



# Stones River National Battlefield

3501 Old Nashville Highway  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
Phone: (615) 893-9501, Fax: (615) 893-9508

## Regimental File Donation Form

Donor Name: ROGER R FOSS

Address: 4627 SPRING COVE DR

City: M'BORO State: TN Zipcode: 37128

Phone: 907-5733 Fax: EMMA ROGER R FOSS @ AOL.com

Significant Person's Name: Regan June Albert Shepard

Unit: 115th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

### List Contents of Donation Below:

Letter to Brother Eugene (Photocopy)

Transcript of Letter

Newspaper Article (Obituary)

Please Fill out Both sides completely Thanks!



Notes

Albert Shepard is buried in the Wabash Cemetery. Pic of stone on file.

The following letter was written Nov 18, 1863 by Albert Shepard to his brother Eugene. Albert was a member of the 115th Illinois, serving in the Tennessee campaign.

My letter is a copy of many copies from the original and some letters are faded along with small missing sections. Other than that, the letter is in good shape considering the years. I have attempted to determine as many words as possible without taking too many liberties as to the contents and intent of the letter. The question marks and underlined or blank spaces are mine and not the writer's. Note the old English way of spelling the letter "s" when they are in sequence.

"Shellmound (?) Tenn, Nov 18, 1863

Mr. E. Shepard.

Dear Brother. Since I last wrote you on the 12th we have drawn 4 months wages, & I wrote to Roseline on the 16th stating to her that I would send you fifty dollars (#50.00) in sums of Ten as I have heretofore, but as the mail communications are rather deficient from here to Washington the majority of the Co. came to the conclusion \_\_\_\_\_ to send together, getting a check of \_\_\_\_\_ master, which we intend to send to \_\_\_\_\_ Shannion (?) at Mt. Carmel, giving him the list of names & sums of money to pay out. The check will be some # \_\_\_\_\_. By this doing if the check should get lost there being a copy retained, we would not loose our money.

Hence I \_\_\_\_\_ sent #50.00 X your name on the list to draw, so you will have to get it or send an order. It may be that Shannon (?) can not cash the check without going to a Bank, if so he will probably charge a percent which you should pay. I had rather do this than risk by mail for a great many of the boys complain of losing money this way. It would not be best to go after their money for a few days after you get this letter, as the check might be delayed in getting there. It will be sent tomorrow.

I recd a letter from Morrill day before yesterday, announcing to my surprise the step which he has taken of late in leaving the "Methodist" Church & joining the "Freewill Baptis", (sp) & gone to Preaching. He gave me no reasons for this doing, only said he had now joined a Church that agreed with his conscientious views \_\_\_\_\_ this it seems that "Methodism" has \_\_\_\_\_ agree(?) with him satisfactory(?). Likely the doctrine of Baptism was to universal for him & w \_\_\_\_\_ t immersion and that only, (no other mode) all was lost. He may be candid in all his works, but this way of joining one church & then another often results in the destruction not only of the character of man, but leads to fanaticism. Although I could hardly think him to be that character who was not firm & unshaken, in the doctrines of Christianity.

I hope he may be successful in his calling and be instrumental in bringing many to Christ for I firmly believe if the Devil ever reigned or swayed the soul of mankind it is now, while this great rebellion is in progress \_\_\_\_\_. The enlightened & civilized people of America hardly recognize the Almighty as a Supreme being, & seem to have forgotten that they owe to Him, even thanks for their first protection. Every thing is taken up, in the pleasures of worldly matter & the great future but little thought of \_\_\_\_\_.

The death of George Besore & Newkirk, was received in our Co. with more joy than sorrow, and most everyone was heard to say "two more Butter \_\_\_\_\_ gone up". This is the sympathy Soldiers have for those infernal minions who are at home trying to check the progress of a reunion. The \_\_\_\_\_st anathemes, & the lowest regions of hell should be a mercy to these sort of humans. How can men for a mere foolish & political principle jeopardize their dearest nights on earth! O vain, are these men! They know not what peace & prosperity is. If they did, this great north with one terrific leap, sould join heart and hand & with another, crush this mighty rebellion. This is the feeling of all the Soldiers, & when it becomes the feeling of both citizen & Soldier, we may look for a speedy termination.

Gen Sherman has arrived with reinforcements from the Mississippi. One division of his troops passed here yesterday which the 26th ILLs 40th & 48th are in. We saw two Co from our County in the 40th & 48th. Alex Banks, John Sheamer(?), Winfield Wolf, \_\_\_\_\_ Breen(?) & a great many others I might mention. Also Jacob S \_\_\_\_\_g which went with Morrison in the 26th. The boys all look fat & hearty. \_\_\_\_\_ is some 40 thousand coming through. The 63rd is along & expecting to pass here today.

When you send that box of things I want a bill of what it is, & you can add to it the balance (?) other bill of what I



owe you so that I can tell how much I am \_\_\_\_\_. So far when you receive this last fifty if I understand right, my Cr is #217.00 & Dr (?) #\_\_\_\_\_ the addition of what you send to Dr. will be the way I have it.

The weather is tolerable mild excepting nights, which are pretty cool. We have \_\_\_d houses up, but have not got our blankets yet, also overcoats.

If you have'nt sent that box yet, hurry it up as fast as possible & be sure to get the best of books also other articles & as soon as you send the box, let me know. I suppose you have an + to your family. The disease must have been contagious in the Shepard family of late, by letters I have received. My love to Wife & Babies. Adieu, your Brother.

A. Shepard

Albert was 21 at the time and though parts are a little dramatic, its' evident that he is educated. His grammar and spelling appear fairly sound. From his letter we may develop some assumptions as to the character and personality of Mr. Shepard.

He appears to have a strong Christian faith and definite opinions. Albert and others in his company are not too unhappy upon hearing about the deaths of a Mr. George Besore and someone named Newkirk. Albert states "two more butter.....gone up" and further refers to "the infernal minions who are at home trying to check the progress of the reunion." Perhaps the completed word is "butterballs", and meant as a slur for obesity. The color of Confederate uniforms was often referred to as "butternut" and its' obvious that the term "infernal minions" was not meant in a complimentary way. Lincoln often spoke of the "reunion" in the context of bringing the seceding states back into the Union. Further, it could be that George Besore and Newkirk were somewhat sympathetic to South. Afterall, there were many Southerners that settled in lower, or southern Illinois.

I also have probate papers indicating that a Mr. George Besore, of Wabash County, was an attorney who was instrumental in settling the estate of Adams Shepard, Albert's father. Maybe there was some hard feelings concerning Mr. Besore's handling of the estate. Adams Shepard died just a few months before Albert enlisted in the Army

In later years Albert Shepard appealed for medical pensions on the basis of various on-going illness'es claimed as contracted during his his Civil War Service.

The Last Will and Testament made by Albert Shepard is dated March 19, 1900.

Various articles concerning news from "Linn" appear in the "Mount Carmel Register" during the month of May. The first is dated May 3, 1900.

"Albert Shepard is on the sick List."

"F.A. Shepard conducted business at Vincennes, Saturday."

"H.H. (\*) Shepard and family, of Chicago, returned to their home near this place, Saturday."

(\* This could have been Albert's brother Morrill who we think had business interests in Chicago at the time. Did he return because of his brother's illness?)

The second article is an obituary dated May 10, 1900. It reads:

**ALBERT SHEPARD**

"Of Linn, While Temporarily Insane, Took His Own Life."

"The community was unspeakably shocked, Thursday morning, when the announcement was made that Mr. Albert Shepard, one of the most widely known citizens of the county, had committed suicide by hanging, at his home in Linn, that morning.

For some months past Mr. Shepard had been dealing in real estate, and looking after he landed interests of his brother, N.A. \*Shepard of Lebanon. The transactions had not gone his way and the worry and fear of financial ruin unbalanced him mentally. His friends had noticed his condition for some days but the idea that it would lead



Well-morred Lewis, Nov 18 1863

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wrote you on the 12<sup>th</sup> we have drawn 4  
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you fifty dollars (\$50<sup>00</sup>) in sum of ten  
as I have heretofore; but as the girls  
commenced are rather deficient, from  
here to Wash. the majority of the Co. came  
to the conclusion to send together, getting  
a check of my typewriter, which we intend  
to send to Aunt Hannah at Mt Carmel,  
giving him the list of names & sums of  
money to pay out. The check will be  
some \$50<sup>00</sup>. By this doing if the check  
should get lost, there being a copy retained  
we would not lose our money.

Hence I have now sent \$50<sup>00</sup> & your name  
on the list to draw, so you will have to get  
it or send an order. It may be that  
can not cash the check without going to a  
Bank, if so the will probably charge a percent  
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that character who was not firm & unshakable in the  
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I hope he may be successful in his calling  
and be the instrument in bringing many



to Christ, for I firmly believe if the devil  
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progress. The enlightened & civilized people  
of America hardly recognize the Almighty  
as a Supreme being. It seems to have forgotten  
that they owe to Him, even thanks for their past  
protection. Every thing is taken up, in the pleasures  
of worldly matters & the great future, but little  
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are at home, trying to check the progress of a  
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of humans who can even for a <sup>mere</sup> foolish political  
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A vain, & worthless men, they know not what  
peace & prosper it is, if they did, the great north  
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77  
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When you send that box of things I want  
a bill of what it is, & you can add to it the balance  
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tell how much I am indebted to you.

So far when you receive this last fifty if I understand  
right, My Cr. is \$217.<sup>00</sup> & Dr \$15.<sup>00</sup> with the addition  
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The weather is tolerable mild excepting nights,  
which are pretty cool, we have a good house up, but  
have not got our blankets yet, also Overcoats,

If you haven't sent that box yet, hurry it  
up as fast as possible & be sure to get the best of  
Boots also other articles. & as soon as you send the  
box, let me know, I suppose you have aim. & to your  
family, the disease must have been contagious in the  
Shepherd family of late, by letters I have received.  
My love to Wife & Babies, Adieu, Yours & Brother  
A. Shepherd