

Josiah C. Tharp Letters

Background Information

Josiah Crudup Tharp was born in Tennessee ca. 1840 and was a resident of Macon, Fayette County, Tennessee. He served as a private in Co. B, 13th Tennessee Infantry. His parents, W. H. Tharp (a wealthy planter) and Cynthia Tharp were both born in North Carolina. J. C. Tharp was killed at the Battle of Murfreesboro.

Camp at Columbus, Ky Dec 24th /61

Dear father

I wrote you a few lines last Saturday and expected that you would get it in a day or two by Randolp Pierce but he has been trying to get a discharge for a (mr [sic] Anderson (a brotherinlaw [sic] to Jno [sic] pierce [sic]) some four or five days I reckon he will get off this evening Anderson was in an Arkansas Battalion and the officers did not know how to do business Correctly. If I had knoun [sic] it I could have Sent it to you by mail before now. I am in good health We have had a right [crossed out] few days of tolerable cold weather Gen. Johnson telegraphed to Gen. Polk to Send him 5000 of the best troops he had a few days ago. Gen. Polk telegraphed back to him he did not have them to spare. But Since that time about 3000 Miss Volunteer Militia have come in (as I mentioned something about in my other letter) and it is thought they will leave here to day [sic] for the place. They Say that Gen Johnson wanted Gen. Pillows [sic] division But Gen. Polk would not let his division leave here. Gen. Pillow is head man about nearly every thing and I am very glad of it We have got a comfortable house and a little kitchen to cook and eat in and I would hate very bad to leave here now. It is said now that if any division leaves here now it will be Gen. Cheathams. father I will write a few lines to Mother I have nothing of interest to write Major Sha[illegible] was here a few days ago. I did not speak to him I am your affectionate Son

J. Crudup Tharp

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Dear Mother (Christmas Morning

This morning is a little different with me from Christmas mornings generally are. As I did not expect go home this Christmas I am sorry [sic] well contented A good many of the boys were a little down in the mouth because they could not go home. There were some four or five drunk in camp last night and this morning and were put on extra duty for it

and I am glad of it. Monroe [illegible] has been in here every [sic] since I commenced this letter, drunk. The boys are all very respectful to me more so than I would think they would be even when they are drunk they are [crossed out] treat me with more respect than I could expect We have to stand guard about once in twenty days but by the boys getting drunk and getting up too late for roll call it keeps my time off to about 30 or more days that is regimental guard. We have to stand picket about once in three or four months our time is the twelfth of January and then only one more time while we are here. Not so bad as I expected When we go out on picket we have to cook enough something to eat to last us one day and take a blanket and go out in the country about three miles The whole Co goes that is able expect a few to take care of our houses. Some of our boys got some whiskey from Somewhere and had an eggnog this morning. To day [sic] Seems more like Sunday than any day since I have ben [sic] here. We dont [sic] [illegible] Mother if a [illegible] will just take a firm decided Course when he first comes here he can live as nigh right as he can any where else. I hope that I live nearer up to my duty than I ever did. I have more time to read my bible than I ever did There is nothing here but cursing and swearing hardly but I dont [sic] pay any attention to it. Company troubles me a little about reading I have been so used to staying by myself. I am better fixed now that I had ever been since [crossed out] I and Tom Reid [Note: Pvt. Thomas J. Reid of Co. B] have put our bed clothes together and he sleeps with me every night with me in my house He dont [sic] eat with us, I thought I would make me a straw bed but Shall not do it now as I and Tom have a plenty of cover to Sleep on and cover with Tom is a splendid fellow to Sleep with. He is still at night and is a very nice man. We are a good deal better than we did last week. Then we did not get nothing hardly but the meanest kind of pickled beef but now we get right Smart hog meat and fresh beef. George Verser [Note: George D. Verser, 4th Ark. Inf. Batt'n [sic]] is here in an Arkansas Co. I never have been to see him I told old John Holloways [sic] Son to tell him to come and See me. He said that George Said he did not know me. I hardly ever See Virgil. He is camped twelve miles from here I know a great many young men here. They are camped around here in different regiments and Brigades and I dont [sic] visit around a great deal. If the war was over I would like to be at home with you all But as it is I am better Satisfied here than I could be at home. I have not heard from Joshua since he left here. A good many of our men wanted to get furloughs very bad Isaac Carter [Note: Pvt. Isaac J. Carter of Co. B] wanted to go home right bad, Some of the boys said yesterday they were going to get drunk to day Ike Said he would not for one thousand dollars in gold. He thinks a great deal of me and I of him. He says he never intends to drink another drop. He never has taken a dram since he has been in the army. He is going to try to marry Hess Carter when he goes back I do hope that he will never drink any more and that she will have him. I said Something about changing my mess. I would not leave my mess to go in any other except Dr Rheas and They have a plenty, We get along very well. They say a good many men left here yesterday and day

before on their own hook and they Say they are every one reported and will be courtmartialed [sic] when They come back. Ed Waller [Note: Pvt. E. M. Waller of Co. B] was the only one left our Co. I dont [sic] think that Capt Granbery [Note: Capt. Joe L. Granbery of Co. B] will report him as he tried to get him a furlough Mother you and father excuse mistakes. I know better. Mother give my love to your children and save a portion for yourself. Mother get Broome [Note: his younger brother, C. Broome Tharp] to write you a longletter [sic] for me. I am your affectionate son

J. Crudup Tharp

PS

Mother I send back your bag that you gave me. It is no use to me and it will be to you
J.C.T.