently [blank] disabled by reason of such age and [illegible] is [illegible] from earning a livelihood for himself by manual labor.

(Please note carefully resolution below before certifying to total disability.)

Sworn and subscribed before me, this Second day of August, A.D. 1909 W F [illegible]
Clerk

J F Miller MD
Physician.

At a meeting of the State Board of Pensions held July 10th, 1907, at which the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer were present, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That persons entitled to Pensions under the Laws of Florida, who apply for the amount allowed in cases of total disability, must submit the affidavit of a reputable physician stating specifically the personal ailment and conditions that render the applicant entirely helpless and incapacitated, physically or mentally, for any work or business.

Claim for Pension Cover Page

CLAIM FOR PENSION

BY

George W. Higgins

OF

Floral City Fla

LATE OF

[blank] Company
[blank] Regiment
FILED IN EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
Feb 15th 1904
APPROVED
April 4 1904
C.H. Dickinson
Secretary of Board
FILED IN COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE
[blank date]
[illegible line about his pay]

Bottom Half of Physician's Affidavit Form

We the undersigned physicians, residents of the State and county aforesaid, do solemnly swear that we have carefully examined George W. Higgins, who is personally known to us to be the person above applying for a pension under the laws of Florida, and find that he is owing to advanced age and chronic rheumatism physically unable to make a livelihood.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 1st day of February 1904 W F [illegible] Clerk
H.O. Snow M.D.

Residence Floral City, Fla.

J F Miller MD

Inverness Fla

I certify that the above affidavits are genuine; that all of the affiants are persons of respectability and good reputation, and that their statements are worthy of belief; that the attesting officers are duly authorized to attest said affidavits, and that their signatures thereunto are genuine.

Walter F [illegible]

Clerk of Circuit Court.

We, the undersigned County Commissioners of Citrus county, Florida, do hereby certify that we have carefully investigated the above application for pension made by George W. Higgins and are satisfied that the conditions and alleged facts therein stated are true and correct and that he is legally and justly entitled to the pension provided by the act, approved June 6th, 1908.

R.A. Lowry

Chairman.

J Y Barnes

A P Shart

W B Edwards

J.L. Van Ness

County Commissioners.

By the County Commissioners, Attest:

Walter F [illegible]

Clerk Circuit Court.

REVISED STATUTES OF FLORIDA, CHAPTER II, ARTICLE I

2077. The children of parents who are unable to support themselves shall be required to make provisions for their support.

2078. On information filed before the Justice of the Peace of the proper district by any person whomsoever, stating that certain persons have made no adequate provisions for their father and mother, or either of them, the Justice shall cause a summons to be issued to said parties, and evidence to be taken as to the truth of the facts stated in the information, and if the same shall be found true, after a fair trial in which the defendants shall have the right to be heard by counsel, the Justice shall issue an order making an assessment on the said children for such amount as shall be necessary for the support of their parents.

2079. Said order shall carry with it the right of enforcement by execution, and shall have the force and effect of a writ of garnishment on the wages of such children, and shall further provide for the person to whom and the manner in which the money assessed therein shall be paid.

George Higgin's Soldier's Pension Claim Form

SOLDIER'S PENSION CALIM.

UNDER THE ACT OF 1909.

(FORM A.)

STATE OF Florida

County of Citrus

On this 31 day of July, A.D. One Thousand Nine Hundred and nine personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county and State aforesaid, George W Higgins who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is 71 years of age, having been born on the 5th day of July, 1838, in the county of Newberry, in the State of [illegible letter] C. That he is a bona fide citizen in the county of Citrus, State of Florida. That he has resided in the State of Florida continuous, since the 27 day of November, 1881.

That he is the identical person who enlisted at Vicksburg Miss, under the name of George W. Higgins, on the 13 day of November 1861, in Company C, Regiment 3rd of the State of Miss in the service of the (Here state whether the service claimed was in the Confederate States Army or in the service of a State.) Confederate States and who was HONORABLY DISCHARGED at [blank], in the State of N.C., on the [blank] day of [blank], 186[blank], on account of (Here state fully any other military service performed

by the applicant.) Surrender (Here give date and place of capture, imprisonment, exchange or parole.) North Carolina

That I served faithfully until HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the service of the Confederacy in the year 1865, and did not desert the service of the Confederacy nor take the oath of allegiance to the United States until after the surrender of the Confederate armies.

That I was (Here state whereabouts at close of Civil War.) with the Confederate Army in N.C.

That I do not own property, including real estate, personal property, stocks, bonds, mortgages or other collateral securities of any kind in this or any other State, nor does my wife own with me jointly or separately, property to exceed in value the sum of five thousand dollars.

That the following is a true and correct statement of all the property owned by me or by my wife, jointly and separately in this or any other State:

Real estate, located at Floral City %150.00

Cattle, horses and other live stock [blank]

Personal property [blank]

Stocks [blank]

Bonds [blank]

Mortgages, notes and other securities [blank]

Total [blank]

That I have heretofore been granted a pension from the State of Florida under pension certificate No. 3133, at the rate of \$120.00 per annum.

(Here state any disabilities, physical or mental.)

Wounded twice – one time in [illegible] once in the head which wound made [3 illegible words]

(Here state any wounds received, or loss of limbs and eyesight.)

That my postoffice [sic] address is Floral City, County of Citrus, State of Florida.

George W. Higgins

(Claimants must sign name in full.)

Attest:

(1) [illegible signature]

(2) M M Smook

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 31 day of [illegible], A.D. 1909; and I hereby certify that the aboverdeclaration, etc., were fully made known and explained to the applicant before swearing, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

[illegible signature]

Justice of the Peace

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October 4, 1863, October 12, 1863, November 16, 1863, November 17, 1863, December 4, 1863, December 13, 1863, December 21, 1863, December 27, 1863, January 1, 1864, January 10, 1864, January 17, 1864, February 7, 1864, March 6, 1864, April 4, 1864, April 7, 1864, April 8, 1864, April 25, 1864, May 21, 1864, May 25, 1864, June 5, 1864, June 11, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 1, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 13, 1864, July 20, 1864, August 10, 1864, August 17, 1864, August 25, 1864, September 5, 1864, September 28, 1864, October 6, 1864, October 21, 1864, November 1, 1864, November 17, 1864, April 30, 1865, December 9, 1865, June 4, 1866, July 30, 1869, October 11, 1869, October 13, 1869, October 14, 1869, July 27, 1870, January 23, 1871, June 30, 1872, July 15, 1872, August 4, 1872, September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, October 7, 1872, October 26, 1872, November 17, 1872, November 22, 1872, November 30, 1872, December 1, 1872, July 10, 1880, February 26, 1881, January 4, 1882, January 25, 1882, January 26, 1882, February 12, 1882, February 27, 1882, March 12, 1882, March 20, 1882, May 21, 1882, June 19, 1882, July 20, 1882, September 11, 1882, September 25, 1882, November 4, 1882, November 19, 1882, December 12, 1882, December 22, 1882, January 6, 1883, January 18, 1883, March 16, 1883, April 18, 1883, May 28, 1883, June 17, 1883, July 29, 1883, September 2, 1883, September 20, 1883, September 30, 1883, November 11, 1883, November 12, 1883, December 7, 1883, December 27, 1883, January 14, 1884, February 7, 1884, February 10, 1884, February 26, 1884, February 29, 1884, March 22, 1884, September 4, 1888

Higgins, Jim, January 14, 1884

Higgins, John J, January 22, 1861, January 30, 1861, February 1, 1861, November 16, 1861, November 18, 1861, December 3, 1861, December 13, 1861, February 7, 1862, February 10, 1862, February 20, 1862, March 13, 1862, September 1, 1862, September 9, 1862, September 12, 1862, October 19, 1862, October 22, 1862, October 30, 1862, November 12, 1862, November 28, 1862, November 30, 1862, December 1, 1862, December 19, 1862, January 1, 1863, January 2, 1863, January 18, 1863, February 11, 1863, February 24, 1863, March 1, 1863, March 8, 1863, March 13, 1863, March 17, 1863, March 28, 1863, April 5, 1863, April 11, 1863, April 17, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 13, 1863, June 19, 1863, June 23, 1863, July 19, 1863, July 28, 1863, July 30, 1863, August 7, 1863, September 7, 1863, September 25, 1863, September 30, 1863, October 12, 1863, November 16, 1863, November 17, 1863, December 4, 1863, December 13, 1863, December 21, 1863, December 27, 1863, January 1, 1864, January 10, 1864, January 17, 1864, February 7, 1864, April 25, 1864, May 25, 1864, June 5, 1864, June 11, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 1, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 20, 1864, August 2, 1864, August 10, 1864, August 17, 1864, August 25, 1864, September 14, 1864, September 28, 1864, October 21, 1864, November 17, 1864, October 26, 1872, November 17, 1872, January 26, 1882, March 12, 1882, November 4, 1882, May 28, 1883

Higgins, Lula, November 16, 1861, November 18, 1861, November 28, 1861, December 13, 1861, February 13, 1862, February 20, 1862, February 28, 1862, March 12, 1862, September 9, 1862, September 12, 1862, September 26, 1862, October 2, 1862, October 6, 1862, October 10, 1862, October 17, 1862, October 19, 1862, October 22, 1862, October 30, 1862, November 12, 1862, November 28, 1862, December 1, 1862, January 6, 1863, February 11, 1863, February 24, 1863, March 1, 1863, March 8, 1863, March 29, 1863, April 5, 1863, April 17, 1863, April 26, 1863, May 12, 1863, May 22, 1863, May 27, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 8, 1863, June 13, 1863, June 19, 1863, July 6, 1863, July 19, 1863, August 7, 1863, September 7, 1863, September 17, 1863, November 17, 1863

Higgins, Maggie, July 15, 1872, August 4, 1872, September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, September 30, 1873, October 7, 1872, October 26, 1872, November 22, 1872

Higgins, Margaret, March 7, 1860

Higgins, Mark M., June 30, 1860, November 28, 1861, December 3, 1861, December 10, 1861, February 7, 1862, March 19, 1862, September 9, 1862, October 2, 1862, October 19, 1862, October 30, 1862, November 30, 1862, February 11, 1863, February 24, [sic] 1863, March 1, 1863, March 13, 1863, March 17, 1863, March 28, 1863, March 29, 1863, April 5, 1863, April 11, 1863, April 26, 1863, May 7, 1863, May 12, 1863, May 22, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 8, 1863, June 13, 1863, June 19, 1863, June 23, 1863, July 28, 1863, July 30, 1863, August 7, 1863, September 30, 1863, October 14, 1863, October 20, 1863, November 16, 1863, November 17, 1863, December 12, 1863, December 21, 1863, January 10, 1864, January 17, 1864, April 25, 1864, May 1, 1864, May 22, 1864, June 5, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 1, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 13, 1864, August 2, 1864, August 10, 1864, August 25, 1864, September 28, 1864, December 9, 1865, December 28, 1865, November 17, 1872

Higgins, Melissa, March 7, 1860, June 30, 1860, August 15, 1860, January 26, 1861, January 30, 1861, February 1, 1861, November 16, 1861, November 18, 1861, November 22, 1861, November 24, 1861, November 28, 1861, December 3, 1861, December 10, 1861, February 2, 1862, February 5, 1862, February 7, 1862, February 10, 1862, February 13, 1862, February 20, 1862, February 23, 1862, February 24, 1862, February 25, 1862, February 28, 1862, March 1, 1862, March 2, 1862, March 6, 1862, March 10, 1862, March 11, 1862, March 13, 1862, March 19, 1862, April 9, 1862, April 10, 1862, September 1, 1862, September 4, 1862, September 6, 1862, September 9, 1862, September 12, 1862, September 26, 1862, October 2, 1862, October 6, 1862, October 10, 1862, October 17, 1862, October 19, 1862, October 22, 1862, October 30, 1862, November 5, 1862, November 12, 1862, November 28, 1862, November 30, 1862, December 1, 1862, December 19, 1862, December 28, 1862, January 1, 1863, January 2, 1863, January 6, 1863, January 18, 1863, February 11, 1863, February 18, 1863, February 24, 1863, March 1, 1863, March 8, 1863, March 13, 1863, March 17, 1863, March 28, 1863, March 29, 1863, April 5, 1863, April 11, 1863, April 17, 1863,

April 26, 1863, May 7, 1863, May 12, 1863, May 22, 1863, May 27, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 8, 1863, June 13, 1863, June 19, 1863, June 23, 1863, July 6, 1863, July 12, 1863, July 19, 1863, July 28, 1863, July 30, 1863, August 7, 1863, September 7, 1863, September 17, 1863, September 25, 1863, September 30, 1863, October 4, 1863, October 12, 1863, October 14, 1863, October 19, 1863, October 20, 1863, October 22, 1863, October 25, 1863, November 16, 1863, November 17, 1863, December 2, 1863, December 4, 1863, December 13, 1863, December 21, 1863, December 27, 1863, January 1, 1864, January 10, 1864, January 17, 1864, February 7, 1864, March 6, 1864, April 4, 1864, April 7, 1864, April 8, 1864, April 25, 1864, May 1, 1864, May 6, 1864, May 12, 1864, May 21, 1864, May 22, 1864, May 25, 1864, June 5, 1864, June 11, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 1, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 13, 1864, July 20, 1864, August 2, 1864, August 10, 1864, August 17, 1864, August 25, 1864, September 5, 1864, September 14, 1864, September 28, 1864, October 6, 1864, October 21, 1864, November 1, 1864, November 17, 1864, June 4, 1866, June 30, 1872, July 15, 1872, August 4, 1872, September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, September 30, 1872, October 7, 1872, October 26, 1872, November 17, 1872, November 22, 1872, November 30, 1872, December 1, 1872, July 10, 1880, February 26, 1881, January 25, 1882, February 12, 1882, February 27, 1882, March 12, 1882, March 20, 1882, May 21, 1882, September 11, 1882, November 4, 1882, November 19, 1882, December 22, 1882, January 18, 1883, March 16, 1883, May 28, 1883, June 6, 1883, June 17, 1883, July 29, 1883, September 28, 1883, September 30, 1883, October 22, 1883, November 23, 1883, December 7, 1883, December 9, 1883, March 30, 1884, May 4, 1884, Undated

Higgins, Minnie, July 15, 1872, August 4, 1872, September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, September 30, 1872, October 7, 1872, October 26, 1872, November 22, 1872

Higgins, Mrs. E.A., September 2, 1883

Higgins, Orville, January 26, 1882

Higgins, Oscar, February 11, 1863, June 23, 1863, July 30, 1863, August 7, 1863, August 10, 1864, August 25, 1864, May 28, 1883, July 29, 1883

Higgins, Sallie, February 1, 1861, December 3, 1861, March 13, 1862, September 12, 1862, February 11, 1863, February 24, 1863, March 8, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 13, 1863, June 19, 1863, July 19, 1863, August 7, 1863, October 12, 1863, October 20, 1863, November 17, 1863, December 21, 1863, January 10, 1864, February 7, 1864, April 25, 1864, May 22, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 13, 1864, August 10, 1864, October 21, 1864, November 17, 1864, November 4, 1882

Hightower, W. March 10, 1862

Hill, Ben, February 12, 1882, February 27, 1882, May 21, 1882, November 4, 1882, December 12, 1882, February 10, 1883

Hill, Bill, January 25, 1882, February 27, 1882, December 22, 1882, February 29, 1884, March 30, 1884

Hill, Bud, February 10, 1884, March 30, 1884
Hill, Daniel H., July 30, 1863
Hill Family, February 27, 1882
Hill, Mr., November 19, 1882
Hill, Mrs., December 22, 1882
Hill, Mrs. Bill, February 26, 1884
Hines, Terell, November 4, 1882
Holeman, David, September 28, 1883
Holeman, Mrs., September 28, 1883
Holeman, Will, September 30, 1883
Holmes, Mrs., March 13, 1863
Homes, Dr., January 26, 1861
Hood, Gen., October 6, 1864, October 21, 1864, November 1, 1864, November 17, 1864
Hood, John B., May 21, 1864, July 6, 1864
Hooker, Joseph, June 19, 1863
Horton, General, March 17, 1863
Huckaby, February 13, 1862
Huckaby, Mattie, June 17, 1883
Huckaby, Mollie, May 21, 1882, June 17, 1883
Huckaby, Mr., May 21, 1882
Hughes, Matt, May 21, 1882
Hughes, Robin, February 21, 1882, February 27, 1882
Hughes, Tom, March 20, 1882
Hunt, Cal, February 26, 1884
Hunt, Calvin, February 29, 1884
Hunter, April 18, 1883
Hurt, William, April 9, 1882

-I-

Iestene, Liss, December 22, 1882
Inabenet, Dr., July 27, 1870

-J-

Jackson, Dr., January 10, 1864
Jackson, J.P., November 12, 1883
Jackson, Jimmy, December 9, 1883
Jackson, Scott, November 12, 1883

Jarnagin, Mr., February 2, 1862, February 5, 1862, February 10, 1862

John, Dr., February 24, 1862

Johnston, Albert S., April 10, 1862

Johnston, Joseph E., June 5, 1863, June 8, 1863, July 19, 1863, March 6, 1864, May 21, 1864, May 25, 1864, June 5, 1864, June 11, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 6, 1864, July 13, 1863, April 27, 1864

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Kellis, Dr., February 27, 1882, March 12, 1882, May 21, 1882, September 30, 1883, November 12, 1883, November 23, 1883, December 7, 1883

Kellis, Mrs., February 10, 1884

Kellis, Sallie, February 7, 1884

Kent, Mr., September 2, 1883

Kesecram, General, April 17, 1863

-L-

L., Ma, January 18, 1883

Lake, Mr., October 4, 1863

Lee, Gen. Robert E., June 19, 1863, July 13, 1864, August 10, 1864, October 6, 1864

Lent, A.L., April 18, 1883

Levonson, John, December 3, 1861

Lewis, C., December 12, 1883

Lewis, Dillard, April 18, 1883

Lewis, Frank, January 6, 1883

Lipscomb, December 12, 1882, September 2, 1883, March 30, 1884

Lipscomb, Gertrude, December 9, 1883

Lipscomb, J.J., January 6, 1883, November 11, 1883

Lipscomb, James, June 30, 1872

Lipscomb, John, December 22, 1882

Lipscomb, Mr., September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, May 21, 1882, November 19, 1882, June 17, 1883, December 9, 1883

Lipscomb, Mr. Hiram, September 28, 1883, June 17, 1883

Lipscomb, Mr. Shippy, July 29, 1883, December 9, 1883

Lipscomb, Mrs. J.J., December 7, 1883

Lloyd, Sue, October 22, 1883

Longstreet James, March 17, 1863, September 30, 1863, December 2, 1863, December 4, 1863, December 13, 1863

Lowery, Brigade Colonel, March 8, 1863, May 22, 1863, May 22, 1864, July 20, 1864

Lriplett, Juno. I., January 4, 1882

-M-

Madison, April 18, 1883, September 2, 1883

Malone, W., December 3, 1861

Manidn, Mollie, July 20, 1882

Martin, Joe, December 12, 1882

Massey, C.H., June 23, 1864

Mayo, Albert, April 9, 1862

May, Drate, January 25, 1882

May, J.J., July 20, 1882, January 18, 1883

May, Joe, May 21, 1882, November 4, 1882

May, Mrs., November 19, 1882

May, Old Alvey, March 16, 1883

May Place, January 6, 1883

May, Rufus, January 25, 1882

May, Shep, December 22, 1882, March 16, 1883

Mays, Mrs., May 1, 1864

McAfee, Andrew, February 12, 1882, March 16, 1883, February 29, 1884

McBride, Mrs., June 4, 1866

McLedan, September 6, 1862

McLeherren, Mr. and Mrs., November 12, 1862

McLeod, Capt., October 6, 1864

McLeod, Mr., November 16, 1861

McLeod, Mrs., November 22, 1861

McMorrie, Mary, September 28, 1883

McNair, Lieut. Col., March 6, 1862, April 10, 1862

McNeally, September 5, 1864

Meass, Mr., November 19, 1882

Members, Capt. Day, January 4, 1882

Mendinghall, Mr., September 7, 1863

Metts, November 12, 1883

Mey, Mrs., December 22, 1882

Miller, Mr., November 17, 1872

Mines, Dr., December 7, 1883

Mines, Mr. November 17, 1872

Minor, Dr., March 16, 1883, November 23, 1883

Minor, Sallie, November 23, 1883

More, Dr., February 7, 1862

Morgan, John, December 28, 1862
Morris, Sion, January 18, 1863
Mott, Miss, May 1, 1864
Mullis, Dr., May 21, 1882
Myers, Jasper, April 27, 1865

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Neal, John, September 30, 1863
Neavell, Mrs., March 12, 1882
Newton, Dewit, January 22, 1882, January 25, 1882
Nicholson, Eugenia, June 30, 1860, December 3, 1861, September 9, 1862, October 2, 1862, October 19, 1862, October 30, 1862, February 24, 1863, March 17, 1863, March 28, 1863, April 5, 1863, April 26, 1863, June 9, 1863, June 23, 1863, July 19, 1863, July 28, 1863, August 7, 1863, September 7, 1863, September 30, 1863, October 4, 1863, October 12, 1863, October 14, 1863, October 19, 1863, October 20, 1863, October 22, 1863, October 25, 1863, November 16, 1863, December 4, 1863, December 21, 1863, January 1, 1864, January 10, 1864, May 1, 1864, May 22, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 6, 1864, August 10, 1864, September 28, 1864, October 21, 1864, July 27, 1870, July 10, 1880, January 25, 1882, March 12, 1882, May 21, 1882, November 19, 1882, January 18, 1883, June 17, 1883, July 29, 1883, December 19, 1883, February 26, 1884, March 30, 1884, May 4, 1884, Undated
Nicholson, F.G., April 18, 1883
Nicholson, Grandma, July 10, 1880
Nicholson, J.A., December 12, 1882, January 18, 1883, April 18, 1883, September 2, 1883, November 12, 1883, December 27, 1883, January 14, 1884
Nicholson, James, January 6, 1883
Nicholson, Jimmie, July 29, 1883
Nicholson, Josie, July 29, 1883
Nicholson, Mr., February 26, 1884
Nicholson, Mrs., November 4, 1882, January 6, 1883, November 23, 1883
Nicholson, Quit, November 19, 1882, July 29, 1883, September 30, 1883, December 9, 1883, February 26, 1884
Nickleson, Ivy, March 16, 1883
Nicolson, Carrie, July 10, 1880
Nolen, March 20, 1882
Noy, Mr., August 7, 1863
Nunn, Elisha, November 16, 1861, November 18, 1861, November 24, 1861, February 10, 1862, February 20, 1862, March 2, 1862, March 10, 1862, September 9, 1862,

October 22, 1862, March 8, 1863, December 13, 1863, December 21, 1863, March 6, 1864

Nunn, Mrs., February 23, 1862

-O-

O'Neal, September 2, 1883

Orme, Dr., January 18, 1863

-P-

Parker, Augustus, April 4, 1864, April 8, 1864

Patty, Bob, September 4, 1888

Patty, J.W., November 11, 1883

Payne, Sallie, October 22, 1863

Penery, G.R., April 9, 1862

Penery, Newton, November 22, 1861, February 10, 1862, February 13, 1862, April 11, 1863, September 30, 1863

Perkins, Annie, February 26, 1881, January 22, 1882, January 25, 1882

Perkins, Miss Kate, January 4, 1882

Perkins, Miss Laura, January 4, 1882

Perkins, Mrs., February 12, 1882, March 12, 1882, March 20, 1882, May 21, 1882

Perkins, Mrs. Anna, February 27, 1882

Perkins, Mrs. Laura, February 27, 1882, May 21, 1882, December 22, 1882

Perry, March 20, 1882

Perry, Thomas, April 18, 1883

Peterson, Mr., October 4, 1863, October 19, 1863

Phillips, Sallie, July 10, 1880

Pillow, Gen., October 21, 1864

Pindexter, Georgia, November 23, 1883

Polk, Leonidas, July 6, 1864

Price, Ella F., July 1, 1884

Price, Jeff, July 1, 1884

Price, Sterling, November 10, 1862

Price, Frank, December 3, 1861, February 13, 1862, October 30, 1862

Ptty, [sic] I.W., March 16, 1883

-R-

R., Rinky, November 4, 1882

Ramage, Burr, February 12, 1882
Rawl, Old Man, January 18, 1883
Rawls, Mr., December 22, 1882
Reasser, Nate, November 19, 1882, July 29, 1883
Reed, David, February 2, 1862
Reeves, John, February 7, 1884
Richard, L.B., February 12, 1882
Richard, Mr., January 22, 1882, May 21, 1882
Richards, Alicia, November 19, 1882
Richards, Billie, December 9, 1883
Richards, C.S., February 27, 1882, December 22, 1882, March 16, 1883, December 7, 1883
Richards, Capt., March 12, 1882, April 18, 1883, February 10, 1884
Richards, Elisha, April 18, 1883, November 12, 1883
Richards, Father, September 20, 1883
Richards, L.B., February 27, 1882, March 20, 1882, July 20, 1882, March 15, 1883, September 20, 1883, November 11, 1883, December 7, 1883, February 7, February 29, 1884
Richards, Lisa, November 4, 1882, December 22, 1882
Richards, Mag., March 16, 1883
Richards, Maggie, December 22, 1882
Richards, Mr., July 15, 1872, January 25, 1882, May 21, 1882, November 19, 1882, December 22, 1882, March 16, 1883, September 30, 1883, December 7, 1883
Richards, Mr. L., June 17, 1883, September 30, 1883
Richards, Mr. Lit, March 12, 1882
Richards, Mrs. Lit, July 29, 1883
Richards, Old Man, December 12, 1882
Richards, Rice, March 16, 1883
Richards, Sally, December 7, 1883
Richardson, Bob, August 2, 1864, August 25, 1864
Richly, Steven, December 3, 1861
Rieves, September 2, 1883
Rite, September 1, 1861
Rivers, James, January 22, 1861
Robinson, Greene, December 12, 1882
Rodgers, G.H., April 9, 1862
Rodgers, Martin, April 10, 1862, November 30, 1862, December 1, 1862
Rogers, T.F., March 20, 1882
Rolles, Mr., January 25, 1882, Undated
Rolls, Mrs., January 6, 1883

Rosencrans, [sic] Williams S., March 13, 17, 1863, 1863, March 29, 1863, June 19, 1863
Roser, Lula, November 4, 1882
Rosser, Nellie, November 4, 1882
Rowell, W.A., September 25, 1882
Ruare, Boys, January 4, 1882
Ruffs, Marion, October 30, 1862
Russell, C., September 28, 1883
Russell, Charley, September 30, 1883
Russell, Elvira, September 30, 1883
Russell, G., February 26, 1884
Russell, Ira, July 28, 1863
Russell, Jack, April 18, 1883, September 2, 1883, February 26, 1884
Russid, C.B., November 12, 1883

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Scarborough, James, February 12, 1861, December 3, 1861, April 9, 1862
Scholfield, [sic] General, April 27, 1865
Sebriizler, Mr., January 18, 1883
Senior, Mat, December 12, 1882
Sharleatt, January 18, 1883
Shaws, Bob, February 26, 1884
Shields, Mr., February 1, 1861
Sherman, Gen. William T., June 5, 1863, June 11, 1864, July 12, 1864, October 6, 1864, April 27, 1865
Shield Eaf Wade, January 26, 1861
Sigle, General, March 8, 1863
Slave, Ann, June 5, 1863, July 19, 1863, July 30, 1863
Slave, Charley, July 30, 1863
Slave, Children, June 5, 1863, July 19, 1863
Slave, Giles, July 30, 1863
Slave, Will, October 30, 1862, February 11, 1863, July 30, 1863
Slimmer, Liet., [sic] January 26, 1861
Smith, March 20, 1882
Smith, Curly, October 22, 1862
Smith, E. Kirby, June 8, 1863, December 2, 1863, July 6, 1864
Smith, Family, March 12, 1882
Smith, Frank, November 19, 1882
Smith, G.R., March 22, 1883

Smith, Jim, November 19, 1882
Speer, Mr., March 20, 1882
Stavall, Miss, November 4, 1882
Stevens, John, April 26, 1863
Stevenson. December 19, 1862
Stevenson, J., July 20, 1864
Stevenson, John, November 16, 1863, December 4, 1863, January 10, 1864, August 2, 1864, August 25, 1864
Stevenson, Mr., February 1, 1861
Stevenson, Simp, January 26, 1861, December 3, 1861, March 6, 1862
Stewart, Bob, June 23, 1864
Stewart, Gen., October 6, 1864
Stewart, George, October 22, 1862
Stoneman, General, August 2, 1864
Stowers, Jimmie, June 6, 1863
Stowers, Mr. January 22, 1882, January 25, 1882, November 19, 1882
Stowers, Mrs., January 22, 1882, January 25, 1882
Stowers, Sallie, June 6, 1883, June 17, 1883
Stowers, Tom, September 30, 1883
Stuart, James E.B., May 25, 1864
Sun, Miss., November 12, 1883
Swindle, April 8, 1864
Swindle, Joel, June 5, 1864
Swindle, Joseph, April 4, 1864

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Taylor, DeWhit, February 26, 1881
Taylor, Mr., March 20, 1882
Temberton, General, July 30, 1863
Thomas, March 20, 1882
Thomas, Halk, December 3, 1861, November 12, 1883
Till, Miss, March 16, 1883
Tinson, January 10, 1864
Toy, Sterling, January 4, 1882
Trimbol, Miss, December 9, 1883
Tripllelle, Rod, February 26, 1884
Triplet, John L., February 27, 1882, May 21, 1882
Tucker, December 12, 1882
Tucker, Col., October 22, 1862

Tucker, Jo, February 10, 1884
Tyson, Jno.,[sic] April 18, 1883
Tyson, Mr., December 12, 1882

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Under, Bill, May 21, 1882
Under, Eheia, May 21, 1882

-V-

Valentine, Cornelia, March 16, 1883
Valentine, Mrs. May, March 16, 1883
Van, Mr., November 4, 1882
Van Dorn, Earl, March 13, 1863, March 17, 1863
Vineen, John, August 2, 1864

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W., Sallie, May 1, 1864
Waett, Family, September 28, 1883
Walker, Ben, April 18, 1883, September 30, 1883
Walker, Bob, February 26, 1881
Walker, Elijah, December 12, 1882
Walker, Henry, September 30, 1883, November 12, 1883
Walker, Ned, November 12, 1883, December 27, 1883
Walker, Newt, December 12, 1882
Walkers, Division, July 20, 1864
Ware, Eve, November 4, 1882
Ware, Gean, November 4, 1882
Warr, Abel, June 5, 1864, June 23, 1864, July 20, 1864, August 2, 1864, August 25, 1864
Watkins, Carrie, September 4, 1888
Watkins, Ida, March 20, 1882
Watkins, J.M., September 4, 1888
Watkins, Jonas, November 23, 1883
Watkins, Neal, September 4, 1888
Watkins and Harris, December 12, 1882
Webb, Bro., February 29, 1884
Webster, November 23, 1883

Weir, John, June 30, 1872, August 4, 1872, September 15, 1872, September 18, 1872, September 30, 1872, October 26, 1872, November 22, 1872, December 1, 1872
Weir, Mrs., September 30, 1872, October 26, 1872
Welch, Ma, October 19, 1863
Welch, Mr., October 19, 1863, September 14, 1864
Welch, Mrs., October 4, 1863
Welch, Sibbie, May 22, 1863, June 5, 1863, June 8, 1863, July 12, 1863, July 19, 1863, July 28, 1863, October 4, 1863, October 12, 1863, October 19, 1863, October 22, 1863
Welch, Widow, March 7, 1860
Welch, William, May 7, 1863, May 12, 1863, May 22, 1863, May 27, 1863, June 13, 1863, August 7, 1863, November 17, 1863, April 7, 1864, July 13, 1864, August 2, 1864, February 12, 1882
Wheeler, Gen., August 17, 1864, August 25, 1864
Wheeler, Joseph, January 2, 1863, March 17, 1863
White, Tom, April 18, 1883
Whittle, Mr., November 4, 1882
Whittle, Dr., November 19, 1882
Wilder George, October 13, 1869
Williams, March 20, 1882
Williams, D., April 18, 1883
Williams, Francis, October 22, 1862, December 19, 1862
Williams, Lieut, [sic] Col., August 2, 1864
Wilson, General, April 27, 1865
Wilson, Israel, June 4, 1866
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Higgins, John J. - Bro. John, Uncle John, Capt., Brother J.
Higgins, Mark M. - Pa, Papa, Daddy, Father, Mr.
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Penery, Newton - Esq.
Richards, L.B. - L.B.R.
Taylor, DeWhit - Sheriff
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