

William Stiles Letter

18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Camp Near Murfreesboro Tenn Jan, 16th, 63

Dear Brother and Sister

With pleasure I set down to write a few lines to you to let you know how and where I am. Well my health at this present time is good hoping [sic] also that when these lines comes to hand they may find you all in the very best of health Since I last wrote to you or heard from you I have been through a big battle as large a one as I have any Desire of going through. I have been looking for a letter from you for a long time but have looked in vain yet I still live in hopes of hearing from you some time after while

Well I shall give you a small sketch of the battle of Stone [sic] River yet it is impossible for a private or Captains itself to give a correct Idea of the battle suffice it to say that the battle lasted five days and a good part of that time it was a continual roar of canons [sic] and Musketry We had a hundred canons [sic] on our side and the most of them were used and done their work well nearly every shot told the Deathly tale to the Rebels although they were stubborn [sic] and fought like Tigers the fight commenced on the 30th and lasted to the night of the 3d at which time our brave soldiers made a charge on them at night run the Rebs from their entrenchments and so our men [illegible] [illegible] whole loss is estimated at 10 thousand theirs not less than 20 thousand in killed wounded and missing on both sides our Regt lost killed wounded and missing [illegible number] Officers and all. I got a slight wound but I am able for all Duty. George is well and hearty and is quiet [sic] tired of the Servic[cut off] as well as a great many others. all would like to see their folks again Well the [illegible] or Butternuts we could step from one to [end of letter]