

(15)

Lagrange, Tennessee.

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Jane, I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I received yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> first on the 23<sup>rd</sup> which was yesterday, I was truly proud to get another letter and learn that you was all well. I was very uneasy about George, after hearing that he was kicked in such a dangerous place, and and glad to hear that he is doing so well. now dear Jane I know that is very disheartening to be placed in the condition that we are, and I am almost ready to give up myself at times and put over some very gloomy days, the great difficulties that I had in my official business at home and the bad step that I took when I enlisted in this Lincoln crusade has nigh run me mad, and I often feel as if I had no friends in the world, and if it was not for the sake of keeping character spotless from shame and disgrace, I would have been at home long before this time. I am glad to hear that you are not suffering for anything to eat, drink, or wear, for if I knew you was then, I would not stay here one day longer if it cost me my life, but dear Jane let us hope for the better, our chances may turn for the better soon lets keep in good heart and be patient,

I wrote to you on the first about sending them things to me, but if you have not started them by the time you get this you need not send them. I will try to get a long some way until I get home. I can draw some cotton flannel drawers at 95 cts a pair but I thought that they would be a little to warm this summer, but I can take them off in the day time & put them on at night to sleep in - my shorts are tolerable good and will do a good while yet. I wrote to you that I had bought me a pair shoes, and stockings & that will do me this summer or until I get home, but I sincerely thank you for your kindness in making the effort to send them to me. You must not think that I think the less of you or about home because you did not send them to me, by no means.

I approve of the course you did with the boots in getting the cheap shoes for them for them. I think you did right in not sending the things with out some letting both our interests. For the matter I have not to you a boot them you ask what we do with so much lumber, we used it in making shoes in our tents, for fixing up the hospital and a great many other little things making the shoes. I commenced this letter at the same time as we received the letter but it should be well known and have been at home

It is now dark and still raining at  
 this time, well Dear Jane, and children  
 I told you in my last letter that one  
 half of our Regiment had staid on  
 transport, and were then out, since  
 that time they have returned, they come  
 on this morn morning and a very looking  
 set they were, having marched light days  
 and had out every night in the open air  
 with out shelter you may judge that they  
 were worn out, there was four Regiments  
 on the expedition. I saw one of the  
 Smiths, I seen them come in on their  
 return and I guess that about one fourth  
 of them come in barefooted having  
 thrown away their boots, they had  
 wore shoes, I at along the best, the  
 officers looked as bad if not worse  
 than the privates I proved to be one of  
 those great foraging parties, they captured  
 or rather took from the farmer in the  
 country along the lines of country that  
 they passed over about four hundred  
 head of horses and mules, about seven  
 or nine wagons, and lots of great  
 bundles of stuff, that is what I call public plunder  
 but such is the policy of all wars in all countries  
 well Jane this is Monday morning, It is clearing  
 up a little but for a nice day, wine here

4) Monday morning, still well, nice com-  
pany we are quite am excited - would the  
company having received an order that five  
percent of the company could have furloughs to  
go home with less about three out of the company  
we could now the question is who shall go, the  
captain has the privilege of selecting the men  
that are entitled to go, the leave order applies  
to those who have rendered the best service,  
those being entitled to go first. I will take  
myself a little to get sound in that way but the  
company will have to be satisfied with the arrange-  
ment, how soon my turn may come I  
cannot tell, but think soon, one thing certain  
I will use all my best efforts to be first, but the  
probable night at this time is we have to muster  
the pay again on Thursday next, and I will  
have to be here then certain for I want all the  
money that I can get before I come home, we  
expect to get some pay on Friday next and if  
the furloughs are not issued before that time  
then the captain says I can go, but I will be  
sure to be at home between this and the first of  
June or a furlough certain, Dear ones I am  
going to send you letter that you have wrote  
to me, home to you by Charles Rice, or Rice  
say, he has been dis charged on account of his  
bad health and starts for home tomorrow,  
but I think that I can't wait until I go home  
myself, I think that is the smart way.

5) after dinner quite warm, looks like rain,  
Dear Gene I received your kind letter of the  
19<sup>th</sup> instant by yesterday's mail and was  
truly glad to get it stating that you was  
still well. I would be glad to get one every  
day (It was not 24) you see that I got it on Sun  
day the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. just eight days from date,  
you want to know what kind of a day it was  
down here. I will tell you. It was a fine, clear,  
pleasant day. It is very hard for me to keep  
men of the state of the weather, but I can tell  
you, all about the state of the weather down  
here since I landed in the southern states. I  
can tell you every day on which it rained,  
or snowed, every day that was clear, every  
day that was cloudy, every day that was cold,  
and every day that was warm. I can tell you  
where I was, on each of those days and  
what I done. I will have that little pass  
Book telling you all these things comple-  
ted, by the first day of May, and send it  
to you immediately, in advance of my getting  
home so that you can see what I do.  
I don't tell you this to boast of but I think it  
a good thing for a man in the army to be  
so prepared to tell from time to time, what  
he done on such and such days and  
where he was at certain times. Thus you  
know would be for his own benefit.

My  
C) well now for that plain talk you  
spoke about. I wrote to you some time ago  
and requested you to take the money that I  
sent you and pay the taxes on house and  
lots, and on the farm too. I did not want  
you to use your money for that purpose and  
I put it off as long as I could. you say that you  
have paid on the house and lot, and that  
you have redeemed from under Elliott's  
Sale, very well, you did aright. I wanted  
Elliott to get a tax title and if I ever got  
able to pay him off I would get him to give  
me a tax title deed in your name so  
as to cut off that lien that I gave my  
securities, but I approve of what you have  
done. I can't blame you for looking into  
these things. Dear Jane if I have been the  
cause of you losing your hair, I do  
most sincerely ask your pardon and  
forgiveness, and to say God to forgive  
me for any and every error that I  
may have committed against you  
either in word or deed, and hereafter  
will try to so conduct my future course  
so as not to any offense, but will be  
perfectly mild and content with my fate.  
It is true my hair is not falling off my  
head very fast yet, but my brains are  
almost sucked to death, about the care

home, and If I could only get home  
 so as to arrange and settle up my  
 business. I would be willing to abide the  
 will of the alwise maker, of all things. I  
 have often thought it would be much  
 better for me to be out of the way, then  
 all would be quiet, but as I am doomed  
 to trouble, I am content to do the best  
 I can, and I hope that I will be spared  
~~to go to~~ to soon get home, and try  
 to settle up my affairs so that you  
 will not be troubled about it. I will  
 take your word for what you say, about the  
 matter so you need not send the papers  
 down here. I wrote to you some time ago  
 and told you about Waggoner paying  
 the Taxes on the farm, he paid on it  
 one year with money that he collec-  
 ted of mine, (1860) I have paid them  
 since, I think the receipts must be there  
 some place, Waggoner Regiment is not  
 here they are at Jackson, and I understand  
 that Waggoner is there I will write to him  
 and try and have the matter fixed up  
 I wrote to you to pay the Taxes on the  
 farm again. I have a right to pay the  
 Taxes on all my land, no difference  
 who pay before I do. If the Taxes are  
 not paid on the stump Quarter I will

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loose it entirely but if I do I will have to  
let it go, I dont own any lots in Phelps  
addition except I bought them for the Daves  
and I do not recollect now, dont pay on any  
lots but on haddon lot unless wozly will  
assign them recd to you and in that  
case I pay him the Daves on them, I bought  
that lot across the street that little Mess play was  
going to build his shop on over Pauls old  
Beadles fifteen dollars on it, he agreed to  
pay me the money back again if I  
did not pay him for it, I will see to it when  
I come home, and I will then tell you  
all about my affair, face to face so  
as to give you no more trouble on any  
account, well you spoke of trying to raise  
some colts, you may breed both more to  
any good horse, I think that a big horse  
is the best, use your own judgment in the matter,  
I think that I can get out of this cursed war,  
some time this summer, and try to get  
back home again, and go on to the farm  
and try to make a living for you and  
the children by honest toil, I hope you will  
have plenty of good peaches and apples this  
summer, and I will try to get home to  
help take care of them, Dear friend I am  
very sorry that you had the misfortune to  
break off one of your fore teeth, can you get  
another put in in Lewistown if you can do it,  
I have had two pulled out since I come down  
here on the right side of my jaw, and I  
will have to have one pulled out on the left  
side of my jaw, soon. (another page)



9<sup>th</sup> Since I commenced writing this letter  
I have ascertained that I cannot come home  
before the first of June and then you  
may keep a sharp look out if nothing  
turns up so as to break up the arrangement.  
I thought of expressing my overcoat home, soon  
and will still do it if I cannot get some one to  
take it who is going home. It is a good coat yet  
and I thought to good to throw away. Well  
Dear Jane I have wrote so much that I  
will stop for this time, and wait with  
patience for another letter from you,  
hoping that this may find you and  
the children all well. I remain your  
affectionate and absent Husband,

Wm. M. Standard  
To Jane his wife and children  
at Home.

P.S. I send this by Charles Rice. He stays  
home in the morning, we are look-  
ing for a pay master here and  
will probably get some more pay I will  
send you all that I can spare and  
I don't need much. I don't know. I will  
be as saving as possible. Though the  
fare he poor fair row belly is a  
little troubling for a weak stomach  
to take this hot weather I eat but a  
very little of it. over

I get a long the best I can sometimes  
do very well sometimes not so well  
the talk now is that we will be  
ordered on an other big march in  
a few days. I will let you know  
immediately about the matter  
I seen "Jo"; yesterday morning I told  
him what you said about his  
things that Paul got he said it  
was all right. he was not very well  
he was at the Hospital getting some  
medicine. I seen Kate this morning  
he is well. give my respects to Mr  
Worley's family. the paper that I sent  
you I sent for you to read if you  
wanted to for post time you said  
at one time you would like to have  
a paper to read for the news. but  
that the editors stoped my papers as  
soon as I went to the news it is  
now so dark I must stop so  
Good Bye for this time will  
write again in a day or two

Your Husband.

Wm Standan  
To Jane Standan  
his wife.

& children