

William Clark Letters

Background Information

William G. Clark (b. ca. 1841) was a private in Company D, 45th Tennessee Infantry. Clark was from Millersburg, Rutherford County, Tennessee. He and his older brother, Newton, were killed at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

December 12 1861 Letter

Dear mother I ceat [sic] my self to write you a fiew [sic] lines we are all in tolerable good health at present hoping when those lines come to hand they may find you all well some fiew [sic] of our company are sick and ware [sic] sent home Capt [sic] Mitchel lost one of his men this morning died a fiew [sic] momets [sic] a go [sic] there is some fiew [sic] that have got the measles there is none in our company yet John Hale got a pare [sic] of boots made and they ware [sic] too small for him and i [sic] took them and you need not have me any made your letter got miss placed [sic] and went to bowlinggreen [sic] and i [sic] got it this morning we got the things you sent us G W Mcmurry preached hear [sic] last tuesday [sic] night there is prairs [sic] hear [sic] every night we are not in no regiment yet thre [sic] is over three thousand men hear [sic] and they are coming in nearly every day You said that you wanted to know what we had to eat and who was in our mess Ben [Pvt. Ben Nisbett] and [illegible] Nisbett +Macknerry Tom finger [Pvt. Thomas L. Finger of Co. D] are my mess mates Scott come down and joined lytles [sic] company [illegible] pork Beef and Rice we do not get any corn meal but plenty of flower [sic] we draw molasses when we want them and plenty of Sugar and tolerable plenty of coffy [sic] i [sic] do not need any more bed clothes now tell mose [sic] that his gun was valleyed [sic] at \$16 dollars if we draw the money for our guns I [sic] will send it to him Newton says that he is cumming [sic] in a few days if he can get a furrow [sic] i [sic] am coming home christmast [sic] if they will let me and if they will not i [sic] can stay i [sic] have not been sick since i [sic] have been in camps iam [sic] very well satisfied hear [sic] so fur [sic] I got a letter from harvy [sic] Clark a few days a go [sic] he said that they ware [sic] all well and no hopes of a fight I am glad that the boys are coming [sic] by to see us tell James and Rachel to [crossed out] that i [sic] think they might write to me I will write once a week and often [illegible] if i [sic] can it is time for us to you [sic] out on drill and i [sic] must bring my letter to a close nothing more at this time write a soon [sic] as you get these few lines Remaining yours as ever

W.G. Clark to Emily Clark

Camp Trousdale January the 8 1862

Dear brother I take my pen in hand to write you a fiew [sic] lines to let you know that I [sic] have not forgotten you we are all in tolerable good health at present hoping when those lines come to hand they may find you all well too [sic] of our company ware [sic] sent home sick this morning thare [sic] is some cases of the measles hear [sic] James Moore was elected capt [sic] Jim Doak is our third lutenant [sic] our election for

Chaplain will be tomorrow Macmury and a preacher from Willson [sic] county are the Candidates for Chaplain but i [sic] think Macmury will be elected we have got Mr [sic] Gitt[illegible]n for our drill officer it is getting late and i [sic] will bring my letter to a close write as soon as those lines come to hand nothing more at this time remaining yours friend as ever

W.G. Clark James A Clark [James A. Clark (b. ca 1838) also served as a private in Co. D, 45th Tennessee Infantry.]

Letter from Moses Woodfin to Emily Clark

Rock Island Ill Aug the 23th/64

[Note: Moses Woodfin (b. ca. 1832) was a resident of Bedford County, Tennessee and served with the Clark brothers in Co. D, 45th Tennessee Infantry. He was married to the Clark brothers' sister, Rachel.]

Dear Mother in Law

I Read your Kind favor Which Cam [sic] duly to hand I am Sory [sic] to hear of the llnis [sic] of litte [sic] Emer this L[illegible] me well hoping this may find you all well and doing well you w[illegible] me to give you the Particulars of the deaths of Wm and Newton I will try to do so [with pleasure is crossed out] Wm was Kiled [sic] instantly he never moved nor Spoke after he was Struck Newtons [sic] Right arm was taken off at the Sholder [sic] I was hurt very bad in my left arm Newton and myself ware [sic] carid [sic] back to our Hospital in the woods his wond [sic] was drest [sic] and news came that our men ware [sic] falling Back the grape begin to fall around us our trifling Doctors [illegible] off and left us thare [sic] Same [sic] 30 wounded thare [sic] with out Eny [sic] asistance [sic] But one Chaplin [sic] who was brave enough to stay with us he done [illegible] he cold [sic] tho [sic] all the Doctors in the world cold [sic] not done Newton Eny [sic] good he did not talk But very little nor did not Complain much he only Camplained [sic] of his Bed being hard he lived from Wednesday until Sunday Noon about day light when he past [sic] away like going to Sleep with out a Struggle [sic] or a grone [sic] and I have no dout [sic] But he is now at Rest I had him Buried on a nice little mound as desant [sic] as I Cold [sic] you can only amagion [sic] my trial and suffering while we lay thare [sic] in the woods with nothing to Eat part of the time but a little Corn that we picked up ware [sic] the horses had fed we ware [sic] Caried [sic] in to Chattanooga on Sunday Evening whare [sic] we ware [sic] treated very well I staid [sic] thar [sic] about a week I Sympathize with you in your Bereavements but yours is only that of Thousands of others James and [illegible] is well Sams [sic] Box came Safe you may Send me and Jim asuit [sic] of cloths [sic] all in one Box mark to both of us Barrack No 6 [illegible] Write often yours with respect I wish I cold [sic] write more Excuse this

Moses Woodfin