

Letters and excerpts from letters to Benjamin Wise from his son, Israel Wise. <sup>11</sup> Israel was born on February 10, 1842 and died on August 10, 1863.

Note: Spelling and punctuation has been left as much as possible like Israel wrote it.

April 11, 1862

Dear father & mother it is with much respect that I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along I am well at present & I do hope those few lines may find you all well further more I can say that the great battle is fought and the victory is won and the stars and stripes yet waves over us the enemy attacked us instead of us attacking them at Corinth they made their attack on Sunday 6th before day light and the battle was kept up all day and till Monday without entirely seacing but we persued them on Monday some ten miles but they persued us mighty close on Sunday and if we had not got reinforced with buels men we would of been in a tight place for they had a mighty strong force and we was not a looking for their attack at all but we finely over powered them but they was a power killed on both sides but I dont think there was as many killed on our side as they was killed on theirs for the butter-nuts briches lay thinnk threw the woods and our method of burying them was to dig a large hole and sock from ten to 30 in it they killed a great many horses and mules but I think the fun is about ended as I have understood that a part of bervels men went around them and took Corinth and on the enemys retreat back they was saluted by cannonading them Sow I dont know where the rest of the oppasers is now but they had better not come here I will not be able to write you a full detail of the battle at present but there was not many hurt out of our company

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you once more that you was all well I believe that I will not write any more at present I want you to answer this as soon as you can

So nomore at this time Dyrect as you did before

from Israel Wise to Benjamin Wise

3  
June 7  
letter  
Memphis Tenn Aug 7th 1862

Dear Friends

Once more I seat my self to write you a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which carrie to hand a few days since and found me well and hearty I was glad to hear that you were all well, we are at the present time camped about one mile east of Memphis on Poplar Street, we have a beautiful camping ground and good water and plenty to eat. this is a very nice country about this place, and when it is not too warm we have good times

The health of our Regt is better now then it has been since we left Camp Chase, only a few are in the hospital and some in their quarters

The Darkies are busy at cutting up their corn, corn crops are pretty good here this season. We can get plenty of every kind of vegetables here if we pay a high price which necessarily is the case where a large army is stationed

Private Henry Barker and James Musgrave deserted from us some two or three weeks ago

The Boys that have been home on Sick Furloughs are returning, Joseph Wolf James Brown Wm Grabel and several others have returned since we came to this place

I did not send you the Check yet but will send it now and I also enclose to you one dollar of Secesh money so that you can see how it looks

write as soon as you get this and Direct to Memphis, write all the news I still remain your Son

I Wise by A. P. Glathart

*Benjamin Wise was my mother's Grandfather. Virden 492.52.1*

Letters and excerpts from letters to Benjamin Wise from his son, Israel Wise. Israel was born on February 10, 1842 and died on August 10, 1863.

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VIRDEN H. SMITH  
7871 TOWNSHIP RD 255  
FINDLAY OH 45840

April 11, 1862

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I Wise by A. P. Glathart

Property of the  
Hancock Historical Museum

Memphis Tenn Aug 24th 62

Dear father & mother

I once more Embrace the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how I am a getting along I am well & harty at the Present time & I do hope when this reaches you that it may find you all the Same. I read your most welcome letter yesterday & I was glad to hear from you we are yet Station in the Eastern Suburbs of Memphis but I cant tell you how long we will stay here but I dont think that it will be long we all think that we will half to gow down to Vics burgh about 400 miles from here down the river & if we dont gow down there we expect that we will half to fight over a part of the ground that we have went over for the papers states that the rebels are trying to brake over the Ohio river & if they do I think that will wake some of the Coward up in that Section of the Country. I understand by your letter that there is some of the young boys are afraid of being drafted. Well they wont if they are like men & volunteer, for my part I would advise all to volunteer for they will see better times than those that are drafted for the drafted ones there haint much mercy on now if there is any that wants to fight for their country & wants to come to the 57th A.V.I. now is their time So come one come all both great and small there is room enough for all who loves their country. I mean those who is yet Single & a cutting dirt around their tell Old Uncle Dan to send some of his laddy bucks down here to stand by their cousin in line of battle I should like to see a goodly number yet from that meighbor hood tell them to never fear. that they wont Dye until their time comes. I believe that I have said enough on that subject.

Christopher Wolf has bin her & paid usa small visit & I sent with him a silk coat that I captured on picket a regular Secesh Coat

I have sent you 20 dollars & I sent the receipt with L. Brown which you will get probably before this reaches you I believe that I have no particulars to write at present I want you to write as soon as you get this letter for I am anxiously hear from you all. My best wishes to all of my enquiring friends if such there be

Dyrect to Memphis Tenn in care of Capt Henderson Co. H 57 regt

Memphis Tenn Sept 16th/62

I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well & harty at this time & I do hope when this reaches you that it may find you all the same I received your letter last week & I was glad to hear from you & very sorry to think that I cant be with you to take care of some of the girls but I do hope that I will before a month more for I think that when all of our men gets in too the field that we can make a short story of it. We was out on a 5 day scout last week & I could not find but a few guirilla squads & we soon cleaned them out we brought in with us 13 of them & one lieut. our scout was made down in missippi. We seensome very nice cotton plantations & a great deal of it was a gowing to waist on the account of their slaves a running away when they come to us for protection we send them to the fortifycations & put them to work for the benefit of Uncle Sam boys that is the way we have of freing the black whelps the weather is very nice here now it is neither too cool or too warm the health of the regt is good with a few exceptions some little dyorer we are all in good hart & feel like making a forward movement at any time we are called upon but it may be such a thing that we may never leave this place not at least until we get the old regts filled up for there has to be some boddy to gard this point if we want to hold it & of course we do I should be very glad to see the Old 57th filled up once more for it has got considerably reduced since we left camp V. & our general gives us great praise on the account of our bravery on our Scout we marched in front all the time & we was the rear gard on our return we have a nice man for to lead us threw the Secesh lands & a bad guy for a colonel but our lient col. cant be beat.

I believe that I have wrote all of the particulars at this time we have moved our camp 2½ miles from the one previous to the north east corner of town near wolf river we can gow a fishing when we wish and a dodling too. So nomore at this time only write soon as this comes too him & let me know all of the particulars of the neighbor hood if there is any Dyrect as before yours with respect Benjamin Wise from Israel Wise your faithful brother & friend until death separatis

Memphis Tenn Sept 22nd /62

Dear My Father

I take the pleasure of dropping you a few lines of informing you of my health which is good and in hope that this note will find you and mother enjoying health and spirits. Father I am now going to inform you of the death of David Egbert. he died today at one o'clock he will be beoured this evening Father I think one will draw pay in a short time now and just as soon as I draw is why I will send some to you, when you answer this let me know all the news around the neighborhood. And about War Matters? War matters

Around here is kind a slim only the other day our pickets wer fired upon then was none of our men hurt the talk at present is that the Rebels are going to take back Memphis if they do they will have to fight in so doing Now I must come to a close of my note by enclosing my love and respects to you all and all of my ensuing friends. I still remain your son forever

Isreal Wise

Dyrect Memphis Tenn 57th regt o.v.p Co H in care of Capt. H. Henderson 1st Brigade 5th Division

Answer soon

Remember me while love is sweet

Remember me till next you meet

Remember me the parting day

Remember me when far away

to your friend Sarah Wright

1864

Remember me when this you see and  
I as true will Remember you

Lydia \_ Wise

Remember well and keep in mind a  
trusty friend is hard to find

Miss Lydia

Tenasce June 7th A.D. 1862

My Deare father and mother

I takemy pen in hand tolet you know thatI am well and I hope these few lines will find you in the same state of helth Wee did had som hard times be fore the rebels left Corinth bustting brest works Wee had to work night and day but now we haf beter times Wee dont need to woork every day and the pickets hand fiting anymore as long as the rebels was in Corinth our pickets and the rebels ware fiting all the time but now they haf rest and I hope they wond fite any more When the Rebels left Corinth they burned a grad deal of things they burnd five briges from Corinth to grandynnot they burnd three trains three miles from sha wallow We had to help to fix them places and take the iron and things of the track they burnd one lokomotive and throwed one of the track burnd all the cars they had there the talk is that there are fifteen thousand rebels at grand junston and they are going to mak a stand there But if they will wee'll soon run them a way from there lik at Corinth But I think the ware will soon close and I hope to see you all before long I am going to let you know that Mr Hndarson came here safe and well and is caption of our company now and I has got the writing paper and postage stamps Andrew Jameson and Geroge Woolf went to the hospital I dont know much more to say and so I shal close my leter with the hope to see you all be fore long so I send my love and best respects to father Mother Brothers and Sisters Write soon

From your affectionate son I. Wise to B Wise

Direct your letters to Mr Israel Wise Co F 57 O V P

Direct your leters to Mr. Israel Wise Co H 57 OVP First Brigade fifth Division Tenasee Army

Lousianna Jan 25th/63

beloved father & mother it is with respect that I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along. I am well at the present & I do hope when this comes to hand that it may find you all enjoying the same good blessings. We are now opposite Vicksburg once more on the Louisiana side digging a canal so that our fleet can pass without being interrupted much. but I can't tell how we may come out yet. we are to work on the job now and the water is running through with quite a force. I think that we can make it passable in about a month. What the object is for doing it is more than I can tell at present. Without it is the rebels torpedoes planted in the river & afraid to run the blockade. So we are at work where butlers troops were I suppose that you have heard about it long since so I won't try to tell you any more about it now I have not had an opportunity of telling you any thing about our late battles now I will try & tell you something about them but I will be brief in my explanations for I suppose that you have heard more about it now than I can tell you. Well in the first place after we left Memphis we went direct to Vicksburg we went up the Yazoo river & also some distance up the Sunflower and landed & struck through the woods about 7 miles & I was halted by the enemys fire which was not welcomed by this child and many others sure well we combated with them for several days but did not avail us much only lots of some brave men. We only lost one capt out of our regt & several wounded. their names I am not able to tell at present S. Johnson got wounded or rather a stun from a cannon ball so he has not bin with us since. Well we soon found out that our forces was not sufficient to take the place & we returned & went up the river about 200 miles from thence up the Arkansas river to where the rebels were in force at a place called Arkansas post they were well fortified there & well they might before no body disturbed them since the rebellion commenced so they thought they had it so well fixed that about 7 or 8 thousand could hold it but they slipped up on that I suppose they thought that the ddd yankeys were all trying to take Vicksburg but the first thing they knowed they did not know anything I guess that they were taken by surprise like they took us at Shilo the battle commenced on the 11th and we made a clean sweep of the same day with out much loss and under the fire of the bold 57th the surrender was made our loss was 30 in killed & wounded but one or two killed I believe their names I can't speak. Well I see that I am on the last page so I will have to close we have very warm weather here now rather warm to work hard so I will take it easy I forgot to tell you that I could see Vicksburg from where we work but they won't let us come close enough to shake hands with the town folks yet

Now I will close by bidding you all the Healing that this world can afford hoping to get an answer soon

Israel Wise Direct as before only to Mr B. Wise put on to follow the regt

Youngs Pt Louisiana  
April 4th/63

Dear father & mother

I once more take pen in hand to write you a few more lines to let you know that I am well & hearty at this present time & I do hope if those few lines reaches you that it may find you all enjoying the same good blessings I don't know as I have many in particulars to write at present I drew too months pay today & as I did not send you any before. I will send you by express today \$70.00 which I hope you may get and if you get it please let me know immediately so I won't be uneasy about it. We are yet lying in camp near Vicksburg and all is quiet...

The weather here is very warm at the present time but the health of the regt is good considering there is but few sick we have a nice camp here & we expect to stay here for some time by all appearance. Our daily employment is Drilling every day hard & trying to dig another canal about 6 miles above where we first tried to dig one & failed. if they can get this one to work I think that the Secesh will be in a hard fix for it terminates below all of their fortifications.

Well as I have no particulars I will not write any more at this time hoping to hear from you soon for it is very seldome that I hear from home at all anymore but write soon. from your Son Israel Wise to Mr Benjamin Wise

Please send me some postage stamps for I did not get those that you sent me before & I am out Col Munger brought me a letter when he returned that is all  
Address Youngs Pt. La. 2nd brig Dixie front vicksburg V.

April 14th 1863

My parents it is with the grates of peshes that i take my pen in hand to leg you no that i am not well at present hope thes few lines may find the same state of helf I tell you now i haf the akes I had it for a tow as three days now he is out of the field now I am sick daily had to I hope he git well but i told not thing that he git well no more in this coutesy he is going to the hospital he is going a way to Mary he is going to Memphis to as to Malceyfen if he of thes it will be the last of him

I tell you I am going to send 25 dolers have in a letter if you git this letes Warike you rite to me if you got this money tell me how it is the best way to sen this money so rite soon  
John Esterly Jecafe Esterly Derick yor letes to 57th reg Company D Care of Capton Morse

Note: This letter was not written by Israel but maybe dictated by Israel to John Esterly.

We feel it should say:

My parents,

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am not well at present. I hope these few lines may find you in the same state of health as when I last heard from you. I tell you now that I have the aches. I have had it for two or three days now. He (I) is out of the field now. I am sick daily. I hope to get well but I am told anything that will help me get well. At the time of this letter he (I) am going to the hospital. He (I) is going to Mary ? , he (I) is going to Memphis to Malceyfen ? and if he (I) does it will be the last of him (me).

I tell you I am going to send 25 dollars home in a letter. If you get this letter won't you write to me if you get this money and tell me how is the best way to send this money. So write soon.

John Esterly, Jecafe Esterly, Direct your letters to 57th Company D, in care of Caption Morse

Mr Wise dear sir

I am under the painful necessity of informing you of the deth of Isreal, he died in the hospital at Viscburg on the tenth of this month. As you will see from the inclosed letter that I have just this moment received from the hospital surgeon. Isreal was taken sick at Jackson about the 16th of July and sent to Vicksburg hospital by our Regmental Surgeon. the doctor said he would be sent up the river soon as he got to the City. I felt uneasy about him. And sent A. Beard to see if he was there. And if so how he was gitting. but Alesander went as he seposed to all the hospitals and not finding him. I came to the conclusion that they had sent him up the river. And was in hopes that he would get home on a sick furlough. From these facts I came to the conclusion that he was at Memphis. And I told Jasper Rickets if he should stop in Memphis to try and hunt him up. Knew no better of his wareabouts until some four or five dayes since I received a letter from him asking me to send him a discriptive roll and his knapsack. that he was going to start up the river on the first boat that went up. this letter was written on the 6th of this month and for some cause it went up the river to Cario and back before I got it. It came to hand on the twenty second and I seposed it would be usless for me to send these things to him untill I would hear from him again. As I seposed he was gon up the river according to his tatement about going up on the first boat that was up the river.

I assure you that not only mysilfe but all the company deaply simpathise with you in your bereavment in him. You have lost a brave and noble sone who by his acts of vallor and soldering quallityes and kind and affectionate disposition have won for for him selfe the esteime and affection of booth officers and men. We feele that in him we have not only lost a brave and a noble soldier, but one that has done honor to the cuase in which he was ingagued. And of whoes acts his father and mother may well feele proud eaven in the hour of affliction. he was a boy that did not participate in any of the viceses of the rickless soldiers but honor and integrity seemed to be his motto but poor Israel is gonewhere sickness and death can never come. Where the nose of the cannon will be heard no more forever. And the sound of the bugle that has so often summounsed him to fase the frowning foe will be sillent on his ear. Whare all the hardships and deprivations of a soldiers life will be forgotten. As father and mother I can appreciate your feelings in the loss of a sone so dear, but I trust you will look beond the shores to time. And consider tha this would at best is but a fleeting vapor. And our stay so short that we will soon swell the throng of those that have gon before. that is reality well, be the commensment of our escistance. And those that have gon before should only remind us that we two must soon follow after those death will nomore part us and war with all its horrores will be forgotten.) I will send one of the boys to Vicksburg tomorrow and leave all the particulars concerning his deth he had some money, but the surgeon has sed nothing about it in his letter but as soon as I gind out all about it will wright aginn.

H. E. Henderson

Gen. Hospital No. 4  
Vicksburg, Miss.  
August 21st, 1863

Capt. C. H.

Sir -

Israel Wise a private of Co. H. 57thst Ohio Inft. Vol. died at this hospital, August the  
(10th) tenth, 1863.

W. S. Edgies, surg. 32nd  
in charge of hospital

*Gen Hospital No 4  
Vicksburg Miss  
August 21<sup>st</sup> 1863*

*Capt. C. H.  
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*W. S. Edgies, surg 32<sup>nd</sup> Inft  
in Charge of Hospital,*

FORM 15.

# Adams Express Company

GREAT EASTERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN  
EXPRESS FORWARDERS.

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Received of *Israel Wise* *April 11* 1863  
*One* Package sealed and said to contain *Seventy* Dollars

Addressed *Benjamin Wise*  
*Lindley, Hancock, Co. Ohio*

Which it is mutually agreed is to be forwarded to our Agency nearest or most convenient to destination only.  
It is agreed, and is part of the consideration of this contract, that THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY, are not to be responsible, except as forwarders, for any loss or damage arising from the dangers of Railroad, Ocean, Steam or River Navigation, Fire, the acts of God or of the enemies of the government, the restraint of governments, mobs, riots, insurrections, pirates, or from any of the dangers incident to a time of war, unless Specially Insured by them and so Specified in this Receipt.

Freight \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance \_\_\_\_\_ For the Company, *W. Searley*