

Noah Miles Letter

Private 18th Ohio Volunteers Company D

Jan. the 9th A. D. 1863.

Camp near Murphersborough, [sic] Tenn., Dear Wife and children: I once more set down to rite [sic] you a few lines to let you no [sic] that I am well at present and hope these lines will find you the same. I havn't [sic] but little time to write so I will be brief.

We have been through the hardest contested battles that ever was fought on the soil of America. We have fought six days in succession, the rebels tried to flank us serval times but the vigilant eye of Rosecrans was seemingly everywhere watching their every movement and kept our lines in order and repulsed them every time, and the battlefield was literally strewed with the dead and wounded for miles. The 18 Reg. was in the hardest of the fight and Rosecrans was so well pleased with the 18th Reg. that when the battle subsided he came along and called out "Where is my valiant 18th," and the next day but one he came to inspect our Camp and applauded us as his reliable Reg., [tell the Capt. that Gives is not the man that Stanley is in the fight. Stanley led his men up to the cannon's mouth and charged on their batteries and drove the rebels from their batteries and took them. That was our last charge and it was the decisive one, the rebels lay literally strewed all around, it was one of the most horrible sights that I ever saw. Sunday I went over the battle field, the dead wasn't buried yet, and I hope that I may never see such another sight. There were thousands of men laying scattered about, some with their heads shot off and in short they were mangled in every way that you can imagine.

I want you to write soon and let me know how you are doing for the time passes dreary with me, give me all the details and tell me whether Araminta has minded me and left D. Williams and come home to live. You must be good to poor Eliza and them sweet little children. I would give anything to see you and the children and the rest of the folks. Now I will tell you that we have all confidence that if our men can conquer the rebels at other points that the rebellion must go down for our old General Rosecrans is able to whale them here, he is a full team and Negley is a horse, the fact is that we have good officers here and men that will fight, no mistake for they have been tried. I will now give you the names of the boys of our Company that were killed and wounded: Wm. Crosby and E. Meek was wounded by accident. Morton Bailey and John Carsey, Wm. Scott, Felix Riley, Enos Jones, Nelson Gaskel, As Camp, A. Lasley, H. Hart and James Vanpelt, Wm. Rainer and Oscar Clark were killed. I was between Wm. Raner and Harrison Dart when they were shot, they were both shot at the same time, Rainer never spoke. Now I will mention some of our Company, Capt. Stivers was wounded at his post. Capt. Welch charges some of his own boys with wounding him, but it is false, I saw him when he was

shot. Our regiment is on picket today, and I am on one side under a white oak writing, and it will be my turn to go on post in a few minutes.

Now I will write a few more words directed to Eliza and the rest of the children. First, Eliza I would like to see you and the children very much and to talk over affairs, you must be doubly good to them little chaps, you have a great responsibility resting upon you. Be patient and all will be right. If I never should come home remember I tell you to never let pride nor anything else hinder you from doing your duty. As soon as they are old enough send them to school, that will be the best fortune you can give them. Write soon and often, it affords me much pleasure to hear from you and I will try to do the same. If your [sic] only knew how much pleasure it affords me you would write to me often. Now to the rest of the children, Mint. You must write to me often, I should like to see you awful well, you must be a good girl and mind your mother and when I come home I will reward you, and Emily you must be a good girl and tell your mother what to write me and study your books and try to learn as fast as you can, and now Simeon you must be a man, learn your

Now I must write a few lines to Dave and All Rush, I would like to see you as well as the rest and the little ones too. I tell you I would like to pay you a short visit, I thing [sic] it would be far more pleasant than the battlefield, I hope that the time won't be long until I can come and see you, then I can tell you a great many things that attends the soldiers [sic] life that I can't write. I want you to write to me soon and often, it will afford [end of letter]