

Grave of Sgt John E Ashbrook  
I-267 → O-6059 probably  
unknown grave  
90th Regt A.V.I. died at/near Beadyville  
Jan 28 1863  
Rodney C. Brown

RJR

Director-Pastoral Counseling  
R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.  
World Headquarters (1-A)  
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27102  
(919) 773-5030

Camp on Hickory Creek Tenn  
January 30th 1863  
Friend Gen

I have the unpleasant  
duty of informing you of the death  
of John Ashbrook. He died on the  
26th of this month after an illness of  
five days. His disease was Camp fever.  
I had all care taken of him that was  
possible <sup>to have</sup> in Camp. But he was taken  
very suddenly & it seemed that nothing  
could save him. We buried him here  
in our Camp in good order & with <sup>all</sup> the  
honors due to a Sergeant in the army.  
I marked his grave & fenced it in  
with brush nicely. Poor John he was  
one of the best fellows I ever seen  
& will be much missed by all his  
comrades. I made a corporal of him as  
soon as I got command of the company  
& on the 14th of this month I had him

promoted to Sergeant if he had have  
lived I would have put him up every  
vacancy that occurred above him.

I had all of his clothes that were  
not burned with him packed neatly  
into his knapsack & as soon as I can

get a chance to send it to Nashville  
I will <sup>have</sup> it expressed to you. He had no money

in his pocket book there was a note for  
it on Henry Shannon of our company  
for five dollars. I will keep the note

& will collect it when Shannon receives  
his pay. There are more of the boys I find  
owes him little debts, I will try and  
get all of it when the boys are paid

off. John had not received any pay from  
the government since we left Circleville.

I will send you his Description Roll  
& account of pay & clothing he has received.

and you can draw what is due him  
yes. Let me hear from you if convenient.

With my respects to yourself & family

I will close yours &c

N. A. Denny

Date: January 30, 1863

Where stationed at time of letter:

Camp on Hickory Creek, Tennessee

Contents of letter:

Company Commander writing  
brother-in-law of John E.  
Ashbrook's death. He died  
of camp fever after five  
long days of illness.

Written December 25, 1862

While stationed at time of letter:  
Camp near Nashville, Tennessee

Contents of letter:

This was the last letter he wrote home before his death. He is thanking them for the food which they sent him and also a blanket which was of value on duty until 10 o'clock. For a Christmas meal, which was his best since Circleville, Ohio, he had butter cakes made from flour, salt, and water, gravy made from flour, salt, and grease. His twenty-first birthday was in his mouth. On Christmas Eve he was to go to a dress parade.

Camp Bear Nashville Tenn Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Wife and Sister Melissa

Your kind favors came duly to hand I was much pleased to hear from you... especially to hear that you were a going to send me some eatables which I so much crave I am happy to be able to tell you that I never felt better than I do at this present moment. I only hope my health may continue thus good. I hope you are all as well as I am. A Merry Christmas to you all. We were out on Picket last night and came in to day at 10.0'clock. it rained quite hard as we were going out yesterday but my Gumm blanket kept me as dry as you please. it is worth

a fortune to me here. the <sup>ground</sup> cleared off before night. my bla kept me off of the wet ground. so you see the value of a Gumm blanket to a soldier. I had a christmast dinner to day that will surpass any thing you ever got up. You see, a Uncle Sam, gave us some flour for a change about christ I got some water and warmed it in a pan and mixed up some batter setting it. and then baked it in a camp shirt which made some very good "batter cakes". after I made the cakes I then made some gravy out of flour and water and grease fried out of "Yow belly". I also had some coffee. that was the best dinner I have had since I left Circleville. The weather is quite warmer here now.

Mr Miller Martin, has got his discharge and will start home to our son. I thought I would write and see

this by him. In telling Levi about the boys I omitted Joseph Briggs who is sick in the hospital at Asheville. J. E. Goodman is well. Joseph Brickett is quite low. Levi's Denny has the neuralgia in his legs so that he cannot walk without help. A lot of the boys are getting boxes from home with eatables and so. of old days I suffer very much for want of glaze.

Emmie.. today I received a letter from your mother she is well. she says that Joseph Osborn is down there on a visit. Joseph says that Jane Foster has got a "son" two weeks old. also Fanny Baker is dead and buried. Chadsey moved to Johnston Fanny went with them and died there. she died with diphtheria or sore throat. she was buried beside her

mother. Joseph Osborn has traded his Texas land for 1000 acres in Iowa. he says if we will go there to live he will give me a warranted deed for 165 acres of it. I guess I won't go this winter. Emmie how did you spend our birth day. I might say our 21<sup>st</sup> birth days.

I hope you will have a merry time or if you visit to Uncle Ed's. you ought to go to see all of the friends. I have got a letter from Aunt Minerva and Mittie that was wrote the same day that you and Melissa was at Uncle Edwards. they are all well. Last our Brigade was out on a reconnoitering expedition. we had to cross a river. twice we had to wade the river. Ge. here but the water was cold. but it washed our feet a teneat. we was out foraging last ~~Monday~~ Monday we travel about

24 miles we went through the city of Nashville.  
I am looking anxious for my good eatables. Oh  
wont I Live when I get them.

Have any of you sent me a paper yet - if so how was  
they done up. I have not got any yet. Bert. or born  
sent me a paper it came through safe the wrapper was  
arround very tight. also Alougo sent me a paper and your  
mother & mine's mother sent me a paper. they all came the  
safe. ... Abner Gwoap is in Nashville with his bro  
yet. I have not heard from him for some time.

The name that I sent for that baby is  
Mr. William Henry Phelps. for short "Willie"

Please excuse me I have not time to write

any more now, as I've have to go on dress parade  
and then it will be supper. I have to do my own cooking  
every fellow for him self here.

Yours your Husband and Brother  
John E. Ashbrook

Nashville Tennessee  
Comp. A. 90 Reg't  
Care Capt. Dewey.