

West Walker Letters

Background Information

West Walker (b. ca. 1822) was a farmer from Sequatchie County, Tennessee and served as a private in Co. G, 4th Tennessee Cavalry (Murray's) in the Confederate Army.

West Walker to Nancy Walker

Mar the [illegible]th 1862 State of Tennessee Bedford County

Dear Wife and Children I take the oppertunity [sic] of wrighting [sic] you a few lines to tel [sic] you how that i [sic] am yet in the land of the liveing [sic] but i [sic] am verry [sic] on well At this time my brest [sic] has bin [sic] hirting [sic] An [sic] my lims [sic] both a goodeal [sic] though i [sic] have bin [sic] dooing [sic] duty at the time i [sic] hope when these few lines comes to hand they find you all in Joying [sic] good health i [sic] would glad to sea [sic] you all at this time an [sic] con vese [sic] with you [illegible] but the distance is too grate [sic] Bu [sic] i [sic] doo [sic] hope that it wonte [sic] be very long i [sic] will have that Pleaseuer [sic] an [illegible] [illegible] more time tell george [sic] an marilda [sic] god [sic] bless there [sic] little [illegible] there [sic] papa would give any thing in the world to see them [illegible] mee [sic] every Time i [sic] think how they screamed After mee [sic] when i [sic] started from home But i [sic] doo [sic] hope an [sic] trust in god [sic] that i [sic] may [illegible] live to come home to them in this world again to help to take care [illegible] [illegible] Nancy i [sic] want you to wright [sic] to mea [sic] if father wantd [sic] for [illegible]ted to from you all [illegible] as But as i [sic] doo [sic] know i [sic] would give dollars for a letter [illegible] you money plenty to pay the postage and if you hante [sic] you know where it is an now i [sic] [illegible] father wright [sic] git [sic] some of the nieh bors [sic] to rigt [sic] for you wright [sic] wright [sic] wright [sic] [illegible] An [sic] let mea [sic] know how you all are giting [sic] along for i [sic] have looked for letter it seames [sic] to mea [sic] you have all for got mea [sic] try to wright [sic] or make father wright [sic]

i [sic] am camp near shelbyville yet i [sic] had for got [illegible] whare [sic] [illegible] Anna i want you an [sic] Susan to be good girls an [sic] work an [sic] try to make Corne [sic] an [sic] bee [sic] saveing [sic] of what Corne you have got an [illegible] [illegible] give [illegible] good [illegible] know i [sic] ante [sic] there to talk with you this is all my [illegible] i [sic] want you to bea [sic] good to your mother for if you was to loose [sic] her you would loose [sic] all when [illegible] a child his mother it has lost all [illegible] [illegible] of the company has run away but [illegible] they [illegible] tel [sic] how we are yoused [sic] tell the boys [illegible] not to let the calery [sic] git [sic] aholt [sic] of them the news has just reached here that the cavlery [sic] fighting at foresterville [sic] an [sic] the hole [sic] yankee [sic] army is mooving [sic] up an [sic] you needent [sic] to [illegible] way surprised [illegible] up for while an [illegible] i [sic] hante [sic] to think hit [sic] [illegible] i [sic] must [illegible] for [illegible] rote [sic] one [illegible] father and mother [illegible] you yet [illegible] you a verry [sic] [illegible] an [sic] hit [sic] [illegible] bea [sic] verry [sic] [illegible] til [sic] i [sic] meete [sic] have the pleasuer [sic] of seeing all your

[illegible] in Sequatchey [sic] one moore [sic] time in this wold [sic] i [sic] must quit i [sic] hante [sic] [illegible] [illegible] father remember [illegible] [illegible] nothing at presant [sic] Nancy wright [sic] nothing moore [sic] at presant [sic] onely [sic] remanes [sic] your Dear husband until death West Walker to Nancy Walker

West Walker to Nancy Walker

State of Tennessee Coffee County

Camp at tullahomy [sic] May 22nd 1863

Dear wife an [sic] children i [sic] take the plasure [sic] of riting [sic] a few Lines to let you know that i [sic] am well at presant [sic] an [sic] doo [sic] hope when those lines comes to hand they find you all inJoying [sic] the same blesing [sic] of god i [sic] hav [sic] nothing of importance to rite [sic] you at this time onely [sic] John [illegible] Cavilry [sic] was ordered to report at tulahomy [sic] to the Comma[illegible]ant of the [illegible] on last friday [sic] [illegible] order [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] where all the dismounted [illegible] sent to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] working a little every other day [illegible]ing [sic] the [illegible] the fourt [sic] is about one hundred yards across an [sic] it is about six feet [illegible] an [sic] there is [illegible] in hit [sic] an [sic] [illegible] three gunes [sic] in the [illegible] [illegible] an [illegible] thousand [illegible] over [illegible] around them there is a ditch [illegible]teen across an [sic] is about [illegible] feet [illegible] an [sic] the dirt is about 20 feet thick at the bottom an [sic] it is ten or mor [sic] at the top an [sic] there is officers appointed over us they say wee [sic] are dismounted an [sic] sent there apurpose [sic] for heavy artillerymons [sic] some of the boys is verry [sic] un easy [sic] about hit [sic] but i [sic] ante [sic] yet for i [sic] thinke [sic] yet wee [sic] will bee [sic] mounted an [sic] that be four six weekes [sic] thoug [sic] i [sic] may bea [sic] verry [sic] sadly disappointed and if it is a disapoinment [sic] it will be a sad one to mee [sic] for these men i [sic] have bin [sic] with will run away an [sic] then i [sic] [sic] will bea [sic] left here [illegible] amongst strangers again our troops keps [sic] mooveing [sic] up towards the enemy i [sic] dont [sic] hardly believe that thare [sic] will bea [sic] any fight for i [sic] dont [sic] think the yankeys [sic] will come here to the beast [sic] workes [sic] nor i [sic] dont [sic] thinke [sic] that our men will to murphres [sic] borough to th[illegible] they say that ar [sic] troops is in six miles of them an [sic] throwing [illegible] best [sic] workes [sic] there was 7 yankeys [sic] Comes in an [sic] give there [sic] selves up an [sic] they sed [sic] that rosey [sic] was not agoing [sic] to give figt [sic] i [sic] dont care how [illegible] they go at hit [sic] an [sic] the ha[illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] over [illegible] think [illegible] troops [illegible] has gone to missipie [sic] we have [illegible] [illegible] here from ohio [sic] here with us he ses [sic] that this fight here will [illegible] hard fighting he ses [sic] in six months wee [sic] will have peace he was a [illegible][illegible] joined the federales [sic] an [sic] has bin [sic] fighting for them he sed [sic] that the western states is all tore up amongst [sic] them selves [sic] an [sic] i [sic] suppose that they have had a little fracus [sic] all reddy [sic] amongst them selves [sic] well father i [sic] want you to rite [sic] to mee [sic] an [sic] let mee [sic] [illegible] mee [sic] know [illegible]ght [illegible] is gitting [sic] along i [sic] am mooveing [sic] every few

days i [sic] have mooved [sic] twice since [illegible] when you rite [sic] Direct [illegible] your leters [sic] [illegible] too the dis mounted [sic] Cavilry [sic] under Care of Capton [sic] Crenshaw an [sic] perhaps by the time that it gits [sic] here it may bea [sic] [illegible] [illegible] but rite [sic] anyhow an [sic] when you rite [sic] pay the postage of hit [sic] for i [sic] hante [sic] got onely [sic] five dollars an [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] know when i [sic] will draw any more it will oneley [sic] pay for one qier [sic] of paper an [sic] one dollar [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cents what paper i [sic] rote [sic] the three [illegible] Leters [sic] on [illegible] that i [sic] have [illegible] i [sic] will send this evening [illegible] more i [sic] want you an nancy [sic] to rite [sic] every week an [sic] let know how you ar [sic] a giting [sic] for i [sic] want you to as often as i [sic] can if i [sic] Could here [sic] every day it would be a great deal of satisfaction to mee [sic] for tomorrow makes five months sence [sic] it [illegible] Seames [sic] a long [illegible] tell thomas [sic] king [sic] that i [sic] am well and hopes that he is inJoying [sic] the same [illegible] tell him that i [sic] will rite [sic] to him as soon as this matter is settled if dont [sic] Come home When i [sic] commenst [sic] this leter [sic] i [sic] [sic] thout [sic] that i Could rite [sic] you a good letter but my mind got tore up so that it is badly done read it an [sic] make the best you can So nothing more at preseant [sic] but remains your husband until death West Walker To Nancy Walker

West Walker to Nancy Walker

Coffee County Tullahomy June the 22 1863 State of Tennessee

Dear wife and Children i [sic] take the presant [sic] oppertunity [sic] riteing [sic] you a few lines to let you know that [illegible] well an [sic] hearty at this time an [sic] heve [sic] ery [sic] than you ever saw [illegible] an [sic] doo [sic] hope when theese [sic] few lines comes to hand they my [sic] find you all in Joying [sic] the same blessing of life i [sic] can in form you that i [sic] have left the camp of destruction an [sic] has gone in to Col hill [sic] ridgement [sic] capt [sic] Kell company i [sic] mess [illegible] mose [sic] [sic] Lakins and [illegible] Lakins too [sic] boys an [sic] melcom [sic] Johnson [sic] an lias [sic] Shones i [sic] jist [sic] got a transfer last Saterdag [sic] an [sic] tell the boys if another has to go i [sic] want them to come an [sic] stay with mee [sic] if it was agrable [sic] with them for i [sic] am well pleased with the [illegible] [illegible]bea[illegible] out of mi[illegible] know [illegible] till Joseph turner [sic] in [illegible] bring to [illegible] [illegible] to rite [sic] mee [sic] an [sic] i [sic] will [illegible] hit [illegible] [illegible] to him an [sic] send hit [sic] in the Letter [illegible] if [illegible] [illegible] home [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] slip this time [illegible] i [sic] would [illegible] hundrid [sic] dollars [illegible] [illegible] ten days [illegible] tomorrow will be six months sence [sic] i [sic] left home an [sic] hit [sic] has bin [sic] the longest Six months ever [illegible] over my head [illegible] mi [sic] recollection i [sic] have bin [sic] in the Camp of desstruction [sic] five weeks an an [sic] i [sic] would ruther [sic] bee any place ever in the [illegible] in the army as in them for [illegible]ust the dis mounted men for beaing [sic] away from thare [sic] command hunting milk an [sic] [illegible] off an [sic] not tending to there [sic] busness [sic] an [sic] had one of the meanest men for a commander a part of the time that could of bin [sic] [illegible] [illegible] i [sic] never saw narry [sic] man that like him if they did

they never told hit [sic] you sed [sic] that the bushwhacers [sic] had bin [sic] shooting at smith and roberston tell them if they want to shoot let them come over i [sic] have shot at some of there [sic] friends an [sic] i [sic] would like to shoot at some of them or there [sic] friends i [sic] dont [sic] care which [illegible] no man but a [illegible] an [sic] a coward will threat the old men wimin [sic] an [sic] children that doo [sic] hit [sic] an [sic] if they hadent [sic] so many friends there they wouldent [sic] Come in there [illegible] an [sic] if that dont [sic] mind the have something to dooo [sic] the [illegible] is very god at this time for wee [sic] hante [sic] had nothing to doo [sic] but eat here for five months an [sic] we would like to git [sic] in there pull wooll [sic] with the unionist [sic] the best kind that is our Business [illegible] any rober [sic] an ther [sic] friends i [sic] dont [sic] like them an [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] Care hoo [sic] nows [sic] hit [sic] a man that will uphold them is worse than they are i [sic] receivd [sic] yor [sic] letter dated the eighth of this month gave mee [sic] great Satisfaction hear that you was all will an [sic] had plenty to eat an [sic] father was bringing on his crop i [sic] am [illegible] for i [sic] cant [sic] bra[illegible] this [illegible] tell thomas [sic] king [sic] howdy [illegible] an [sic] Joseph [illegible] tell [illegible] howdy till i [sic] want to see her as bad as she does mee [sic] i [sic] want Joseph [illegible] to rite [sic] an [sic] you an [sic] father as soon as you git [sic] this leter [sic] this for you an [sic] father bouth [sic] reed [sic] this an [sic] make the best sence [sic] you can it is badly rote [sic] direct yours in tullahomy [sic] polkes [sic] brigade [sic] hilles [sic] ridgement [sic] Capt [sic] Kelll company so no more at prsant [sic] but remanes [sic] your husband un til [sic] deth [sic] West Walker to Nancy Walker

West Walker to Nancy Walker

Hameton [sic] County Camp Near turner station July the 17 1863

Dear Wife and Children once moore [sic] i [sic] Take my pen in hand to in forme [sic] you that i [sic] am weell [sic] at this time Hopeing [sic] when these few lines comes To hand they may find you all en Joying [sic] the same blesing [sic] of life I have nothing of any im portanc [sic] To rite [sic] at this time more than Brag [sic] made us leave middle tennessee [sic] with Out any fight an [sic] it was against evry [sic] Solgrs [sic] will in the army they sed [sic] They wanted to fight an [sic] were all Mad at brag [sic] for runing [sic] they made us dig diches [sic] day and nite [sic] until we got them about done the first thing we knew the orders was to march an [sic] that was about ten Oclock [sic] in the knight [sic] an [sic] then we had to go about one mile back to the old Camp after or [sic] nap [sic] sacs an [sic] what of us went back had to double quick it for five [most of the page illegible] ther [sic] was gone an [sic] drove them off without paying won [sic] red cent [illegible] geor[illegible] five miles [illegible] we stop ar[illegible] to eat an [sic] we got aplenty for the first time [illegible] the retreat then the next morning [page 3 illegible]

or [sic] own men [illegible] [illegible] i [sic] believe [illegible] this army [illegible] men as [illegible] a battle of this [illegible] [next 7 lines illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] in the dark at that i [sic] would like to rite [sic] a heap moore [sic] Something at present but [illegible] remanes [sic] your husband until deth [sic] Wesy Walker to nancy [sic] Walker george [sic] walker Anna walker

Wes Walker to Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters

Camp near tynurs [sic] station Hamilton County tennessee [sic] July the 19 1863

Dear father and mother brothers an [sic] Sisters i [sic] this morning take the plasuer [sic] riteing [sic] you a few lines to let y [sic] know that i [sic] am well at this time an [sic] doo [sic] Hope when theese [sic] lines Comes to Hand they find you all en Joying [sic] The same blesing [sic] of god [sic] i [sic] [illegible] your letter that you rote [sic] in [illegible] When i [sic] was [illegible] [illegible] Again i [sic] hante [sic] received no answer i [sic] would like for you to rite [sic] ery [sic] chance you git [sic] you can send leters [sic] by the citizens to chata noo ga [sic] an [sic] let them male [sic] Them thare [sic] direct polkes [sic] brigade Hill ridgement [sic] Capt [sic] Kells comPany [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] exspect [sic] to stay here too [sic] or thre [sic] weekes [sic] yet we have no idea you know sometimes orders comes in verry [sic] un exspect [sic] to us cook ration father if you have to Come on this Side of the river i [sic] want you to Come an [sic] see me [illegible] To let the yankeys [sic] git [sic] you if you can Help it if you dont [sic] have to cross the river rive [sic] i [sic] dont [sic] want you to come no[illegible] but What i [sic] want to sea [sic] you very it seames [sic] to mea [sic] like i [sic] have bin [sic] gone Twelve months an [sic] it takes til [sic] the 28 of this month to make 7 months i [sic] would give fifty dollars [illegible] sea [sic] george [sic] [illegible] if i [sic] could [illegible] [illegible] than them i [sic] doo [sic] hope the time will come when i [sic] can Come home an Con verse [sic] with you all face to face [illegible] would one of the greatest [illegible] [illegible] in this wold [sic] to mee [sic] it seames [sic] To mee [sic] that i [sic] would give every thing That i [sic] have in this world to git [sic] to Come home an [sic] sea [sic] nancy [sic] an [sic] the Children thoug [sic] if i [sic] can bea [sic] any help in gaining in di pend dance [sic] [illegible] them [illegible] will bettr [sic] for them an [sic] you if i [sic] never see your faces again in This world again i [sic] hop [sic] the old Man a bove [sic] will smile uppon [sic] Mee [sic] But i [sic] hope he will have mer Cy [sic] on mee [sic] an [sic] send mee [sic] home to the Bosom of my family an [sic] friends once more in this world the time lookes [sic] dark At this time an [sic] our army is the worst [illegible] Morileased [sic] i [sic] ever saw an army in my life the men is amost [sic] i [sic] am not for given [sic] it up as long as i [sic] am able to rase [sic] a gun fire and load independance [sic] was what i [sic] come out for an [sic] has stuck here for [illegible] because they have gaine [sic] ground own as i [sic] hante [sic] give up yit [sic] nor dont [sic] intend to i [sic] came out a southen [sic] man i [sic] x spects [sic] to dy [sic] one if i [sic] dy [sic] for hit [sic] here or at home i [sic] intend [illegible] that day never no neve [sic] will i [sic] come an [sic] lay out from my own men but i [sic] would like to come home an [sic] have on [sic] hundred men an [sic] bush whac [sic] them raskeles [sic] that is robing [sic] my old friends thare [sic] an [sic] if they rob you or mee [sic] if i [sic] ever live to come home i am as [illegible] for some of them as god [sic] lets mee [sic] i [sic] live to come home i [sic] wont i [sic] wont [sic] come out here an [sic] half starve an [sic] An [sic] take the rane [sic] like hogs an [sic] then [illegible] them rob my famly [sic] nor father mother i [sic] must Come to a Close with the subject father i [sic] want you to pay aaron [sic] smith [sic] five dollars for mee [sic] he loand [sic] me five i [sic] hante [sic] drew any sice [illegible] [illegible] to you [illegible] Kept 15 dollars then an [sic] [illegible] 2, 50 cents of that I must Come to A Close So nothing more at presant [sic] [illegible] remanes [sic] your affectionate sun [sic] till death Show this to nancy [sic]

West Walker to George Walker I had forgot tell Garrit that I heard of
[illegible] he was well an hearty Jessy Hunter saw him an [illegible] mee
[sic] Bout seeing him

West Walker to Nancy Walker

state of Tennessee [sic] Hamilton [sic] county July the 31 1863

Dear wife and children I take the present opportunity of writing you a
few lines to let you know that I am well at present hoping when these
few lines come to hand they may find you all enjoying the same
blessing [illegible] in Hamilton County here I was
was [illegible] was over here Phelps said that you all well I
have nothing of any importance at this time only there is a little talk
of us [illegible] mounted but I have mighty little faith in the talk but
the Colonel will see if we dont he will try to get out of this
regiment to come over in the valley to [illegible] up stock an if he does I
think I will try to get to be one of them for I want to come to
you all any how I have tried to get a fur low but the captain [illegible] was a
fraud that I wouldnt come back but he nedent to a bin for I dont
dont intend to be called a deserter I dont [illegible] for sence
them bush whackers has took fathers horses I have felt more like
fighting than [illegible] in my life I would like to show that old s[illegible] gutted bich
how to ride ten miles out on the mountain an pilot them to the valley to steal
horses an rob houses an steal bacon often her neighbors that
shows what hers hoo is for there home now tell the old lady to make good
use of her time for she [illegible]st know how quick the scale may turn
over an the [illegible] her happiness over [illegible] an now [illegible]
she can [illegible] she [illegible] to serve him I dont [illegible] I dont
think she will get to [illegible] him much longer way tell father take old
[illegible] an [illegible] her as long [illegible] is there she had as well be
taken from him as to be taken from [illegible] an I want him youse
her an [illegible] alkeing tell George an Frank an Garret an
John [illegible] if [illegible] to go in the servis an
cant the cavalry I want [illegible] this ridge ment an now [illegible]
have to [illegible] an that is a bad [illegible] dooing [illegible] dont [illegible]
[illegible] an now is the time for action they have found out that they cant
protect there homes nor property an the [illegible] to come out an fight like
men that is the only [illegible] to save our [illegible] I will [illegible]
[illegible]shing you all well this is badly rote so nothing at present but
remains your husband until death West Walker to Nancy Walker and the
children