

George S. Lea Letter

Company C 7th Regiment Mississippi Infantry

Camp [illegible] Chattanooga Tenn.

Monday Morning Jan 2d, 1863

Dear Sir

Again I shall attempt to pen a short letter [illegible] I wrote a few days ago. I know you always want to hear from me. I am always proud to get a letter from home My health id pretty good now I was a little sick eight or ten days ago. I have nothing of [illegible] to invite you nothing strange [3 illegible words] We have hard times all the time the [illegible] kinds of Picket duty to perform, we have to go to the front – as often as twice per week, and it is raining a great deal of the time and cold and as for our rations they will [illegible] half feed us We buy all we can get in that line and it at fair prices if we did not have the money or could not go, we would get along very bad. I have [illegible] others [illegible] it while I live but to eat it up I guess you all may think I spend a great deal of money in [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] it is all for something to eat; I want something that is good to eat so bad that I often dream of it last night I dreamed of having a great Dinner some where and I thought I I [sic] would for a day a great [illegible] Me in [illegible] come home now if I could I am sure I would spend the [illegible] furlough or not – I dread to think of the winter and what is [illegible] me from [illegible] all next spring all of [illegible] bits that are at home now will be green if they dont [sic] stay [illegible] warm weather, tell Zach I advise [illegible] to stay as long as he [2 illegible words] I dont [sic] blame him nor any others. [2 illegible words] for staying I hope I will get a chance after awhile I will try to make it pay I have no hope of the war closing [illegible] it [illegible] as fair [sic] away [illegible] commissary three year longer as it has thus far, The prisoners we Captured ay Chicamauga [sic] say they will fight us [illegible] years or [illegible] some are willing to [illegible] but some of them [illegible] very stubborn and [illegible] I [illegible] if the Officers had to [2 illegible words] this Along as we do it [illegible] close directly but they are living better than they did before the war because some of them had nothing [illegible] and [illegible] they have plenty have no money of theirs Now they pockets full they dont [sic] [illegible] wether [sic] [rest of line is illegible] If I would see you I could [illegible] tell you a [illegible] great deal that I cant [sic] I will know how to find you [rest of line is illegible] I live. There is [rest of line is illegible] was great gives so [illegible] a little [illegible] he and it will some tell Just who he is precisely I have not seen one yet but what it will make a charge [illegible] I would be glad to see [illegible] this [illegible] but I shall not [illegible] on his evening for there is no one to stay at home while he would be absent, and times are different to what they [rest of line illegible] if he a direct way of coming it would not take [3 illegible words] comes but as it is now it would take him several days to get to the Rail Road to [next line and a half are illegible] of coming to do as he pleases about it There are

several old Men here at this [3 illegible words] and Covington counties to see these Boys

But [2 illegible words] I think it will be best to get me a [illegible] if he [illegible] find one and to give him two [2 illegible words] dollars to come if not [illegible] that seems like a pretty [illegible] pill that I was given more than that do come right [illegible] if I had [rest of line is illegible] so I would not I caught on the [rest of line and next one illegible] will do that [2 illegible words] for a soldier at the [illegible] he is now [illegible] under to get it and in [illegible] There may be some one that [illegible] have to come out past [illegible] and would be glad of the [rest of line and half of next line is illegible] and I will be glad to [illegible] it. I cant [sic] study up [2 illegible words] to tell him [illegible] to day it has been so long since I was [illegible] I dont [sic] know who is [2 illegible words] lines I think he might [2 illegible words] in the crowds he been as Lives as [illegible] durring [sic] the [illegible]

Well I guess that [rest of paper is so faintly written that it is illegible]

[image: photo of George Lea as a young man]