

George Messer to Lottie Messer, 26 March 1863

Letter No 21

Camp Jo Kelley Near Glasgow Barren Co Ky

March 26th AD 1863

My Dear Wife I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty and I hope this will find you & Eddy well and hearty as well as all the rest of the famaly. I reeived a letter from you last Sunday evening (letter no 17) and I have neglected to answer it until today and in fact I have not had much chance for I have been very busy most all the time except when it was raining and then it was so cold in our tent (and we could have no fire) that I could not write with any comfort and it is so cold today that I am not any too warm with my overcoat on I started a letter to you last Sunday morning by Ab. Graham which I suppose you have got by this time. I was on Pickett yesterday and last night it was pretty cold last night too but that is nothing when we get used to it The day before yesterday was a very stormy and

cold day and to see the soldiers on guard
that day would put you in mind of a lot of
cows on a stormy wet day they would put their
backs to the storm and turn up one side of
their heads to try and shun as much of it
as possible (I must and help draw Rations

One Oclock in the afternoon

Dear Wife they cant let me be idle long at
a time and I have now droped in to
wrote a little more it has got quite nice
and pleasant I have been heading
my letters Camp Jo Kelly the name has
been changed to Camp Hobson
We got quite a joke on Lieutenant
Graham he went down to town with
some of the boys and gave one of them
the pass that they had the boys left
him and came back to camp and
the Patrol Guards caught him and put
him in the Guard house for a little
while Shoulder Strap gentlemen cant
pass here when outside of Camp any
better than a private it is so reported on him

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I have not much of importance to
to write this time so you must excuse
me if you dont get a very long letter this
time for I can think of nothing
to write about that would interest
you. there is a rumor a float again
that we will have marching orders pretty
soon. I dont know how true it is and
have but little idea in what direction
we will go when we leave here if we leave
at all but I think when we move again
it will be in the direction of Cumberland
Gap We have a change of Commanders
in this Department I heard yesterday
That General Burnsid's had taken the
place of General Wright in this department
We have very heavy duty to perform now
We have a detail from our company of
from twelve to fifteen men every day
and other Companies in proportion
so it brings every man on duty about
every third day I came off duty this
morning and will have to go on tomorrow again

but I can stand it as long as I
have my health as well as I have now
I was weighed this forenoon and I weighed
One Hundred & Sixty nine pounds heavier
than I have been for a long time and
in fact I am stouter than I have been
for a long time and I hope that I
will continue so as long as I have to
stay in the service at least for when I get
home and get sick I know that I have one
there that will take better care of me
than I could have in the army
although we have as nice Hospital
arrangements here as I ever saw
a good House and every thing fixed up
as it should be for the care of the sick
I heard from Wesleys father the
other day by a letter from Aunt Jane
Hammond in Ohio he was in Wyandott
county a short time ago and is
now either in Upper Sandusky or Sandusky
City in Ohio he is still at his old
business of taking pictures

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I think from what I can find
out from the papers and the citizens
here that the war will come to a close
before very long the Rebbles say that
if our forces take Vixburgh they will
have to soon give up or starve for they
get all their supplies from Texas
by the way of Vixburgh. May God grant
how soon it may happen for I am
tired of soldiering and would gladly
have the privilege of returning home
to my wife and child where my
affections lay and are left behind
with you and my child
I hear nothing sayed about any of our
boys getting furloughs to come home
and I dont know why there is not some-
thing done to procure some of the men
that much prized privlege if I cant
get to come myself I would like to see
other have a chance that have been gone so long

I told Wesley about De McCuddies
stories he thinks she is the biggest
fool liveing he never has wrote
to her and never expects to if he
can help it and as to those other Ladies
he cares but little about them he thinks
they will soon be as popular in that
neighborhood as the Ladies are in
Creek Nation and I begin to think
so myself Whenever girls begins to put
on briches they had better do like old
Caleb Edwards said they had better
be hunting the cows for their daddies
We have commenced to cut down the
Timber around our camp it is
to be cut off clean for five hundred
yards all around and five hundred
more to be cut down and left lay
and the timber and brush is so thick
that when it is cut down you could
not shove a dog through it backwards
When we get the timber cut it will
be pretty hard for any force to get close to us

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I must stop for a little while and
warm my fingers for it is pretty
cold sitting in the shade
When I wrote to you when we first came
down here I did not expect to get the
mails very regular but they come as
regular as they did as Munfordsville
only a little later in the day we get our
letters about seven o'clock in the
evening and it goes out from camp
at three o'clock in the afternoon
and I will have to close pretty soon
or I will not get my letter in in time
and I want it to start today
Wesley is well and hearty and is
now blacking up his harness as the
boys call it Cartridge Box belts &c
He is about as particular about his
clothes dress & appearance as he
was when at home but we have all
got hardened to eating considerable
more dirt than we were used to I think
those in the army eat a half bushel instead of a peck

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I must now come to a close My
Dear Wife and I will try and write to
you next Sunday as usual if I am
not on duty on that day again
and if I am and it is not too
cold I will spend the evening in
writing to you as I used to do in
talking to you and enjoying your
company I often think of those
times and wish that we could have
the pleasure of liveing them over again
instead of being thus seperated
but I hope our seperation will only
be for a short time yet. it is
now a little over four months since
we last saw each other the time has
appeared very long to me and I
hope ere another four months rolls around
that we will again be liveing hapily together
with our country at peace is the wish
of your Ever True and faithful Husband
My Respects to all Good By

Geo Messer
To Lottie Messer