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January 9, 1863.

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn

January 9th, 1862. [3]

Dear Wife.

You will be anxious I know to hear from me. I have written you one letter since the great Battle; without giving any particulars however. On the 31st of Dec - early in the morning General Rosecrans issued an order, or circular in which he told his army that he expected a great victory that day. The three corps & army were disposed as follows. Major Genl - McCook on the right, Major Genl - Thomas the Center, with Rosecrans's Division as a reserve. General Crittendon, on the left. At four o'clock that morning we were in line of Battle, shortly after a right cannonading was heard on the right - our division was marched immediately to the front, into a dense cedar forest, a little to the left of where McCook's corps was engaged. It soon became certain that our right - was giving away, and the Rebels were yelling like Indians, at this time Col. Loomis Chief of Artillery in our division, came riding into where my Regt was, asking at the top of his voice, where the Col. of the 33rd Ohio was; I told him I was commanding it. he said

Seized a letter from you since the 15th of last month. Suppose it is because the Rail Road is interrupted, writes often.

field, now, some three hundred yards from the cedar forest spoken of, and to the East or left of it, as you go South. It was not long before our troops came running out of the cedars in utter confusion, closely followed by the Enemy. The Rebels came to the edge of the woods, and fired on our men as they ran across the open field, towards where we lay. Just back of us was the Rail Road, behind which our men that were running aimed to get. In going there they had to pass over our line. About the time they got over our line a Brigade of Rebels charged on Loomis's Battery from the woods, some three hundred yards in our front. Now come the tug of war. The 33rd and 2nd Ohio lay flat on the ground, until the Rebels came out in the open field, about a hundred yards. They were running as fast as they could, and yelling at the top of their voices, with their battle flags flying. When our two Regiments and 18 pieces of artillery opened on them such a destructive fire as caused them to break an run in great confusion to the woods, but they had a heavy force in the woods, and kept up a terrible fire on us until dark, it was about noon when they charged. They were firing on us at the same time from the direction of Murfreesboro with artillery. It was during this charge that my

hind's leg with a piece of a shell. He fell in less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a minute, and was dead in less than three minutes. After he fell I started to go to Ramsay's Company to get some of the Boys to take care of my saddle; had got but a few steps when I heard him making a noise as though he wanted feed, I looked round and he had got up, and was trying to come after me, I ran to him caught him by the bit, but he reeled and fell dead; All this time the balls were coming thick and fast. The men were lying behind the Pike, which saved them very much, but an enfilading shot from a six pound piece on the pike between us and Town, killed Charles Fatters and John Vandeman, Fatters was struck in the left side, and never spoke, Vandeman in the small of the back, and lived some three minutes; said when struck I am killed; The Boys started to carry him off, got but a few steps when he told them to lay him down, that he was dying, and died immediately.

About 2 o'clock Genl. Rosecrans came and ordered me to advance about one hundred yards below the pike which I did, his face was all bloody then, from his assistant Genl. whose head from his mouth up, had just been blown off by a cannon ball. It is not worth my time, to attempt to give you a description of the battle, so many things occurred. General Sill was killed, early in the morning of this day was shot below the nose with a cannon ball.

of them and Van Horn was left out nearly
in fact I was about one hour from the
time they were awfully miserable from hunger.
without blankets, in the midst of the groaning
of wounded and dying by the hundreds. I tell
-you dear Wife and Children, it was awful to
listen to this suffering, when it was impossible
to give relief. For four days and nights more
and we lay in line of battle, constantly under
the fire of enemy, of both Infantry and artillery;
some times the most terrific; Two days and nights
draining, and not more than half enough to eat,
and without blankets all the time, our teams all
having gone back to Nashville in the skeadaddle.

altho' is about as it was when I left home
The Rebs burned some three hundred waggons
for us during the battle between this and Nashville.
Our Division teams escaped. They shot every negro
weaver they took. William Howell was struck in
the breast while lying on the ground by a six pound
ball, after it had bounced two or three times on
the ground, stung him considerably, but he is now
with the company. Joseph Severs was shot by a
musket ball on the pocket book, it went through
it and broke his knife, wounding him slightly;
he is with the company also. Samuel Pullin was
shot by a sharp shooter in the side, is not danger-
ously wounded, will be able for duty in a month.
Feters and Van Horn was buried on the field
the fifth day Sunday, so were most of the dead
on our side. The Rebs were not buried until
Monday when a detail of negroes was made for