

To: Master Charles W. Rendall - Summit, Waukesha County, Wisconsin

From: Job Apsey Rendall, January 17, 1863

Co. C 28th. Regt. Wis. Vol.

St. Charles, Arkansas

Via Cairo, Illinois

Dear Brother,

In my last letter to Sister Susan I promised to write to you next. I don't know whether you have learned to write yet, if not you must get Dear sister to help you to read this. I hope you have been getting along well with your broken limbs since, I saw you last, I am very well indeed and although I see one and another of our Regiment sicken and die, yes, and buried here in this southern land. Yet I have every encouragement to think that I shall get along as good if not better than most of my fellow soldiers, when I posted Susie's letter we had just gone aboard the steamer (Impetial)? one of the largest boats running on the Mississippi. It is 315 feet long, you will know a little of its bigness when I tell you that our Regiment had plenty of room on the hurricane deck, one of the nights (for we were on the boat three nights) it rained all night some of the boys got wet, but I was smart enough to sleep where I keep dry. I have escaped a good deal of exposure by keeping my eyes and ears open, it is admitted by all that our squad is the most comfortable, the reason is that wherever we happen to stop every man is wide awake seeing what he can discover that will be of use to us you know that we must have firewood and water for we do not draw these things of the commissary, yet we must have them to cook with, well when everyone does what he can we get along finely live on the top of the heap as I have heard Dear Father say, have soup and coffee and other warm food, while some of the boys are so lazy that they will not cook their rations as good as they might, (condequently)? they have nothing but crackers and water most of the time, but if one of our squad comes in after having been out all night on guard or picket duty his chum will not neglect to see that his meals are in readiness for him I will now tell you what I have got wrote down in my memorandum, on the 12th. at daybreak I went ashore in the state of Mississippi oppoite the mouth of the White river in the state of Arkansas, at 9 a.m. went the White River in Company with the steamers and gunboats, New Gaty, Florence, Henry, Clay, Sunshire, Era, Anglo-Saxon, Ida May, Swallow Rocket, Goody Friends, Rose Hambleton, Alone, Volunteer, Belfast, Lebanon, J. B. Ford, Fitzhugh, Moderator, Emma, Brazil, Madison, Adelia, Chouteau, Ruth, Sir Wm. Wallace, Black Hawk, Lancaster, Kenton, U. S. Hospital, Storm, J. D. Perry, Boyard, New State, Henderson, and two gunboats, (36 in all) 13th. the Fleet ascended the river till sundown 14th about 4 p.m. reached St. Charles, Ark. rebles evacuated the fort we marched up into the fortifications and back on the boat at 9 at night we were ordered back into the fort and past the night after a very stormy day, the next three day it kept storming 18th. Sunday living about 20 of us together in a log house, have things pretty comfortable, now Dear Brother I have written you a long letter all the long words that you cannot understand you must ask the meaning of and then try to remember them, if you can read this letter without any help, be sure and tell Dear Father and Mother and all our Sisters the most important

news, I know that they will be glad to hear from me, and if you want to write to sister Hannah tell her how I am getting along and be sure to answer my letter as soon as you can.

From Your Loving Brother
Job Apsey Rendall
Co. C. 28th. Regt. Wis. Vol.
St. Charles, Arkansas
Via Cairo, Illinois

Died - Helena, Arkansas May 1863

This letter was copied from the original, and then typed up by Odonna Mae (Walker) Ziegler, daughter of Mae Gertrude (Rendall) Walker, daughter of Alton Hartlow Rendall, son of Charles William Rendall, brother of Job Apsey.