

Thunders lying - Steam over the ground
 muffled, and though that had been said
 was not put under care enough to hide them
 from sight only in heat. Some, their hands
 stuck out, down their heads feet or clothes,
 protruded above ground, you could see hundreds
 lying just as they fell, some in a state almost
 of rigidity, and lying grim silent cold
 in the embrace of death, their bodies now man
 or less decomposed, the stench arising from
 their bodies, and that of the carcasses of horses
 and mules was almost suffocating, the complaint
 killed the field and turned our men in Retaliate
 for the manner in which we buried these men
 in stone - ~~Devilment~~ last year, it has been reported
 that our army at Chatahooga, only three
 weeks since, buried over three thousand of our
 dead men, only think of the quantity of this
 war, I belong to the 10th Ohio Cavalry
 we were ordered to the front about the
 twentieth of December, we arrived at Chatahooga
 on Christmas day only in the morning, passed
 through that place, went on five miles

South to Rossbill, pitched our camp
 and went on a scout that afternoon for
 it was lost - bag or dog, for we had noth-
 ing for ourselves or horses to eat, we traveled
 20 miles and found forage and meat
 and bread or stuff to make bread in a
 abundance, but had no teams with us
 as it was too dangerous ground we were on
 to be combined with negroes, our horses had
 nothing for two ~~more~~ days to eat with
 now they (poor things) had plenty, but
 we had to keep a sharp lookout for men
 in sight of the Rebel pickets, we had
 a sack of rice, we filed and took all our
 old - ~~leaves~~ - could carry, and in the night
 we don until the 13 of January, when we
 were ordered to report at Brady post. We
 arrived there on the 17, turned over to the
 Government what few horses and mules
 we had survived the great Raid of the
 Chickamauga, almost naked and starved
 on half rations, we got ahead the covers
 and arrived here on the 15 of last month

Address James R. Looker
 10 O. N. Co. Co. A. Vid
 Nashville Tennessee
 - Do follow the Regiment

Lavergne Tennessee
March 6th 1864

Dear Aunt Lydia

Be pleased to forgive my boldness in presuming to address you a few lines, for the first time in my life, when you learn how lonely I feel, on this Beautiful Sabbath Day, you will be ready to sympathize with me and say let us commune together, I am one of the many who have been compelled to become a combattent in the cruel war, I have ~~to~~ been in the servis fifteen months, and have seen some of the greatest Battles fought in the war, ^(those) thoughts of Hovers Gap Duck River lookout Mountain & Missionary Ridge I have scouted ~~at~~ _____ the Chickamauga Battlegrounds, the sight ther to be seen is the most apaling and shocking ever witnest by human eyes, it was over two months after the Battle when we traoverd the grounds, ther had been over five hundred buried of our dead two weeks be fore we went ther, yet ther was thousands lying strown over the ground unintered, and ^(those) thoughts that had been buried was not put under fare enough to hide them from sight only in part. Some ther hands stuck out, som ther heads feet or cloths protruded above ground,

you could see hundreds lying just as they fell, some in a state almost of nudity, and lying grim and silent cold in the embrace of death, their bodies were more or less decomposed, the stench arising from their bodies, and that of the carcasses of horses and mules was almost suffocating, the confederates — the buried these ~~have~~ near Stone River last year, it has been reported that our army at Chattanooga, only three weeks since, buried over three thousand of our dead there, only think of the cruelty of this war I belong to the tenth Ohio cavalry we were ordered to the front about the twentieth of December, we arrived at Chattanooga on Christmas day early in the us as it was too dangerous ground we --

ware on to be _____ with wagons, our horses had nothing for two days to eat until now they (poor things) had plenty, but we had to keep a sharp lookout, for we ware in sight of the Rebel pickets, we had a sack apice, we filed and took all our poor old _____ could cary, and in the way we _____ until the 13 of January, when we were ordered to report at Bridgport Ala = arived ther on the 17th turned over to the Government what few horses and mules had survived the Great Raid of the Chickamauga, almost naked and starved on half rations, we got aboard the cars and arived hear on the 15th of last month hear we are to get a new outfit, we have had the worst weather several days since, that we have had since we have been hear, But it is beautiful now, one of your neighbor boys is one of my bunk mates his name is Daniel Lines, Anty excuse my boldness for adrressing you, and if you do not know which Jim I am ask Jacob Rolunson and he will tell you, I hope this war will come to an end soon, that I may live to get back, and come to see you and sing for you that good old tune you ust to like so well, and the words are These.

O gion when I think of thee,
I wish for pinions like a dove,
And mourn to think that I should be,
So distant from the plase I love,
My family and Aunt Robensons
ware well at last accounts pleas to answer
this as soon as convenient, my health is
tolerable good, I hope this will find you
and all enquiring friends well fare well
Dear Aunt, I Remain your obedient
and affectionate Nephew until death
James R. Looker