

On Picket near Collierville Tenn <sup>183</sup><sub>1836</sub>

Dear Parents Brothers & sisters  
I take the opportunity of writing  
you a few lines this morning  
to inform you how I am getting  
along. I am in moderate health  
at present I have been somewhat unwell  
for two days but am a little better  
to day I have not been much sick  
but feel rather bad. The health  
of the company is good 1 or 2 cases  
of the ague is the main sickness  
2<sup>nd</sup> day morning. The weather is  
somewhat rainy for a few days  
past we had a right smart shower  
last night. The darkeys are farming  
considerable around here they have plant  
ed a field of cotton near here &  
are about planting corn on the same  
farm, they have quite a poor way

of plowing they take an old  
mule and a bullock plow and  
strike in in one place and go  
around in a circle for a while  
and then strike off some other  
direction I suppose they plow in  
the way they do to keep the  
land from washing. The talk here  
now is that our forces have got  
in the rear of Vicksburgh and  
that they have likely been fighting  
for some days around there but  
we do not expect to hear of any  
very great move they have been  
going to long there without  
doing any thing, there seems  
to be no rebel force any ways  
near us now so we will be  
satisfied to stay where we  
are the officers say the pay  
master will be here this week  
and pay us off likely he will  
come this time as he is on the

road paying troops above here  
towards Lagrange, we do not need  
money much there is not much  
that we can buy if we had plenty  
of money. we buy butter of citizens  
around here we trade coffee mostly  
for it we draw more coffee than  
we use. I have heard nothing of  
Wily Estess and fear never will  
I am still of the opinion that  
he has died at some Hospital and the  
Hospital officers have neglected to  
inform his company I hope it is  
not the case but it is the most  
likely. I received a letter  
from home day before yesterday  
with some postage stamps  
enclosed. I have nothing more  
of importance to write so I will  
close for this time.

Your wellwishing Son  
John Mills.



On Picket near Collierville Tenn. 4<sup>th</sup> mo. 26<sup>th</sup>/63 (April 26, 1863)

Dear Parents Brothers & Sister

I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines this morning to inform you how I am getting along. I am in moderate health at present I have been somewhat unwell for 4 or 5 days but am a little better today I have not been much sick but feel rather bad. The health of the company is good 1 or 2 cases of the ague is the main sickness

2<sup>nd</sup> day morning. The weather is somewhat rainy for a few days past we had a right smart shower last night. The darkeys are farming considerable around here they have planted a field of cotton near here & are about planting corn on the same farms they have quite a poor way of plowing they take an old mule and a barsheer plow and strike in in one place and go around in a circle for awhile and then strike off some other direction I suppose they plow in the way they do to keep the land from washing. The talk here now is that our forces have got in the rear of Vicksburgh and that they have likely been fighting for some days around there but we do not expect to hear of any very great move they have been gouging to long there without doing any thing, there seems to be no rebel force any ways near us now so we will be satisfied to stay where we are The officers say the pay master will be here this week and pay us off likely he will come this time as he is on the road paying troops above here towards Lagrange, we do not need money much there is not much that we can buy if we had plenty of money. We buy butter of citazens around here we trade coffee mostly for it we draw more coffee than we use. I have heard nothing of Wily Estese and fear never will I am still of the opinion that he has died at some hospital and the hospital officers have neglected to inform his company I hope it is not the case but it is the most likely. I received a letter from home day before yesterday with some postage stamps enclosed. I have nothing more of importance to write so I will close for this time.

You well wishing son  
John Mills.

Mary I send a little locket in here to thee I'll send Ollie something some time I got this locket out a package of paper I bought while we were in Mississippi. J. H. Mills.