Charles A. Hall
310 Monterey Street • Paris, Illinois 61944

RECEIVED
OCT 22 1984

October 17, 1984

Dear Sir:

I have before me a letter written from Camp Stockweather, Tenn. on Dec. 24, 1863 by F. F. H., Co. "C", 78th Penn. Vols, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 14th A.C., Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In the four page letter he mentions Summertown, where a ball is to be held and compares it in size to Texas. Apparently his camp is located 3/4 of a mile from the peak of Lookout Mountain.

The soldier who wrote this letter was raised by a neighbor family after his parents died. I purchased the letter from an elderly lady who had found it in her parents effects. She didn't know the soldiers name, but remembered hearing stories about him when she was a girl.

This past summer I stopped at the National Park on Lookout Mountain on our way from Florida to Paris. Unfortunately, we arrived after closing time so I was not able to inquire about the letter. Are you familiar with any of the places he mentions or where the 78th was camped? I would also like to know how to find out his name.

I am a collector of autographs of Civil War generals and [redacted] if it would be of any interest. Enclosed is a copy of the full letter. Most of the contents I consider to be [redacted] routine, but I don't know how much material you have written from Lookout Mt.

Any information you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Respectfully
C. Hall

Phineas F. Hatzell
Musician
M.O. ~~[illegible]~~ Nov 11, 1864

Camp Starkweather Tenn
Dec 24th 1863

Kind Friends! As this is the day before Christmas [illegible] cannot do so to-morrow for I will be on Orderly [illegible] Regimental Head Quarters to go to [illegible] with the mail, and report for Brigade Head Q[illegible] and that will take me most all day. Every day a [illegible] detailed for this purpose; my day was to-day, [illegible] another (Rankin) to go in my place. As to-morrow [illegible] Christmas, and again my business is through, I intend to take a few good Christmas drinks of whiskey, [illegible] up the mountain when I return. Our Holidays in Camp will be on a dry scale, Nothing to drink, and no Sutlers here with Confectionarys. But the Soldiers here intend to have a Ball up at Summertown (about fifty rods above Camp) to-morrow night. This town is about as large as Texas, and contains a large Hotel and Ball room, and the town is built expresly for the purpose of a summer resort for the Southern Aristocracy. But the place is entirely abandoned, except a few poor people who have taken refuge there in. It is a fine looking place and splended buildings in it. From where we are encamped we can see over the old Chickamauga Battle ground, and far into the interior of Georgia. From the point of this Mountain (3/4th of a mile from here) peaks of mountains can be dissernable in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina,

Musician
Phineas F. Hatzell
M.O. Nov 4, 1844
" " C
78th Pa.

Kentucky & Alabama. This is a pleasant place to be encamped, but the wind is cold and the fog sometimes hangs all day here, while in the Valleys it is clear. But when nothing is to be done, I can lay in my warm tent and kick up my heels. If we would only get full rations of eateables, then I would feel better all around. The Boys of the 2 Regts are making Fortifycations on the Mountain, so that if Rebel Cavalry should make a dash on here that we can knock them into three cocked hats. We have had no snow yet, but penty of Ice; and we have the very best of water (Freestone) and we are far above the lay of Limestone. I think no movement will be made by this army this winter, for the Rail Road is not finished yet; and our supplies are still brought up the river on 3 small Boats. Some of the Boys in the 7/8th have reënlisted for an other term; some of the Boys in Co. "C" are talking of reenlisting. But for my part I shant reënlist in the 7/8th. I will wait untill my first term of enlistment has expired, and perhaps Congress may raise the wages of soldiers, and give a larger Bounty than $402.00. But I have my attentions centered upon Arizona Teritory. I also noticed in the Presidents Message of the Condition of Arizona and Colorado, stating that he had received several Communications from the Governor of New Mexico relating to the prospering Condition of those wealthy Territories. Again I am free, I will be in my 25th year, and I think I had better commence to do some good for myself while I am yet in my prime, and if I should fool away

[illegible] other 3 years of my life in the Army [illegible] would almost be impossible for me to Commence working for myself at 28; And so I think I will take time by the fore lock and Commence laying up for rainy days and sore shins. By serving an additional 3 years my wages and bounty ~~would amount to~~ - $13.66. And by looking out the next 3 years the way I want too, I can make 5 times the amount. I have been informed that persons can do well in the Oil country and in the pines, but I have no inclination for either of those places. The far off west continually haunts my imagination, and there I think all young men should seek their future destiny. One thing the army has done me good is, that where ever I take my cap off there I am at home; and no such foolishness as Homesick & discouragement ever crops my mind. I can never harbor a thought of living in Pennsylvania, for I have become completely disgusted at the people of that state, with the treatment that crippled soldiers get who have no homes; in many places the people are turning up their noses at the soldiers, and are afraid that these soldiers will become a burthen to them; to keep; and the people of Penna are always making a-d-d fuss about taxes and god knows what all. The people of Indiana & K.Y are just the reverse, they treate a crippled soldier kindly, and do all for them they can, and honor him for the good cause they fought for. But the state of Penna has done nobly in soldiers for the war

[illegible] is all [illegible] of. I think the operations of the Potomac Army are plaid out for this winter. Well the time for the three hundred thousand men called for will soon be up, and if that number is not full again the 5th Jan, I hope the man with the sharp stick will ~~oust them~~ out on a double quick. And again spring they will be made ready to crush the remainder of the rebels in Dixie, and that number will finish the job effectual. When this army makes another move every thing will be swept to the gulf of Mexico for Bragge old Command Cant stand this army with its weak numbers. Now is the time to increase our army. The talk is yet that we go home before next July but "I Cant see it"

I will close hoping to hear from you and wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Those packages of Envelopes Came yesterday much obliged for them

Your Son

P. F. H.

Co. "C" 78th Penna Vols

3rd Brigade 1st Division 74th A.C.

Chattanooga Tenn

Phineas F. Hatzell

Hatzell

M.O. Nov 4, 1864