

in short, as the typical American citizen-soldier who campaigned through the Civil War—and who campaigned elsewhere, from Yorktown to Okinawa.

Camp Near Nashville Dec. 9th 1862

Brother George,

I suppose you may think it quite strange to write you a letter so soon. We do not know how soon we may leave here and as I had my picture taken today I thought it best to get it on the way as soon as possible. I suppose you will all know me I think it is a very good picture. I had it taken to my own taste I hope you will finde know fault with it. We were orderd out last night to strengthen the Picket line. I suppose Our General's expecti[n]g an attacked. We were out untile eight Oclock this morning then retur[n]ed to our quarter's. Our teame's are buisy forageing every day two Regiment's and two peice's of Artillery always are sent along to guard the teams. Sometimes thair orcurr'd's quite a little skirmish while out. The other day when part of the fourth Brigade were out with the forage train thay were surrounded by one Brigade of Reb's they having several peice's of artillery with them. They had got in between our froage train and our picket line so our men could not send in for reinforcement so thair only chance was to cut thair way through The reporte is that we lost 15 wagons 2 men killed and two men wounded in the 93 Ohio. By all appearance's it seem's to me as if we will have a heavy fight on hand before long. I may be mistaken. If we have to fight them here I hope we will give them the best th[r]ashing they every had. And the sooner the better. It seem's the same to me as when we were lying in camp before Corint do not know what hour or minute we may be called to fight or march. I hope this will soon be settled and we all can retur[n] home again. I think I writen about all. May this find you all in the best of health. I still keep good health and am very thankfull for it. give my best love to all.

From your Brother
John J. Traub.

P.S. You will see on the Picture that the U. S. is upside down, that is a fault of my own I thought and so did some of my Bunk mates by turning it upside-down it would come all right on the picture. And some of them of them sayed it

would not. So I had it taken upside down to settle the dispute. By having it on the way we ware them the S come's before the U. So thare is not much difference.

So no more
J. Traub.

P. S. Write to me as soon as you get this letter Send me a half dzzen Pstage Stamp's in your next letter.

Murfreesboro. June. 7th 1863.

Dear Brother George

Your long looked for letter I received today. I thought something was wrong that you did not write sooner I am sorry to hear that William is sick I hope it may not prove to be the small pox. It is my earnest wish that he may be a getting better fast ere this is received. You say you saw them prisinor's that were taken at Vixburg it was quite a squad. I think if Gen Grant succeed's in taken Vichburg and the Army in thare it will not be long in putting down this rebellion. For that is one of thair main strong hold's. And will give our armie's down thare a chance to co-operate with us. May we be more successfull every day. I expect you have received that letter I wrote you of the 31st so it will be of no use to write the same again. I expect we will make a forward move. it looks so at the present. It is always our luck to build breastworks and fortification's for others it is said that Van Cleave[General Horatio VanCleve]'s division occuys this place and we move on as usual. Our brigade has been to work every day except Sunday and sometime's Sunday, and night as well as day time every scince the fight here. Now as the most of the work and roughest of the work is done we are releived. They always ride a free horse to death. This is our case in most instances. thare is one thing certan it will not last alway's. . . . We have had some very refreshing showers the past week which make's the weather very comfortable. We have Order's to be ready at a moment's notice with seven days ration's three in our haver-sack's and four in our knap-sack's we have always ten days rations in advance. It is with Gen Rosecranc [William S. Rosecrans] something like the cat watching a mouse He is watching [General Braxton] Bragg with keen eye for fear he might be rein-

forceing the Rebble's at Vicsburg. Gen Rosecrance keeps wakeing them up occasionly and make's them beleive he is comeing by snatching off thair pickets now and then. Our mounted Infantry and cavelry are working nobely ever scince we have been here. I suppose if Old [General Don Carlos] Buell had command yet we would strike for Louisville again. I am getting most to long. I will close hoping that these few words may finde you all enjoying the best of health my love to all.

Your brother
John Traub.

P.S. I am not particular in need of that shirt so you need not worry yourselves about it. May I hear from you soon and hear that William is getting better fast is my wish and thought.

John Traub.