

## Jerome P. Holcomb Letters

Camp near Murfreesboro [sic] tenn

Jan the 8 1862

Dear Brother & Sister

it is With grait [sic] happines [sic] i Sit down to write you a fiew [sic] lines to let you know i am on the land of the living yet – although I have ben [sic] again Engaged in one of the hardest battles Ever fought I have ben [sic] once more the lucky boy While a grait [sic] many of my friends met with the messinger [sic] of deth [sic] on this – battle field We started from ower [sic] camp near Nashville the day after Christmas on the Nolinville [sic] pike leading towards murfreesburo [sic] & comenced [sic] skirmishing with the Enemy the next day & marched in a line of battle all that day stidy [sic] fiting [sic] with the enemy kep [sic] sloly [sic] Retreating & fiting [sic] but we at last Repulsed them & they disapeard [sic] we then laid thare [sic] towo [sic] dayes [sic] & was orderd [sic] to Reenforce the troops on the other pike 12 miles from that place when we arrived at that place We found them very busy fiting [sic] the roar of the canons & musketry was like blasts of thunder we took ower [sic] position that night the fiting [sic] seased [sic] till Just at day light the next morning when the enemy atacted [sic] us with a large force & soon thare [sic] was a general Engagemet a long the hole lines a grait [sic] many was took on surpris we Engaged them as long as posable [sic] but we ware [sic] forced to retreat as the Enemy was coming on us like clouds & ware flanking ower [sic] Brugade [sic] the word was given to fall back the men ware [sic] so confused they Just ran in Ever [sic] Direction while the Enemy Began to yell like indians & shooting Down ower [sic] men as they Retreated & I must say that Jimy [sic] Reay met with his fait [sic] wright [sic] thare [sic] poor little felow [sic] was killed instantly as the ball pearced [sic] his hart [sic] Well We Retreated two miles & ware [sic] folowed [sic] by the Enemy in close persuit [sic] we ware [sic] in a very bad condition as ower [sic] men was scatted [sic] in Every direction we tride [sic] Ever [sic] plan to Rally the men but I was imposible [sic] at that time we at last got a squad of men & took position the artily [sic] was planted now for work in a field on a hill the Enemy came up & they set a bout 40 peaces [sic] of canons to work & began to pay them back Rations of grape canister & shells they just made them like a harvest & soon we was promited [sic] to Return yells as the Enemy was Retreating & ower [sic] men folowed [sic] them & gave them more then had ben [sic] [illegible] Gen Rosy [illegible] boyes [sic] work a way a cloudy morning some times turnes [sic] out to be a butiful [sic] Day & shure [sic] anough [sic] it Did we fought all day & gain ground never did i [sic] see an hour half so happy as then (Lt. Jerome P. Holcomb, Co. G. 6th Indiana Infantry)

Jan the 10th 61

Camp Advanse [sic] Hart Co, Ky

[Picture of man with flags draped on both sides of him]

Dear Brother & Sister

I Haistain [sic] this Dreary morning to answer your Kind letter this day Received i Was truley [sic] glad to Hear from you I am well & Harty [sic] & trewly [sic] Hope that when those lines comes to Hand they may find you the same. We Have a little cold wether [sic] hear [sic] for two dayes [sic] but Not as cold as it is in Ind We Had a vary [sic] Plesant [sic] christmas considering the wether [sic] But as fore [sic] as Rarites [sic] was concernd [sic] we Had [illegible] Nothing But crackers & meat & coffee Rice & sugar we have [sic] We Have Plenty such as it is But a rariety [sic] would come in play Me & NJ Francis & Jim Kiay sent for a assortment of things & sent Word in [illegible] Letter to give or tell [illegible] We will look for it Ever [sic] day John Maison is Hear [sic] i see Him ever [sic] Day he is Well i Believe or was the last time i saw him & that was yersterday [sic] i saw Him & he is a good Soldier ower [sic] men Had a fight the other Night or a skirmish With the Rangers [sp?] But it was not much We lost three Horses and got one man wounded Ower [sic] men took one Colonel prisoner & 3 Privets & foar [illegible] Horses But i Have give up ever giting [sic] in a fight The Rebles [sic] wants the union troops to give them [illegible] [illegible] to fix in i Recorn [sic] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] that but i Will Voat [sic] against that We Hear old England is coming over to give us a [illegible] But i say let them come for We Whiped [sic] them in ower [sic] infancy & Why cant we do it know [sic] i got a letter from [illegible] Kemp the other Day he Wrote that their [sic] ware [sic] all Well [illegible] is to Work I got a letter from Lis Myer [sp?] the other day & Siphrona [sp?] at [illegible] Pet has got a box Well is joy to wright [sic] from J. P. Holcomb

Camp Drake Tenn

June the 8th

Dear Sister

I Receved your Kind letter in due time & its contence [sic] was Viewed with Plesure [sic] I was very happy to hear all was well—my health is very Good at Presant [sic] i can Say it never was Better it appears i am a natural Soldier if my health is alwais [sic] this good & nothing Else does not Befall me i will content my Self in the army till this Rebellion [sic] is down & the Stars & Stripes waves unmolested which i am Sure they will do Before one year from this time I am now Reliesed [sic] i think in [rest of page cut off]

I have ben [sic] musterd [sic] as a comitioned [sic] Officer as thare [sic] has ben [sic] an order ishewed [sic] that all men Promoted from the Ranks will be discharged from the U. S. [sic] before they can draw pay as an officer i have ben [sic] musterd [sic] & discharged & musterd [sic] in again as an officer i was cut out of 6 months pay as they couldnot [sic] muster me to the date of my comition [sic] which dated may the 30 1862 I have my comition or a duplicuit [sic] my first one was lost on the road & the musters officer could not muster me ondy [sic] from the first notice i Recieved [sic] from the Govner [sic] of my comition [sic] So i have to loose [sic] my hard labor But it is oncle [sic] Sams game i was very needy to for i have ben [sic] bording [sic] off from the Capt for over a year & it costs a big pile to live hear [sic] whare [sic] curs [sic] things is [illegible]

I Recieved [sic] a letter from han [sic] & Siphconia today they are all well Pop  
i Sent a Sargents [sic] Comition [sic] to you to Keep fore [sic] me i would like to know if  
you Recieved [sic] it i Sent it by Parker He knows luk [sic] he is a watch Pedler [sic] – I  
will now Say that I have ben [sic] looking for a letter from Jimmey & the Baby But it  
never comes tell Will to write to me & let me know how things are working with him  
I will now close write as soon as Possible [sic] I dont want you to direct in care of Capt  
Finney I am most Resectfully [sic] your Brother Jerome

December the 3 61

Camp 6th [sp?] Wood

Harden Co Ky

[Picture of a woman with an American flag with Onward to Victory written to the right of  
the picture]

Dear Sister

I Recieved [sic] your kind & most Welcome letter I Was glad to here [sic] from yo [sic] all  
Received [sic] a letter from Livonia & Hannah also Han Rote [sic] that they Was a going  
to move Right off Livonia Rote [sic] that they had Rented Old zenas if i knew Whare [sic]  
That Was thare [sic] are all Well John is to work at His old trade The Enas boyes [sic]  
are all Well except John Elliot & John Denton are both sick but are git ing [sic] better  
the Liz town boyes [sic] some are sick But not Daingerous [sic] Henrey [sic] Arnold Has  
Ben [sic] very sick i Had the chills but i am Well & feel as if i could Whip 12 rebles [sic]  
for evry [sic] chill i had Thare [sic] Was a flag of truce [sic] came in yesterday to ower  
[sic] Hed [sic] quarters they say that old Buckners Sun [sic] Was Ded [sic] & He Wanted  
to git [sic] Promition [sic] to take Him to Louisville to Barey [sic] him the Boy Swares [sic]  
that they Will not let him go by the Rebles [sic] Burnt a bridge about 8 miles from Hdr  
yesterday i cant See How they Dare venture that close to us the Kentuckyons [sic] are  
coming in very fast & Enlisting in ower [sic] Regt thare [sic] Was twenty came in  
yesterday We Have 7 [sp?] in ower [sic] company thare [sic] are good Soldiers yo [sic]  
Role that i was Cut out by some body i Didnot [sic] Know Ho [sic] He is i would to like  
know Hoo [sic] He is But i Donot [sic] Belive [sic] it for i believe the girls Have more  
respect for the SolDiers [sic] that are fighting for ower [sic] conterys [sic] good i Will Sind  
[sic] yo [sic] a letter i got from one of the zenas gals it Showes [sic] What Respects She  
Has for soldiers i Want yo [sic] to Read it & Burn it Do not tell any body she Will think i  
am bosting [sic] on it Wright [sic] soon Jerome to pop [sp?]

State of Tenn

may [sic] the 1

[Picture of Major General G. B. McClellan Commander-in-Chief U.S.A.]

Dear Sister & Brother

I Recieved [sic] your kind & most welcom [sic] letter & now [illegible] to answer it i was very glad to hear from you once more i was sarow [sic] to hear that Will was sick or had ben [sic] you [illegible] wrote that before i hope he will git [sic] stout soon i Dont like to hear of ay [sic] of my Relations Being sick Or in trouble I Recieve [sic] letters Ever [sic] week from some Body I Recieved a letter from han & harty [sp?] both last week they are all well We lost a grait [sic] many men them & other things But the Rebble [sic] loss was 3 to One that i am sure of Ower [sic] men had all the Ded [sic] to bury & they got so hardend [sic] to it that they would Just throw them in any way & ever [sic] way some would throw them in with thare [sic] close [sic] all tore off & some ware [sic] officers & they threw them in with the privates & swore they should all be treated a like We ware [sic] on the Battle field all Day & we got so hardend [sic] to the Bullets that we Dident [sic] care only when a 12 lb came threw cuting [sic] Down trees that Would make 25 [sp?] Rails to the cut them we would nod [sp?] some [illegible]