

Correspondence from:

Freeman S. Dunkler/Dunklee Letters
Co. "A" 36th Regiment Illinois Volunteers

Letters were purchased on 4/2/92 from Larry Hicklen by

Dan Clark
5500 Pinewood Road
Franklin Tn 37064

791-5911

Additional correspondence from Dunklee in 1864 is included in
Clark's collection.

Murfreesboro Tenn. Jan. 2nd 1863

Dear Parents & Friends

Although my present condition is precarious & my future uncertain I am happy and truly thankful to the preserving power of God that I am as comfortably situated as I am. Before you receive this you will have heard of the battle of Murfreesboro and doubtless undoubtedly suffering under a terrible suspense, I send this by a friend who precedes me a few days, & will write at the next opportunity, But I will rehearse my experience in the battle. The 30 of Dec. we met the pickets of the enemy & skirmished in the P.M. 2 of our Co. were killed & Milton wounded ^{not} badly. We slept in line of battle that night & our Co. were sent out as skirmishers the next morn. and exchanged ~~in~~ bullets with the enemies skirmishers for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, when the enemy appeared in solid rank, we fell back to the Regt. who opened a deadly fire which was answered by the enemy. The 24th Wis. on our right fled like cowards leaving our Regt. to be

my ^{right} ~~only~~ ^{arm} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~disabled~~ ^{disabled} & ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~enemy~~ ^{enemy} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~before~~ ^{before}
my gun when a ball struck my ^{left} leg half
way above my knee & I left the "show," seeking
the hospital. While I was retiring the bullet
occurred on my back, soon after I reached
the hospital the enemy had possession
of it; and I with many others was taken
prisoner, I walked (By the help of a Con-
federate soldier) to town a distance of 3 mds.
We are quartered in a deserted store, a
very comfortable building, they have issued
rations to us, & our surgeons who are prisoners
with the help of some of the Confederate
doctors have dressed all our wounds.
I had the ball cut out of my leg
yesterday morn. & it is getting along
finely. We have all ~~have~~ taken the oath
of paroll & shall be sent to Vicksburg as
soon as we are able, Now Mother don't give
yourself any uneasiness about me for al-
though I am unable to walk I feel well
& contented & as happy as "Cupid in the
rose," The citizens ~~seem~~ appear friendly and
use us well, I know nothing of our co, except
that some were wounded, others killed & others
taken prisoners among whose ~~are~~ is our 1st Lieut,

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Murfreesboro Tenn. Jan 5th 1863

Dear Parents!

With pleasure I address you hoping this may find you all in health.

I have not gone to Tiptonburg yet and as things look this morning I shall not go. You find in the envelope with this a letter of the 2nd but I did not send it. Vign. Vixberg & will send it a shorter route. The rebels left this town Saturday night & our forces came in this morning & I will send this at the first opportunity. We have been parolled & left here to wait the arrival of our forces, I presume we wounded boys will be sent to a northern hospital. We have been very well cared for & have suffered but little. My wound is getting along finely. I can walk a little.

I have not seen any of our Co's but have seen a Sgt. of the Regt. He says the Regt. draws rations for 276 men while before the battle the number was 650.

Our co numbers 28 & before it was some 75. I have a chance to send this
So good bye.

From your Son
E. S. D.

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Murfreesboro, Jan. 8th 1863

Well Charles

I have nothing else to do & will drop you a line. I enclose a copy of the "Constitution of the Confederate States," After you have read it please let Uncle Sam & Father see it; I found it in a desk in the old store in which we are quartered, There has been about 150 wounded soldiers in this building but they are removing them & I hope the 36th boys will be removed today. I tell you they say a great deal up north about prisoners in the hands of the secesh being ill used; but for my part I prefer their care to the treatment we

have had since our forces came to
town; But I trust relief is close
at hand, & the remainder of my
help of a cane, I expect to be
sent to Nashville soon; As soon
as I get there I will give you my
address, but any letters come
to the regt, they will be sent to
me, for I am acquainted with the
S. M. I have had no mail for some
time but look for some today. I have

but understand that out of 60 men
that went into the battle 27 came out
unhurt; some 5 killed, but none you
know; Ed. M. is unharmed; Milton
wounded but not severe. I will write
again soon & must close for the
present. Good bye. ~~Springer~~
F. S. Dunklee

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orders against wandering far from camp. The pickets have an occasional skirmish & the forage trains find some opposition in gathering forage outside the pickets, but we have had no general engagement. It is the mind of many that we shall have a battle not far from this place as soon as we attempt to go south. We heard cannonading in the picket lines the other day & were ordered into rank in great haste & marched out to the scene of action but found the enemy gone. They had been shelling the reserve picket but had not the cheek to stand when the whole brigade appeared against them. A few days ago the quartermaster brought some of the little shelter tents for the regt. but upon opening them they proved to be

nothing but common drilling & so small that two men could hardly be accommodated in one of them. Bearing you will not know what these shelter tents are I will describe them. A tent consists of two pieces of cloth 6 ft. long by 5 wide with the edges buttoned together & supported by stakes driven into the ground, the two outer ends is resting on the ground thus forming a roof with the gable ends open. Each tent when in order is sufficient for 2 men & are to serve as knapsacks for the accipants, & in this way the men are not only required to carry ~~his~~ ^{their} own clothing but ~~his~~ ^{their} tent also. If these tents were rubber they would be of some use but as they are they would neither protect us from cold nor wet, & we plainly told the officers we