

RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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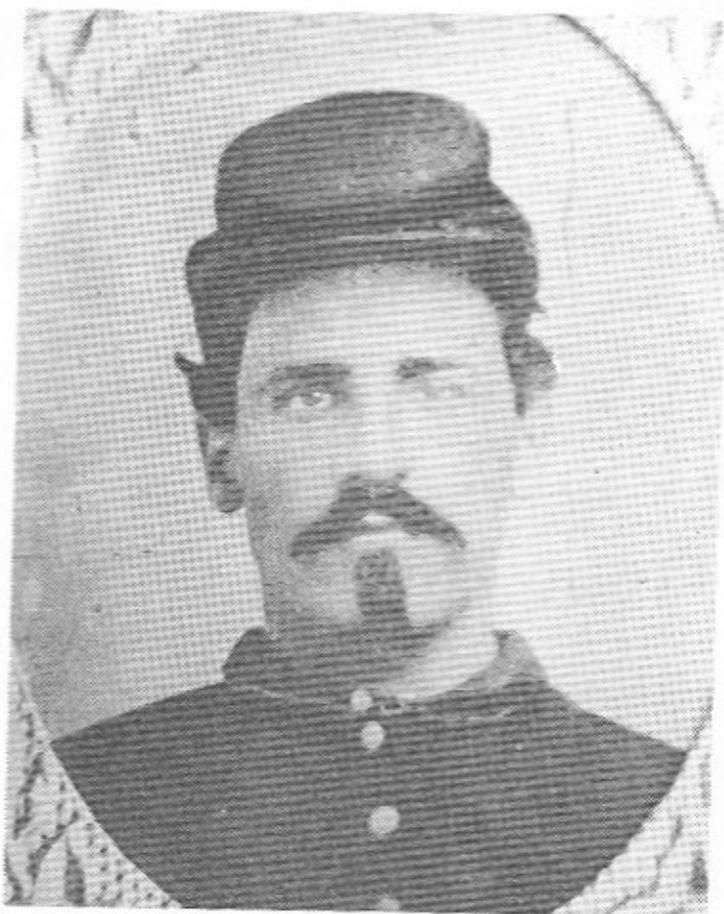


BASSETT HOUSE



WINTER 1986

Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130



Daniel C. Miller

A YANKEE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

by Mabel Pittard



Foreword

Several years ago my husband, Homer Pittard, discovered the above carving on a large boulder along Stones River near the present-day Stones River Country Club. Through official records he was able to locate descendants of Daniel C. Miller. These relatives gave him information concerning this young Union soldier who had left his name carved with a scroll-like effect on an over-hanging cliff along Rutherford County's main stream. These relatives made available to Dr. Pittard some thirty letters written in German which Miller had sent to his family in Ohio during the one and one-half years that he was assigned to guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans. Ortrun Gilbert of Middle Tennessee State University translated these letters

into English for Dr. Pittard. It is hoped that members of the Rutherford County Historical Society and others will find these letters to be of interest.

A YANKEE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

On the cold night of January 3, 1863, General Braxton Bragg and his Army of Tennessee headed south from Murfreesboro, Tennessee to take up winter quarters at Tullahoma, Winchester, Shelbyville, and other towns in that vicinity. This retreat on the part of Bragg and his army was interpreted by the opposing Union general, William Starke Rosecrans, as a victory for the Federal forces in the two-day Battle of Stones River which ended on January 2, 1863.

Rosecrans and his army were to remain in and near Murfreesboro for almost six months during which time he reorganized his army and allowed their wounds to heal. Like other generals before him, Rosecrans was faced with the problem of keeping his men occupied and in good physical condition during this period of inactivity and rest. This problem, in part, accounted for Rosecrans' decision to erect a hugh fortress just to the southwest of Murfreesboro that would serve as a supply depot for the coming operations that lay ahead for the Federal troops as they penetrated deeper and deeper into southern territory.

The Army of the Cumberland was 215 miles away from its main supply base in Louisville, Kentucky and was dependent

upon the Louisville and Nashville railroad line for military rations and supplies. Enemy raiders and flash floods could easily disrupt this line of supplies, and Rosecrans, who was planning a forward movement toward Chattanooga in late spring of 1863, realized the value of fortifying Murfreesboro and establishing a depot in that Middle Tennessee town. Also, Murfreesboro, if well-fortified and stockpiled with supplies, would serve as a good point to fall back on in the event the Army of the Cumberland was forced to retreat.

The design and location for the fortress, later to become known as Fortress Rosecrans, was assigned to the chief engineer of Rosecrans' army, Captain James St. Clair Morton. The site chosen by Morton surrounded the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad bridge over Stones River and enclosed an area of approximately 200 acres.

The Pioneer Brigade, a brigade of engineers who specialized in the construction of fortifications and railroads, performed the duties of supervising the crews assigned to building block-houses, magazines, railroad spurs, saw mills, grist mills, and missionary buildings.

By mid-April of 1863 the fortress was almost completed and had been stockpiled with huge stores of food substances and forage. Also, by this time Rosecrans and his

staff were making plans to march on the Army of Tennessee which by June would be in retreat toward Chattanooga.

By the time Rosecrans and his army had left Murfreesboro, Fortress Rosecrans had received a garrison of some 2,500 men. These soldiers were for the most part convalescents, thus freeing able-bodied men to be sent to the front. However, many of these soldiers were unfit for duty and soon it became evident that other troops were needed to help garrison the fortress. Among such troops sent to Murfreesboro to help man the depot was the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, a unit that after its organization had seen no combat but had been used solely for guard duty at prison camps and supply depots. One of the members of this 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry, Company B, was Daniel C. Miller a 23 year-old German immigrant who had come to the United States at the age of 19.

Daniel C. Miller was born in Germany in 1838 and came to the United States in 1857. His parents settled in Cleveland, Ohio and their German name of Meuller was changed to the American version, Miller. At the outbreak of the Civil War Daniel was employed as a marble cutter with a monument company in Cleveland. Official records indicate that Miller was mustered into the Union Army on August 11, 1862. His regiment was organized at Camp

Massillon, Ohio. On the fourth of October, 1862 the regiment reported to Major-General Wright at Cincinnati. On the ninth of October, 1862, Company B of the 115th Ohio Voluntary Infantry was sent to Camp Chase to perform guard duties. It remained at this prison camp until November of 1862 at which time it was ordered to Maysville, Kentucky and placed under the command of Colonel Lucy. In December of 1862 the batallion was ordered to Covington, Kentucky where it performed provost duty until October of 1863 at which time it was ordered to Murfreesboro, Tennessee and stationed in blockhouses along the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad with orders to prevent guerillas from destroying the rail line. Miller remained in Rutherford County for the remainder of the Civil War and with the defeat of the Confederacy and the conclusion of the war, he was mustered out of service at Murfreesboro on June 22, 1865.

During the one and one-half years while Miller was on guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans, he frequently wrote letters to his family in Ohio. Dr. Homer Pittard was successful in contacting descendants of Daniel C. Miller who made these letters available. They give interesting insights into the life of a Yankee soldier assigned to guard duty at Fortress Rosecrans from October 1863 until

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Columbus, O., March 13, 1861

Know Ye That the records of this office show that

Daniel C. Miller

was enrolled as a Corporal in Company "B" 115th. Regiment, Ohio Vol. Infantry on the 11th. day of August, 1862, at _____, by _____

and was mustered into the United States service as such for the period of 3 years, on the 18th. day of September, 1862 at Camp Massillon, Ohio, by Captain Alexander E. Drake

U. S. A. Mustering Officer, and that he was twenty three years of age at the time of his enrollment in the Civil War, August 11, 1862. He served with the 115th. Regiment, O. V. I., Infantry, in Company "B". His enlistment was for a period of three years. He was appointed January 1, 1865; He mustered out with the Company June 22, 1865, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Adjutant General of Ohio

June of 1865. The first such communication was written the day before Christmas 1863 and relates how he and other members of Company B were assigned to make railroad ties. He also tells how he and some of his friends obtained turkeys and chickens from a rebel farmer. The letter follows:

24 December 1863
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

I do not know much news. 36 men from our company B went twelve miles toward Nashville to make railroad ties 8 ft. long from cedar trees. It will probably take us 3 to 4 months because they want us to make 16,000 ties like those, but they are not pushing us and we are taking our time and we have enough to eat. Tomorrow is Xmas day and we don't do anything. We have already finished 1300 of those ties. Monday a week ago while we went through the woods to our work we saw four bushwhackers on horses in front of us but they were too far away to shoot at, but since then 3 of them have been caught by our Cavalry and will probably hang.

The Christmas day went by quietly and peacefully. We didn't have any candy like we did for the last two yrs. It rained last night so we won't get much done again today. But tomorrow we will go deeper into the forest. Last night we went to a rich Rebel farmer who had many chickens and turkeys. We asked him for some. He gave us 1 turkey and 16 chickens. If he hadn't done so freely we would have taken them by force. They tasted real good. This farmer still has 150 slaves but every day some flee to enlist. In Murfreesboro we have a whole regiment of about 1300 of such slaves who have escaped from their masters.

With this I will close and wish you a healthy and happy New Year 1864, hoping to be with you again. Here they have cotton seeds which are planted like corn and when it reaches one foot it is hoed.

On January 10, 1864, Miller explained how members of his company tried to warm their tents during the bitter cold weather. He also relates that he had obtained cotton seed from an old barn and mailed some of these seeds home to his parents. In the letter he makes an effort to explain to his parents how the cotton plants grow.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
January 10, 1864

Dear Parents, brothers, and sisters,

Received your letter and heard that all of you are well, so am I. This time I don't know any news except that we have enough to eat, as much as we need. Since Christmas we have hardly been able to do anything because of rain and snow. 4 days ago we had 4 inches of snow, which still has not disappeared yet. It was rather cold recently so that the snow froze again over night and we could not do anything because the trees were too slick.

We read this evening in a Canton newspaper, that the State of Ohio has written to Washington and gotten permission that we receive 25 dollars per month which the State of Ohio will give voluntarily to its soldiers who are in the war. That would be fine and the State of Indiana will give its soldiers 20 dollars per month. I think Congress will permit it. I believe that the war will soon be over because one sees that the people at home are more peaceful, they see that as long as they rebel at home there cannot be peace. I

for my part would like to march 15-20 miles per day with knap sack and rifle if I could know that there will be peace in 4-5 months. Some at home can sit a long time in their warm rooms and make calendars and we are here like the wild Indians in the woods, who don't see anyone for weeks except our comrades. We have made our tents quite warm, we have ovens under our tents covered with big flagstones, so that they get almost glowing hot. We can sleep warm the whole night and get up in the morning without to rub an eye.

With this I want to close, stay well, hope to see you soon and speak to you.

Just one more thing, is it true that they have made a fort in the town under Bank Street and that there are canons in it?

The cottonseed I took from an old barn in which I found more than 50 bushel, it will rot if it does not get to a dry place. There are still large fields of it, which have not been picked. The plant gets 2-3-4 feet high, when it gets ripe it becomes brown like a chestnut. There are 10-20-30 seeds on one plant as large as an egg. They open when they get ripe, like a chestnut.

In this letter dated January 28, 1864, Miller reveals his remedy for a cold. Near the end of the same letter, in very poetic language, he expresses his desire for peace.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
January 28, 1864

Dear brother-in-law and sister,

I received your letter tonight, well and with joy, and learned that you all are healthy and well which I like to hear only that Fritz is sick for so long is bad and I wish he will get better soon. As far as I can tell, I am still o.k. and

have been that way as long as I have been in the U. S. Army. I only had a cold for three days. I couldn't speak for 2 days and had to drive everything away with red pepper and vinegar, since then I have been fine. I wish the same to you all. There is no news except that we will have to wait 6 to 7 weeks until we get our 16,000 ties. And we still have enough to eat. We get good spring water, the General has told us that we should take our time for that which we certainly do. One only has to make 10 ties per day. I can easily do them in 2-3 hours, then I am free for the rest of the day. As we have heard definitely we are under a French general with the name of Rousseau and belong to the 2nd Bridge, 4th Army Corp and the 3rd Division, 4 Reserve. We also got tonight new in-Field Rifles and one old musket which we got in Cincinnati we have stored with pleasure in a box.

We have had over 8-9 days very warm and beautiful weather. You can imagine when the wild doves are flying and the ants are crawling in big masses and the birds are singing their praise songs in the morning--that there should be peace soon in this country so that the Bluecoats cannot destroy all this. We have also shot more than 50 hares since we are here and when a young pig comes to our lines, it will be seized and treated like a rebel. With this I would like to close hoping that you will receive these few lines in as good health as they have left me. Write me soon, I have not had a letter for more than 3 weeks. You must believe that I am astonished at not having heard from home for such a long time. Keep well. Many thousand greetings and wishes from your loving brother and brother-in-law.

P.S. Verenell you can send this letter to Cleveland if you want to.

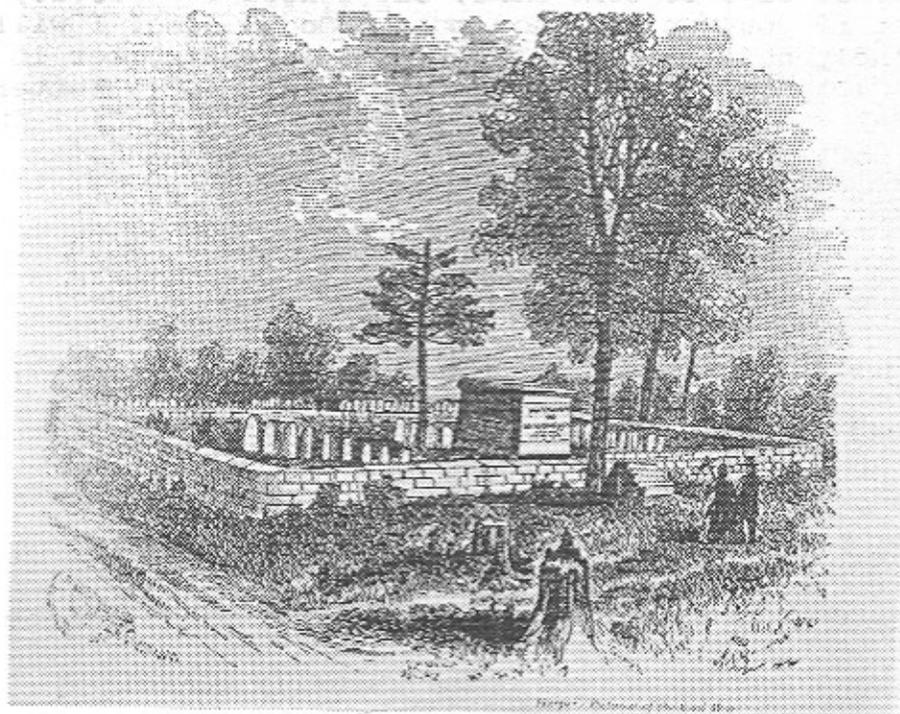
On February 15, 1864 Miller stated that he and one of his comrades, Bauhof, had been working on a monument. This monument to which he refers is undoubtedly the Hazen

Brigade Monument which is located on the Stones River Battlefield at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In the same letter Miller refers to Hazen when he says, "I can't tell yet whether we shall get extra payment for this, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Hazen will treat us well."

The Hazen Brigade Monument, the oldest Civil War Monument anywhere in the United States, was erected in 1863 by members of Colonel William B. Hazen's Union Brigade as a memorial to 55 of their comrades who fell during the terrific on-slaught of the Confederates on Union troops as they sought refuge in a clump of cedars referred to as "Round Forest."

Since Miller came to Fortress Rosecrans in the late fall of 1863, it is very likely that he began carving the inscription on the monument in the latter part of that year. Miller's experience as a stonecutter in Ohio before his enlistment in the Union Army made him a likely choice to perform this task. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

"Hazen's Brigade to the memory of its soldiers
who fell at Stones River, December 31, 1862.
Their faces toward heaven, their feet to the foe
The blood of one-third of its soldiers
Twice spilled in Tennessee
Crimson the battle flag of the Brigade
And inspires to greater deeds."



Murfreesboro, Tenn.
February 15, 1864

Dear parents, sisters and brothers,

I received your last letter today at noon all right and with much joy, and I read that you are still well. I also am well and all right and wish the same for you with all my heart. There is not much news, only that I and Bauhof are working already for 2½ days at the monument of which I have talked in my previous letters. We like this work very much and can work when we want to. We start in the morning round 8:00 or 8:30 and finish at 4 PM or so. I can't tell yet

whether we shall get extra payment for that, but the supervisor surgeon told us that General Hazen will treat us well. I could get a vacation for 30 days to come home, but I need the \$15.20, yet if you want me very much to come home, I will gladly do it. I would like to come home, for it is long ago since I saw you last. I got a letter last week from Fuchs. At that time he was still in a Camp Division 15 miles from Cincinnati, and are already waiting for them to get the order to leave. His address is:

Mr. Sergt. Joseph C. Fox
Co. H. 2nd Bat. 9th O.V.C.
Camp Division Ohio

In a letter dated March 3, 1864 Miller once again mentioned that he and C. B. (Bauhof) were working on the monument and had become the best of friends. He made his first reference to ringmaking, "Mother will be very happy because I made her a pretty ring." Miller made these rings out of silver coins (usually dimes) by hammering out the center and smoothing and flattening out the rim. Often he etched orange blossoms on the outer rim and sold these rings to soldiers for their brides. At times his family mailed him the silver coins when it became difficult for him to procure them. In this letter he made mention of the increased activity of the Union Army as it moved more and more men to the front.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
3 March 1864

Dear Parents and brothers and sisters,

I received your last letter at noon today and was overjoyed to hear that you are all well. I can say the same about me. I have no news as of now but I think something is up. Because every

railroad train which comes by here is loaded with soldiers and freight to be transported to the Army at the front line.

I do not know when I will be able to come home, because I have to wait til some others come back who started leave on Friday (30 days). At the beginning of next month you may expect me. Mother will be very happy because I made her a pretty ring, and for you Vernell I have a crest pin and for you father I have a Rebel shell or a big cannon ball that I found on the battlefield, and for you sister something too.

Last Saturday we got paid for two months. I was thinking about sending you some of it which I don't need until I am with you. But maybe we will get paid again before I leave here.

I and C. B. are working together on a monument and we are the best of friends together. I have worked already five days and Christie four days.

Now I will close these few lines with the hope that this letter will arrive there and find you in as good health as it left me. Many greetings and wishes from your loving son and brother.

In the following letter dated March 22, 1864

Miller described a trip that he had made to Nashville with supply wagons. He described the city and the heavy fortifications that surrounded the state Capitol.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 22, 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

Our captain said that none will be able to go home until the sick and wounded are gone home from the hospitals. These orders are supposed to come from the General, but it should not be long until we can come home and I will be one of the first. So be patient, for a short time, it

will all be good in the end. I send you here 10 dollars. Perhaps we get paid next week. Otherwise no news. I heard from Casper Fuchs, they were in Nashville, 30 miles north from here. He thought that they would come by here, but has not been here yet. Last week I was in Nashville, hoping to find him there, but there are too many troops. I could not find him. I think they have gone another direction. I went to Nashville with 100 wagons, each wagon had 6 donkeys in front, it didn't cost me a cent. (Nashville is quite a big town and the streets are narrow and beside the town runs the big Cumberland River and across this river about 60-70 feet high goes a bridge, like the one in Cleveland, but twice as long and the railroad goes over it. The town hall stands on a big hill. In the middle of the town, around this big building they have built brick walls with 5 big cannons inside. Around this whole town they dug a deep ditch. With this I must close, hope all are fine. When I come home I will tell more.

Love from your son and brother

In this letter dated April 7, 1864 Miller stated that thousands of reinforcements were daily passing through Murfreesboro on their way south. He said, "Today again 6 thousand new soldiers from Indiana came, they too are going farther to the south, will only be here 1-2 days." He mentioned again his work on the monument and said, "But we cannot do much work because of the spring rains."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
April 7, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

Each day there passes by 1-4-5 thousand soldiers going to the front. Today again 6 thousand

new soldiers from Indiana came. They too are going farther to the south, will only stay here 1-2 days. I and Bauhof still work on the monument. But we cannot do much because of the Spring rain. We have about 3-4 days rain each week, but the wet season will soon be over and the dry and warm days will begin. We heard that we will probably stay here all summer long, perhaps also the coming winter. We hope that we will soon have opportunity to list as veterans, then we will be able to come home for 30 days. Write me what you think about that the war cannot last a whole year, as the rebels say themselves.

You say that you would like to buy us a lot more. I think so too and want to do my best for you. According to the newspaper we get from you we will get 15 dollars per month, which would be fine, yet I cannot see it, but hope it.

I wonder where Fuchs is now, I have not gotten any letter from him since they were in Nashville. Has he written to you where he is now? I can read your writing well. I want to send you a ring as payment. We still have enough to eat and drink. Since Feb. 19th I have worked 14½ days on the monument. Otherwise we have nothing to do. We have very good times. Last week I weighed 166 pounds. Hope all are fine, greetings and best wishes.

Your son and brother

In the following letter dated April 19, 1864 Miller noted that the big Army of the Cumberland was moving out of Murfreesboro and moving south and said, "We expect to hear about a great battle." He told his parents that he did not plan to re-enlist, "for I have no more than 16 months to serve and these are long enough." He also stated that they were still working on the monument.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 19, 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

Last Sunday night at 9 o'clock 30 rebels came close to our outposts, but they disappeared soon. From our regiment, from Company PC, 35 got on their horses but they didn't find them because the rebels were also on horses.

We also expect to hear about a great battle, because the large Cumberland Army is moving further into the South. Also two long railroad trains came by last Friday filled with planks, moving toward the army. This answers that something is going to happen. I decided not to re-enlist, for I have no more than 16 months to serve and these are long enough. If they pass as fast as the 18 past ones, I will be glad. We still work on the monument. The silken cord pleases me very much, it is long enough. I have exchanged my old watch which I bought from Rudolf for \$11.00 for another watch, for which I could get 20 dollars. But below \$25 I will not give it away. I payed \$14.00 for it. I hope that we get paid next week again, then I will try to send home \$20. I have not gotten father's letter yet, I would like to get a letter from Father. I have not gotten a letter from Fuchs, since he was in Nashville. I won't write him until I get a letter from him. I got a letter from Rudolf, they are all well. There are still passing by so many soldiers, going South to the front. Also a regiment of Negroes came by last week. They are so proud to carry a rifle, most of them have been slaves.

Greetings

In a letter written on May 21, 1864, Miller told how he and Bauhof did not feel like working on the monument and took a walk through the woods "in a part of the woods where a part of one of the hottest battles was fought (Stones River)."

Dear Parents,

Your last and first letter I received in good health and was glad to know that you were well too. I do not know much news this time, only that we will probably stay here all summer because there are a lot of bushwhackers in this area. Last week nineteen of our Company R went 12 miles through the wilderness after those bushwhackers. They met up with them in a little village called Shelbyville. We killed two Rebels and took 2 donkeys and 1 horse. We lost one of our good men who was shot through the heart, he died after 15 hours. We shipped him home to his home eight miles from Canton. He was the first one we lost because of the Rebels. Three weeks ago Bauhof and I were at the monument which is 1 1/2 miles away from our outpost but we didn't feel much like working on it that morning. So we walked five miles through the woods until we reached a road then back again to our camp. We didn't carry any rifles or pistols with us, only our lunch. The bushwhackers sure could have caught us, but we didn't see any. And we were in a part of the woods where a part of one of the hottest battles was fought. But we are getting used to all this shooting.

Please write again soon. I can read your letters well but do not forget to sign them. Here are ten dollars. Farewell til we see each other again. When we do we will drink several glasses of beer again.

In a short letter dated June 4, 1864, Miller told his parents that "60 men of each company will go to the railroad between here (Murfreesboro) and Nashville to guard it."

June 4, 1864

Dear parents,

There are many news, but I have not time to tell them all, for this Sunday morning 60 of each

company will go to the railroad between here and Nashville to guard it. I don't know where our company is supposed to go. But I think we will get to the place where we made railroad ties last summer. I believe that it will soon be over and the time will come when we can go home. The 33rd Indiana Regiment is at this fortress and depot from Murfreesboro to Nashville. I also think that it is time it is almost over.

With this I will close

Miller's June 28, 1864 letter revealed that he and 30 of the men in his company were sent to Stockade #6 at Stewart' Creek to guard the railroad bridge. He mentioned that his company was eating well, having had strawberries, blackberries, apple pie, biscuits, and fish. "Our Lieutenant," he said, "borrowed a net from a farmer for as long as we want. We catch enough fish for all 30 men almost every day." He stated further, "We live like Lords here--are getting fat."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
June 28, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sister,

Received your last letter and was so happy to receive it and was glad to hear that you are all well and I am happy to say that I am well. Everything seems to be going well at the front. Today it is 2½ weeks since I left Murfreesboro where we were to watch a railroad and a railroad bridge at Stewart's Creek. We are in a block house or stockade. It is a place where the cannon balls can't do any harm. We are in the shade. I only have guard duty every three or four days. You will be surprised to know that the strawberry

season is already three weeks past--also the blackberries are all gone and some apples are ripe. We make apple sauce, pie and biscuits and we always have something green. Also we have fish. Our lieutenant borrowed a net from a farmer for as long as we want. We catch enough fish for all 30 men almost every day. The weather is very beautiful here. The farmers are already harvesting. In another letter I will send you a drawing of our house. I want you to save the drawings. I haven't received a letter yet from my brother Jacob. I would love to hear from him. William has already written two or three letters to Bauhof--he says they are having a bad time in Camp Chase, that they have to be on guard duty every other night and have to drill so often. We live like Lords here--are getting fat. Casper Fuchs owes me a letter and I will not write until he writes me first. With this I wish to close.
Your loving son, D. C. Miller

Co. B. 115th O. V. I. Regt.
Stockade #6 near Murfreesboro,
Tenn.

July 12, 1864 found Miller and his comrades still at Stockade #6 at Stewart's Creek. He related how he and his fellow soldiers celebrated July 4, "Our Lieutenant bought us a barrel of beer which cost him 28 dollars. He is a real nice young man." He made reference to another pastime of his--that of making canes out of cedar. "I am making a cane now, but instead of putting a snake design on top I am putting a grapevine on it." He mentioned making rings and selling them for 50 cents each. On these rings he carved two hearts and a star. He said,

"I have only ten cents in silver. Whenever you get a 3 or 5 cent coin send it to me to use."

12 July 1864
N Stockade #6

Dear parents, brother and sister,

Same greetings as before. Health, happiness, etc. I would have written you 3 days ago but we were waiting for the Paymaster every hour. He just came and we got paid. This time I will send you ten dollars, and ten dollars in my next letter. Week before last I received a letter from my brother Jacob which I answered right away, but I didn't know if he got the letter. Not much news here. I am making a cane now, but instead of putting a snake design on top I am putting a grapevine on it with leaves and grapes. It will be the prettiest one ever made in our Regiment. I have worked on it almost a week now. I will send it to Canton. There are 5 or 6 men working on cane like this. We will make a little box for mailing all of them which wouldn't cost us much. I had a good time the 4th of July with all the others. Our Lieutenant bought us a barrel of good beer which cost him 28 dollars. He is a real nice young man. We can tell him what we want and do what we want to. He goes swimming in the creek with all of us. We have very good well water about 300 feet away. I will close with these few lines. Greetings and wishes from your loving son.

I have to make four or more rings for 50 cents each and I have only ten cents in silver. I will put on two hearts and a star. Whenever you get a 3 or 5 cent coin send it to me to use.

On July 20, 1864 Miller wrote to his brother Jacob who was stationed as a guard at Camp Chase near Cincinnati, "Dear brother, I wish that you could be with me, we are having it good. We 40 men have hired two black women to

cook for us for 7-8 dollars a month." He further stated, "I am busy making rings--I already made seven for three dollars and a half and have four on hand to make for a half a dollar each." He remarked that the cedar cane with the grapevine design was almost ready.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
July 20, 1864

Dear Brother,

Received your letter last evening and see that you are well, for which I am glad and I too can say that with God's help I am well. I don't know anything new to write this time, only that last night we caught a lot of fish with our net. Our Lieutenant bought it for us for \$2.00. We were saddened last week when we heard that our Col., 2 Captains and 4 Lieutenants of our regiment were let out because they didn't pass the exams as well as some others. It hit our second Lt. who is in command here. He is going home happy and says that he will go to the 3rd Battery where he had formerly been 9 months. Dear brother, I wish that you could be with me, we are having it good. We 40 men have hired two black women to cook for us for 7-8 dollars a month. We are divided in two messes. I am very busy making rings--I already made seven for three dollars and a half and have four on hand to make for half dollar each. I am also making a cane again out of Cedar wood--instead of a snake design I am making a grapevine--it is almost ready. I wouldn't sell it for \$8.00. The days are going by like an hour--I have one year yet from the 18th of Sept. to serve. I think this year will pass as quickly as the others. With these few lines I will come to an end and hope this finds you well and that we will meet again at home soon, if God wills it. Your loving brother,

D. C. Miller

In this letter dated July 24, 1864 Miller stated that they were building another stockade closer to the railroad bridge. The first one was 300 yards away from the bridge and the new one would be 60 yards away. He related that 20 men were sent there to build the new stockade. He said, "We sleep the whole night and stand no guard, and I am glad of that." His concern for a younger brother who was contemplating enlistment was evident when he said, "I think it hurts parents to lose three sons at once."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
24 July 1864

Dear parents, brothers, and sisters,

I got your letter this evening and am happy to hear that you are all in good health. We had to leave our Log House because it was about 300 yards away from the railroad bridge. Now we are going to build another one about 60 yards from the bridge which is octagonal in shape. We have about 20 men here who will build the new house and we have a much better time here. We work from 5 to 7 and then eat our breakfast, then from 7:30 til 9:00 we have a rest period and work again slowly in the evening. It should keep us busy about 5 or 6 months. We sleep the whole night and stand no guard, and I am glad of that.

I think it hurts the parents to lose three sons at once. That is about all the news for now except that the pears are ripe now. 1000 greetings from your loving son and brother.

Here are still \$10.50 for your daughter Vernell. Thanks many times for the silver. I have enough of it now. If you see Fred Smith sometime tell him to send me a letter again about his health and all the news. Greetings to him also.

In a July 25, 1864 letter to his brother Jacob, Miller expressed his pleasure that Jacob had left Camp Chase and was now at Covington either guarding forts or the city. He again said to his brother, "I wish that you were here. You would have a better time with us." Daniel Miller described the stockade in which he and 29 other Union men were living and guarding the railroad. He concluded by saying, "We live like gentlemen from Cincinnati." He mentioned the apples, plums, cherries, potatoes, and strawberries that he and his comrades had been enjoying.

Stockade near Murfreesboro
July 25, 1864

Dear brother,

Glad to have received your letter and am glad to know that we are both well. Also happy to hear that you are in Covinton where life is much easier than at Camp Chase. We too had to do a lot of training when I was there, but now we live like gentlemen from Cincinnati. Almost three weeks now have passed since we left Murfreesboro to guard the railroad and bridges between Nashville and Murfreesboro. We are staying in a big log house or stockade as they call it here. This building is made out of big tree trunks which are about 20 to 25 inches thick and 15 feet high with an 8 ft. deep cistern in the center of the building. There are many holes in the walls through which to shoot and room enough for about 200 men. In my next letter to our parents, I will send them a drawing of this stockade. I don't believe that you have ever seen anything like this. I only have to stand guard every 3 or 4 days, but it is not so bad

because I can sit rather than stand. There are 30 of us and we have a good 2/Lt. in command. I was wondering whether you guard the forts on the hill or the city of Covington. If you have the time why don't you go to Newport and ask where the Cligsendern Pike is. That is where we were. There was a drawing in one of the magazines here about it. It is about 2 miles from the bridge which crosses the Licking River between Covington and Newport. You say that it is warmer in Kentucky but I believe that it is warmer here. Because the apples, plums, cherries, potatoes, are all ripe, but the strawberries have been gone for 4 or 5 weeks. We have a net here and catch fish every other morning for a breakfast for 30 men. I wish you were here. You would have a better time with us. Closing now with the hope that these few lines reach you in good health, and hoping also that I can talk to you in person pretty soon. Nothing new this time. May God bring us home safely together again. 1000 wishes and greetings from your loving brother.

Daniel C. Miller in a letter to his younger brother dated August 10, 1864 said to him, "To come back to your enlistment, I would rather let you and our parents decide that." However, Daniel remarked that if the younger brother decided to enlist that perhaps he might be able to join the Company B Regiment to which Daniel belonged. Daniel mentioned the scarcity of newspapers since Generals Grant and Sherman had forbidden that any news or newspapers should get out beyond the lines of Kentucky. He again mentioned the good life with peaches and watermelons and a rebel pig to alter the menu.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
August 10, 1864

Dearly beloved brother,

Again I was glad to hear that you are well. I too can say with God's help that I am well. News is very rare here at the moment, because we have not received a newspaper for over a week because the Generals Grant and Sherman have forbidden that any news or newspapers should get out beyond the lines of Kentucky. So that when our troops make another move the Rebels will not know it as fast as our old Abraham Lincoln. Today we received the first newspaper again but without much news in it. We still have a good life and even better now because peaches and watermelons are ripe besides that we caught a Rebel pig that helped to alter our menu. To come back to your enlistment I had rather let you and our parents decide that. I believe our company is filled up now, but I will check again with our Lieutenant or orderly and will let you know in my next letter. I believe that you will be able to get into our Regiment, but I would not advise you to get into another.

There is one other thing I want to ask you, William Akerman told some days ago to Christie in his letter that he was busy for two days carrying dead soldiers off of the battlefield, but I cannot believe it because you know he is a liar and a put-on. Let me know about it in your next letter. Please be so kind and give this address to Mortimer Manfeld and tell him that James Kanady is in Company D, 115th Regiment and that he is well, but had been sick for several weeks.

I am closing with 1000 wishes and greetings,
your loving brother.

P.S. Farewell, hope we see each other soon.
Write soon again.

Daniel C. Miller's love and concern for his family was evidenced by the frequency of the letters which they

received from him--sometimes three or four a month. In this letter dated August 17, 1864 he mentioned his sadness in learning that his mother was sick again. He pointed out the extreme August heat in the South and said, "I walk almost always barefoot, not that I don't have socks or shoes, no I have a good pair of shoes and 2 pairs of socks." His reference to Sherman in Atlanta indicates the successes of the Federal forces in penetrating the Southland. Miller said, "We heard that Sherman's army is lying still because of the great heat. Near Atlanta the temperatures are around 100 degrees." In this same letter, Daniel Miller described the intricate work which he had put into a picture frame. His sense of humor comes forth when Daniel said, "It is a very beautiful frame and especially will be when I will be behind it." Also, in this letter Miller made a reference to a rumor he had heard concerning the loyalty of Mary Todd Lincoln, the President's wife.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
August 17, 1864

Dear parents and sister,

I received your letter this morning before I got up, but I was so sad while reading it. I am so sorry that Mother is sick again, but what can be done? The Lord knows best, and I hope that this letter will meet you feeling as well

as I am when it left me. Dear parents, there is not much news this time. We heard that Sherman's army is lying still because of the great heat. Near Atlanta the temperatures are around 100 degrees, here it is also very warm, but I got used to it quite well and run around in this heat. I walk almost always barefoot, not that I don't have socks or shoes, no I have a good pair of shoes and 2 pair of socks. I have also made 6 dollars from rings, since you have sent me the silver coins, and this week I have to make 5 more rings, and one person wants that I shall make 10 rings for him, so that he can use them as Christmas gifts at home. You also and Mother shall each get one; for Father I made a traveling suit, there is more work on it than on the first. I could have gotten \$5 for it before it was ready, but \$10 could not have bought it. I will soon have ready the picture frame. It is made thus: On top the coat of arms, underneath two cannons, on both sides is a rose with 6 leaves. It is a very beautiful frame and especially so when I will be behind it.

Dear parents don't believe everything the people tell that the 100-days volunteers cannot come home when their time is over. The government has the power to do this. After their 100 days the government has to work 1-2 months before they can come home. I also cannot believe that Lincoln is such a blockhead that he lets his wife go across the border and betray himself. For more than one night he is occupied to study how he could make an end to this war. Seven days ago I had been for 2 years in the army. I think this year will be over soon. Otherwise I don't know anymore to write. Greetings to Mama and Louise Kefer and all who ask about me, also Jacob Hirt. Many thousand greetings and wishes for better health for Mother. I hope that I can see you all as well as I have left you. Amen.

D. C. Miller
Co. B. 115 Regt. O. V. I.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

In this letter of September 9, 1864, Miller gave a dramatic account of the Confederate attack on the Stewart's Creek blockhouse carried out by General Joseph Wheeler and his troops. At the time of the attack, the Union soldiers were still in the process of tearing down the old stockade which was 300 yards away from the railroad and constructing a newer one 60 yards away from the rail line. The Union soldiers had just torn down about $\frac{1}{4}$ of their old headquarters when the attack occurred. Miller along with 30 other Federals was captured and taken to Nashville where they were held in a "very big house that belonged to the Rebel General Zollicoffer."

Nashville, Tenn.
Sept. 9th, 1864

Dear parents, brothers and sisters,

I was sorry not to get a letter from you for so long. You perhaps heard that the Rebel General Wheeler destroyed and burned 30 miles of railroad track.

This Rebel General with 6 or 8,000 men encountered us just as we had torn down $\frac{1}{4}$ of our headquarters, because we wanted to use the wood or material for our new blockhouse. He came at night and at seven in the morning we already shot at his cavalry which destroyed and burned the railroad. I fired the second shot and I am sure I didn't miss. We fought til one o'clock when the Rebel General fired twelve pound cannon six times at us, but he only hit the blockhouse twice. Since we had lost all ground we had to give ourselves up. He burned down the blockhouse containing everything that he didn't want. He took us with him and let us go

after forty miles. We did not get anything to eat except twice fat bacon or bread. I had two ears of corn and an apple besides which were very good and I wouldn't have sold them for ten dollars. The corn I had stolen from a donkey at night. Now there are 31 of us in Nashville in a very big house which belonged to the Rebel General Zollicaffer.

Here now we get enough to eat. Perhaps today or tomorrow we go back to our old place. The Rebels took us with them 2½ days til our artillery and infantry were on their heels, then they let us go. But the Rebels got beaten up pretty much. Black soldiers took from them 3 cannon and some 100 soldiers and horses. On our way back we met the ninth Ohio Cavalry and I met Casper Fox again. They were after Wheeler.

Will close now and write you a longer letter next time.

In this letter dated September 11, 1864, two days after his capture by the Confederates, Miller and his comrades were back in Murfreesboro. Again, Miller recounted very dramatically the attack on Stockade #6 and explained that after being held prisoner for two days the Yankees let them go. When it became imminent that the Union guards must surrender the blockhouse, Miller said that they burned or twisted their rifles so as make them useless to the Yankees. In a regretful tone Miller related, "We had to leave everything behind--my pretty cane and the picture frame I broke in two--I cut some of the design off of the cane so that they couldn't use it." He concluded by saying, "If the Rebels come back later we will show them how Yankees can fight."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Sept. 11, 1864

Dear parents,

Arrived safe and sound in Murfreesboro today. We were all in the blockhouse on Aug. 31 when at 7:00 o'clock we saw about 50 men on horseback about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile behind our house marching to the railroad. Then a fellow named Martin Stimmel and I went to see what they were doing and saw them start to tear up the railroad ties--we each fired 5 or 6 shots and they left after four or five ties were torn up. As we turned to go back to our blockhouse their pistol shots rang out and we had to jump back. When we got back we saw 6,000 around our house about 1000 yards, so that we couldn't do very much with them. 8 or 10 of us went to the railroad bridge which they were trying to set afire and we made them jump. Several fell and we could see them as they raised their hands before they fell. I am sure that I hit one of them because as soon as I shot at him, he fell. This was about noon--then five men came with a white flag and they wanted us to give up the blockhouse or they would put a cannon on it--which later did happen. We said we wouldn't give it up and they left. In five minutes we saw that they had a 12 lb. cannon brought out of the woods and they put it behind a little rise where we couldn't do anything to them and it was too far for our rifles. Then came shell after shell over our blockhouse--two of them hit a bean and shattered it. They shot at us six times and only hit twice--then our Sargeant put up a white flag and they quit. You should have seen the Rebels coming out of the woods from every angle, but didn't fire anymore. They plundered our house and we had to stand in ranks. We burned our rifles (or twisted) so that they couldn't use them. They made us go with them for two days and two nights about 40-50 miles. Then they let us go--we had to leave everything behind--my pretty cane, and the picture frame I broke in two--I cut some of the design off of the cane so they couldn't

use it. When we were 1 1/3 miles away from the blockhouse we could see the smoke as they burned it down and they had hacked down the railroad bridge. If they would have arrived one day later, they could have taken us with one cannon shot. The log house where the other 30 men were was shot into twice, and from these 30 men there were 3 dead and 8 or 10 wounded. If we would have had an officer there instead of a sergeant there would have been more dead. The battle really went hot there. We are all very happy that we are back here again. If the Rebels come back later we will show them how Yankees can fight. They held back their Cavalry until the big dog which is a big cannon was used on us. We were very hungry on our trip but I made it well. I had to laugh when the others showed long faces and talked bad. They kept us in a house in Nashville and we walked back to our regiment in Murfreesboro some 30 miles away.

The trauma which Miller experienced during his capture is still evident in this letter dated September 18, 1864. He said, "I am thankful to God who has kept me well and kept the fiery bullets of the enemy away from me." He described the joyful reception which awaited him upon his return to Murfreesboro and his regiment. He further said, "That Rebel Wheeler got licked good after he let us go." Here he was referring to Wheeler's raid into Kentucky following the attack on blockhouse #6.

Hurrah for Old Abe and Old Andy
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Sept. 18, 1864

Dear Parents and sister,

Your letter was received ten minutes ago and was joyfully received. I see you are all well

and I am thankful to God who has kept me well and kept the fiery bullets of the enemy away from me. On the 11th we again arrived safely with our regiment in Murfreesboro. They were glad to see us because they didn't know that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler had let us go and that we had arrived in Nashville, when our Captain saw us he began to laugh and said, "Hello, what does all this honor to my boys mean?" He was so happy he could hardly talk for laughing. He is a good man. We had to leave everything when the Rebs came, except what we had on. I still have my watch--I could have sold it for \$22.00 but I will not do so under 25.00 or \$28.00. We don't have to pay for the clothes we lost and have already received new ones. I don't have the cane and frame anymore either--when the Reb came it was broken, but I have another made just about like the other was. I haven't forgotten the rings I promised you. I don't know if we will be paid this time since we were taken prisoner--since the pay papers are sent in ahead and we were not here to sign. The next time we will get that much more. But if you need money, I can borrow some and pay it back. Write me. I am glad that Jacob is working in Canton--he is better off than in the Army. He doesn't have to kill himself and is free as the birds which we aren't. The Rebel Wheeler got licked good after he had let us go--I don't think he can bring many out of Tenn. with him. With this I will close and hope that these few lines will reach you in good health. With a thousand greetings,
Your loving son, D. C. Miller. Co. B. 115th Regt.
O. V. I., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The fall of 1864 brought increased activities to Tennessee from the standpoint of both Union and Confederate armies. General W. T. Sherman ordered 30,000 men to General Thomas at Nashville on the chance that General John B. Hood, Confederate commander, would attempt to invade Tennessee. The Confederate general, Nathan Bedford Forrest, stepped up his raids in Tennessee destroying

railroad tracks, blockhouses, bridges, and telegraph lines. In the next three or four letters Miller makes reference to many of the incidents that took place in Tennessee during the last few months of the Civil War. In his letter of September 28, 1864 he is at Stockade #10 on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. In this letter he made an appeal to his father. "If you love freedom, vote again for our old Abraham Lincoln. He is the man for our land. Hurrah for Old Abe."

Stockade #10 Tenn. on N. & C. RR
Sept. 28, 1864

Dear parents,

Received your last letter and am glad to hear that you are all well. I too am well. Nothing new except that the Rebel General Forrest was around here and where he is now we can't say--for ten days the railroad has not been running. Our fifty men went on the first train to Tullahoma. The night before when we were already in Murfreesboro by the depot, we received notification that the railroad had been torn up and the telegraph had been cut 27 mi. from Murfreesboro. The next morning at half past five we went on the train as guards and the Rebels had gotten to the place an hour before and had torn it up. The Negroes were busy at it and trying to fix it up so we could pass. Now 15 of our company are 23 miles from M'boro at Stockade #10. How long we will be here I can't tell you. We have it real good here. Tuesday we butchered a one year old calf which came too near us--it was nice and fat. Today we ate the last of it. Dear sister, I want to make you some rings when I get the time and send them home with the cane. Our Lieutenant says we probably will be mustered out in Cleveland and that will be a little over ten months. Dear

father, if you love freedom, vote again for our old Abraham Lincoln. He is the man for our land. Hurrah for Old Abe. With that I will close. Lots of greetings until we see each other soon. Your loving son, D. C. Miller.

P. S. We haven't been paid yet--but it shouldn't be long.

In Miller's letter of November 18, 1864 he had been sent to a blockhouse in Christiana, Tenn. The election was over and he remarked, "The voting went off well here. We thought that the Rebs would bother us, but they didn't." Miller rejoiced at the election of Old Abe and had this to say, "Our old Abe was voted in again for the next four years--now the War will soon be over--the Rebs themselves say they can't stand it."

Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Nov. 18, 1864

Dear mother, sister Kamerad and worthy friend,

Received your letter and was glad to hear all are well. With God's blessing and help I too, am well. As soon as I saw the letter I realized it was Caspar Fuch's handwriting and I wondered if he was in Cleveland, Tenn. or Ohio. If only I could be with you we would both have a nice time.

Dear Friend, I don't know if I will be here because our Co. those that were left, day before yesterday--half went to Christiana, nine miles from here--the others to Fosterville where I am going in five or six days--it is also on this railroad to Chattanooga. If you come to Christiana, ask after me. I was glad to hear that my father went to Canton, I believe he went once before. I think this week I will send two canes and a picture frame home. The voting went off well here.

We thought the Rebs would bother us, but they didn't. It was about 100 miles from here, three of our boys were several miles in the country to find some U. S. horses, when they were attacked by this band--one of them got away on his horse, but the bullets flew and buzzed like bees in a basket. He made it safely to camp and reported it at once. Then 80 men from Co. K. went after the Rebs and took a Captain, a Lieutenant and four men, besides our two boys. These Rebels belonged to Rebel Gen. Wheeler's Command--they were at home on furlough before they were taken prisoner--one of them I knew. I believe if this one had not received word, all three would have been hung or taken to Dixie. Our Old Abe was voted in again for the next 4 years--now the War will soon be over--the Rebs themselves say they can't stand it. With a thousand greetings and wishes, Daniel C. Miller

Miller's letter of January 3, 1865 stated "for over four weeks we didn't receive any letters or newspapers because the Rebels were between our blockhouse and Murfreesboro. We have only a little news but it is good news, because the Rebels were badly beaten at Nashville, Franklin, and Murfreesboro." He mentioned that 195 of his regiment who were in a blockhouse between Murfreesboro and Nashville were captured. He further said, "The Rebels desert by the hundreds every day and they say that the South would be better off to give up because they do not have a chance."

Christiana, Tenn.
January 3, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

Your two letters I received last night. For over four weeks we didn't receive any letters or

newspapers because the Rebels were between our blockhouse and Murfreesboro. I am still well and hope you are too. We have only a little news but it is good news, because the Rebels were badly beaten at Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Franklin and are now on their retreat to the Tennessee River where they got beaten again. The Rebels desert by the hundreds every day and they say that the South would be better off to give up because they do not have a chance. When the battle of Franklin began which is about 27 miles from Nashville and 15 miles from Murfreesboro we received an order that our forty men were to go to the blockhouse #16 which is 41 miles from Murfreesboro to wait out the year there. On the first of January we returned to Christiana which is 11 miles from Murfreesboro. We have it nice here. Every five days I am on guard for four hours. We do not know how long we have to stay here. We were not involved in any battles, but our Captain and part of our Regiment was captured by the Rebels. 195 of our Regiment who were in the blockhouse between Murfreesboro and Nashville including some dead and some wounded ones were also captured by the Rebels. Our Captain with 70 men who were in a little fort near Lavergne had to give up after a five hour battle.

Our Captain had been ill for four months and it is going to be hard on him. Casper Fuch was with me when the battle began at Franklin. He told me all about you. Yarn is short here too. Sometimes you have to walk ten or twenty miles before you see a sheep. The pound (wool) costs over two dollars and it is hard to get. I am thinking about sending my coats home in the spring with my overcoat. If my Captain hadn't been captured, I would have received a furlough. With these few lines I will close hoping that they find you well as they have left me. I wish all of you a happy new year and good health. Write again soon and farewell.

On January 18, 1865, Daniel C. Miller was still at Christiana, Tennessee. Of the plight of the South he

said, "Our Rebel Hood is far into the State of Georgia. Our cavalry is always on his back." He mentioned that he was now making ax handles which he sold for 50 cents each." He also said, "We have enough to eat as long as we have the chance to visit the Rebels on their large farms. They don't have negroes anymore--they are all working for Uncle Sam in the woods, cutting wood for the railroad."

Christiana, Tenn.
January 18th, 1865

Dear parents.

Received your letter and was pleased to note that you are all well. I also received a letter yesterday from Elizabeth and Jacob. There are a lot of news but I cannot write everything. Our Rebel General Hood is far into the State of Georgia. Our Cavalry is always on his back, he can't be still for a day's rest. It will not be long before the States of Georgia and Alabama are back in the Union because they are tired of fighting and are hungry. Today we heard that a large important Fort was taken by us--this is something big because this fort and the city of Wilmington which also will be taken in a few days, is the key to Richmond. I think I have written you that we are in a new place again--10½ miles south of Murfreesboro. A real nice place. Every five days I get 4-hour watch. For that I need only a little wood to cook with. Yesterday someone named Sexauer and I made ax handles--we get 40 to 50¢ a piece--we have already made 8. We could make 8-12 a day. We still have enough to eat. Yesterday we butchered an ox--he had strayed from a herd--he belonged to Uncle Sam. Yesterday we had two barrels of corn ground. Today five of our men were out and got four sacks of corn from a good rebel lady. We will have enough to eat as long as we have the chance to visit the Rebels on their large farms. They

don't have negroes anymore--they are all working for Uncle Sam in the woods, cutting wood for the railroad. With this I will close and hope the letter reaches you in good health. Your loving son, D. C. Miller, c/o Lt. J. Deuble

In his letter of March 11, 1865, Miller was anticipating his going home to Ohio since the war would soon be over. He said, "I would like to be with you dear parents, so that I could help with the butchering and you know how I like sausages!" He went on to say, "I think that when I come home I can hardly find your house."

Christiana, Tenn.

March 11, 1865

Dear parents,

Today I received your last letter and see that you are well, for which I am happy. Especially also to receive one from Mother--I could read it better than the one from sister, although I can read everything she wrote. I am still so grateful to God for the health which I daily enjoy. I hope that these few lines will reach you in as good health as I was when I wrote this. There isn't much in the way of news now--only a lot of troops going by on the railroad every day. We understand that 25,000 men are going to the Front. That should be a big army when they all get together. Most of them are cavalry. Yes, I would like to be with you dear parents, so that I could help with the butchering and you know how I like sausages!! I am sorry that the paymaster has not come yet since I mentioned it in two previous letters. But it will come. The war will not last much longer or my time will be over. I think when I come home, I can hardly find your house. I am wondering who is in my house, if they are still there or not and if you see one of them, ask if they know where Rudolph or Rudi is--they should give you their address. I would also like to hear from them.

On March 24, 1865 Daniel C. Miller was still in the blockhouse at Christiana, Tennessee. He said, "Our troops are still victorious. It probably won't be more than 14 days before we occupy the Rebel camp at Richmond. In a few days Generals Sherman and Grant will really give it to the Rebels and when they do I pity those Rebels. The South has just about had it, and instead of staying in the army, they desert." He stated that he was looking forward to going to work in Canton, Ohio when the war was over.

Christiana, Tenn.
March 24, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

Received your letter and am well. Dear sister I received the gold paper in good order and thank you very much for it. Everything is still the same in that every day our troops are still victorious. It probably won't be but 14 more days until we occupy the Rebel camp at Richmond. In a few days Generals Sherman and Grant will really give it to the Rebels and when they do I pity those Rebels. A lot of soldiers pass by here every day. The South has just about had it. And instead of staying in the Army, they desert.

Bravo. As I read in the Messenger last night, within the last 30 days 2,000 Rebels deserted among them 40 officers. Dear parents as soon as I get paid, I will send most of my clothes home so that I won't have much to carry or lose as I come home. I was glad to get the address from R. Meyers. I was also glad to hear that my brother Jacob is well in Canton. I am already looking forward to going to work there myself.

Greetings to all who ask about me.

On May 4, 1865, Miller wrote from Christiana, Tennessee "The war is not entirely over and Jeff Davis will not get very far through South Carolina before he will be caught with his money. Our Cavalry General Stoneman with 15,000 men on horses has almost caught up with him. Davis with six wagons full of gold and silver and 2,000 cavalry is only one days ride ahead of him. I would like to be there when they catch him." He also stated that he no longer had to watch the railroad since as of the 15th of May the Federal government was turning the railroad back to the State of Tennessee.

Christiana, Tenn.

May 4, 1865

Dear parents,

Have received your letter and am glad to hear that everyone is well. I am well also. Nothing new except we read in the paper that 400,000 men are to be discharged and all men that are in hospitals, who can help themselves, will be released. Sherman's troops are to be on the way home. I can't say yet how it will be with us because the railroad doesn't have to be watched anymore and from the 15th of this month, the government is turning the railroad back over to the State of Tennessee. Also all quartermasters have been ordered to draw more rations to last until the first of June. We think we can come home in a few weeks. I would be delighted to get home before my time is over, if not 3½ months isn't so long. It has been a long time since I received a letter from E. Fox. I have received three letters from Chas. and Rudolph thinks they are still in Chattanooga in 20th. C. O. Rudi complains that he

doesn't get enough to eat. The 4th Army Corps came by here last week on the way to Nashville, and where they go from there is not known, but we think the most of them are going home. The war is not entirely over and Jeff Davis will not get very far through S. Carolina before he will be caught with his money. Our Cavalry General Stoneman with 15,000 men on horses has almost caught up with him. Davis with six wagons full of Gold and Silver and 2,000 Cavalry is only one days ride ahead of him. I would like to be there when they catch him. Until we see each other soon, I am your loving son, D. C. Miller

From Christiana, Tennessee on April 17, Miller wrote a letter to his parents that has a very tragic note to it. He wrote, "I am very concerned about what I read in the newspaper and am still wondering whether to believe it or not because you can't trust the newspaper. We read that our President Lincoln was shot in a theatre in Washington last Friday and died at 7:20 Saturday morning. If all this is true, it will be very hard on us." He also said, "that the Rebel General Lee has surrendered, including the Generals Hood and the bloodhound Forrest." Miller went on to say, "Yesterday was Easter Sunday, but we didn't have any eggs like we do at home. They cost 30 cents a dozen here and are very rare."

Christiana, Tenn.
April 17, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

I would have answered your letters earlier but there was no way to get the letters out of here. Last Wednesday and Thursday it rained here as much

water as could come down from the sky. It knocked down or flooded some railroad bridges and the trains can't run. Last week I read in the Canton newspaper that my brother Jacob Miller broke his arm or perhaps got it torn off by a horse. That would be very hard for him and us. I am very concerned about what I read in the papers and am still wondering whether to believe it or not because you can't trust the newspaper. We read that our President Lincoln was shot in a theatre in Washington last Friday night and died at 7:20 Saturday morning. At the same time Secretary Seward, his son, and another man were supposedly stabbed in bed too, but neither of the 3 is dead yet. If all this is true, it will be very hard on us. We are not quite sure of all this, but you perhaps heard all the news. And also that the Rebel General Lee with his Army has surrendered, including the Generals Hood and the bloodhound Forrest. I now believe that the War is over or very close to it. We have beautiful weather now. The peach trees have already bloomed and the trees are green in their splendor. Yesterday was Easter Sunday but we didn't have any eggs like we do at home. They cost 30 cents a dozen here and are very rare. I wish I could be with you and see everything I haven't seen for 3 years.

Hoping this letter finds you as safe as when it left me.

From Christiana, Tennessee on May 20, 1865, Daniel C. Miller said, "Thank God for his guidance so far. I hope He will take care of me and keep me as well as when I left you to fight for our Fatherland. Amen." He related, "Nothing much is new except that we see a lot of Rebels on their way home. You should see them, they are as filthy as pigs and full of lice."

Christiana, Tenn.
May 20, 1865

Dear parents and sister,

I received your last letter this evening, and was very happy that you are all well. May our Lord keep you til I come home to you, thank God for his guidance so far, I hope he will take care of me and keep me as well as I was when I left you to fight for our Fatherland. Amen.

Nothing much is new except that we see a lot of Rebels on their way home. You should see them, they are as filthy as pigs and full of lice. There is talk that we may not remain in Tenn. any longer than 15 days. I believe it too. I do not know the exact time but I wish it was tomorrow. Dear father I wanted to make you a tobacco box but it is too hot, but I will try it anyway.

Some of our men captured a Rebel who was fishing at the River here and we sent some of our men to look for another one, perhaps his brother, and if they capture him they will get 100 dollars. If they do, I will let you know in my next letter. With these few lines I will close hoping it will arrive there finding you in good health as it left me. Farewell, hoping soon to be with you in person to talk to you. 1000 greetings and wishes.

Daniel C. Miller's last communication to his parents was written from Christiana, Tennessee on June 8, 1865. Miller had this to say, "I will write to you again and it may be the last time from here since at the end of this week or the beginning of next, we'll be on our way home. I thank God for my health and the same for you." He mentioned that he had mailed by express a little box to Cleveland, Ohio that weighed only 3-4 pounds.

To all whom it may Concern



I have full (copy) indented by 1867

Know ye, That Daniel C. Miller a
 Corporal of Captain 1st Lieut John S. Carr's
Company, (B), 115th Regiment of Ohio Infantry
 VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the 11th day of August
one thousand eight hundred and sixty two to serve Three (3) years or
 during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States
 this 22^d day of June, 1865, at Newark
Tennessee by reason of Expiration of term of service

(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said Daniel C. Miller was born in Switzerland
 in the State of Switzerland, is 23 years of age,
5 feet 7 1/2 inches high, Dark complexion, Hazel eyes,
Black hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Shuttle Cutter

Given at Newark Tennessee this Twenty Second day of
June 1865

This sentence shall be erased should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

(U. S. No. 22)

John S. Carr
 1st Lieut. 115th O. I. &
 Company

[Signature]
 Capt. 1st O. I. & A. Co.

1st Div. Dept of the Cumberland

However, a tobacco box that he had been making wasn't quite ready and he wanted to bring it himself.

Christiana, Tenn.
June 8, 1865

Dear parents,

I will write to you again and it may be the last time from here since the end of this week or beginning of next, we'll be on our way home. I thank God for my health and wish you the same. Yesterday I received a letter from Rudolph and he said my mother was sick and that Verona had written to Jacob and Elizabeth to come home. I am so sorry to hear this and hope that she soon will be well. I wouldn't have written yet but yesterday I sent a little box to Cleveland on the Express. If Jacob is still with you, he can get it. I addressed to H. Miller, Cleveland, Ohio. Lymen St. #92. It weights 3-4 lbs., only a little box. The tobacco box however, isn't in it because I want to bring it myself and it isn't quite finished. I paid \$3.80 to sent the box home--it will not cost you anything. Today we learned what regiment is to replace us. It is the 188th Ohio, one year regiment. There are about 55 men here who belong to new regiments. They have always thought to get home before us but now they have cooled off and don't say so much. Now I will close and hope these few words will find all of you in good health and hope we can talk to each other soon. Your loving son, Daniel C. Miller.

Thus faded from the picture a young Yankee soldier who spent one and one-half years on guard duty in Middle Tennessee, for the most part in Rutherford County. He fished in the streams, walked in the woods where the Battle of Stones River was fought, and was impressed with the beauty that surrounded him. He tried

to help pass the long hours by making walking canes from the cedar that grew so plentifully in the county, by making rings from silver coins, by making picture frames and tobacco boxes. Indeed, he was a skilled artisan, and the engraving on the boulder along Stones River where he has left a bit of himself amongst us is as clear today as if he had carved his name there only yesterday.