

## James R. Looker Letter 10th Ohio Cavalry

Lavergne Tennessee March 6th 1864

Dear Aunt Lydia

Be pleased to forgive my Boldnes [sic] in presuming to address you a few lines, for the first time in my life, when you lern [sic] how lonely [sic] I feel on this Beautiful Sabath [sic] Day, you will be Ready to simpithese [sic] with me, and say let us commune together. I am one of the many who have been compiled to becom [sic] a combattent [sic] in the cruel war, I have been in the servis [sic] fifteen months, and have Seen Some of the Greatest Battles fought in this war, throughes [sic] of Hover's [sic] Gap Duck River Lookout Mountain Missionary Ridge. I have scouted [illegible] the Chickamauga Battlegrounds, the sights ther [sic] to be seen is the most apaling [sic] and shocking ever witnest [sic] by humane [sic] eyes, it was over two months after the Battle when we traversed the Grounds, ther [sic] had been over five hundred Buried of our dead two weaks [sic] be four [sic] we went ther [sic], yet ther [sic] was thousdens [sic] lying strown over the ground unintered [sic], and thoughts [sic] that had been Buried was not put under fare [sic] enough to hide them from sight only in part. Some, ther [sic] hands stuck out, some ther [sic] heads feet or cloths [sic], protruded above ground, you coul [sic] see hundreds, lying Just as they fell, some in a state almost of nudity, and lying grimm [sic] silent cold in the imbrase [sic] of deth [sic], ther [sic] bodys [sic] ware [sic] more or less Decomposed, the stench arising from ther [sic] Bodys [sic], and that of the carcasses [sic] of horses and mules was almost sufficating [sic], the confederates held the field and buried our men as they did in Retaliation for the manner in which we buried these [sic] after Stone [sic] River last year, it has been Reported that our army at Chatanooga [sic], only three weaks [sic] since, Buried over three thousden [sic] of our dead ther [sic], only think of the cruelty [sic] of this war, I Belong to the tenth Ohio cavaldry [sic] we ware [sic] ordered to the front about the Twentyeth [sic] of Desember [sic], we arived [sic] at chatanooga [sic] on crismus [sic] day erly [sic] in the morning, paset [sic] through that plase [sic], went on five miles south to Rossvill [sic], pitched our camp and went on a scout that afternoon, for it was Root hog or dye [sic], for we had nothing for ourselvs [sic] or horses to eat, we traveled 20 miles and found forage and meet [sic] and Bread or stuff to make bread in a abundance, but had not teams with us as it was too dangers [sic] ground we ware [sic] on to be combined with wagons, our horses had no [crossed out] nothing for two years [crossed out] days to eat until now they (poor things) had plenty, but we had to keep a sharp lookout, for we ware [sic] in sight of the Reble [sic] pickets, we had a sack apeice [sic], we filed and took all our poor old bates [sic] could cary [sic], and in this way we don [sic] until the 10 of January, when we were ordered to Report at Bridgeport Ala. arrived [sic] ther [sic] on the 17th, turned over to the Government [sic] what few horses and mules had survived the Great Raid of the Chickamauga, almost naked and starved on half Rations, we got aboard [sic] the cares [sic] and arrived hear [sic] on the 15th of last month hear [sic] we are to get a new outfit, we have had the worst weather several days since, that we have had since we have been out hear [sic], But it is beautiful now, one of your neighbor boys is one of my Bunk

maits [sic] his name is Daniel Lines. Anty [sic] excuse my boldness for addressing you,  
and if you do not know which Jim I am ask Jacob Robenson and he will tell you, I hope  
this war will come to an end soon, that I may live to get back, and come to see you and  
Sing for you that good old tune you ust [sic] to like so well, and the words are these  
O yion [sic] when I think of the,  
I with for pinions like a Dove,  
And mourn to think that I should be,  
So distant from the plase [sic] I love  
My family and Aunt Robensons ware [sic] well at last accounts pleas [sic] to answer this  
as soon as convenient [sic]. My helth [sic] is tolerable good, I hope this will find you and  
all enquiring friends well  
fare [sic] well Dear Aunt, I Remain your obedient [sic] and affectionate Nephew until  
Death  
James R. Looker

Address James R. Looker  
tenth [sic] Ohio Volentear [sic] Cavalry  
Company A By the way of Nashvill [sic] Tennessee, to follow the Regiment