

Ira L. Lanphear Letter

CB 73rd Illinois Regiment

CAMP ON STONE RIVER MAY 17TH 1863

Distant Friends

I received your kind letter to day and I hasten to answer it I was glad to hear that you were well and was getting along so well with your springs [sic] work you will have a good large summers [sic] work on hand I hope you will [illegible] a good crop for I guess it will bring a good price for I shal [sic] have to differ with you in regard to the wars coming to an end I can see no sight [illegible] if Hooker had been successful in the east I guess we would not of had much more hard fighting but as he was whiped [sic] it will increase their courage and the traitors in the north will have that to harp on so they can help the south in that way but I believe it will come out all right in the end. it looks a little as though we might move or do something soon. there is an order Issued by Gen. Rosecranse [sic] in regard to clothing a soldier is to have only 9 shorts 2 pr socks 9 pair drawers 1 pr pants one coat one blanket The rest is to be packed and sent to Nashville to be stored I have none to spare I sent two coats home one under coat and one overcoat and they have sent those that are not able for duty to the rear to hospitals only one went out of our company

Charles L Gale of Delavan he was troubled with the rhumatism [sic] we may be attacted [sic] here soon but I dont [sic] think the rebles [sic] are not far off they have a battery placed within two miles of our picket line we have out a strong picket now they are not going to surprise Old Rosy they are trying to get back into Kentucky but they will have to some other way besides to come through and drive us out of there if they flank us and get in our rear I think that Burnside will attend to them. I [missing text] we have from 3 to five or six months provisions on hand so if they was to cut of [sic] our supplies for a short time it would not hurt us much and if they get in the rear of us they will find them selvs [sic] in a warm place some deserter said they would attact [sic] us here and some negros said they said they would have Murfreesburo [sic] or loose [sic] the last man which unles [sic] they have got a tremendous [sic] large force would be the case we have some old big barkers and a good many small ones. Gen. Grant is giving furlough to his men I wish we might get some here for I should like to see you first rate but I am not any ways homesick I like the service first rate by the papers the Copperheads are not quite as bold as they was up there I wish you could send them all south of our lines. We have given up our shelter [crossed out] sibly [sic] tents and live in our pup tents we have them shaded by sheds covered with green brush I will send you a sort of a trophy it is a lamp mat I guess green it was found on the battle field of Stone [sic] River I am a going to try and see the old field once more if I can get a pass there are several citizens here now I should like to see some of my friends down this way if

they can find time I have been to meeting since I commenced this letter I heard a good sermon by Mr [sic] Lacon of the [illegible] 9th Ill, we dont [sic] have a great deal of duty to do only drill which is good exercise I wish you could see us drill brigade drill play drive the rebs it is a pretty sight more so than reality as I have no news to writ [sic] I will close. Harvy is a farming on John McKinstry place he finds team and seed and gives Harvey half I hope he will do well Orinel [sic] is going to leave Illinois Alvans folks were well the 7th yours in hast [sic] my love to all write soon

Ira L Lanphear
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