Messengers Herry Mils thing 13 to Dear Hather Mather & Brothers & Sisters, have The privarlage of wifing you a frew lines again. I am in pretty good health cat present the company is in pritte good healthy considering to warm weather There are some 18 096 dangwelt wowell mostly with rdierrah we are Situated near-Big Black Raiser some 15 miles from Vickstury it is a men place to camp and Think a health, one, the army here is I Think in as good healt h was could be expected asit is quite warm. I know not received any letter from home for over 2 weeks The last & got was written & The goo 13 Rec, a letter justerday from

Cousin J. M. Bray of tenillon he -Stated that They were in good health. wee have papers as late as the It of 8 mo the new is encourageing. was draw flow prow and are peast ing on peach has now, we build a fille over when wer go into camp for any length of timesto look on Sol Shanafell Amos Easterling y Oli fones just started for from halt sed day after fraying us a misit of Leveral days, we were glad to See Them Soly basterling came after The remains of A. H. Ballard please inform me when They get home how They sveceded in the undertaking El fones camos to want and The but was taken brok Mondely should after his allies eal and Ayer had to want on him I expect he shade got enjugh of soldiering. The talk is That were will more from here before

long and I recken we will as before long for wee always Stark after talking about it for ca while folis Kirmult &. Captain Peoples have gone home on furlough I hope John will have a pleasant time. of African desent to cook for us he is a servisable fellow. There is nothing of importance class for this time. write as glen as convenients Low welling hing Son John hills,

Messengers Ferry Miss Aug. 13/63 (August 13, 1863)

Dear Father Mother Brothers & Sisters.

I have the privilege of writing you a few lines again. I am in pretty good health at present the company is in pretty good health considering the warm weather, there are some 5 or 6 somewhat unwell mostly with diarreah. Wee are situated near Big Black River some 15 miles from Vicksburgh. It is a nice place to camp and I think a health one, the army here is I think in as good health as could be expected as it is quite warm. I have not received any letter from home for over 2 weeks the last I got was written 7<sup>th</sup> mo. 13<sup>th</sup> I rec. a letter vesterday from cousin J. M. Bray of Hamilton he stated that they were in good health. Wee have papers as late as the 7<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo. The news is encouraging. Wee draw flour now and are feasting on peach pie, wee build a little oven when wee go into camp for any length of time to cook on. Sol. Shanafelt Amos Easterling & Eli Jones just started for home last 3<sup>rd</sup> day after paying us a visit of several days. Wee were glad to see them Sol & Easterling came after the remains of A. H. Ballard please inform me when they get home how they succeeded in the undertaking Eli Jones came to wait on Ayer but was taken sick himself shortly after his arrival and Ayer had to wait on him I expect he had got enough of soldering. The talk is that wee will move from here before long and I reckon wee will go before long for wee always start after talking about it for a while. John Curnutt & Captain Peoples have gone home on furlough I hope John will have a pleasant time our mess have an American of African desent to cook for us he is a servasable fellow.

There is nothing of importance to communicate so I will close for this time. Write as often as convenient.

Your well wishing son John Mills.