

March 17, 1861

Camp Millsdale, MS

My Dear and affectionate wife I seat myself to inform you that I am in tolerable good health today and I am in hopes that this letter may find you and our dear boys and connections and all in the best of health & spirits. I went to the corn shucking last Friday and had some fever and dull aching in bones so I did not work much.

I drank some coffee which put to sweating very much & continued until my fever left me at night.

Give my best love to papa & mama & all our brothers & sisters & connections & friends & except of my best love & wishes for your dear self & our boys so remains your affectionate husband.

Micajah Wilkinson

Jan 8, 1862

Camp Bragg

Mr. Micajah Wilkinson

Dear Brother,

I am getting resigned to camp life once more and can pass of the time very well with the messy groups that are always kicking up fun in camp. I was on guard last night. It rained nearly all night and the wind blew awful hard.

I was proud to learn that our oats would come up and that you were going to commence planting them. You need not be afraid of planting too much for me. As I think Allan & Martha can tend a big in oats.

I remain Your Brother

Frank

Jan 24, 1862  
Camp Bragg

Mr. Micajah Wilkinson, Jr.

Dear Brother,

I take up my pen for the purpose of answering your kind favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> which I received on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's the first letter that I have got by mail since you went home.

We hear the Yankees down & occasionally hear them fire a salute of fourteen guns which makes the earth tremble beneath our feet. The Cavalry Co. from Hanboro has been here for the last week. They are pretty well drilled but their horses can't stand the music.

Give my best respects to all of the connections and inquiring friends and accept a double portion for yourself and family.

Nothing more only I remain your Brother

B.F. Wilkinson

March 20, 1862

Camp Milldale

Mrs. Mary C. Wilkinson, Liberty, Miss.

My dear and affectionate wife. I seat myself to inform you that I am in tolerable good health at this time.

John was moved in 5 miles off my camp. I went to see him last Saturday & stayed all day with him. I received your kind favor on the 18<sup>th</sup> by the politeness of Leuit. Faust.

Capt. Grey is to start to Jackson next Monday

after our money and he says he will approve off my petition and carry it and do the best for me that he can Gary is acting as Colonial of the regiment at this time and he says for Bill Jones to approve my petition as Capt and he will a commander of the post and then he will present it to Pettis for me – but you must not look for me until you see me a coming.

I was glad to hear that grass was growing some but I am sorry to hear that our cow died.

You need not send me any more paper or envelopes or stamps until I write for them. I will answer your letters before long and tell you more about it. Our regiment is in a bad condition. Give my best compliments to all or our connection and friends and reserve a double portion for your dear self and our boys so remains your affectionate husband.

Micajah Wilkinson

***This letter was written sometime after the battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862) in western Tennessee.***

The yanks were in 20 ft of us. One ahead with his hat in his hand hollering "come on boys" the dammed rebels are returning someone droped him and the bearer as another grabbed the flag and broke when they saw us give way they hoisted a black flag, but they took it down in a hurry when they say they had to retreat. In that charge Jeffie got killed. We met them next in their camps. Finally them took 6400 prisoners. We were then ordered to charge a battery on the bank of the river. They gave us shells from their gun boats. We had to git while they were shooting at us. Breckinridge's division flanked and took the battery. The Yankees went into their boats. We feasted in their camps that night. Reinforced by Buell they renewed the attach Monday morning. We drove them back to the river and at night we drawed off. Reports says the Yanks lost 20,000 killed, we took about 10,000 prisoners, and took seven loads of guns, and sixty-five cannons, Jeff Williams was killed on Sunday.

Cage it is useless for me to undertake to describe the whistling of the balls, shots, and shells. They were as thick as hail. If it had not have been for their gun boats we would have gained the greatest victory that ever was armed on this continent. All of our boys are satisfied of fighting, but they say if they ever come here, they will give it to them again, I saw a great many funny little pranks in the battle. It is the lords will for me to return home I will tell you all about it. We \_\_\_\_\_ Monday & Tuesday night started for Corinth thou \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to his knee. It rained all night an we got to Corinth at daylight. Slept all day and night \_\_\_\_\_ looked like a pack of fox hounds after a hard chase. \_\_\_\_\_ went through enough & hill a \_\_\_\_\_ all of our company will get off.

I got a letter from John. He is well and in good spirits. I want you to write often and tell me how you all are getting along Farming. It is reported here in camp that all twelve month transfers for the war, that no more will be disbanded until the war ceases – If that is actually the fact I hope it will be decided pretty soon. I have not heard any coming since the fight – until we received that. A great many of our regiments swears they will throw down their guns and go home next Sept. I think it will be settled before July. We don't get any papers at all I want you to tell me what you read our fight. The Official Reports on both sides, and if you have seen anything of that law about twelve months troop. It is reported here that people at home are so down in the mouth that they are doing nothing, towards farming. I don't believe it is so. Tell me how Amelia is getting along. I have but one consolation and that is poor Jefferson is at rest in heaven where there is no war to make a peaceful rest, he died a brave and noble soldier, and honor to the name which he bore. He put his trust in God knowing that God will reward him. Our boys plundered all the camps they went dressed up in the finest kind of in Officers clothes. I took nothing only what I ate some were afraid of being poisoned. I would have eat if it had been covered in Yankee blood. A soldiers life is too wretched to describe let alone to have to endure. I think the confederacy is going down hill, we get inferior flour, \_\_\_\_\_ beef, and fresh, but very poor, rye coffee, a little sugar and a little molasses, It make me think of Billy \_\_\_\_\_ (an old tin bucket and little bit of fat) folks grumble if you eat all day.

John Roberts & Ed Cannuth are missing I expect they were taken prisoners. They say our Cannell Cooke into a Quarter Masters department and got 800 dollars in gold and silver he is out at Montreey with a bottle of whiskey in each hand. He took good care not to get in danger, during the fight. The Yankees says if it was not for these Mississippians they would conquer the Confederacy in two weeks. The most of the Yankees though we did not have any guns and powder, but they found out their mistake when we met. Some of them said they would not fight any since others said they would conquer us and kill the last of us, Old Prentiss says he will fight us again in 90 days. The most of the Yankees though we did not have any guns and powder, but they found out their mistake when we met. They say we have whipped the best armed & dirilled army in the Federal Government. The Texas Rangers say that we killed old Buell, but I fear it is not true. Gen Chalmers horse was shot in the neck so he had to get another horse, his horse is getting well. The ball cut him so close he got down off his horse. It is useless for me to try to \_\_\_\_ to you so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Give my love to Jane & Lissie and all the rest of the connections & friends and accept a double portion for yourself and family, young, pack, Joe Seals, Rickent and all the Nunnery boys send their respects to you and family. I remain your Brother  
4ever B.F. Wilkinson

***Jeffy was one of the Wilkinson brothers. He was killed on the first day of fighting at Shiloh. His military records show that he was shot through the heart.***

Saltillo

July 11, 1862

Mr. M. Wilkinson,

Dear Brother

I seat myself this morning for the purpose of answering your kind favors which came to hand in due time. But they keep us moving about so much that I hardly have time to write at all.

My health is as good as could be expected after eating so much bull beef. I think from the way they feed us provision is getting very scarce in the Confederacy.

We went out to Ripley fifty miles north west of Tupelo, to meet the Yanks but they skeedaddled before we got there and on leaving picked up three of the blue bellies that stopped to pick blackberries. They were big stout looking men.

We have pretty good news from Virginia and Vicksburg. They sunk the Brooklyn of 32 guns and made the Yankees skedaddle.

They took 6,000 prisoners in Virginia and drove them back to the mouth of the James River. Cage I have been detached to a battalion of sharp shooters they are the roughest set of men I ever saw.

I got Jack Duff to agree to take my place, but the Major of the battalion would not let us exchange. If I keep my health and the Yanks don't get me, I think I can make it pretty well. I have got in the notion of waiting until the war is over before I come home as I can't get off no other way.

I would not be surprised before you read (this) scribble if we're all on our way to Chattanooga in East Tennessee. The Yankees have about 50,000 men in that section and I have no news I will quit for the present.

Give my love to all the connection and accept a Brother's love for yourself and family. Joe Seals and the Nunnery Boys sends their respects to you and family, write as often as convenient and tell John to write. I was sorry to hear of Billy Hardy's bad luck.

I still remain your affectionate Brother,

Frank

August 2, 1862  
Abbeville, Miss.

Mr. Micajah Wilkinson, Jr.

My Dear Brother

I have just received and read your favor of yesterday and was very glad to hear that you were well and that you had a healthy locality for your vamp with good water.

But I am sorry to inform you that I am not well. I was taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July with diarrhea and flu and have been pretty bad off ever since, passing off more or less blood every day. I am just able to walk about to wait on myself. have lost 10 lbs in weight since I came to camp, but I think that I am a little on the mend, but it will take me some time to get well eating such diet as we get. Flower, bacon, fish, beef & peas. We have been getting some corn meal When you write again if you have any idea how long you are to be kept in service let me know. Give my compliments to all your mess also to E. Seals and inquiring friends. Direct to the care Capt. Jackson Co. K 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Miss. Volunteers Col. Hurst.

Hoping that that Lord may preserve us and ours and hasten to time when we shall return to our loved ones at home and that he may finally save us in Heaven. I remain your affection Bro

John C. Wilkinson