

Phil Welshimer Letters

21st Illinois

Letter Fragment

P.S Hag wash got well and has he paid you that money he borrow one year ago. Has Charlie Nisewanger got well and do you know what Regiment Ase Mc. is in. I do not know where the 123rd Reg. is They are said to be in the rear guarding rail roads bridges for having run in the Chaplin Hill Battle. This is however rumor. I do not know but hope it is not true. If Wash has not paid that borrowed money or the money for those cattle I think when you see him you had better have him give you his note counting in the interest at ten per cent and have the note draw ten per cent. Perhaps we will get some thing some day.

Camp nine miles south of Nashville, Tenn.

Saturday night, Nov 8th, 1862

Dear wife and childern [sic]

I again imbrace [sic] the opportunity to inform you that I am well. We arrived here yesterday eavning [sic] and to day took a scout of some eight or ten miles but we found no armed rebels so we returned to camp. The cavalry that went out with us returned on another road and captured three or four graybacks [sic] and three horses. We heard firing on other roads and suppose they found some of them. We are sending out troops in evry [sic] direction and will soon rid this section of all the small bands that infest it. Yesterday morning a band of forty or fifty came darting into the road from among the hills to take or destroy what they supposed to be the rear train of our army but it happened to be the train of the division in advance of us and our advance pounced them quicker than lighting killing seven and wounding several more. We just passed on and left them laying on the road side dead for some one that might chance that way to throw some dirt on just enough to keep them from stinking us as we pass for they are not worthy a decent burial. We will probal [sic] stay here several days at least until [sic] the R. Road is repaired to Nashville for they have burnt all the bridges and tore up the track for miles. A large bridge has been burnt on the road where we are now incamped [sic] and this road must be opened up to Nashville before we can for any farther south. I recd. two letters from you a few days ago one dated 1st and the other the 24th of October and was glad to hear that you was all well and that the children was going to school. In one you say for me to resign. I want to come home so bad that I believe some

time I would resign but what will be the use. My health is good I have no excuse and I know it would not be accepted. Capt. Peterson has done no duty all summer and he has been trying to resign since before we left Jacinto and her [sic] he still is. But you can bet I will come home as soon as I can for I am nearly dead to see you all. So all I can say or do is to cheer up never borrow trouble hoping that all will yet turn out for the best. I am uneasy about that money. I have written to St. Louis about it but have not yet received an answer. That fellow got nearly three thousand dollars from our Regiment alone. If I do not hear from it soon I shall send the receipt to old Judge Harlan to see whether he cannot collect it. I paid him eight hundred and ninety five [sic] dollars one hundred was mine the balance was for the boys and other companies did the same. We have not drawn any pay for over four months and perhaps will not till in January. Then we will have six months pay due us. I see by the papers that the old issue of Treasury notes are bringing from twenty five to twenty eight per cent premium. If you have any worth while [sic] on hand you had better let the Old Man Greene send them to Chicago and sell them. I would just as leave have the new ones and twenty five or eight dollars on the hundred is a big per cent. I think the money I sent from Doniphan and all before is of that kind. Mr. Greene can tell by looking at it if you do not recollect or have not used it at all. Write often and tell me how you are getting along. I know you have a hard time. Have you plenty of wood clothes and grub. With good health these are the essentials. This is all I can think of at this time. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. My love is for you and the children.

Your husband.

P. Welshimer.

P.S I write this on my knee seated on Gods [sic] footstool in my tent with end open and a rail fire in front and if you can manage to read it I shall think you will do might well (all the boys are well). I got a letter from Smeidal written at your house.

P.W

Nov. 12th, 1862

Camp ten miles north of Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I received your letter of the 2nd inst. and was pleased to hear that you were all in good health and that you had received that hundred dollars that I sent you when we last drew money. You say the agent for that land was down and wished me to write him in regard to it. I do not know the numbers or who first entered it, so as to describe it to them I want you to ask Mr. Greene to write them for me and say to them that I intend to pay the whole amount (when I pay) and will do so as soon as I can get home on leave of

absence or otherwise. Have him state my absence in the army has been the cause of delay [sic] in this matter. I also wish to know from them whether the eighty north of this forty known as the Lawrence Land is still unsold if so upon what terms I can buy it. They can address me directly or through Mr. Greene. By your letter I received the first intimation of Will House being wounded. I saw Ed Talbott and several others from that Regiment the next day after the battle. I inquired after all I knew in the Reg. and all that I saw told me they thought Will got through safe and sound. Since that time I have seen or heard nothing from them. They being in an other [sic] division of the army. I this week received two letters from home written last summer. They were old but yet they contained news for me. You speak of everything being very high at home. What would you think of fifteen to fifty dollars per pair of boots four dollars a piece [sic] for wollen [sic] shirts. I paid eight dollars for two last week. Government furnishes the men with woolen one (not quite so good of course) at eighty-eight cents. There is nothing her [sic] to be had for less than a dollar outside of Government supplies. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. My health continues good.

Your husband

P. Welshimer.

Camp 21st Ills. Vol. Three mile south of Nashville, Tenn.

Dec.6th, 1862

Dear Wife and childern [sic]

I received some days since your letter written Nov. 22nd containing a lock of Charlies [sic] hair and evry [sic] says it is as nice hair for a child of his age as they ever saw. Tell him that Pa kissed it. Julia my health continues good and I hope yours is good also. My mind continually dwells at home. Are they all well and what are they doing or are they sick are questions that I continually ask myself. Oh how I should like to see you all, but when that will be God alone knows but hope sweet hope that the time will soon come. We were paid to day [sic] for July and August. I will not send any money home at this time as the last day of this month we will have four months pay due and the paymaster says we will be paid promptly in January. Then if we are where I can send it safely I shall draw and if not I will have plenty, and need not draw until [sic] I do have a safe way to send it home. I hope I can bring it myself. How long we will stay here I cannot say or find out but I think two or three weeks. The Old Man Waller and I guess John Buchanan are coming out to see the boys. I wish you would come a long if you can but in this as all else do as you think best. If we should not be here of course you could not see us but you would get to see the country. If you should come I would advise you to bring but Charlie if any of the childern [sic] although I should like to see them the best in the world. It is a long road and the least bother you have the better. If

you do come write as soon as you find out when you are going to start so I may know before you get here if possible so that I can make some arrangements here in the neighbourhood [sic] for you to stay. If you come bring my uniform coat and if you do not come send it with Smeidel or Waller as the weather down here is to [sic] cold for a blouse which is all I have to wear except my overcoat. I want a nice coat here once in a while any how [sic] and must try to cary [sic] it some how. [sic] I do not know hardly [sic] what to do about that land. If I could have bought that eighty with the forty I should have liked it but I suppose we will have plenty of time to think about it and I hope talk about it. If you should not come write and let me know what you think of it. I am afraid land has fallen in price and perhaps I could do better than buy that 40 acres laying as it does by itself. Why is that it is so long between letters from home. The last one written Nov. 22nd fourteen or fifteen days ago [sic] long time to be looking for letters. They should be coming through now in three days at least. Good by my dear wife and children for this time and may heaven bless and protect us all as well as hasten the time when I can come and stay at home with you. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. My love is for you and the childern. [sic] From you

Husband

P. Welshimer

Mrs. Julia H. Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vol. Seven miles south of Nashville, Tenn.,
Saturday evening Dec. 20th, 1862,

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I this day received your letter dated Dec. 13th. This is the first letter for a month or nearly so. The last one but this was dated Nov. 22nd. I have written one or two since that time and had come to the conclusion that I would not write again untill [sic] I received one from home be that long or short. I grew impatient then vexed, mad and lastly got the blues. When I thought that there was at least three of you about the house that could write and not receiving a letter for a month, I concluded that you were either all sick or else you had something more attractive to engage your minds than to think of me. While I am writing although it is after dark I hear heavy cannonading on our left and perhaps before this reaches you and perhaps before it leaves another battle will be fought. We have been expecting one for some days. Our Pickets and theirs have been in sight for some days. If they attact [sic] us there will be a fight. If they do not it will be some time yet as we will not advance until [sic] the river rises. I have not been well for two or three weeks but still have done my duty evry [sic] day. I saw Smeidel about five minutes the day he came here I was out of picket and when I came to camp the next

day he was ready to start to Nashville. I not seen or heard of him since. Give my respects to all inquiring friends (If I have any in that country).

I remain as ever.

Yours.

Phill Welishmer

20 Miles South of Nashville, Tenn.

Sunday night Dec. 28th, 1862

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I hasten to drop you a line to let you know that I am well. I am writing after night by fire light and think perhaps it is doubtfull [sic] whether you can read it or not. We left our old camp Friday morning marched over the worst roads through a drenching rain came on the rebels about 2 p.m. faught [sic] them till dark drove them three miles captured one piece of their artillery and some prisoners. We had three killed and nine wounded. None in our company hurt. Yesterday an other [sic] brigade was put in front and faught [sic] and drove them some three or four miles and took two more pieces of their canon. [sic] To day [sic] we have all been resting for we were all worn out as it rained all day Friday Friday night Saturday till sundown. It cleared up and this has been a fine day. The weather here is about as cool as the weather is in October or November in our country. Tomorrow morning we start again. We think they will give a general battle at Murfreesboro which is sixteen miles from here but perhaps they will continue to fall back to Chatanooga. [sic] A battle will be faught [sic] before long between two mighty armies and that before many days. I will write to you as often as I can. May heaven bless and protect you is my constant wish.

Yours till death

Phill Welshimer.

Camp in Bivouch [sic] near Murfessborow [sic],Tenn.

Jan 4th, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

The first leasure [sic] moment I have had for some days I hasten to drop you a line. As you will hear that we have been fighting for some days. I know you will be verry [sic] uneasy. We have had some of the hardest fighting that I have yet seen and harder I

pray than I may ever again see. I came out safe not having the hide broke, yet my cloths was somewhat riddled [sic] but Oh God my company and my regiment. We went into the fight with over seven hundred men and now have about 300 but some that are missing will come up. Our Brigade opened the fight here Tuesday about two o'clock Dec. 30th and hold out ground till darkness compelled us to cease. The next morning they attacked the division on our right at day light surprising them and capturing a full battery of artillery before they had their horses hitched. They of course fled in confusion. (This division was under Ge. Jonson may God save our Army from such insignificant Generals and may Heaven pardon his dark and treacherous soul). They then threw their whole force upon our Division completely overpowering us and drove us some two miles leaving our dead and some of our wounded in their hands. But we faught [sic] them the best we could untill we fell behind our reserves under the immediate supervision of the noble and brace Rosecrans who in person led the first successful charge against them checking and driving them back with greater slaughter than they drove Gen. Davis' division. They hold part of the ground we once occupied and we hold a part that they held. We have taken between two and three thousand prisoners. They perhaps as many so the thing so fare [sic] is about even. There has been more or less fighting evry [sic] day since the 31st till to day this being Sunday all so far appears quiet. They are well satisfied that they can not break our lines and as our reinforcements are coming up we all feel confident of success. I had five killed dead and ten wounded and four missing. The killed I give as they fell. Thos [sic] Ashmore, Wm. Russell, poor Bill never knew what hurt him he was in the ranks fighting bravely and fell with his face to the enemy of his country that too under the Stars and Stripes. This is all I now can say to console his friends. The next that fell was John Redform from near Prairie [illegible] City, Wesley Hoage and Wm. E. Ferguson from Coles County. The wounded that any around Neoga know was Sam Wilson, James Sell, Columbus Halbrooks (Thos. Robinson from near Etna and I fear mortaly [sic]) Allen Gordon. I think they will all get well unless it is Robinson. Among my missing is Wallace Buchanan a brother of Docks, they were in the ranks when the order was given to fall back but perhaps did not hear it is so they are prisoners. I will write you more at length when the fight is over. If I am not wiped out. My health continues good notwithstanding. I have not had my clothes off for ten days sleeping on the cold wet ground what little I could sleep. It has been raining about half the time since Christmas. May heaven bless us all.

Your husband

Phill Welshimer.

Let J. H. Orr and Dock Albin see this letter

Camp 2 miles south of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jan 7th, 1862 [sic]

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

It is with pleasure that I can inform you that I am well and that the memorable battle of Murfreesboro is over. We have driven them from their last ditch in Tenn. but in doing so we have suffered terribly. The country for miles around is one solid grave yard. I superintended the burial of my dead in person and had them as decently buried as they could have been at home with the exception of coffins. I have had two days rest since the battle and feel like my self again, but tongue can not describe the hardships we endured during this battle. The week between Christmas and New Years will ever be remembered by those that were engaged in this battle. I need hardly say to you that Steve was not in the fight. He stayed back with the Hospital. His career has at last ingloriously sunk. Not one officer in the Regiment but swears they will not serve in the Regiment if he is permitted to stay. He has been reported to head quarters [sic] and I have no doubt he will be dishonorably dismissed from the service. As soon as I get some help I think I can get permission to come home for the Lord knows my heart aches to once more see you but be of good cheer the Stars and Stripes are still floating and advancing. I have nothing to regret. I feel I have done my duty during all this hard fighting. I stayed by the flag of my Regiment incouraging [sic] my men but of this I will let my comrades speak for me. In my last letter I stated that Wallace Buchanan was missing. I have since found him. He is wounded in the foot and in the hospital. He will soon recover. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and may heaven bless you and protect us all and may I soon be permitted to see you is my constant wish. Kiss the children for me dear Julia. My love is still for you.

From your distant but ever thoughtful husband.

Phill Welshimer.

Camp 21st Ills. [sic] Reg. Vol.

3Miles south of Murfreesboro, ten.

Jan 11, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern.

I again have the pleasure of informing you that my health is good never was better. I am surprised at myself after enduring the hardship and exposure that we endured before and through the Battle of Stone [sic] River and the constant labor since. Night and day making out Muster Rolls, description rolls for my wounded and the diferent [sic] reports necessary to be made after an engagement. I have passed through it all and feel as well as I ever did but my mind is constantly troubled about Home Sweet Home. Are they all well or are they sick are my constant thoughts. I have not had a line from you since Dec 17th Alices [sic] letter. Oh how I long to hear from home. May Heaven bless and protect you as it has me is my constant wish and may this unholy war soon cease so we can return to our homes and friends but alas how many are beneath the sod That

will never return to their dear wives children [sic] fathers or mothers. I thought I had seen the horrors of war but I had seen nothing comparitavle [sic] speaking until this great Battle. You have seen more in the papers than I can tell and in fact I do not wish to rehears [sic] the awful sights I there saw. Our wounded mostly have been sent to Nashville. The rich were made to give up their soft beds and fine houses for the wounded. I had a letter from Sam Wilson yesterday he is getting alone finally and says the Hospital he is in is a perfect palace. This is so it should be. Oh how fortunate we are to have such officers as Gen. Rosecrans and Mitchell. Mitchell is in command at Nashville. He just drives the Secesh out of their houses and puts our wounded in. In Murfreesboro every house is a hospital mostly filled with the worst wounded rebles. [sic] The Provo Marshall has been up there for three or four days paroling them. He says there is from five to seven thousand of them. They run all of their slightly wounded south on the cars as fast as they were wounded. their sick and wounded. In fact evry [sic] house through this country is filled with their sick and wounded I was out foraging a day or two since and the Negroes told me there was a sick solider in Masas [sic] house, where is massa, [sic] gone south with the army. I went into the house and asked where that sick solider was. They hesitated but finally said up stairs. Up I went found and paroled Mr. Butternut. He seemed to be very glad. He lived in Arkansas. The 123rd Reg. got here to day. I have not seen any of them yet some of our boys are over there to night. I know nothing more to write at present hoping you are well and pray you will be as well contented as you can be. I remain your husband till death shall part us.

Phill Welshimer

Jan 17, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I recd. three letters from home this week two of them in one day. I shall be uneasy until I hear that Ellen is well again. You complain of me and I of you not writing oftener and I guess neither of us is to blame. I guess it is the mails [sic] fault. I cannot write much this morning as the man I am sending this by is just ready to start. He will pass through Neoga. His name is L [missing] he lives in Moultrie Co. I have been to see the 123 Reg. and they are all well except W. House. He is not well yet. Male Pete Shade Ed Tallbott all look fat and rugged. I should love the best in the world to see little Charlie with his breeches on but I cant [sic] and must not fret but live in hopes. This leaves me in good health and I hope it will find you all enjoying the same great blessing. We have had a warm winter untill within a day or two. It has been raining tremendous [sic] and turned cold with some snow on the ground. I have a little stove in my tent and fare tolerable well for a soldier. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. My love is always for you. I will write more at length in a few days.

Yours truly

P. Welshimer.

Camp 21 Ills. Vol

Jan 18, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

It is Sunday morning and although I wrote yesterday a letter and sent it with a man by the name of Liner yet my thoughts are on home and I can do no more than write and let you know that I am well. Male Votaw stayed all day yesterday with me and to day Will house, R Houghton and Charlie Houghton have been here. It is some relief to me to be with these old acquaintances. They are all well in the 123 reg. Male told me yesterday that the understanding in their regiment was that Charlie Smeidel and his wife had had some difficulty and had parted but he guessed they had arranged matters and came together again. I asked him what the difficulty was about. He kind of smiled but would not tell me and when pressed by me said he guessed he had better not have said any thing about it. This is all I could get out of him. Do you know anything about it. I send with this letter Kinsells [sic] papers which you will hand over to them to enable them at once to draw Bills back pay and bounty as I suppose they greatly need it. I know of nothing more of importance to write and as my pen is so poor I will close by hoping you are all well.

Your husband

Phill Welshimer.

I have written an affidavit and enclosed it to assist Old Mr. Kensells [sic] folks. Whether it will do or not I cannot say but it will do no harm at any rate.

Phil.

Franklin, Tenn.

Feb, 10th, 1862 (sic)

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

Fearing you would be so verry [sic] uneasy I have managed to get a scrap of paper and this red ink to inform you that I am well. We were ordered out as we supposed on a five days scout from Murfreesboro last Friday a week ago. Came to this place which is 30 miles from Murfreesboro and 18 miles from Nashville. We came without tents or any thing else but our blankets and here we are yet and how long we are to stay or whether we are to go back to our camp I do not know. I suppose I will have lots of letters from

home when we do get back to camp or when our camp equipage comes up. Ellens [sic] letter of the 17th of last month is the last line I have seen from home. I am verry [sic] ancious [sic] to hear from home. Mean time I can only hope you are all well and doing well. We have had some cold weather here for this climate but it has cleared up again and turned warm. Last night the frogs wer [sic] singing. As soon as we get our things again I will write you a longer letter. The object of this was only to let you know that I was well. Kiss the children for me my love is ever thine. Good by for this time and may Heaven protect and bless us all and the time soon come when I again can return home.

Your husband till death

Phill Welshimer

Camp Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Feb 14th, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

We this eavening [sic] arrived at our old camp near this place after an absence of fourteen days. We were down to Franklin from which we place I last wrote you. Well on my arrival here I found two letters from you and one from Mr. Orr and after reading them and finding that you was all well or so at least when the last one was written the 21st of January I took a good wash and for the first time in three weeks changed my clothes and the consequence as you may suppose is I feel fine being as usual in good health. You say in one of your letters you sent my coat and some other things. I have not yet received them but I suppose they are at Nashville and that I will get them in a fiew [sic] days. There is nothing new in camp but the arrival at Murfreesboro of eight pay-masters and I suppose we will be paid in a few days but to what time I do not know. The last day of this month they will owe us for six months but they will not pay us for more than four perhaps not more than two months. If they pay but two I will send you two. If for four months I will send you four hundred dollars as I sent none the last time. I have plenty to do me and have no use for it here. I was verry [sic] much pleased to hear that the childern [sic] was doing so well at school. I hope they will continue and little Charlie you say is the household pet with cheeks as red and rosey [sic] as a peach. Oh you have no idea how bad I want to see you all but to think of seeing you now is vain. My only consolation is in thinking that I am doing my duty and in the satisfaction of knowing that we all have been blessed with good health. May heaven continue the blessing of health and hasten to a close this rebellion is my constant wish. And in conclusion let me say to you my dear wife should it please God to return me safely to you and our dear children I never can for get [sic] the hardship you have to undergo in my absence and should life be spared me my only aim in after life shall be to in some measure repay you. Give my

respects to all inquiring friends. My love is yours and may this find you in as good health as it leaves me.

Your husband

Phill Welshimer

P.S. Two of our men that was wounded since died. Thos. Robinsion and Wesley Hoge. I have not seen any of the 123rd since our return.

Camp Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

March 17th/63

My Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

This is Tuesday night but I could not think of going to bed without writing you a line and letting you know that I am still well and hope you are. We left here last Monday a week and was gone six days on a scout had fight and did not have a very hard trip. While we were out A. K Bosworth was here but gone when we returned consequently did not get to see him. I was over to the 123 Reg. yesterday saw Fred and Will house and Wills baby. All seem to be well over there. I suppose you will hear before you get this letter that Rufus Alison is dead. He was dead and buried when we returned. Lewis did not get to see him. I have not received that box yet. We have sent to Nashville two or three times for it and to day I gave Jack Waller a pass and sent him up after it and if it is there he will get it. Before I left I sent in an other [sic] application for a leave of absence. Old Mc signed it and the Brigade Commander signed and recommended it. It then went to General Davis and he gave me splendid complimentary recommendation and I went off and returned joyfully thinking I would be certain to find on my return a leave and would soon be at home to see you all once more but Rosencrans [sic] rejected it. I am satisfied and so is evry [sic] one else that it is because there is but one officer for duty with the Co. But thank God there will not be the case much longer. Old Steves [sic] papers have gone up and before this reaches you he will be out of the service then as soon as I can have an other [sic] officer commissioned I shall come home to see you. I think there will then be no danger of my getting a leave unless we should be on the eave [sic] of a battle which I hope will not be the case be as contented as you can and rest assured I will come as soon as I can. You have no idea how bad I want to come. If I do not home before Charlie Nisewanger come as Ed Talbott thinks he will come down here and we are still here come with him to Murfreesboro or if you cant [sic] get here to Nashville and I can come there and see you, but I feel in hopes I can come home. In you last letter you say you despare [sic] of the war ever closing, be of good cheer my little woman never give up the ship although I know your lot is a hard one we must never say fail. Our cause is just and will prevail sooner or later. I never have for one moment doubted this although it has taken all ready more lives money and time than I

thought it ever would take but as sure as there is a God in heaven I believe this Rebellion will be crushed and that too before the year 1864 and if not quite so soon fourteen months and a few days [sic] lets us out of the service if we live, then our places must and will be filled by others. I want you to tell Doc Albin to write me and tell him I have been so busy that I have not found time to write to him. Maricel Waller writes Frank that James Orr has got to be a Copperhead. I cannot believe it. Tell Doc to write and let me know if it can be true. We have had splendid weather here for the last week. The mud drying up fast and the grass growing finally notwithstanding the war carnage bloodshed death and destruction that is going on in the land of which still teaches us that God still rules and governs the universe. Now my dear wife I close this letter by asking you to be cheerful and not to borrow if you possible can help it that death dealing sting trouble it comes fast enough upon us all without borrowing it. Kiss the Childern [sic] for me and remember me to all inquiring friends. My life is always for you.

Your husband till death

Phil Welshimer.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

March 23rd, 1863

My Dear Wife.

I received your of the 14th inst. and was as ever glad to hear that you were all well. I had not received a letter from home for near two weeks. This leaves me in good health. As I indicated in my last Old Steve is out of the Service and gone home. To day my application for Capt. Commission was started for Springfield as well as a recommendation for commission for Austin Blake 1st Sergt. [sic] for a Lieut. commission and as soon as we get these I think that beyond a doubt I can get a leave for absence and will be at home to see you. There will be no doubt unless the Army mooves [sic] so far south that I could not return or something unforeseen occurs which I think is not at all likely to happen. You wanted to know what I thought about Ellen going to Mattoon to school. You know all about the school and must be the judge. If it is a good school and you can board her at Adelines [sic] or some other good place I think it will be the best she can do this summer. Hoping soon to see you I remain yours forever.

Phill Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vol.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 29/63

My Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I received your letter written on the 23rd to day and was so glad to hear that you were all well. I had not received a letter for some time and in your letter you complain of the same thing and I never fail to write from one to two letters per week to you. I have nothing of much importance to write you further than to inform you of my unbounded good health. And evry [sic] body I see in the Army thinks this accursed Rebellion is fast being bro't [sic] to a happy close. The condition of the rebels at this time is a bad end desperate one if half be true that is told by deserters and reffugees. [sic] They say that their soldiers get but one half pound of meat and twelve ounces of flour per day for their rations (no men can soldier on such rations but a short time) and that or at least most of it is pressed from the citizens and God knows they are scarce enough for the verry [sic] moment our Generals prohibit shipments to from the north in order to supply the army as is the case here now evry [sic] thing at once goes up to an enormous price and I know there is nothing left in the country. Where our army goes with all the supplies they can got from north and the wealthiest here have repeatedly told me during this winter and spring unless the government allowed them to get provisions from the North starvation would surely come upon them. How can it be otherwise than scare in the south where they have no north to depend upon. We now hold the best grain growing [sic] portion of what they claim as their confederacy and I am satisfied that had we to depend on the portion we hold for our subsistence the army and all the citizens would be starved out in three months and the country south must be scarcer south than here. What they brought from the north before the war began with what they had on hand together with what they have since raised must be by this time consumed. No wonder then they are in a bad row for stumps. I have not seen it but have frequently heard within the last fiew [sic] days that gangs of women with their little children and what fiew [sic] duds they could pack on foot have come into our lines and beging [sic] of Genl. Rosecrans for God Sake to let them go where they can get something to eat and I understand that where they have no one to lean upon for support that he points them to the north star which like a goodly angel still hovers over a land of liberty and plenty and sends them on their way rejoicing and many many of these poor miserable being have thus been rendered helpless by this hellish Rebellion brought on by the Democratic party. I thank my God daily that I never voted for any pro-slavery man for any considerable office for terrific must be the weight that rests upon the heads of those who had one cents worth of brains and of all the men upon earth that is dispised [sic] and cursed the most by the army is those infernal hell-deserving cowardly Copper-Heads of the north. I sometimes all most imagine on the return of the army I see them running in evry [sic] direction and praying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide

them from the gaze of loyal men crying and saying it would have been better for them had they never been born. And now Julia to close this letter I will say that I want you to write me something about how you are getting along. I know you must have it hard but is your lot so hard you dare not write me about it. I always feel uneasy and wish to know. I hope I will soon be permitted [sic] to return home to in some measure relieve you of at least a part of your burden. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and kiss the children [sic] for me. My love for you.

Your husband.

Phil Welshimer

Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 2nd, 1863

My Dear Wife

I received your letter written on the 26th of March yesterday and to day Ben Talbott was here. He said you was down to Greenup, that Charlie told him that you were all well and that he saw and talked to little Charlie Welshimer. Oh how I long to see the day when I can hear his little tongue [sic] clatter. I do hope it will not be long. In the mean time it is not always best to build our hopes to [sic] high for I find nothing is very [sic] certain in the army. You write and Ben says that Old Buck is courting Mrs.D. Well she will make him a good wife and he will marry her, but he will not find in her the wife Betty made him. I think too he had better waited until at least the grass had grown over her grave. As I wrote you a good long letter before I will not write much this time for I have nothing of importance to write about but to say this leaves me in good health and I hope it will find you all well. Inclosed [sic] you will find a printed song written by a soldier. It is so truthfull. [sic] I bought [illegible] and send it to the girls. Kiss the Children [sic] for me. My love is for you.

Phil Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.

April 24th, 1863

My Dear Wife and Children [sic]

I received a letter yesterday written on the 18th and one to day from Alice mailed on the 20th both of which conveyed the joyful [sic] news of all well at home. I wrote you a few [sic] days ago in which I stated I should make application for leave of absence. I did so

and it was returned by Genl. Carlin Brigade Commander stating that after the first of next month he would approve a leave for me and forward it but then the Division Corps or Department Commanders may reject it neverthe [sic] less. I shall try and if I fail I shall try again until I do succeed. This is the best I can do. I sent you two hundred dollars a short time ago. I thought it would have got home before the 20th but I suppose it did not as neither you nor Alice speak of it in your letters. You say in your letter you have three cows and Alice says you talk of selling one. Do as you think best. I should think three would be too much trouble for you. You and Alice both have writen [sic] to me to send my Photagraph. [sic] I cannot get them taken here or I would be glad to send them to you. If an opportunity shall offer I will have them taken. You say that Dock Albin complained of my not writing to him. I wrote him a long letter in answer to the one he wrote me some time ago. I have not answered the one he wrote me after the election but will in a few days tell him. We are kept very busy either on picket or at work on the fortifications and do not have overly much time for writing besides you know more what is going on than we do here. I subscribed for the Nashville Weekly Union and ordered it send to you. I want you to write and let me know whether you get it or not. Tell Dora I was very proud to hear of his leaving off head so many times. This speaks well for him and if he studies hard he will some day make a good schollar [sic] and a smart man. Kiss all the childern [sic] for me and give my best respects to all inquiring friends. My love is always thine. Good by for this time and may heaven continue the blessing of good health to us and hasten the return of Peace to our land and my return to you and sweet sweet home.

Your husband

Phill Welshimer

P.S Tell the girls I will write to them soon.

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.

Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

May 3rd/63

Dear Julia

I received on Friday your letter written on the 26th April. I have been on picket and not had time to answer sooner, but hasten to say that I am well and have felt in the best heart for some days past that I have for a long time. I think evry [sic] thing looks more favorable for a termination of the war than it has for a long time. You say in your letter that if I cannot come home you will come see me. I would have sent you a pass some time ago if I had though [sic] you would have been willing to take the risk and could have left home and if they wont [sic] let me come home soon I will send you a pass. I can neither get a pass for you or a leave for me at this time the reason is that

Rosencrans [sic] is expecting an attack [sic] but this will not last long. I do not think myself there is any danger although I do not know as much about it as he does of course and all I have to say is that if we have got to fight them again let it be here for we are prepared [sic] for them. As soon as this excitement blows [sic] over if I can't [sic] get a leave to come home I will send you a pass. If it wasn't for seeing the children I would much sooner you would come down here than for me to come home. Seeing the country and the ravages of war would more than pay you for your troubles. Doct. [sic] of our Regiment tried about the same time I did to get a pass for his wife. The Adjutant General said the General said it was very dangerous at this time and for him not to issue passes for the present. She would be no company for you however as she lives in the north part of the State. You have not said whether or not you received the last money I sent you. Two hundred it was that I sent and ought [sic] to have been at home before you wrote your last letters. I hope it has arrived and you have got it. I was over to the 123rd Reg. a few [sic] days ago. Valeares Talbott is very sick and looks very bad. He has the fever. Jerry Cole is dead. He belonged to Talbotts [sic] Company. The balance are all well. I saw most of them Male Fred and Will House. You complain of me not writing often enough. I write from one to three letters home every [sic] week and if I get one a week I think I am doing well. I have it much easier now since I have a Lieut. than I ever have had it in this company. This is all I think of to write now but hope when this reaches you it will find you in good health and that I may soon see you will be constantly uppermost in my mind until [sic] that happy moment arrives. Kiss the children for me and give my respects to all inquiring friends and believe me I will ever be yours until [sic] death the doom of all shall part us. Good by for this time my dear little wife and may heaven bless us and hasten my return.

Your husband

Philip Welshimer

Mrs. Julia H. Welshimer

Neoga, Cumberland Co.

Illinois

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

May 16th, 1863

My Dear Little Wife and Children [sic]

I received your letter on Friday that was written last Sunday and as ever was much gratified to hear that you were all well. Oh what a relief this is to me. This letter leaves me as usual in good health but when I will get to see you I cannot tell. Every [sic] thing here indicates a forward movement and no possible [sic] chance for leave of absence. C.

B. Steel our Adjutant had a brotherinlaw [sic] in this Regiment who died yesterday. Steel at once made application for leave to take his corpse home. He went with the application it was approved clear through untill it got to Genl. Rosencrans. [sic] told him he could not grant it. Steel then asked him if he would accept his resignation. The General told him he would not that he very much sympathized with him but the condition of affairs in our front would not permit him to spare one man or officer from his army unless they were sick and unfit duty there was no chance for any one to leave the army. This will give me many a sad hour but then I must not despair. The time will come if our lives are spared when we again can enjoy home. Then we have so much to be thankfull [sic] for that we should submit without grumbling to our lot though hard indeed it may seem. Charlie and Rufe Houghton were here to day. They say they are all well in the 123rd Reg. Charlie has been promoted to 2nd Lieut. Will house is now 1 Lieut. I was very much surprised to hear that Phillips and his wife parted. Can it be that so trivial thing as you name would part a man and woman with a large family. Well as Old Mrs. Partington says what is this world coming too. You will recolect [sic] the man in our Co. that we called bead ticking. The boys have long since changed his name and called him bones (his name is McCormack) well some three months ago [sic] bones received a letter from his sisternlaw [sic] stating that his wife was dead and when she died and that they had the children and all about it. We were all sympathising [sic] with poor bones about the loss of his wife as he had always seemed to think a great deal of his family. He was very saving and sent them all his pay and just as he was getting over his bereavement what do you think was my surprise this week on Mc's stoping [sic] into my tent and handing me a letter saying here Capt. read this letter. It was from his brother who never knew that he had been written [sic] to about the death of his wife. The said letter commenced as usual about the health of friends and then went on to state where his wife and children were. When I came to this I said why Mc. I thought you wife was dead. He commenced crying and slinging snot and said so did I and I wish to God she was dead. This put a bug in my ear so I read on and soon found to my great surprise that Mrs. McCormack was not dead but living and would in a fiew [sic] days multiply and replenish the earth although she had not seen her husband for nearly two years. So it is once more man gone to the worst of hell and beyond redemption. I do not suppose this letter will be very interesting to you but then I wanted to write you a good long letter for it is the nearest home to me of any thing else I can imagine knowing as I do that if it reaches you it will be pressed line by line by loving eyes at home and having nothing else of importance to write about. You I know will excuse me for my history of poor bones (alias) Bead Ticking or more properly Hugh L McCormacks [sic] misfortune. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. Kiss the childern [sic] for me at least the little ones. I suppose Ellen Alice and Dora have got to be so big to kiss. I sometimes think I can almost hear little Charlie prattle and hear him and Lucy romping through the house. My love is for you and may heaven continue the blessing of health to us all and hasten my safe return is my most ardent wish.

Your Husband

Phillip Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
May 21st/63

My Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I received to day your letter written on the 15th inst. and as ever was pleased to hear that you were all well. This leaves me as usual in good health, but the weather here is getting verry [sic] warm and a greate [sic] many of our men are getting sick. There has been a large army here so long and notwithstanding all the precaution that has been taken you cannot go a hundred yards in any direction from camp with out being stifled by the stench ariseing [sic] from the filth of every description. There has been hundreds of horses and mules killed and died here during the winter and spring. They have tried to burn some and buried many but the stench will arise. Then the Battlefield is close here. For the last two weeks we have had to stand picket along side of the Battlefield and near where we faught [sic] and in many cases the dead especially where the Rebels buried were not half buried. All things considered I am afraid we will have it verry [sic] sickly here if we are compelled much longer to stay. But we are as cleanly and cautious as possible. You express some uneasiness for fear the Copperheads will burn you out. I do not think there is any danger in our case. I have always been very cautious in writing back to Persons I thought would read or tell what I wrote to not say anything that would irritate them and I should advise you to get along with them as smoothly as possible. I think their day is about over. I suppose Goodwins find that the ways of the transgressor is hard. Watch your money there is more danger of their trying to rob you than any thing else. But I hope no one will be mean enough to molest you in any way in my absence. If they do and I ever live to get back they had as well make their peace with their God for they will have but little time after they see me. You say that Alice is such a good girls and is such a help to you that you miss her very much in her absence. I hope Ellen is too and by this time with you to direct they aught [sic] to be able to do all the work. I cannot see how it is that my letters are so long on the way. I marke [sic] them via Indianapolis. I hope this one will reach you sooner. Tell the children I send my love to them and give my respects to all inquiring friends and accept my warmest love for your self and may heaven bless us all.

Your husband

Phil Welshimer

Capt. "B" Co., 21st Reg. Ills. Vols.

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.

May 24th, 1863

My dear wife and children [sic]

Al though [sic] I have written you a letter since the receipt of your last one, and it being Sunday and very lonesome I thought I would drop you a line and let you know that I am well and that we are all in great glee over the good news from Grant. Oh if it only proves to be true then we can look forward to being able at no distant day of coming to loved ones at home. I have nothing of importance to write. I heard from the 123rd yesterday. They are all well. Col. Alexander got back to the Regiment last week. He was wounded in the foot at the Battle of Stones Rivers and has been at home ever since. He still has to walk with a crutch. The Sergeants of the Reg. made him a present on his return of a sword and sash that cost one hundred and fifty dollars. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. My love is for you.

Your husband and Father

Phillip Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.

June 8th, 1863

Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

I wrote you a fiew [sic] days ago and then expected we were to march but it turned out to be nothing more than a skirmish with the enemy. They attacked us but we drove them off. One man in our Brigade was killed he belonging to an Indiana Regt. We just returned to camp to day. We have been on out post duty eleven days. I have nothing of importance to write but to let you know that I am still in good health. In your last letter you wanted to know whether I thought there would be another Battle at Murfreesboro or not. I think this will depend on the circumstances entirely. If Grant whips them at Vicksburgh, [sic] I think Bragg will then fall back but if Grant fails they will no doubt try to drive us out of Tennessee but they will find it an up hill business driving us from this place as we are well fortified. You say that poor little Lucy felt very bad at my not sending her a little book. Tell her I thought of that at the time but those books were for little boys and I could not any for her at that time but will remember her in the future. Tell her that Pa thinks of her as well as all the balance every day, and my constant wish is that the time will soon come when I can come home and stay with you. I see by the

papers that the money has been put in the Pay-masters [sic] hands to pay us up to April 30th and I suppose we will be paid in a fiew [sic] days then you may look for another package from me. I hear since coming to camp that there is a Photograph gallery now in town. I think if I can get off tomorrow I shall go and see about those pictures you wrote about some time since. May heaven bless and protect us and hasten my return to you, my home is my constant wish. So good by for this time my dear family.

Your husband and Father

Phillip Welshimer

Camp 21st Ills. Vols.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

June 21st/63

My Dear Wife and Childern [sic]

This is Sunday night and Oh how lonesome all day long a thousand times over have I wondered what you were doing and how you all were, lonesome day this has been to me. Sure, I hope you have not had it so lonesome as I. Sometimes I think I would sooner march every day long than lay in camp for when we lay in camp if we have nothing to do as it has been this Sunday I am as sure to have the blues as can be. Can't help it. How can I when I think of home with all its attachments my long absence etc but then I hope (Oh what a blessing is hope) that all will yet turn out for the best. Then too when I think how much better off I am than many others especially in the army I aught [sic] to be contented. Many have not seen their wives and children since they left home with no prospect of seeing them until their term of enlistment expires and they have a harder time than I have. They serve in the ranks and that too thirteen dollars per month and many of them too with families at home that can barely live. When I think of all these thinks I aught [sic] to be content, aught [sic] I not. I have nothing of such importance to write further than that I am well. Hoping when this reaches you will find you all well and may heaven continue the blessings of health to us is my constant wish. In one of your letters I received lately you wanted to know whether I had sent you a letter by Wiley Jones. I do not recollect but think I did not. Enclosed I sent you Ed Harlans and Brig Genl [sic] Carlins photographs. I expected to send home a good many of the officers as most of them are having them taken. We have not yet [rest missing]