

William Swindoll Letter

24th Mississippi Regiment

4th Sergeant

Short Background of the Letter

The transcription of this Civil War letter from William M. Swindoll to his parents is copied from *The History of Webster County, Mississippi*, by the Webster County History Association, Curtis Media Corporation, © 1985.

According to the National Archives records, William M. Swindoll enlisted for the period of the war 16 August 1861 at Greensboro, Mississippi. He was a 4th sergeant in Walthall's Brigade, Company K, 24th Mississippi Regiment while at Stones River. Early in the action on 31 December 1862, he was near Wilkerson Pike (now Manson Pike) when he was severely wounded. He was sent to a hospital at Rome, GA.

He mentions "Brother Thomas" who was about two years younger than William. He enlisted in the same outfit about two months after William.

Because the letter was old and has sustained damage both to paper and ink, it was probably difficult to read and transcribe. This is may be the reason for the errors in his return address.

The following is a letter written by William Swindoll during the Civil War. It was addressed to his parents, George and Polly Swindoll at Bellefontaine.

Civil War Letter

Camp near Shelbyville, TN

June 20, 1863

My dear father and mother, as I am favored with an opportunity, I feel like I must write a few lines and although I can't say that I am well, yet I am about.

About Brother Thomas stands it well, I believe James Ingram of our camp was wounded at Ferryville, has been discharged from the service and will start home this morning about four o'clock. I will send you a watch to Mother and I will send my little brother Flavin Josephus, my good book, the title of which is the young man's own book. Don't

let him read it until he is old enough to know how to care for it as you will see is very near worn out. Tell my sister to cover it well with a good cloth and save it til [sic] I come home.

The watch is an excellent one. The major offered me \$75 for it and would have given me \$100, if I would have taken it. I know Mother will take good care of it. At the battle of Murfreesboro I gave it to Doctor Brothers to send home if I got killed and the Yankees got him, but when he came back to the company he brought my watch.

There are no apprehensions of a fight soon here. It is quiet in front. It is believed that Rosencrans [sic] will not advance until Grant takes or fails to take Vicksburg. We are all in suspense in regard to the fate of that place, still all the boys are in fine spirits and all are pretty confident that we can hold Vicksburg to the last and they are all ready to give Rosencrans [sic] a most war like reception when he sees proper to advance.

I sent you my knife and some cartridges by Burns. He promised to go to see you for me. I sent you another by Mr. Brownlee who lives at Houston. He promises to mail it for me and go and see you if he could.

Please write as soon as you get this. Let me know if all is well. All your friends are well except Conscript Shaw. Nothing more.

Your affectionate son,
William Swindoll
Address, Shelbyville, Tenn.
c. (H), 34th Inf.

This letter was the last communication the family has from William Swindoll, as he was killed in battle.