

## Eldridge P. Solomon Letter

Oct. 8, '98—This day 31 years ago I took 20 year old Mollie to be my wife. She was a child of 11 when I left Mulberry in '58 and went to live in DeSoto County, Mississippi, to work with Gus Solomon in his store. When the war between the States broke out three years later, although I was then almost 40, I felt I could be of service. Also, I had no family depending on me. March 27, '61, I enlisted as a private in DeSoto County, new Company K. Later I became Quartermaster Sergeant with the 9th Mississippi Infantry. On March 1, '64, I was transferred to the A.Q.M. Dept. 9th Battalion Mississippi Sharpshooters.

Mar. 8, '99—37 years ago today I became Quartermaster Sergeant 9th Mississippi Infantry. My work was important and interesting. Keeping records of supplies, keeping our troops supplied with guns, ammunition, clothing and finally food, when we could get it. The wagon roads were sometimes almost impassible with mud, sometimes with dust.

April 6, '99—We who were there can never forget the Battle of Pittsburgh Landing (Shiloh) on this date. Our first great conflict and blood bath—such suffering, such destruction of life and property I had never seen or imagined.

Jan. 1, '99—New Years Day. I don't believe I will live to see another one, but you children will take care of your dear mother. I have no fear of that. You are good children. My mind wanders back to 36 years ago—the second day of the Battle of Murfreesboro. Mollie tells me and the children that people here in Mulberry could put their ears to the ground and hear the roar of the cannon. What terrible loss of life!

The constant marching in the rain and snow, sleeping out in the cold, never enough to eat or to wear, my body couldn't take. Finally I went to sleep in a barn near my brother's farm in Lincoln County, Tenn. They found me and nursed me back to health.