

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

April 21st, 1863

Dear Sister Kate,

I this pleasant evening take the opportunity of writing you a letter to let you know that I am not well at this time nor have not been since I left home. I have got the Neuralgia in the face but I hope these lines may (find) you and your family well and enjoying the comforts of a happy home because I am in this sad and unpleasant. I do not any more in such a place. I used to like soldering once but that day is past. It has ceased to be a pleasure like a great many other things that is gone by. It is too old to be noticed.

Well, Kate, I thought I would get to come and see you before I left but could not for I had to go. It was the last day of grace with me. You must not think hard of me on that account for would liked to seen you very much but the next time I come I will come to stay I hope and then I can come and see you whenever I please.

Well, Kate, I was over the battlefield at Stone River where our boys fought seven days and it would almost melt the hardest hearted person to see the graves of thousands of men and horses are laying thick over the field yet and to see the trees full of bullets. It looks impossible for anyone to escape but there is something strange to think any living being would live through such a struggle but there are still some fanatics at home that would urge men to eternal ruin just (to) save themselves and their children but if a man with a lion's heart would see that battleground I think he would become to think there was no good for anyone and would say I do not want anybody to go unless they felt like for I would not like to go myself. The boys are all well and would

like to get home again to a land where war is unknown. That is all about that part of the history of war. Our regiments are all gone out on a scout today but myself. They think they will be gone five days and expect to have a fight before they get back. There is picket fighting every day. A person does not know when and where he must lie in the Southern Sail dar away from friends and home. Well, this is a pleasant place here. The trees are all out of leaves. There is no burning going on here. The farms are all laid waste and the buildings and fences are all burnt. Everything is very high. Eggs are 65 cents a dozen and everything according. Tell Paul to put in all the tobacco he can for it will be a good price this year. Tell him I send my best respects to him and tell him to write to me. It is nothing to write at home to what it is here. It is more trouble for me to write to everyone than it is for them to write to me.

I must close by telling you if you see Mother's folks that you got a letter from me. No more but remembering you affectionate brother until death. Write soon if you please.

Thomas Conley to Kate

P.S. Direct to Company B 33 OVI Care Capt. de Bruin Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Write soon or sooner.