

J.F. Jenkins Letter

8th Texas Cavalry

Tullahoma February 14th 1862 [transcribed version changes it to 1863]

My Dearest Jule,

You are mistaken in regard to my not having answered your letter. I answered it at Murfreesboro and would have written again, but about that time the fight came off and I was not able to write for three weeks to any one [sic], being constantly engaged, and when I arrived here I had so many to write to that I had not time to write you until the present moment. I expect you will think that I do not intend to answer this one as you wrote it on the 17 of January and I did not see it until today (14th Feb) so you must not think hard of me for not writing sooner. It gives me as much pleasure to receive a letter from you or write one to you as to get one from either of my sisters, for I consider you more of a sister than an Aunt. Why do you not always ask Allie or Mame to show you my letters, or at least tell you how I am getting on? I write to someone in the Family once a week. The "Breckenridge Guards" did pass safely through the "Battle of Murfreesboro" with the exception of one who had his hand slightly bruised by a piece of shell. Now as to my being really engaged in the fight, I do not pretend to be a judge of. I only know that on Friday evening (Jan 2nd), the evening Genl Breck [sic] made his charge we were under as hot a fire as I had [~~crossed out~~] could have wished to have been under. One of the horses in our company was also wounded in the leg by a minnie ball but it is nearly well now. It was the most awful and painful sight that I ever beheld, like you, I was anxious at first to see a battle but it is now my earnest wish that if I live an [sic] hundred years more I may never behold such a scene again. the groans of the wounded mingled with the sound of Artillery and the roar of Musketry was truly terrible. I rode over the field after it was all over and it was enough to make ones [sic] blood run cold: men were laying in every describable form and posture, some with their arms and legs entirely off, others with their heads shot off. I can assure you Jule that it was no pleasant sight and you may believe it more, when you hear that I did not smile any for 2 days afterward. I cannot tell you our exact losses and gains as you will hear all that in the papers. I received your package (that you so kindly sent me) by Mr. Wanehouse he got it from Aunt Charlotte in Jackson, and they suited me so well too I can not thank you too much for them. I do not think it is right for people to give balls and parties in such times as these, were Allie or Mame at any of them? Do you know Jule your letter is the first line I have had from home for a month? I would like to be at home with you very much to hunt. I expect we could have a great deal of fun. This is the first word I have heard in regard to "Aunt Charlies [sic] daughter" I expect she will be beautiful and dutiful like her mother. Give all manner of love to Grandma, Aunt Charlie and her children, and do not forget to tell Aunt Charlie that I will write her as soon as possible. It is now 12 o'clock P. M. so I think it is time for me to retire.

Believe me to be your most devoted nephew J. F. Jenkins