

Dayton Dec 16th 1812

Madam,

I arrived at this place on yesterday the 15th after a very tedious ride indeed and not agreeable to my expectation found that the troops had left this place on the 9th to Greenville and from thence to their place of destination which is not known at Dayton. But supposed to be on the wabash somewhere. But know [sic] danger apprehended under the command of Col Campbell. the number of troops about six hundred all mounted in the best manner & armed with swords Pistols & the united states rifle which places them in a situation of battle in any pousture or *point*.

I am now at the house where the Col S [Colonel's staff?] and all our [word obliterated by sealing wax] from Shelbyville boded for a few days before they set out - and am informed they wear [sic] in high spirits indeed. I am told here by the people of dayton that they never saw so fine a set of men in their lives pass through dayton. [Name indecipherable] and some others here who tell me the Col is much [word/s indecipherable] than ever they saw him and is unanimously beloved by his men. the Major Jo [sic] has not as yet *recruited* but would go at any rate. know [sic] news worth relating here. it is not known when the army will march but report[s] say not shortly on account of provision[s].

It is generally supposed the Cavalry from Kentucky will be discharged when they return. I have very little doubt of it, for many reasons. So soon as I can get information from them I will *communicate it to old Shelby immediately.*

~~[other page[s] of letter missing]~~

*I will inclose to you the Col's Order at dayton and Remain your
humble Servt. Moses Hall Jr.*

Mrs. Rebecca Simrall

A very bad pen I can assure & know [no] knife to mend it.

Cincinnati [sic] Jan 15 1813

My Dear Girl

We are still at this place. We have been detained for several days for money to pay of[f] the Regiment. it is not improbable but I shall yet be detained untill tuesday next as I have to wait untill money is stuck in the Bank. the troops very impatient, but no help for it. about Tuesday next I may be at Home all continuing well. Bradshaw is unwell. Hurt [word/abbreviation indecipherable] Da^l [Daniel?] Moore is lying at Dayton. A kiss to the boys.

ys *affectionately*
JaSimrall

[Letter from James Simrall to Maj. Thomas Speed, Nelson County, Kentucky.]
[Photocopy - original at Indiana Historical Society - see note on copy from Benjamin Autographs
in May 1994 with collection.]

Shelbyville, Febr'y 17th 1813

Sir

Yours of the 9th Instant I have recev'd and with pleasure I give you what I conceive to be as near a description of that part of the Western Country thro which my duty call'd me during the last campaign - and particularly the Mississinaway river and country. this part of the country not being laid down in any of the maps, I was compel'd to take more particular notice of the country and water courses as none of our guides had ever been on the rout we march'd. I had a pocket compass with me, which was our main guide for fifty miles. I have not pursued the exact plan in the de[s]cription which you laid down, but if you can get any information from what I have given you in yr undertaken [sic], it will be easy to copy it in any form you think proper. I have added to my description of the Mississinaway part of the head of the Wabash & Eel river. the maps are very imperfect in the description of the head of those waters particularly above the mouth of the Mississinaway, While I was on them I depended on the maps but was frequently deceived. I have not said any thing about the St. Marys, the St. Joseph of the Maume, the Auglaze in as the maps are generally correct as to those streams and the country round them.

We got but little information from our prisoners concerning [Major General Samuel] Hopkins Mounted or first expedition. On being questioned on that subject they stated that a large body of Indians had been watching his movements, and that he was within one days journey of a Kickapoo Town on the Elonaise [Illinois] river from which I should suppose from their *anxiety* he was within twenty miles. his last expedition they say they took eighteen scalps. but would not acknowledge the loss of one man altho they say there was some wounded. they further told us had Hopkins continued on up to the mouth of Eel river he would not have got back again as they would have had such a force as to cut him entirely off to meet him at that place.

What is generally call'd the Mississinaway Town and known as such by the Indians, consists of six towns or vil[l]ages. the first we came to is fifteen miles from the mouth of the river, and is call'd by way of distincion [sic] the Muncey Town. this Town was inhabited by a mixture of Delawares, Miamis, and Potewatemies, and are call'd Muncey Indians. the next town we destroy'd was two miles lower down, and below this was two other towns, each a mile below the other. these three towns within a mile of each other *was* consider'd the Principal Mississinaway Towns, and at those Towns the whole Miami Nation had winter'd for two winters past. they are call'd Silver Heels Towns, after one of their Principal Chiefs. Ten miles lower down and at the Mouth of the Mississinaway, is one other Town call'd Pecons Town, after their head Chief, and at which place [was] the Principal body of the Miamis. then way [up] on the Wabash, nine miles above the mouth of the Mississinaway is what they call the old Mississinaway Town, but has been deserted by the Miamis for two years past. at this Town we were inform'd by our prisoners that Tecumseth [sic], with his party of (600) warriors there was, and as they told us rebuilding the Town. the four first of those towns we entirely destroyed, and intended moving to the lower towns the day (of the morning) the Indians attack'd us in our camp at the first town, which prevented our destroying the two lower towns, or getting cut entirely off. for the first day, and indeed untill after the Battle the next morning we could not get from our prisoners the number of Indians below us. they did state to us that there was about five hundred, at Pecons

Town of Miamis and *Potewotimees* - but could get nothing certain as to the Prophets and Tecumseths Party was untill after the Battle.

From Fort Greenville to the mouth of the Mississinaway river is estimated at 100 miles - to the first town we destroyed and at which we took our prisoners is estimated at 85 miles direct course, and from Greenville near a North West course.

This rout we march'd after leaving Greenville at a Due North for twenty miles, where we came to the Mississinaway river, and camp'd over to the North side. at this place it is a handsome stream near twenty yards over, running with a bold current, and I have no doubt will be navigable for boats to the mouth, supposed 80 miles in a direct line from this place. We march'd at about from five to *ten* degrees West of a North West direction which is the general course of the river untill it em[p]tys into the Wabash.

This rout [sic] after crossing the Mississinaway river crosses three considerable creeks which em[p]tys into the Mississinaway on the North Side. the first of those creeks is about 45 miles from Greenville and 25 from the *crossing* [of] the Mississinaway. the second and most considerable creek is about 60 miles from Greenville, and at this creek the path from Fort Wayne to the Principal Delaware Town on white river crosses at about a North east direction or nearly at angles. this creek was call'd by our prisoners Deer Creek. at this creek there was several hunting camps, and is their principal hunting grounds. about ten mile further is the third creek, and call'd by our prisoners Deep creek being very deep and swampy.

About five miles above Deer creek and fifty five from Greenville a considerable water course em[p]tys into the Mississinaway river on the South side much larger than any of the other creeks, but heard no name for it, but should suppose it the South fork of the Mississinaway. the creeks on the north side em[p]tys in a *nearly* angles as /.

The Main branch of the Mississinaway head [is] near the Big Miami waters, and I presume the portage from Loramies creek which em[p]tys into the Big Miami and the Mississinaway cannot be more than 8 to 10 miles. from its head it runs in a direction between Fort recovery and Ft Greenville and its general course from 5 to 10 degrees West of a North W direction. its mouth about 80 yards wide and continues that width for a considerable distance up - and is one of the handsomest streams in the Western country for its size.

The head of the Wabash river is far from being accurately laid down in the maps. from Fort Wayne to the Forks of the Wabash is about thirty miles in a South West direction, at which place was four Indian towns destroy'd by Genl. Harrison last fall. the main fork of the Wabash running nearly paralel with the St. Marys and Mississinaway river and at about thirty miles or equal distances from each. from the Forks of the Wabash to the Mouth of Mississinaway is supposed 30 miles. from there the Wabash runs nearly a west direction to the mouth of Eel River which is said to be 25 miles and from there to the Prophets town said to be 40 miles.

Eel river is a beautifull stream and is much long than the main fork of the Wabash. I cross'd Eel river about 25 miles from Ft Wayne at a North West direction from that Place, and at least 80 miles above its mouth when I was order'd by Genl. Harrison with my Regiment to destroy some Indian towns which was inhabited by a part of the Miami Indians call'd the Eel river

tribe. the river at this place was twenty yards wide, and heads near the same place with the St Joseph of the Maume, the St Josephs of the Lake Michigan and Elk hart rivers.

The probable distance of Lake Michigan from Ft Wayne, the Forks [of the] Wabash & the mouth of the Mississinaway is supposed nearly equal and as our prisoners stated from three to four days journey making *their* calculations at from 70 to 80 miles [two words indecipherable].

Their [sic] is no Prairie country on the Mississinaway river they entirely cease below the mouth of that river. the soil is extreamly rich, and clothed with sugar tree, black walnut and other such groths.

The Prairies is very large on the St. Marys, and continues from the Big Bend of the St Marys, above Ft Wayne across Eel river, and is s[ai]d to continue on to the Lake Michigan.

I cannot give you any certain information, on which of the Forks of White river the Deleware towns are on. There is three Deleware towns, and not all on the same fork. the middle, and principal, is nearly 15 miles from either of the others, but not being at them, cannot say with any certainty. there is certain information that the whole Delaware Tribe have come into the settlements, and abandoned three towns. Upwards of 900 Men, Women and Children have arrived at Piqua before I left Ohio, and are now sent to a Shawnee Village near Urbanna.

If there is any other enquiry you wish to make or any information in my favor to give you in your laudable undertakens, It will give me pleasure to give it - and when you have them compleated, it will give me great pleasure to get *one* of them. they are much wanted, and the operations of our army require them.

I am dear sir
yr obd svt
J Simrall

On the Bank of lake Erie
Monday Sept 20 1813

[Envelope addressed to Mrs Rebecca Simrall, Shelbyville, Ky. From notations on envelope it appears the letter was sent from Sandusky on Sept 26, and forwarded from Maysville on Oct. 6.]

My Dear Girl

I have now mov'd from our encampment and the troops composing the Van Guard of the army under my command, waiting for the vessel which is in sight to land and take us on board arrives, which moment I embrace to inform you, altho I wrote you last night by Mr Guin, that I am and have been in good health since I started, altho several in my command is sick. this morning Maj T[homas] Johnston and Captn Ellmore return'd back to the settlement on account of sickness none others serious altho *there is much* complaining.

the whole of the regulars have embark'd, and I follow next on the right of the whole of the *troops*. I am at present highly gratify'd and pleas'd with the troops under my command, and I think no set of Troops in the army is better pleas'd with their commander. If this continues my campaign if successful will be pleasant.

Doctr Logan have been elected by the officers one of my Majors in the room of Major T Taylor who has never come on. when we get to the Island I must have another appointed in the room of Johnston.

I do not expect to have another opportunity of writing for two weeks [sic] but will embrace the first opportunity. letters was yesterday rec'd by Benjamin F Dupuy which gave the first information since I left home. I am gratify'd to hear you are all well altho no particulars I have thought hard that he should get letters and news to me. I have no other particulars to write you. our friends from Shelby and all your acquaintance with me is well accept [sic] Johnston.

My best love to Mother. I would have wrote her but have been much occupied in preparing to get embark'd. also to Sister Polly, Sally G & Hannah & Joseph.

to your self and the children a kiss to each, and my blessing untill I have the pleasure to see you.

I last night took supper with Captn S G Hopkins who is very fat and in good health which you can inform *Doct Wardlow* & his sister &c.

I am as usual your
ever affectionate friend
husband &c
J Simrall

letters address'd to head Quarters N West Army may possibly reach me on my return, altho I think I shall [word unreadable, tear] my return before this could get out.

JS

Head Quarters at Portage Bay
on lake Erie Sept 20 1813

[Envelope addressed to Rebecca Simrall, Shelbyville, Kty. Notation on the envelope indicates that it was given to the care of Guin, or Major Johnston. Since the other letter dated Sept. 20 mentions a letter to Rebecca written the previous night, and given to Guin for delivery, it seems that this is that letter and that it was written very early in the day.]

My Dear Girl

The greater part of the troops have embark'd, that is the regulars orders was issued for the Kty Volunteers to commence embarking by the middle of the day - and if the wind does not rise, the whole will be off by the middle of the day tomorrow, say tuesday the 21st. it will take us four hours to make [it] to the Island in the lake [probably Middle Sister Island], which will be eighteen miles from [Fort] Malden. we calculate on being near two days on the Island, and the next at Malden. every calculation is that the place will be evacuated before we get there, and that our campaign will be at an end in two weeks [sic] from to day.

on our return to this place there is no intention of the Kty troops doing any thing more that [sic] go to Malden and return back in the fleet to this place. I have great hopes of being in Kty by the 20th October.

I was last night notify'd by the Governor & Genl Harrison that the Command of the whole Van of the Kty troops is *assigned* to my Command. Col Ball commands the Van of the regulars. Maj Johnston returns from being sick. I will write you before we embark if possible. My best love to each of my friends & acquaintances.

from yr affectionate husband
JaSimrall

Head Quarters at Portage Bay on
Lake Erie - Sept 26 1813

[Envelope addressed to Mrs Rebecca Simrall, Shelbyville, Kentucky; From the N.W. Army]

My Dear Girl,

After a forced march of six days from Urbanna [Ohio] we have reach'd head Quarters which had been moved from Senaca [Seneca] two days before we got there. at Upper Sandusky an express met the Governor [Shelby] from Genrl Harrison, with the pleasing Intel[ligence] of the entire capture of the British fleet on Lake Erie. Six of their largest vessels, and from eight to nine hundred men kill'd wound'd & prisnors. not one vessel or man escaped. never was [there] a more severe and hard fought Battle at any period upwards of one third of the men on both sides kill'd. at this moment the Prisnors are landing from on board of the vessels, five of them *came to ashore* two hours ago nearly opposite to my Camp and in full view. this spot is a beautiful place. Sand banks and nothing but water as far as we can see in front and for six miles back a level pararie &c

at this place the general embarkation of the army takes place. more than half the regulars have already embarked on board the boats and in two days it is expected the whole army will be ready to sail for the opposite shore. I find it is Genrl Harrison's intention to land about twenty miles above Malden which is said to be about twenty miles across the lake, and about five hours sail. the campaign is thought to be nearly at a close, as nearly all their regulars were taken prisnors or kill'd on board the fleet. and it is said the Indians will all or nearly so leave the British.

the Commodore who commanded the British fleet says he would not have fought our fleet but was comple'd by the Indians to do so, that they had threatened to massacre the who[le] of them if they would not go and fight our fleet as they had promis'd them. I have but little doubt that they will as soon as they hear the news, nearly all leave them. the officers who are taken say they have no doubt but Malden and all the country will be abandoned before we can get there.

it is the opinion that we will be discharg'd in twenty days and this far on our way home. all our horses will be left at this place. the Sandusky bay and the lake is only one & Quarter miles from each other, and by water near forty miles round. a fence is to be built across and our horses left on the Point - which is equal to any pasture in the world.

the whole of the Troops are in high spirits, except one regiment of Militia from Pensylvania, who has refused to cross over to Canada. they will probably be left to guard our horses, which is about all they are fit for. there is considerable sickness now in camp, altho none of those from Shelby except Maj Johnston who has the feavour and ague.

there has been much more regularity and order amongst the troops than I had any calculations on and if a few of the officers were charged, I

p. 3 present, not
transcribed

~~[Remainder of letter is missing.]~~

Octr 8th 1813
Camp on the Battle Ground, Near the Moravian
Town on the river Thames 90 miles above Detroit

[Letter addressed to Mrs Rebecca Simrall, Shelbyville, Kentucky. "From NW Army."]

[No Salutation]

It is with great pleasure I can inform you that I am well, and without any hurt. I wrote you from Sandwich opposite Detroit the day before we started in pursuit of the British and Indians. after four days *severe* march we overtook them at this place yesterday afternoon about half past three. a warm action took place for a few minutes and a scattering fire from the Indians for near one hour & half. a compleat victory was the result. Near four hundred prisnors of the British is taken between twenty & thirty officers Genl. Proctor & Col Elliott made their escape. [It is not clear if the 20 or 30 officers were captured or escaped.] in the pursuit near one hundred prisnors was made - and an immense quantity of plunder & baggage, seven pieces of artilery about three thousand stand of arms. the quantity of plunder of every discription is immense. at present no calculation can be made &c.

We have lost only about fifteen to twenty men kill'd and about forty wounded. the number of the British kill'd is twelve & about as many wounded. from forty to fifty Indian scalps have been taken which have been left on the ground, and those carried off cant be told how many. from Shelby county *Mr Banta* is killed, and two or three slightly wounded. ^{behaved} Col R M Johnston with his regiment sustained the first and heaviest fire. he has four wounds, and [~~word indecipherable~~] well. on tomorrow morning we take up our march to return home, and will make no halt accept [sic] a day or so at a place. I think it probable we shall get thru by the 1st Novr. my love to all my friends and acquaintances.

yrs affectionably
JaSimrall

NB there was no troops but the Kty Volunteers and Johnstons Regt *came* on after the Enemy accept about 150 Regulars from Ohio. the ardour of the troops generally was great and equal to their [word indecipherable - "fatigue"?]. JS

no transcript for 10/23/1813
letter

Frankfort Jany 11 1816

My Dear Girl

I have nothing new here to inform you. I have not seen as much business done at any time in the Legislature as at this time. Almost every day we set till the sun is not more than one hour high - which will have it very uncertain If I shall be at home on Saturday. but if I can leave the house certainly shall.

In good health but have heard nothing from you or the children. I should like to know how Joseph has got.

Yrs with affection &c
JaSimrall

Frankfort, Dec 14th 1816

My Dear Girl

As I have determined not to go down on to day as little as I can do will be to write. this I have only to say I am well. I have sent by Mr Bullett your boot shoes. If they do not fit you, have them sent up again by J. Logan with the measure of your foot. I think it probable on Saturday next the House will adjourn untill after Christmas. I shall want Josephs horse sent up for me if not sooner, at least very early on Saturday morning - but will write him on the occasion.

I have spoken to Mr Bullett who has been here this two days about a girl he says he has but one, of about 13 years old, but she has not been accustomed to wait in the House - tho she is well grown and active. I had wrote to Joseph to enquire again of Waller about his, and to let you know. It would be well for you to see Bulletts girl, to know if she will suit - his price will be _____. I am afraid I shall not be able to procure a pair of And Irons here to suit as [word indecipherable] has yet come on. Tom remains with Mr Wilson as long as he wants him, and then send him to Mr Parish.

All well, yrs affectionately
JaSimrall

Frankfort Friday Morning
Decr. 12 1817

My Dear Girl

I have the pleasure to inform you I am in good health, altho two days ago had a severe headache. I do not expect to be down on tomorrow, having a great deal of writing to do. General Lytle of Cincinnatia [sic] was here, and wishes to have an act passed to dig a canal round the falls of Ohio at Louisville. he has given me his Petition and papers and wishes me to bring in his bill. this will take me two or three days writing, which will take Sunday up.

I hope you will have arrangements made to kill six or seven of the hogs on Saturday. if not then have it done by Monday or Tuesday, as I know they are eating up corn very fast. Nothing hear [sic] new. My love to each of the children.

Yours affectionately
JaSimerall

On the Mississippi River Near
Cape Gearideau [Sic] 60 miles up
Monday Morning April 14th 1823

Mrs R. B. Simrall

My Dear Girl

I have intended to have written you a particular daily Journal of our Journey, but have so far neglected. I wrote you from the red Banks, on the Ohio. We were near four days getting to the mouth of the Ohio from Louisville a distance of about four hundred & fifty miles. unfortunately for our boats We found the Mississippi very high, higher than for eight or ten years which has made our progress up it very slow. we are now near five days, and have only come sixty miles - but we are now every hour looking for Col Johnstons steam boat the Calhoun which had left Louisville just before we got their [sic] and was to have been back and met us at the mouth of the Ohio. a float boat pass'd us an hour ago and says she [the Calhoun] was to have left St Louis yesterday at 10 o'clock. if so she will be along in a few hours as we are now not more than 140 miles from St Louis - but the currant is so strong that we cannot get their [sic] in less than 12 days unless by the aid of the steam boat. the cause of the present high water is a great rise in the Mosouri river - it is said by boats coming down that the Mississippi about the mouth of the Mosouri is not high, and that the currant is very slow and dead above St Louis.

my trip so far has been pleasant and without any accident. I was while on the Ohio very sick part of one day with sea sickness - but have enjoy'd perfect health since, and all the hands well. Bob has done very well, and could not be more attentive to me than he is. Indeed he has been so much so that if I only pass from our own boat to Mr Wards, he cannot stay behind. two days ago I went on board Mr Wards boat to dine with him on fish, and was detained behind and did not get up with Johnstons boat until next morning. the hands on board say that Bob did not sleep any, but frequently declared that if I ever went from on board of the boat again he would go with me.

The country above the mouth of the Ohio and up the Mississippi for more than one hundred miles are entirely covered with water. we did not see half an acre of dry land for five days past untill yesterday or the day before. nothing but a flat country and now the river is high entirely cover'd with water.

It is impossible I can give any instructions as to what is to be done at home. you all will do the best you can, I have no doubt of, and what is for the best. You will tell the boys to plant all the white beans they can. none but white ones, as they are a good article, and I will give them one dollar a bushel for all they can raise if twenty bushels. James and William and Joseph can plant them in the corn and pull them when ripe.

as to what will be the result of my trip I can say nothing more than I have before said - the hardships and privations are great, and I am afraid the trip more tedious than I expected - but notwithstanding my hopes of success are fully as good, and better than when I started, and I now think, and have for some time past thought it my duty - therefore must not complain. I hope hereafter to make up for it all if it so please the almighty.

I shall at present only add God bless you and each of our dear children, in health and contentedness
untill I see you. the wish my dear girl of

your affectionate
JaSimrall

I shall expect to find a letter from John Graham at St Louis, and I shall probably write to him for there.

At St Louis, Sunday April 20th 1823

PS. I had intended to have sent this letter on from Cape Geardeau but found the mail would not reach Kentucky from their [sic] in three or four weeks, and I had before wrote that we was every hour looking for the Steam boat Calhoun. She did not come down for two days after, and was then so heavy loaded and bound for New Orleans that she had not power sufficient to tow the keels up to his place without unloading - and of course pass'd on.

this day ago a steam boat came by us from Louisville to this place, and I left the keel boats behind and came on board the steam boat here, for the purpose of having the other keep boat put in order, and ready by the time the other gets up, which I do not expect in less than five days or untill next Friday. the steam boat I came in, [word indecipherable] was bound up the Mississippi two hundred miles above the lead mines - and could I have had one hour to have made some arraignments [sic] with Col. Johnston I would have went on in her to the mines.

I am still in good health, and have no doubt but I am every day getting better of my pains and better use of my limbs and shoulders. I shall write you again before I leave here, and shall not close this as I just understand the mail does not leave this [place] for Kentucky untill next Friday - by which time possibly, I may hear from home as the mail comes in on that day. do not let a week pass without some of you writing to me. John Graham must write me once every two weeks [words missing, page torn] hear from me of the time of my expected return.

At St Louis April 25 1823

PS. I have now been here five days, and every minute expect the boats. The Mail has just arrived and I waited the closing my letter to see if I got one but am disapointed. their [sic] is letters and papers from Kentucky ten days after I started. I did not think John G. would have done so. I may not now here [sic] from home for more than a month which is hard, when John could have written me so easy.

I have been engaged writing sev[e]ral letters to my friends which may get to Kentucky before this - and shall write you also by a steamboat to start in a few days. I will again only add god bless you and each of our dear children, is the prayer of

your affectionate
JaSimrall

[The letter is folded and addressed on the outside page to "Mrs Rebecca G Simrall, Near Shelbyville, Shelby County, Kentucky." On the other side of the folded letter is written: "Majr Brenham will be so good as to have this sent out to my house as directed as soon as it comes to hand and oblige his friend JaS."]

St Louis State of Missouri
April 24th 1823

My Dear Son

From the many charges I gave you before I started from home, and while you was with me at Louisville, about writing to me, that I certainly expected to have receiv'd a letter when I reach'd this place, but as the waters have been very high and the mail from Kentucky only comes here once a week that I am not now disposed to blame you for not writing, but will suppose it to be owing to the high waters. Tomorrow is Friday and the mail day when I shall be very much disap[p]ointed should I not receive a letter from you for you must know how anxious I must be to here [sic] from home - particularly as we had heard that Joe had lost the Horse before he got home with the waggon - and you must know how anxious I am to here [sic] how you are doing, how all of your healths is, and how the Negroes does, if they are good to your Mother and all those things. when you write, tell me all about every thing on the place. how each of your brothers and your little sister does.

in writing your letters, just write as tho you were talking to me, and telling me of, or about the thing you are writing about. this is the only and great art of letter writing, and no person can be in want of sufficient matter to fill up a large sheet of paper with. I gave you a particular charge to write to me at least once every two weeks untill you here [sic] from me of about the time I expect to return. this I again enjoin on you, not to fail in, as your Mother has been so long out of the habit of writing. I cannot expect her to write as often as I otherwise should and particularly when you can write for her.

You are my dear son. Young, probably too young to have so much charge and care as you must have this summer, but only let all your mind and attention be given to your business, and attend close to Joe and Ben, and I have no doubt of your doing very well. You have to recollect that last spring you had to attend to, and manage the farm, altho I was there to consult with, which may have been of some advantage. but now you have to rely on your self, and consult you Mother and if at any time at a loss, apply to Mr Allen who I know will with pleasure advise and assist you.

I am now very sorry I had not the whole of our tobacco manufactur'd. I could have got Mr Walsh to have done it on good terms. You will yet see him about it, and if he will give manufactured tobacco for it, I would let him have it if he will give 100 lb of manufactured for 200 lb of leaf or for 250 lb of leaf. I think more than that ought not to be given. You will consult with your Uncle Ferguson about it, as I still have no doubt the price is very low, and I know a great deal of our tobacco will be carried off[f] and diverted. If I had the whole of it with me I could sell it on the river for 25c a pound in silver, or trade it for furs, a pound for a rackcoon skin &c. D. L. Ward had a great deal of his manufactured, and has already bought considerable furs with it, and whisky.

I have now been four days at this place. I left the boats about 80 miles below this and came up here in a steam boat to have the other keel boat of Col. Johnstons put in order and ready to start on by the time they get up, which I expect they will do on tomorrow, and do not expect the boats will delay here more than one day. Bob has been very attentive to me, and when I left the keels, to go on board the steam boat, he cry'd to come on with me. it was at night the steam boat came along, and I had not more than ten minutes to fix and come on.

Since I came here I have made particular arraignments [sic] with the House of Scott & Rule to receive and forward all letters coming to me, or from me to Kentucky. - all the letters to me ought therefore to be address'd to me, at the Lead Mines on Fever river upper Mississippi - and seal'd - and put under a cover, and seal'd, and then address'd to Messers Scott & Rule, Merchants, St. Louis, state of Missouri, and forwarded by mail. they will then have them forwarded them [sic] on by every opportunity up to the Mines - and as they act as the agents of Col. Johnston & Mr January, and others at the mines, letters will then reach me very regularly.

I have only to add my best love to your self and each of your little brothers & sisters

yr affectionate father
JaSimrall

St Louis, April 26, 1823

[Letter addressed, on its fold, to Mrs Rebecca G. Simrall near Shelbyville, Kty.]

My Dear Girl

I wrote you yesterday by mail something like a Journal of our voyage to this place. the keel boats arrived here this morning and we expect to be now off in half an hour, being Saturday evening all well.

Our calculation is on reaching the Lead Mines in 18 to 20 days from to day. I am told the trip is frequently made in that time. I have not time to [word unreadable] much. I have been this two days writing to John, Mr Graham and intended to have wrote to Joseph Simrall but the boats need not detain and will be ready to start in half hour.

my best love to each of my friends, and will only add god bless you and each of the dear children is the pray[er] of yr affectionate

JaSimrall

On the Mississippi River near
the foot of the Lower Rapids May 9th 1823

[Envelope addressed to "Mrs Rebecca Simrall, Near Shelbyville, Shelby County, Kentucky."
Postmarked, by hand: "Palmyra Mo, May 17th."]

My Dear Girl

It is with pleasure I have this opportunity of writing to you by the mail. we have put to shore at the last House on the river untill we get to the Mines. for the two last days the settlements have been but few and there is no other white family above the place where we are now. when I think of the distance we have come by water it appears great and yet have upwards of three hundred miles to get to the mines - this place is [word indecipherable] two hundred & fifty miles above St. Louis. Making the distance we have come by water about nine hundred miles.

It is a great pleasure to say that I am in good health, and have been so since I started and I find my self every day getting better and stronger and the whole crew in good health altho we have now been one month three days since we left Louisville. at the house we now are at the people are from Kentucky and a family of the first order which is something strange in this country being at the *extream* frontier of the state of Missouri. the first Indian town is about twenty five miles above this, *when we shall from their [sic] up see plenty of them.* every day on this river the face of the country is getting better the land equal to any in the world and some of the most butifull situations I ever seen. part of the day yesterday also this morning the scene was delightfully a *prairie* of twenty miles extent with groves of trees thro it and the grass half leg high, as green and butifull as ever was seen - thinks I how many fools live in Kentucky when here they can get ready clear'd plantations for one dollar & twenty five cents *per acre* - the land much richer than any I ever seen in Kentucky unless on the Ohio river bottom. for a hundred miles below this the country is generally healthy. Captain White *where we now are*, says it is healthyer here than Kentucky.

When I think of distance from home - the Privations and hardships - I sometimes say what a fool I was to ever undertake such a trip knowing also that to make any thing worth while will require constant attention and perseverance, for I am satisfied that without strict attention and perseverance but little is to be done at making lead - and with perseverance much.

I shall have an opportunity of writing from the mines shortly after we get there, which you may be sure I shall not neglect but will imbrace every opportunity - altho I have not heard any thing from home since I started. shall I again intreat you to make John write me at least ever two weeks. We have not had any accident on board either of the boats and all the crew in good health. Capt White who takes charge of this letter goes in Tuesday to the Town of Palmyra where he will put it in the post office, being the last Post office in the state of Missouri, and that 15 miles from the river.

Bob has done very well, and is very attentive to me. he is constantly telling me I must write some for him to you all. give my best remembrance to my friends generally - to each of the Children my best love, and to your self and *Cornelia* a kiss - may heaven protect you, and bless you with health and as much contentedness as possible is the prayer of your affectionate husband

JaSimrall

At the Lead Mines On Lefevre river
Monday Morning May 19th 1823

[Envelope addressed to "Mrs Rebecca G. Simrall, Near Shelbyville, Shelby County, Ky." Notation to "Put into Post office St. Louis." Postmarked stamp: "St Louis Mo. May 30."]

My Dear Girl

I have the pleasure to say that we arrived at this place early this morning, all well and safe, and no individual of the crew of either of the boats being upwards of seventy persons, being sick or even unwell. having the immediate opportunity of a boat starting to St. Louis where I shall direct this letter to the Post Office, I write you to let you know that I had got on here safe & well but cannot give you much more information. Col. Johnson, Mr Ward & my self will start out on the morning to explore the country, and select the situation for Mr Ward & my self to locate our lease on.

Our trip for the last week has been pleasant and expeditious past any expectations. in the last seven days we came up the river against the currant, about three hundred fifty miles. this the most butifull and romantic country ever seen - and many situations more butifull than any thing I had ever conceived of.

the persons now here appear to give very flattering accounts of their success in procuring lead oar [sic]. for two hundred miles below this, the country is generally high, and very healthy, nothing like the [word indecipherable] such as our water courses generally is known of. and the situation here cannot be otherwise than healthy. the water very clear, and pure, the banks of the river high, and no swamps or flat country. their [sic] has [been] five or six familys removed to this place, and I am told highly respectable, altho their is no white settlement for three hundred and fifty miles below this. yet here their appears society plenty and some highly respectable.

I have now arrived at the point which in a short time will determine the success of my enterprise, and certainly have on my mind at this moment very great anciety [sic] and I know of course will on yours, but I have come too far, and had too much hardship, and expense in getting here to fail making use of every exertion, and I hope with perseverance to succeed.

I shall write you again on the first opportunity that offers. the boat that carries this is just putting off[f] and I have only time to close my letter by giving my best respect to my friends and to each of our dear children. my best love and blessing and to little Cornelia a kiss and an *ever* pray'r for your health and contentedness - which my dear girl I hope you will do all in your power to make your self as happy and as contented as possible - and will only say once more adieu to my dear Girl is the pray'r of

yr affectionate
JaSimrall

PS. our journey to this place took us six weeks from the day we left Louisville, and altho the first part was *tedious*, yet the last week we had fine wind, and sail'd up stream. one day and night about 80 miles - and every day for five days had some wind, which made us go farther in one week than as had before in two. JaS

Lead Mines on Fever river, upper
Mississippi. June 29th 1823

[Letter addressed, on the fold, to Mrs Rebecca G Simrall, Near Shelbyville, Shelby County, Kty.]

My Dear Girl

having the opportunity of two young men who have been living here for more than a year with Col Johnson and who have promis'd to call at my *House* with [i.e., for] the letter. I wrote only a week ago and have not any thing particular to communicate since that time, but inclination and duty both injoin it on me to say that my health continues very good, and has been every day getting better since I left home. I think I am nearly as active and the use of my self as well now, as for some years. I feel very little inconvenience from my attack of Rhumatic Pains. I sometimes feel them a little, and altho I have been subject to frequent wettings and almost every kind of change of the weather yet I have not at any time felt any thing like a return of my Pains. my shoulders are yet a little stiff, tho I find no difficulty in putting on and off my coat - and the exercise I am obliged to take has made me much stronger, and healthier than I should have been for years in Kty.

I have now been digging with all my hands for four weeks after mineral, and cannot yet say my success is complete altho many here think I cannot well fail in succeeding in getting any quantity of Lead Ore. the plain I am digging on is supposed by all who have seen it to hold out as good or better prospects than any on the river except Col Johnsons old beds. I have been carrying on five different holes and have got some mineral out of each of them and several hundred wt out of two of the holes, and have strong hopes of striking the main beds in two of the wholes [sic] in a week more. I have found that their [sic] is no expectation of coming to what is called a main or large bed of mineral under from 20 to 30 and sometimes 40 feet deep. out of one of those main beds their is generally from one to five hundred thousand wt of mineral got.

two weeks ago I turned off[f] one of my hands, the man who came on from Col. Johnson. he turned out to be a drunken lazy fellow, and was of great injury to the other hands. and this day a week ago two of my other hands ran away and stole my skift. this has clear'd me of those of the most trifling hands I had and leaves me with only eight hands, but those are all good, and do not drink as much whisky as the three who is gone did.

Mr Ward is now gone up to Pararie De Chin about 75 miles above this. he is at present very much out with the place, and dissatisfied and unless he succeeds in getting mineral faster than he is at present I do not think he will stay a month longer. he has been proposing to me to let him dig out on my ground, and I [word indecipherable] on his return. I shall do so. their [sic] is not the number of persons diging here that I had expected. the exact number is not known but not more than 150 to 200 men - every person who is employ'd in diging except Col. Johnson men are diging in new places where no discovery has been made by any white man which makes their success more uncertain. altho their is none here except Mr Ward who has given out hopes of full success.

one thing is certain that here is an immense mineral country and for fifty miles lead ore has been discover'd in every quarter, and in many places laying on the top of the ground in small pieces. at the place I am diging the mineral in many places a laying on the top of the ground, so that one boy could pick up a hundred pounds in a day.

At this place the people are all settled on the river for more than a mile and is like a little village, or like three little villages. the company is thick and appears by no means lonesome, but what would I give for one of my boys with me. even William would be great company for me, for when I reflect on the great distance I am off and the probable time before I can return, I begin then to think let my success be what it may, what a fool I was to attempt such an undertaking. one thing is very certain. that no person knows or feels what the pleasure of being with their families are untill they are deprived of them even when they know it is only for a time. but as my trip was of my own choosing I accept not to complain nor will I. and I think upon the whole I ought not in any manner regret it, even should I not get more mineral than I have, for at this time I feel the benefit to my health to be so great that I ought to be only thankfull for the benefit and goodness shown me by the almighty.

my best respect to each of my friends. I was only informed this evening that those Mo young men start in the morning - and have not time to write as many as I would have done. therefore shall only add my best love to each of our dear children, a kiss to Cornelia, and to your self heavens best protection and care is the prayer of your

Affectionate husband
JaSimrall

Upper Mississippi
Fever River Lead Mines July 11th 1823

[Letter addressed, on fold, to Ms Rebecca G. Simrall, Near Shelbyville, Shelby County, Ky.
Postmarked at St. Louis July 25.]

My Dear Girl

Having wrote you almost every weak [sic] since I started from home and not more than a week since, I can have but little to write. the opportunity of Captain Craig the United States agent for the mineral lands here going direct to St Louis. If I had nothing more than to say I was well, and had continued so since you had heard from me, and indeed since I had left home, I know would be satisfaction sufficient to you to induce me to write. I can only judge from my self. could I only receive a letter one a weak saying you were all well I should feel much better than I do. I have not receiv'd only one letter from John Graham since I left home, which was the first he had written. a boat landed here on Sunday last, the 6th July, direct from St Louis, and no letters for me. Messrs Scott & Rule merchants at St. Louis sent up all the letters directed to their care to this place, but none for me. the Captain of the boat says he went to the post office just before he started and took out all the letters directed to any person at this place, and pd the postage and brought them on with him. of course their [sic] was none there for me - how does this happen. Surely John Graham has not forgot his promise, or got so neglectfull as not to write at least every two weeks to me. another boat is expected here in a few days. she was to leave St Louis in a week after the other started.

I am now getting in much better spirits about diging for mineral altho I have had a great deel of labour done. yet as I have always been told that should I succeed in one hole in twenty, it would be doing well. two days ago in one of the holes where I am diging and it was one I had just commenced or had only been three days at it, we struck upon a body of mineral which bids fair to turn out well. Anderson is one of the hands diging in this hole, and the *fellow is as high pleas'd as I can be [sic]*. this hole was not more than from six to eight feet deep and easy diging, and the large beds that have been discover'd has been generally from 20 to 30 feet deep. after striking on the mineral we took out with only two hands in not more than two hours seven or eight hundred wt, and could yesterday have taken out more than a thousand, but commenced opening the ground from the top over the course the bed appears to run. should this lead turn out to its present appearance, and as those who have seen it and are supposed good judges, I hope to do well. their is those other holes I am diging in from which I have great hopes. out of one of them yesterday we got about two hundred wt and mineral still to be seen between the rocks going down.

I have not yet made any calculations or come to any determination as to how long I shall continue here, or if I continue hands after I leave here my self or not. this has always depended on my success in diging. be it as it may my intention is to leave here about the 1st October or before the river freezes up. should my success be as I now hope it will, I shall have to send on to St. Louis for provisions as mine will not last me that I have on hand.

Col Johnson is the only man here who is making much money. he is making at least one hundred dollars per day in good money. a week ago a Mr. Bates discovered a good bed or otherwise the Indians for him - and has taken out of one hole upwards of twenty thousand wt in a week - with but three hands. the most of the digers are now in great hopes, as their holes are generally deep. I have gone in some 35

feet deep mostly all this rock - and then given up the whole thing getting not more than two or three hundred wt of mineral.

my health is improving every day. I am getting stronger and *a little less* of my self than I have had for several years. hard living, hard sleeping having slept on a plank for three months and exercise I think will make a man of me again. Walking five miles here is not half so hard for me as walking to town use to be, even before I was sick - and the almost every day exposure to rain & wet by wading the creek I have to cross over going out and in to the digings - has given me a kind of seasoning that will be of great service to me.

I shall continue to write you by every opportunity that I have untill about the time of my leaving here. letters wrote up to the 1st September will reach me - either here or at St. Louis and shall expect John to write me every two weeks up to then.

my best respects to each of my friends - to each of our dear children, to little Cornelia a kiss and to your dear self all the [word missing, tear] wishes - and prayers for your health and contentment that a kind Providence can she upon you and our children is the constant prayer of

Yr affectionate
JaSimrall