

William H. Pauley Letters

Chattanooga [sic] Oct 14th 1863

Mrs [sic] Pauley [sic]

It is with emotion that I take my pen to Say a few words to you in reference to your Husband and his death – As his commanding officer I can testify to his True Soldierly qualities. In the battle of “Chicamonga” [sic], we were Sorely [illegible] Saturday – all day – but on Sunday the (30th) was the terrible trail. Our Regt formed the Second line, the first was routed about ten A.M. We were ordered to check the enemy and drive them from breast-works occupied by them. Mr. Pauley went into the charge with us, we were not Supported neither were we ordered to retreat, until we were almost Surrounded, we were [illegible] [illegible] to fight our way out or [illegible] the Fallen we were not willing to do we had fought our way back about two hundred Yards, when Mrs. Pauley fell. I was near him. I heard him Say Capt. I am Killed. I went to him and asked him where he was hit, he pointed to the place and [illegible] we thought that the ball went through the heart. the “wound” was in the left breast. I asked if I could do any thing for him. he said that I [illegible] not but that I had better take care of the company and so the best I could (for we were sorely pressed) he was composed – remarkably So – his countenance Seemed to be lighter with Patriotism. I felt like remaining by him, but in [illegible] minutes in – perhaps, the Enemys [sic] line three columns deep had passed him. His wounded comrades left on the ground with him have Since been [2 illegible words] They inform me that he died until the next day. The contents of his pockets were [illegible] by the “Hospital Steward” who is still a prisoner if he is not robbed they will come to hand, and I will forward to Your address [illegible rest of line] Mr. Pauley was with us in four Battles viz Perryville, Stone [sic] River, Hoovers Gap, and the most dreadful of all Battles Chichamonga [sic]. I am not [illegible] that he fell, but that any of the company escaped his fate.

You have my fullest Sympathies, we also feel his Loss, and Stand ready to die as he did [illegible] Same glorious cause.

And now my dear friend, I can only refer You to that “Good Being” who hath Said “I am the Widows [sic] Friend, and the Orphans [sic] God.

Abner L. Roop Capt. Co E 82d

Compilation of Letters

THE CHANEY FAMILY

Compiled by Shirlie Runnels Chaney

No 4 Camp near Gallatin Dec 7 1862

My Dear wife I received your letter this afternoon of the 23rd I was glad to here [sic] from you but I thought I would get one later than that I am well at presant [sic] and hope this will find you the same this is Sunday but there is no Sunday for a Soldire [sic] we

have to Cleane [sic] up our quarters every Sunday last night I was out on picket it was very could [sic] to be out all night last friday [sic] it snowed about three inches deep it is very Could [sic] for this part of the wourld [sic]. I am sorry to here [sic] that Mr [sic] Hicks didnt [sic] come up to his promis [sic] in bringing you wood he promis [sic] me to see that you didnt [sic] need for any thing I wrote a letter to Cincinnati on monday [sic] to see how thay [sic] were there I expect answer from thare [sic] this week I herd [sic] that Mr [sic] Jones was grandpap I gese [sic] he is as proud as a little [sic] dog with two tails I would like to see him walking up the railroad I think I see him swinging himself biger [sic] then ever. I would like bring the children some thing if I could come home tell Belle that I will try and send her some thing if I can I will send her a kiss any how tell her that I think a good deal about his littel [sic] Belle and how he would like to see her and play with her on Christmas tell her that I would like to receive something good from her. I think a good deal about all of you and how I would like to see you one more. I must Close for no more frome [sic] your affec[illegible] husband

Wm H Pauley

Write soon

Murfreesboro Feb 26 1863

My Dear Becca I take this another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this will find you the same I have been looking for a letter this two weeks and have not got any yet I received a few line frome [sic] Sarah last night and was glad to here [sic] frome [sic] her I hope she is home by this time and I wish I war [sic] there to [sic] my Dear I am very lonsome [sic] when I dont [sic] get any letters frome [sic] you I think there is something the matter with you or the Children. this is a very lonsome [sic] place here it rains most all the time there is a good many sick men in camp. almost evey [sic] day I see a Funerel [sic] ar [sic] men are very much discouvetly [sic] here Before I leave here I will Send home some things my coats and a blanke [sic] and Some other thing I dont [sic] know what all yet. we are not pay of yet. maybe I will send them home then and I dont [sic] no [sic] when we will leave here anyhow wether [sic] we leave or not I will Send them so you may look for them I saw James Lee last week he is well and harty [sic] he said he had no letter frome [sic] his wife for Seven weaks [sic]

PS My Dear give theas [sic] Small to the Children give the five cents to Belle

Camp near Tryune [sic] April 20 1863

Dear Wife I take this another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how I am geting [sic] along well I have not been very well for a week I have the [illegible] in shoulder and arms I wish I was at home now I think that thing would go better I have not received a letter from you cince [sic] last Friday a weak [sic] I have felt un easy [sic] ever cince [sic] you wrote that [illegible] was sick I wish you would write oftener when any of theme [sic] are sick I hope I shall get a letter to day I received a letter from Ann last Saterdag [sic] they are all well I sent the rest of my things home this morning my

coat pants and shirt and seme [sic] coffee and the letter I got from tom [sic] thare [sic] is some beens [sic] in my coat I have some cotton seed for you will be in this letter I want you to plant them so you can see how it grow there are a good many plants down here I would like to Send to you but I cant [sic] we have been geting [sic] new pants cape Drawer I didnt [sic] want throw them away so you can keep my coats if you can make Penny any thing out of the pants do so Mr [sic] Hicks will get the box my Dear you can make Penny a shirt it is to [sic] small for me. well my Dear the mail has just came in and I have not received no letter I will bring my letter to a close my Dear send my Love to you all kiss the Children for me write as soon as you get this and Let me now wether [sic] you received my things your affectionate husband Wm H Pauley

Camp near Triune June 14th 1863

Dear Wife I take this opportunity this presant [sic] Sunday morning to write you afew [sic] line to let you know that I am well and hope this will find you enjoying the same blesing [sic]. I hope the Same blessing will continue until we shall imbrace [sic] each other agane [sic]. give my love to the Children Kiss them all for me. My Dear we expect an attack here every day last night ar [sic] men called up to get two day ration in our haverSack [sic] and be ready. but I dont [sic] think they will come up they do I think they will get a warm reception. My Dear Henry Davis wife is agoing [sic] to Send a box to him and I would like you to Send me some in [illegible] if you will go and see Mrs [sic] Wise she can tell you about I want you to Send me a pare [sic] of suspenders like [illegible] got and Some Tobacco and some ginger cakes and any thing else you like so you dont [sic] make to [sic] big a bundel [sic] I would like you to send me that pen knife I left home My Dear I would like to have Belle likeness but if you cant [sic] get it never mind. My Dear I cant [sic] send them things Just now without a good deal of trubel [sic] I would have to go to Nashville and state what was in it or they would open it and then maybe it would be send Back when the excitement is over there will be a better chance. I have read that letter that was sent to [illegible first and last name] I hope they will punish him if he is guilty and all the rest. we had a skirmishes here last Thursday afternoon with some of the rebel cavalry but they had to get up and Skedadel [sic] befor [sic] they got very far.

My Dear I some time wish you were here to take a [illegible] with me over theas [sic] butteyfull [sic] hill and valles [sic] and see what a fine country this is. and O what a pittty [sic] it is to see every thing going to waist [sic] I had a last of some [illegible] last thursday [sic]. No more at presant [sic]

My love to you and the Children

from your effectionate [sic] husband

Wm H Pauley

Write soone [sic]

PS My Dear I have Just received a letter from Sarah here it is I forgot to tell you that last thursday [sic] was my Barth [sic] day I wish you to send a lead pencil