

Haines Bluffs Miss 6th mo 15th Dec 53

Dear Father Mother—
Brothers and sisters.

I have the opportunity of writing you a few lines once more. I am well at present so are the remainder of the company except A. H. Ballard he is some what unwell but ^{not} very bad. We left Memphis last 3rd day morning for this point and arrived here last 6th day, we have been busy ever since we were on picket once and were occupied fixing up our tents and cleaning off the quarters, one day and yesterday we were employed digging rifle pits there are

ranges of hills all around
here which well are fortify-
ing to keep Johnson
from getting in the rear
of Grant we are some
100 miles from Chicksbu-
rgn we can hear the
Bombarding of the town
very plainly it is kept
up very constant. we
have a very nice place
to camp and I think
it will be healthy altho
h the water does not taste
very good. I received 2 letters
by J. H. Busie. we have
just drew a mess pan
of sour crout it is
quite a rarity. we get
an abundance of hard tack
and pork coffee and
sugar which furnishes
us a wholesome living

we had a very nice trip
down - The Mississippi notwithstanding it rained all
the time. There is not very
much to be seen coming
down the river except
cabin breaks and chimneys
where there has once been
the residence of some
rich planter but he has
been burned out of house
and home and upstaddled
into the interior.

I have nothing
more to write at
present. write often

Your wellwisher
J. S. M. C.

Haines Blufs Miss 6th mo 15th 63 (June 15, 1863)

Dear Father Mother—Brothers and sisters.

I have the oportunity of writing you a few lines once more. I am well at present so are the remainder of the camp any except A. H. Ballard he is some what unwell but not very bad. Wee left Memphis last 3rd day morning for this point and arrived where last 6th day, we have been busy ever since we were on picket once and were occupied fixing up our tents and cleaning off the quarters, one day and yesterday we were employed diging rifle pits there are ranges of hills all around here which wee are fortifing to keep Johnson from getting in the rear of Grant wee are some 10 miles from Vicksburgh we can hear the bombarding of the town very plainly it is kept up very constant. Wee have a very nice place to camp and I think it will be healthy although the water does not taste very good. I received 2 letters by J. H. Busie. We have just drew a mess pan of sour crout it is quite a rarity. Wee got an abundance of hard tack and pork coffee and sugar which furnishes us a wholsome living we had a very nice trip down the Mississippi notwithstanding it rained all the time. There is not very mutch to be seen coming down the river except cainbreaks and chimneys where there has once been the residence of some rich planter but he has been burned out of house and home and skedaddled into the interior.

I have nothing more to write at present. Write often.

Your well wishing
Son Jno Mills.