

Oscar Easley

Company F, 84th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

Nashville Tenn [sic] Wednes [sic] Dec 24th/63

Dear Wife and Sisters

I will now finish my letter if no preventing providence I am still well and hope these few lines will find you the same you must excuse me for not writing sooner for I have been busy I had to drill yesterday I told you in the other sheet that I would go to the regiment yesterday but going to the regiment is played out with us we have got in so close a place that there is no one allowed to leave camp I cant [sic] get to go to town either so I cant [sic] get you that picture nowbut I will get it the first chance [sic] I get I must now tell you about fore noons [sic] tramp this morning at four oclock [sic] the revolee [sic] beat for roll call so we new [sic] thare [sic] was some thing to be done we went out to roll call and we was ordered to get brakfast [sic] as soon as possible and get one days provision in our havor [sic] sacks and about one hour before day light we started about thirty three hundred of us and we marched out about three miles on the franklin [sic] pike [sic] whare [sic] we halted thare [sic] have been a continued camp from the time we started and the artillery commensed [sic] to some down on to the pike and the drums began to beat for the regiments to fall in to line thare [sic] was about 32 pieces of artillery came out and about 5 thousand men near so on we went about two miles further and we was formed in line of battle and we planted some of our batterys [sic] we that is our company was left to protect a battery So we stood in line for a while it raining and had been raining all morning the balanse [sic] went on ahead to feel for the rebels as it is sed [sic] we stood for a short time when we fel [sic] back a few paces and stacked arms and charged on a pile of walnutts [sic] that the negroes had pilest [sic] up and I found we was some on a crack we soon [illegible] them Surrended but we got no butter nutts [sic] except one we took him prisoner we stayed about two hours when we started for camp again we havent [sic] herd [sic] the result of the balanse [sic] of the boys we will soon hear no doubt but they havent [sic] had any engagement yet or we could hear the bull doggs [sic] bark that took with them we will soon hear them no doubt or the rebbles [sic] will have to give back we may possibly hold back until after new years and then I think if peace is not declared there will be some bloody work done but I hope it will be settled by that time but I cant [sic] see much prospect I believe our brigade would as leave fight as do any thing else Well Dear wife I will now answer what you requested me to do if I could you wanted to no [sic] if I had been mustered in to the [illegible] S Service I was before I left Quincy by K. Knox I did allow to have got a [illegible] from capt [sic] cox [xic] if I could have got to the regiment before I wrote and sent to you he has the papers that I got from Know he has [illegible] discriptive [sic] list with [illegible] and as for your going to live with Sarah I cant [sic] say any thing against

that but I want you to take good care of your health [illegible] if you cant [sic] take good care of my health here I want you to take good care of [illegible] for I think I shant [sic] have to stay more than eighteen months at the out side for theres [sic] a lot soldiers free then and if we don't [sic] whip them before that time we will all quit

Nashville Christmas morn

Well we are still here But we are all ready evry [sic] thing packed up ready to start at a moments [sic] warning we have orders not to let a man out [illegible] of the lines today this is the way we will put our christmas [sic] in but it is hard to tell what will be done before night but from all that we can see and hear there is going to be a forward move before long we will go on towards franklin [sic] we would have been moveing [sic] on before this time but we could not get provisions sufficient to take us this ought [illegible] [illegible] and I got up this morning at two Oclock [sic] to draw rations and it was two days before our time to draw so we thought we would be off in a few minutes but we havent [sic] orders yet

Well Anna and Amy Peanut give you much satisfaction about the boys in the regiment for I cant [sic] get to go to see them but john [sic] zinc [sic] amos [sic] [illegible] is in the hospital at nashville [sic] and so far as I no [sic] the rest of the boys are well

Well I will close my scribbling for I expect you will get tired of it before you get it all red [sic] that is if you can read it at all

I wish you all a happy christmas [sic] and a good time eating them peaches and tomatoes and other good things you must let me no [sic] how you put in your christmas [illegible] seem like christmas [sic] to me it is nice warm weather we only have fire to cook with the rodes [sic] has been dusty until yesterday it rained just enough to [illegible] the dust I hope you will have a good Signing School for I hear plenty of good Music thare [sic] is one of the best bands in camp that I ever herd [sic] play and I have herd [sic] severl [sic] since I left home and all other kinds of music I wish you could all be here one day to see and hear the performances it would be a good show for you all

I shant [sic] tell you about any of the curiosities [sic] I have seen here I can tell you when I get home

Amy you said you would kiss marion [sic] for me I want you to have him to kiss you for me for I cant [sic] tell which one I think the most about for I think of you boath [sic] evrey [sic] hour in the day and I pray for you evrey [sic] night

Christmas gift [illegible] and [illegible] you may keep it until I come after it and I cant [sic] tell when that will be but I hope it will be soon

I want you all to write Soon tell Ebon that I want him to write two [sic] I wrote him a letter when I was at bowlinggreen [sic]

Direct your letters to nashville [sic] tenn [sic] third batalion [sic] pioneer brigade Co D In
care Capt [sic] Clemons

I will now close

Good Bye Dear Friends

Effectionate [sic] Friend

Oscar Easley

MURFREESBORO [sic], TENNESSEE: JANUARY 28 1863

Dear Wife

I again take me pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you no [sic] that I am still well
and hope these few lines will find you the same and all the rest I havent [sic] had a
letter from home for three weeks or soes [sic] the last letter was written on the 26 of last
month it seems like a long time to me to hear from you but I think that I should get one
soon we hear that the mail rout [sic] is open through to Louisville again I expect that I
have wrote several letters that you havent [sic] got but I hope you will get them they will
tell you a little about my situation on the battlefield

MURFREESBORO [sic], TENNESSEE: JAN 30, 1863

I will try and finish my letter now you must excuse me for not writing oftener I believe I
have wrote three letters before this one this month and I have only got one I
commenced this the other day and in a few minutes David and R P Atherton come to
our camp from the hospital and we talked a few minutes when some of the boys came
in and said our Reg was at work in a fort only about a ¼ of a mile from here so I put my
letter away and started over to see them and had a good time of it I havent [sic] seen
many of the boys since the battle before they all seemed like brothers they all stopped
work to shake hands they are generally well Ephraim Renner is getting better our
boys at the hospital are all getting better except David Hughs he is in rather bad fix he
is wounded in the arm and it is a bad wound the bone is broke Lank Miller is getting
along well thare [sic] will be several of them sent home J B Green Stanton Holiday,
Frank Ball are all in the penitentiary at Nashville garding [sic] prisoners we have a
pretty good time now it is rather cool weather here it has been freezing considerable
for a night or two I was out forageing [sic] yesterday we went across the battlefield it is
a sight to see the how the trees are torn to peaces [sic] and to see the dead horses
laying over the field some places as high as five horses killed from one peace [sic] of
artillery but I shant [sic] say much about the battle in this letter I did think I would try to
draw a draff [sic] of the ground whare [sic] we were in the battle but I will do this when I
get home we all feel in hopes that we will never see another battle thare [sic] is
something going on among our head men either to settle the fuss by a compromise or

to plan out a way to settle it by hard fighting but we hope it will be done soon some way but before we will acknowledge the Southern confederacy we will fight them to Chattanooga and on to Mobile and back again but we dont [sic] want to have to do this if we can get along without it We havent [sic] drawed [sic] any pay yet the papers say that we will be payed [sic] up to Oct 1st about the 12th of next month so I will only get two months pay I will try and send it home I will try and start you my picture next week