

[Letter from V. W. Sargent in Memphis, Tennessee, to his parents in Iowa]

Memphis Tenn

Dec 26th/63

Dear Parents

I recieved [*received*] your letter of the 11th which found me well as normal and still in Memphis yesterday was crist----[*Christmas*] [*three words unclear*] although had no big dinner we had considerable fun I will send my likeness as soon as I can get it taken You spoke about me sending home some blankets I will geather [*gather*] [*next three words missing*] Spring and [*words missing*] shall need [*need*] all I can get this winter and when I go home if I ever do I will buy a lot of them and take home I have drawn two new ones this winter and have got that quilt yet that I took from home

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The reason you did not get many letters from me for so long a time was because I did not write them

That was while I was at Vicksburg

I was gorn [*gone*] two weeks and had no chance to write while I was gorn [*gone*] As I was down on the levy the other day there was a squad of gorillies [*guerillas*] run in onto the ferry boat as she landed on the other side of the river killed one man and captured two and got off with them they sent two companyes [*companies*] over but they did not catch them the gunboat shelled the woods all night to keep them from coming back

I was glad to hear that mother was getting well it seams [*seems*] there has ben [*been*] more sickness in family since I left than

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Thare [*there*] ever was before

It seams [*seems*] as though I could see you all and tell how you look but herbert and albert they was so small that I most forget how they look I presume you all think more about me than I do about you for I am busy running around seeing something new every day and always in a crowd but when I am on picket I have plenty of a time to think two hours at a stretch

I will not send any money in this letter I think we will get pay first of next month

There is some talk of raising the soldiers pay to 15 or 18 dollars. I dont [*don't*] care how quick they do that.

We havenot had any snow here yet or any signes [*signs*] of any it is a raining a little today but I have nothing to do I donot care but I should like to

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have it stop before tomorrow morning becaus [*because*] I have to go on picket tomorrow

We have drawn new tents since we came here there is three in the tent with me all young fellows like myself we have got our tent raised up so we have considerable room

[drawing of tents being raised with soldier -on right of page]
before raised after raised [*written under each drawing*]

I will clows [*close*] now by bidding

You all

Good By

From your son
V W Sargent

[written diagonally along left side of signature] excuse bad wrighting *[writing]*