

Readyville Tennessee  
June 2nd 1863

Dear Wife

Your lengthy and welcome letter of the 25th came to hand a few moments ago. Having a few moments of leisure time I hasten to answer it, lest, I should not have another opportunity soon. I was pleased to hear that you were all well. I am glad to know that you received the lithograph picture of the Battle of Stone River I sent to you. The key below will show the positions that the different Brigades and Regiments held during the day (Dec 31st 1862) Please keep it clean until I return, as I intend getting it put in a frame. The picture is a good one, though it does not give the scene near as severe as it actually was. Those who were not an eye witness to it cannot form an idea, how terrible the conflict was. Should I be spared to return I can show you the exact position of the 41st Regt and the very spot where two of my men were killed and where I myself was knocked down by a spent ball that struck me. I sent an article to Mr King last week for publication in the Gazette. It was signed H. In future you will find all my correspondence with the Gazette signed in that way. For obvious reasons I decline to give my full title unless it is some thing of great interest. Please inform me whether the article here in referred to has been published or not. If so preserve a copy. I am pleased to hear you speak so favorable of the yard, and am glad you have planted some evergreens in it. You stated that the people were very uneasy about the draft that is about to come off on the first of next month. I only hope that there will not so many of them get clear as there was last fall. I only hope that the President will call out at least 500,000 more men and put them into the field as soon as possible and put down the war in short order. For various reasons I can give you but little news from the army at present. Suffice it to say that you will hear from the army soon and I trust that you will hear of important movements. Perhaps of another bloody conflict near here ere I write again. You say you cannot tell me anything about the money but that it will be all right. I would ask you if you know nothing about it, what assurance have you that it will be all right unless you have some writing to show what has been done with it and the amount. Is your father not liable to die at any time. Should such be the case and you have no writings to show what amount has been received, and what dispositions has been made of it; Great trouble might be caused in getting it, if it was ever got at all. Not that I doubt your fathers honesty in the least, for I do not think that he would do any thing but what is honorable and just, but that there is gross neglect on the part of some of you I do not think, as I have twice written to him in reference to it and several times to, but have received no satisfaction what ever concerning it. I have not even as much as received and evidence to show that he ever received the money. Should death occur I have nothing to show by which to collect the money. I have spoken of it so often without any attention being given it that I have become impatient. I shall ask you again, for a satisfactory explanation of it. The shurest plan is to always keep things in such a shape as to give us little trouble as possible in case of death or other causes that might give trouble in settling any business. I intend no offense to any one in what I have said here but hope that a satisfactory report will be made soon. Trusting that what I have said will be sufficient I add no more. Hoping that these few lines will find you all well I close. My health is good. I remain your  
D.S.D.



Doubtless you have heard of the great battle of Stone River near Murfreesboro which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jan. The battle commenced early in the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> on our right and was kept up all day. The 41<sup>st</sup> Regt was not engaged on the 30<sup>th</sup> but was sent on picket at 8 P.M. where they remained until 8 A.M. of the 31<sup>st</sup>. At 8 A.M. of the 31<sup>st</sup> 2 companies of the 41<sup>st</sup> were dangerously wounded. At 10 the regt opened on the enemy which were advancing upon us at double quick. They were drawn up in three lines the main body, a reserve and a reserve of the reserve. The first line was brought to a sudden halt within 200 yards of our regt by the terrific fire from our men and 2 batteries that were playing on them. The one on our right the other on our left. We held this position for 40 minutes when we were relieved by the 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regt our ammunition being exhausted. The men having fired 60 rounds each. While in this position my company lost 2 men killed and three wounded. Joseph Parrish & Looy B Kidwell were killed I was struck with a spent ball in the breast and knocked down but it only lasted for a few seconds before I was again on my feet. It caused a slight bruise. Had it had a little more force it would have made shure work. Young cannot describe what a sensation it produced for a few minutes. Those who have not had the experience in battle cannot imagine what a sensation it does produce. Men falling in every direction, shot and shell flying like hail around you. The very earth trembling under your feet from the jar of the artillery. Our Regt lost one commissioned officer killed Lt. Calvin C. Hart of Warren & Capt James McClary, Lt. E.A. Ford Lt. Lester C. Patchin Lt Horcot Lt Wm Beebe & Lt Fisher wounded. Capt James McClary lost one arm in the battle of Shiloh, he was 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Our loss during the five days fight is estimated at 14,000 killed wounded and missing. Rebel Surgeons that were left back to take care of their wounded say they lost from 15 to 20,000. They say they had nearly 2 to our one engaged in the fight. But we gave them a sound thrashing. We took upon it as one of the most successful battles of the war. You will find Col Wileys report of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regt in which he speaks verry highly of all his officers in the Cleveland Herald or leader also Co Lasans report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Enclosed you will find a plot which I have hastily drawn of the battle field showing the position of the batteries the Infantry. Figure one shows the position of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regt lying betwin the railroad and Pike Ny Co. lyeed right on the pile the best exposed position of the main line and it received great praise for the manner in which they bore their part in the fight. Also I send a list of the articles I send in my trunk which I shall express the first opportunity. Look- Scotts Military Dictionary also Scotts Tactics Volume 3d Napoleons Penetration of our 5 volumes Peters the Great Parson Brownes 1<sup>st</sup> Book Russias Campaign The Musketeer The Cabin Boy Officers Outpost The Military Maps



Camp Near Murfreesboro Tennessee  
Jan 9th 1865  
(Continued)

One Linen suit One Dark Lantern One Military Hat Band  
Some Receipts A bundle of letters One Bindbook One Pistol  
One Ruber Blankit belonging to Joseph Parrish One papers weekly  
showing a sketch of our trip to wildcat Several other articles  
not mentioned. A lot of Buckeyes that I gathered on the bank of  
RockCastle River at the foot of Wild Cat Mountain. The letters  
I want kept as I may want to refer to one or two of them in future  
one I received from Alexander Bushong in particular The books take  
good care of as I may want them again I have not way to carry  
them at present. Three of them are for the Boys a New Years present  
Their names are ritten on the back Write as soon as you receive  
the trunk and let me know whither it came through safe It has  
no lock on, the lock got broke and I took it off My health is  
tolerable good. Write soon

Ever Yours

E. S. Holloway Capt  
41st Regt O.V.

I saw Lt Wm C. Beck yesterday. He said all the boys were well.