

Oil Creek, Ind. May 19, 1865

(Lieut. Geo. T. Jenkins to John C. Esarey).

Dear Sir: Yours of the 5th of April from Goldsboro is at hand. It was some length of time on the way but quite welcome.

I shall send this letter to Washington where no doubt you will be mustered out. John this "cruel war" is at last over and thanks to the God of our cherished country, the stars and stripes is the conqueror, and Mistress not only of the rebellion, but the whole world. Does it not make your heart swell with pride to think that you are one among the many that gave the final death blow to rebeldom and extracted its last poisonous fang forever? Do you not feel like exclaiming with rapture "I am a Federal soldier, and fought for the old flag under Sherman"? John I had one dear good and noble brother that went with you and was in that grand March, "Sherman's March to the Sea"! He fell far away from those most dear, far away from home; but mortal never fell in a more noble cause -- that of our common country. God bless him. I feel

as though he was in heaven, with the martyred patriots of the Union, aye, even with our martyred President Lincoln. God bless the soldiers that went from Oil. They are all, all honorable and the country will remember them and their services forever. Heaven guard every soldier of the U. S.

The draft went off here again and took seventeen more out of the Township, myself with the others; but the war was over and they did not want us. A great many are already mustered out and the others are coming in one and two at a time.

The Oil fever is very high here now. They are digging a well at Uncle Milts. This has been a very wet season, and most everyone is behind with his farm work, but all are well, and rejoicing at the thoughts of seeing the soldiers home so soon. Yes, when you all get home the intention is to give you soldiers a dinner. Then I am willing to welcome you home with a speech, the best that I can make, my health is gone, my left lung I think is gone. I am wholly unable to do anything. Give my regards to J. H. Deen. All the Oil and Anderson Creek boys. Write soon. Come home sooner. Your friend. Lieut. Geo. T. Jenkins