

E. S. Holloway Letter

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 leasure [sic] time I hasten to answer it, lest, I should not have another oppertunity [sic] soon. I was pleased to hear that you were all well. I am glad to know that you received the lithrograph [sic] picture of the Battle of Stone [sic] 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) Pleas [sic] keep it clean untill [sic] I return, as I intend getting it put in a frame. The picture is a good one, though it does not give the sene [sic] near as severe as it actually was. Those who were not an eye witness to it cannot form an idea, how terrable [sic] the conflict was. Should I be spared to return I can show you the exact position of the 41st Regt and the verry [sic] 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 corispondence [sic] with the Gazette signed in that way. For obvious reasons I decline to give my full title unless it is something of great interest. Pleas [sic] inform me whither the article here in referred to has been published or not. If so preserve a cobby [sic]. 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 verry [sic] 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 presant [sic]. 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 eer [sic] 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 [sic] 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 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 [sic] 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 [sic] plan is to allways [sic] 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 setling [sic] 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 E.S.H.

Undated Letter Fragment

[illegible] eer [sic] this you have heard of the great Battle of Stone [sic] River near Murfreesboro which took place on the 30 and 31st of Dec and 1st 2nd and 3rd of Jan. The battle commenced early in the morning of the 30th on our right and was kept up all day. The 41st Regt was not engaged on the 30th but was sent on picket at 8 P.M. where they remained until 8 A.M. of the 31st. At 8 A.M. of the 31st [illegible line of text] dangerously wounded. At 10 the regt [sic] 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 when within 200 yards of our regt [sic] 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 9th Indiana Regt our ammuniton being exhausted. The men having fired 60 rounds each.

While in this position my company lost 2 men killed and three wounded. Joseph Parrish and [illegible] 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 a little more force it would have made shure [sic] work. [illegible] cannot describe what a sensation it produced for a few minuts [sic]. Those who have not had the experience in battle cannot immagin [sic] what a sensation it does produce. Men falling in every direction, shot and shell flying like hail around you. The verry [sic] earth trembling under your feet from the jar of the artilery [sic]. Our Regt lost one comissioned [sic] officer killed Lt. Calvin C. [illegible] of Warren and Capt. James McClary, Lt. B. A. Ford Lt. Lester C. Patchin Lt. Worcot Lt. Wm. Beebe and Lt. Fisher wounded. Capt. James McClary lost one arm in the battle of Shiloh, he was then 1st Lt. Our loss during the five days fight is estimated at 14,000 killed wounded and missing. Rebel Surgeion [sic] 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 look upon it as one of the most successful battles of the war. You will find Co. Wileys [sic] report of the 41st Regt in which he speaks verry [sic] highly of all his officers in the Cleveland Herald or [illegible] also Co. [illegible] report of the 18 Brigade. Enclosed you will find a [illegible] which I have hastily drawn of the battle field showing the position of the two armies. The dots showes [sic] the position of the batteries the stretches [sic] the Infantry. Figure one shows the position of the 41st Regt lying betwin [sic] the railroad and pike My Co. lyed [sic] right on the pike the last exposed position of the whole line and it receives great prais [sic] for the manner in which they bore their [illegible] in the fight. [illegible] I send a list of the articles I send in my trunk which I shall express the first opportunity. Look – Scotts Military dictionary [illegible] Scotts Tactticks [sic] Volumn [sic] 3d [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] 5 volumns [sic] Pete: the Great Parson Brown. [illegible] Book Music [illegible] [illegible] T.C. Musketeer The Cabin Boy Officers Cut [illegible] Two Military Maps [end of letter]

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tennessee

Jan 9th 1863

(continued)

One Linen shirt One Dark Lantern One Military Hat Band Some Receipts A bundle of letters One Bindbook One Pistol One Ruber [sic] Blankit [sic] belonging to Joseph Parrish One [illegible] weekely [sic] showing a sketch of our trip to wildcat Several other articles not mentioned. A lot of Buckeys [sic] that I gathered on the bank of RockCastle [sic] 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 if future one I received from Alexander Bushong in particular The books take good care of as I many want them again I have not way to carry them at pressnt [sic]. Three of them are for the Boys a New Years [sic] presant [sic] Their names are ritten [sic] 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 [sic]

41st Regt O.V.

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