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Messengers Perry Miss Aug 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear <sup>my</sup> Father Mother  
Brothers & Sisters,

I have the privilege of you  
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  
sore somewhat ~~reduced~~ mostly with  
diarrhea. we are situated near  
Big Black River some 15 miles from  
Vicksburg it is a nice place to camp  
and I think a healthy 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 yesterday from

My cousin J. M. Bray of Hamilton he-  
stated that they were in good  
health. we have papers as late as the  
11<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo the news is encouraging.  
we draw flour now and are feast-  
ing on peach pie now, we build  
a little oven when we go into  
camp for any length of time to cook  
on. Sol Chanafelt Amos Easterling &  
Eli Jones just started for home ~~some~~  
last 3<sup>rd</sup> day after paying us a visit  
of several days, we 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  
suddenly shortly after his arriv-  
al and Ayer had to wait on  
him I expect he has got enough  
of soldiering. the talk is that  
we will move from here before

long and I reckon we will  
go before long for we always  
start after talking about it for  
a while. John Kinnutt &  
Captain Pepples have gone home  
on furlough I hope John  
will have a pleasant time.  
our mess have an American  
of African descent to cook  
for us he is a servicable fellow.

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

Your wellwishing Son John Mills,

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 yesterday 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 descent 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.