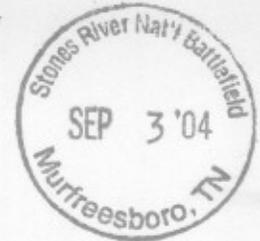


August 27, 2004

Stones River National Battlefield  
Attn: Miranda L. Fraley, Museum Technician  
3501 Old Nashville Hwy.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129



- \_\_\_ Supt. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Ops Chief *MMS 9/3*
- \_\_\_ LE Ranger \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Int Ranger \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ EN \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Adm Off \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Admin Asst \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Ecologist \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Maint Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Maint Wkr \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Laborer \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ File \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Librarian \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ms. Fraley,

Thank you for your response in regard to my inquiry about the burial of Private Charles Santee of the 34<sup>th</sup> IL infantry at Stones River National Cemetery, grave D-1502 (old F-119).

Since the museum maintains a collection of cemetery documents, I thought you might like to have a copy of the letters regarding Charles Santee. I am enclosing copies of the original letters and a transcription copy, typed by my mother, Irene V. Santee in the 1950's in case the copies of the originals are not fully readable. These letters are part of a series of about 75 letters written by Charles Santee from the time he enlisted until his death and by his best friend John Henry Wingerd, a bugler also in the IL 34<sup>th</sup> infantry who continued to write to Charles' sister Lydia Santee throughout the rest of the war until he returned to Dixon, IL afterwards.

I have included the last letter written home by Charles on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1862, one signed by Capt. Benson Wood, Co C, 34<sup>th</sup> IL and one written by a Wm Seton, Capt 4<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers from East Chester, Westchester Co NY. At this time we do not know any relationship of Wm. Seton to the Santee family or why he wrote to Charles' father, James Madison Santee. John Henry wrote the remaining letters describing the burial, exhumation process and sending the body home.

Thanks again for your letter and the information you provided on the origins of Stones River National Cemetery. If I can be of any further help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Martha M. Wetzel*

Martha M. (Santee) Wetzel  
9248 Lakeview Dr.  
Burlington, IA 52601  
E-mail - [fcmmwetz@interl.net](mailto:fcmmwetz@interl.net)

Camp near Nashville Nov. 21 1862

(44) + envelope  
Dear Sister

I embrace the present opportunity of writing a few lines to you in answer to yours of the 8th inst. which I received last evening. It found me in good health and I hope these lines may find you the same. I think it quite strange that you have not heard from me for so long a time for I have written to you two or three times since we were at Shelbyville but I suppose you never got my letters nor I have not got yours. I have had but two or three letters from you since we were at Louisville. I wrote a letter to Father day before yesterday. Well Lydia, Mat Blair has not got back to the regt. yet. I heard last evening that he was at Camp Chase in Ohio. And Sergt. Williams has not got here yet neither. I heard that he is at Springfield in Illinois so I guess my shirt has gone up the spout. But perhaps Sergt. Williams will send it down for I understand that he has a good many things for the boys. So I think he will send them down if he dont come himself. I will tell you sometime the reason why he is detained at Springfield. Well Lydia, we was out on a reconnoissance again night before last. We was called at 12 o'clock at night but did not leave camp till 4 in the morning. We were out about 8 miles and drove the rebels out of their snug and cosy dens in a hurry. We came up to them about daylight and gave them a few rounds of shot and shell which soon made them skeddle. But I guess that was all for I dont think anybody was hurted. I am sure I did not see anyone that was hurt. The enemy did not return the fire, they were most all cavalry and therefore kept out of our way. Well Lydia, what is the best word up there? How is every body and every bodys friend getting along? We are all getting along finely down here. The boys are all well but Allec Depuy. He is sick and in the hospital at Nashville. I do not know whether he is getting better or not. I have not heard from him since he went there nor I do not know what is the matter of him. Well how are you all getting along anyhow? I suppose you have got through husking corn long before this time, and threshing done, and nothing more to do till next spring. Well I am in hopes that I may be able to be up there next spring to help you along with the work but still it looks rather dark. Have you had any snow up there yet? If you haint we can beat you for we had a little snow when we were in Ky. yet. Who is doing to keep school in the Bend this winter? Or haint you going to have any school up there this winter? I dont see where the schollars are to come from anyhow. But I must close. Write as soon as possible and I will remain as ever your true and affectionate brother.

Charles

P.S. Direct 5th Brigade Gen. Sills Division Nashville, Tenn.  
Care Capt. B. Wood

(45) + envelope  
Camp Nashville Dec. 8th, 1862

Dear Sister &amp; Brother

I seat myself this afternoon to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am still alive and well. I received your very welcome letter of the 22 ult. this day noon. It was the first line I have had from you for some time. I was sorry to hear that Father was not well. I am in hopes that ere this reaches you he may be in good health again. I do not know how soon we will leave this camp but I suppose we will leave in a day or two and perhaps it will (be) tonight. Lydia, I suppose we are going to have a great battle near this place in a few days. It may be tomorrow or nest day and it may be a week yet and perhaps we may not have much of a fight after all. But it is the general opinion now here that we will have a very hard battle. It is said that the whole rebel army of the southwest is concentrating at Winchester and

Tallahoma. If this be true we may expect to have some work to do. But I guess they will find their match for we have a powerful army here. An army that never has been whiped and one that is thought to be invincible. But if they should happen to defeat us here our cause is desperate. But I never think or can believe until I see it that we will be defeated. But if they give us battle here I believe they will not want to fight us again very soon. Well Lydia, you spoke about Brother Boyde (?) Boyle (?). I wish I could be up there a few days about Christmas and New Years and have a few fellow soldiers with me that I know. To use a soldiers term we would clean him out. We would make him (take) the oath and confiscate his property especially such as chickens, pigs, and the like. Confound him! Wouldn't I like to have a pull at him though. No more at present but remain as ever your true and affectionate brother.

Charles

P.S. Dont feel uneasy about me. I will write again in a few days if we have a fight and I get through safe.

46 + envelope  
Dear Sister

Camp near Nashville Dec. 16th, 1862

I take my pen in hand this morning for the purpose of writing a few lines to you in answer to yours of the 7th inst. which I received last evening. It was the first letter that I had received for several days. I have wrote 6 or 7 letters home since we have been at this place but that was the first answer. But perhaps you did not get all of them or else I did not get yours. I never received the little note you sent in the letter of J. H. W. nor he never got the letter. Well Lydia, how are you getting along this winter? I suppose the weather is pretty cold up there by this time. We had quite a heavy rain here yesterday and last night but today is bright and clear. We were out on a forageing expedition yesterday and I tell you we got a good soaking. I have never been as wet but once or twice since I have been in the service and that was at Shiloh. Lydia, I have heard that W. L. D. in writing to the Dixon paper stated that at the battle of Shiloh the flag of the 34 went down and the lines began to waver until Col. Kirk went and picked it up and waved it. I will admit the flag went down but it was because the order was for us to lay down and the bearer in laying down carelessly let it come to the ground but he raised again the next moment. But as for Col. Kirk raising it that is an absolute falsehood. He did not tutch the flag that day at all. I am willing to swear to this for I know it to be the truth for I right close to the flag all day and I know that Col Kirk did not raise it. I write this because it has been published in several papers and I think the honor should be bestowed upon the one that deserves it. Miles Bahen is the color bearer and he was wounded and gave the flag to Jas. Wurls one of the color guards and he brought it off the field in triumph. I wrote you a letter the other day in which I stated that we expected a hard battle at this place. We did expect it at that time but the alarm seems to have passed away and no fight yet. About that 5 inches of snow, I did not see it. I saw about one inch and a half over here in our camp. I was not over to the camp he is in but it is only three miles from here and I cant see how there could be so much difference in so short a distance. But I must bring this to a close. Answer as soon as convinient and give me all the news. I remain as ever your affectionate brother.

Charles

47 + envelope  
Dear Friends at home

Camp near Nashville Dec. 25th, 1862

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. I received your welcome letter last Sabbath evening. It found me in good health

and I hope these lines may find you all the same. Well how are you all getting along up in the Bend? How are you going to spend New Years? We are not doing anything in camp today to amount to anything. > We were out on picket day before yesterday and came in yesterday morning but we had scarcely got our things put away before we received orders to strike tents and load wagons immediately and be ready for a march. Well we went at it and in a few minutes our knapsacks were packed, our tents struck, and our wagons loaded and we were on the line all ready for a march with three days rations in our havresacks. Well we started off and went about one mile. There we halted and rested about an hour, then we were about faced and marched back into camp but in about half an hour we received orders to be ready in 15 minutes to move camp. Well we waited about an hour and then we got orders to unload wagons and be ready to march by daylight this morning. Well daylight came and we waited till about nine o'clock then we got orders to pitch tents and police our streets. And we are here yet. But the orders came this very moment to move tomorrow morning. The latter I do not think will be countermanded. I think we will move in the morning. I do not know where we will go but I think we will go down to Nolinsville about 15 miles from here and I have no doubt but that we will have a little fight before we get there. But it is scarcely likely that our division will get into the fight for there is troops enough in advance of us to whip all the rebs there is down there. We heard today that Gen. Thomas just more than whiped John Morgan and his gang of cut throats up at Gallatin yesterday. We do not know whether this is true or not but we all hope that it is. We also heard that they have evacuated Fredricksburg and that they are fleeing from before our advanceing armies in every place. I hope all these reports may be true but we have had such good news so often and as often disappointed that we cannot rely upon anything that we hear. But should these reports be true the prospect of peace looks quite flattering at present. But I do not believe them yet nor I dont believe we will have peace very soon neither. I have made up my mind to stay till my three years are up and I believe if I live that even then I will have a chance of reinlisting in this same war. I may be mistaken in this and I hope that I am but I cannot see anything now more than I could a year ago to insure a speedy close of the war. I hear that there is quite a split in the cabinet. I hope it may be for the better. I dont think things have been carried on quite rigid enough. I also heard that there was a likelihood of McClellan being reinstated but I hope this above all other things is not true. If he should be reinstated our government is gone up the spout. It is reported that the president had been shot at three times in the streets of Washington. Bully for the president if he only dont get hurted. Well I received those stamps you sent me. I am very much obliged to you for them. Well Lydia, I must hurry this to a close for the cannons are booming now and we may be called out to fight in a few minutes but I guess it is only our forage train attacked. They attack that nearly every day. They attacked our regt the other day when we were out but you better believe they cut sticks when they saw our cannons come up on the hill and wheel around, hail Columbia but didnt they run. And they attacked us on picket too day before yesterday but a few shots made them skedaddle. I guess I have written all the news so I will close. Please excuse all mistakes and bad writing for I am in a great hurry. Write soon. I remain as ever your brother.

Chas. Santee

Direct Second division  
 Co. C. 34th Regt. Ills. Vols.  
 Camp near Nashville, Tenn.

The number of our brigade is changed and I do not know exactly

what it is or will be but I suppose it will be second. Gen. Johnson is now commanding the division in place of Sills.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Jan. 7th 1863

48  
Friend Lydia

It is with a sorrowful heart this afternoon that I pen these few lines to you. We have had a great fight and a great victory won. I came out without a scratch but am sorry to inform you that your brother, Charlie fell while defending the Stars and Stripes. He was shot dead at the first fire. He was one of the best boys in the 34th and beloved by all that knew him. No doubt you will hear of it before this reaches you. I buried him myself and gave him as good a burial as the circumstance would admit of. He carried the colors in the fight. The color bearer being sick at the time. When the rebels came on us they were 20,000 strong and were commanded by Gen. Hardee. We had no support and when the word was given to retreat the boys broke and fled in all directions. It was a general stampede, A bulls run race. They took me prisoner but while they were taking me away a squad of our cavalry came down on them and they had to save themselves. At night I was ten miles from the battle field. You may stink it strang in my runing but I did not think it safe to halt under that distance. The fight lasted 8 days and was plenty long enough for me. In our company we had 22 wounded, 1 killed and 1 missing. The company is all broke up and I have no more desire to be in the servis. I never did have much and have less now. I wish myself at home again to see my friends and more. Charlie has a Bible and a few other trinkets in his knapsack and also two pictures, yours and Miss Evans and will send them to you when his knapsack comes if you wish them. The weather here is very fine now but during the fight it rained almost every day and night. A full account of the fight you will see in the papers and there is no use in my giving you a full description of the fight because I cant do it. With these few remarks I will Close. My respects to you and the rest of the family. No more. Write soon. From your true friend.

J. H. W.

48  
In camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
January 22nd 1863

James M. Santee  
Grand De Tour, Ills.  
Dear Sir---

Good tidings are ever borne the most rapidly, and ere this the intelligence had reached you through many scources doubtless of the death of your son Charles Santee who fell among the brave at Murfreesboro the 31st of December. Severe illness has prevented me from communicating with you before, but now, as the commanding officer of his company, I cannot forbear to speak of the many good qualities of this young and brave soldier as they have come under my notice during the sixteen months of an active campaign. Always at his post, always prompt, cheerful and obedient he had the respect and love of officers and men. There was no place of honor or danger that called our men that did not find him among the foremost. At Shiloh he especially distinguished himself by his bravery and coolness. In the many lesser actions and skirmishes in which our regiment has participated his good conduct has been noticed by many. In the last great struggle which swept down so many of the brave men of my company, it was not my fortune to participate being prostrate by sickness, but the few who are left of us tell a heroic tale of our color bearer. It was

his lot to bear our ensign and nobly did he stand up amidst the iron storm and leaden tempest that rained upon our regiment. He fell early, and now sleeps upon the field where he acted so nobly. It is better to die at home and surrounded by ones realatives and friends, but it is glorious to fall as did he upon the advanced line, his fact to the for and enshrouded in the folds of the flag which he had borne so gallantly and bravely. We feel his loss greatly in the company, but we know that there are those on whom it falls with more crushing weight. To you I offer the sincere sympathy of myself and my company in your bereavement. We ask to share in the grief occasioned by this sad casualty, for we all knew, loved and respected him.

Truly your friend

Benson Wood  
Capt. Co. C. 34th Ills.

50

East Chester Jan'y 29th 1863

Mr. Santee:  
Dear Sir,

I have read in the Dixon paper the death of corporal Charles Santee and I feel that the least I can do is to tell you I am among the number of those who mourn the loss of that brave soldier. The peace democrats of the north and their darling friends the cursed slave holders of the south may laugh at your grief and say it is only a "mud-sill" that is killed but you can tell those men that your son carried the star spangled banner on the bloody field of Murfreesboro and died there, a hero after God's own heart. Priests may get up in the pulpit and deliver glowing panegerics on what are called the great men of this world, marble columns may show people where the proud men lie buried, but your Charlie needs no priest to sing his praises, no monument of stone to cover him. Let him rest where he fell, his body guarded by the angel of freedom, for whom he was not afraid even to give his life and his happy spirit has found in Heaven the reward which God keeps for those who fight for truth and eternal justice.

I am with great respect Your friend

Wm. Seton  
Captain 4th N. Y. Vols.  
East Chester  
West Chester Co., N. Y.

51

Camp Sills Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Feb. 6th 1863

Dear Friend Lydia

Having just come in from off of picket and recieved your kind and welcome letter. I will now proceed to answer it. Nothing new has transpired since the battle at this place although the rebels pickets are within six miles of this place. We have a skirmish with them every time we go forageing. We can have a fight here at any time but I am not anxious for it after passing through what I have. I am willing to call it quits with them and go home. I dont know whether I will succeed as well in the next fight as I did in this one or not. I can do no more than I did here and that was to put my trust in the Lord. I feel sorry that the death of Charlie has caused such deep gloom over your family but not any more than it is with me. He was a brother to me. You wanted to know what his last words were. I was not close to him but Sergt. Newcomer of Co. H. informs me that when he was struck he asked Charlie if he should help him away. He answered no take the flag I will not need any help and fell. Those were the last words that he was known to utter. He fell as hundreds have fell defending the old flag of our country. On Tuesday night after Emmert,

m

Charlie and myself had lain down to sleep he made this remark. Said he, John Henry tomorrow night we three will not sleep together in one bed and such is the fact. He stated to me that if he fell in the fight he wanted me to bury him. I promised him I would and have fulfilled that promise. Those handkerchiefs that you sent down to him by me I have sent to you by Doc. Hewitt and also his Bible and those pictures. If ever I get home I will come down and give you the full particulars because I cant do it with pen and ink. J. B. Emmert and J. P. Lahman are going to answer your Fathers letters today. With these few lines I will close. Hoping to hear from you soon. From your ever true friend.

J. H. Wingerd

P. S. If anyone comes down after his body, I will assist them all I can as I know where he was buried.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
February 24th, 1863

59  
Esteemed Friend

It is with pleasure this evening that I seat myself to answer your kind and welcome letter which was thankfully recieved. It was not my fault that you did not recieve a letter from me for I wrote you a letter some time ago but I will excuse your liberty. Our brigade has been detached from the division to work on the fortifications at this place. So you see we are armed with pickes and spades and right skillfully we use them. I would much rather use one of them than I would a musket. The works that we are building here are very formidable and if the rebels will hold on for a little while yet till we get ready they may come and bring their whole force with them. We will learn them a lesson that they wont soon forget. Probably they have learned one from us already. It is the impression of the officers here that we are going to be left here. I wish we would for I am getting tired of marching. The weather here is very wet and muddy. It raines almost evry day and night. We dont move around much but are quietly settled down in the mud. Matt Blair recieved your letter a few days ago. I dont know whether he has answered it or not. That is not for me to know. Well Lydia, what do you think of the conscript law? I dont think much of it. Some portions of it I like very well. As for consolidating old regiments I am not in for, but I am in for takeing a furlough home. > You stated in your letter that you wished to recover the body of Charley. I will do all in my power to aid you in getting it. I saw the major this evening and tomorrow he is going to send a request to Gen. Rosencranse to see if he will grant him the liberty of sending him home. It shall be done if it can be done at all. Their will be nothing left undone that can be done. If we send him we will have to send to Nashville to get a coffin for him, which will be some time yet. Glorious news. The pay master is here and he is paying the brigade now. We are looking for the green backs with an anxious eye. They are going to pay us 4 months but their is six months due. J. P. Lahman is answering a letter which he recieved from your Father. As news is scarce I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Give my respects to your folks, andespecialy to yourself. No more. From your ever true friend.

Henry

P. S. I guess the reason why you did not get my other letter was because I directed it to Dixon.

53  
Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn.  
March 13th/63

Esteemed Friend

I hope you will excuse me for writeing to you the second time. J. P. Lahman recieved a letter today from your Father. He will answer

it soon. Tomorrow if the weather will permit we are going out to take the body of Charlie up and send it home. So you need not give yourself any uneasyness about him for he will come through if the rebels dont get possession of the railroad. Lieut. Wagner of Mt. Morris is going to bring him through. We have a zinc coffin for him. The weather here for the past few days has been very fine and warm but I dont think it will remain so long. The works here on the fortifications are progressing slowly, but will eventually be finished if the rebels will hold on a little longer. I think Vicksburg must fall and then they are gone up certain, dont you think they are? They will try and get possession of Kentucky if they can. They had better not come up this way. If they do they will meet with a warm reception. Did you recieve those pictures I send by Doc. Hewitt? Our preacher gave us a very good sermon this afternoon. His text was, The hour has come. I cant tell you where you will find it but I presume it is in the Bible somewhere. I will come down and find it for you when I come home. Last Monday we recieved a box of provision from home. It made us think of the loved ones at home and that they have not forgot us entirely. Long may they live. If the weather will keep dry you may expect to hear of a grand move down here and then woe to the rebels. Give my respects to your Father, Mother, & Brother & yourself also. Please answer soon. No more from your true frined.

Henry

Camp Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
March 19th/63

ⓧ  
Esteemed Friend

I recieved your welcome letter this P.M. and was glad to hear from you and also to hear that the folks were all well. Which is more than I can say. The weather here is very dry and warm. If you was down here you would think we had southern climate. Warm weather in Ill. is not to be com-ared with it. The boys in the company are all well with a few exceptions of the cold. Old Rosey is pushing the works on the fortifications with a little more vigor than here to fore. He is fearful of the rebs pitching in here some morning. I am looking for it myself. Now Lydie, you would not like to see any one hung up by the heels till they are dead, dead, dead. Would you? I believe I should. I would like to see evry copperhead in the north shot at and not mised. If ever I am spared to return home I will knock down or shoot the first man that talks secesh to me. I suppose you have heard of the death of David Sietz of the 75th. He had the measles and died in the hospital in Murfreesboro. I am happy to inform you that the bodie of your brother was shiped from here to Nashville last Monday and will remain there with the undertaker untill the arrival there of Lieut. Wagner. He will leave here next Mnday. Mat Blair and I went out last Monday morning and took him up and had it placed in a zinc case and had it started the same day. I wrote a letter yesterday to your Father stateing the price. I eill mention it in here for fear the letter will not reach him. The price of the zinc case was forty dollars and the express charges from here to Dixon will be thirty dollars which will make seventy, and if Lieut. Wagner can get him through with less money he will go it and if there is any money left it will be given to your father. It will be sent in the care of W. T. House of Dixon. Tell your father that he will dispose of the money as followes. Ten dollars to be paid to Bob Boyds father in Grand Detour, fifteen dollars of Mat. Blairs he is to keep untill further orders, and the remainder to be paid to D. D. Lahman, J. P. Lahman's brother. He resides in Franklin. Tell him to take his own time to pay it as we are not in a hurry and tell him also that we are a thousand times obliged to him for those stamps. J. P. Lahman has

answerd his letters. I dont hardly know what to write. News is not very plenty here. This morning I was down and had my picutre taken and a homely looking think it is. I wish to exchange mine-atures with you if you have no objections. I am sure I have none. Please let me know by the next letter. Give my respects to your folks and to yourself especialy. With these few lines I will close hoping to hear from you soon. When you write direct to Johnsons Division in place of Sills. No more. Write soon. From your true friend.

Henry

Murfreesboro, Tenn April 8th/63

35  
Esteemed Friend

It is with a great degree of pleasure this evening that I take my seat to answer your kind and ever welcome letter. I was glad to hear that Charlies body arrived safe at home. I recieved your Fathers letter this afternoon and Lahman recieved one also from him. The weather here is very fine but the nights are cool. J. B. Emmert has the mumps. He has been sick for three weeks but today he was able to be up. Last night I was over to help serenade Gen. McCook, it being the aniversary of the battle of Shiloh. I remember it well. The Gen. treated us very kindly and invited us over again. Next week we are going to give old Rosy a call. We are still at work on the fortifications. Some of them are finished and have the guns mounted. Some of them are 64 pounders. They would make good pop guns. While I am writeing the boys of Co. C. & H. have a cottilion party in the street and as I cant dance I thought I would write which you know is the best of the two. I am under the impression that the rebellion will soon be crushed out as in other words starved out. I think about 4 months will finish it. The rebs are on half rations down here in this corner and have been for some time. Mat Blair has not been on duty for some time. He sprained his shoulder. How he done it I dont know. I find out that the conscript act dont keep the people from getting married. I hope they will conscript evry one that gets married. Dont you? Well the dance is ended and evry thing is quiet again. We have one of the prettiest camp(s) in the army. It is planted full of cedar trees and the streets are laid out regular and are kept clean. We amuse ourselves mornings and even-ings by playing ball and marbles which you know is a very healthy exercise. There is a game of ball that can be played which is not very healthy, musket and cannon ball for instance. As news is scarce here, I will close hoping to hear from you soon. From your ever true friend.

Henry

36  
Camp Drake, Tenn. May 6th/63

Esteemed Friend

Your kind and ever welcome letter of the 8th of April was duly recieved this p.m. and I make hast to answer it. The weather here for the past few weeks has been extreemly warm but last night it made a great change. Today I have to wear an over coat. It has been misting all day. I would rather it was missed entirely. We are still at work on the fortifications yet. I think we have a summers job of it. You asked me what I thought of the war. Well I will tell you. To use a camp phrase, I think the war is nearly played out. The news from Hookers army are rather encourageing. But I am afraid he will have some hard fighting to do before he can reach Richmond. We are getting them cornered up all over the south. It will be some time before they take this place. Matt Blair is very bad off. He has lost the use of his right arm

Camp near Nashville Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Friends at Home

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. I received your welcome letter last Sabbath evening, it found me in good health and I hope these lines may find you all the same.

Well how are you all getting along up in the Bend how did you spend your Christmas and how are you going to spend New years. We are not doing anything in camp today to amount to anything we were out on picket duty before yesterday and came in yesterday morning but we had scarcely got our things put away before we received orders to strike tents and load wagons immediately and be ready for a march, well we went at it and in a few minutes our knapsacks were packed our tents struck and our wagons loaded and we were on the line all ready for a march with three days rations in our knapsacks, well we started off and went about one ~~mile~~ mile there we halted and rested about an hour.

Gen. Johnson is now commanding the division  
 in place of Allen  
 then we were about forced and marched  
 back into camp but in about half an hour  
 we received orders to be ready in 15 minutes  
 to move camp, well we waited about an  
 hour and then we got orders to unload  
 wagons and be ready to march by daylight  
 this morning, well daylight came and we  
 waited till about nine o'clock then we  
 got orders to pitch tents and police our  
 streets, and we are here yet, but the orders  
 came this very moment to move tomorrow  
 morning the letter I do not think will  
 be countermanded, I think we will move  
 in the morning, I do not know where we  
 will go but I think we will go down to  
 nolinsville about 15 miles from here and  
 I have no doubt but that we will have  
 a little fight before we get there, but  
 it is scarcely likely that our division  
 will get into the fight for there is  
 troops enough in advance of us to whip  
 all the rebs there is down there, we heard  
 today that Gen Thomas just more than  
 whiped John Morgan and his gang of cut  
 throats up at Gallatin yesterday we do not  
 know whether this is true or not, but we  
 all hope that it is, we also heard that  
 they have evacuated Fredricksburg and that

The number of our brigade is changed and I do not know exactly what

it is or will be but I suppose it will be several  
They are fleeing from before an advancing  
- ing armies in every place. I hope all these  
reports may be true but we have had  
such good news so often and as often  
disappointed that we cannot rely upon  
anything that we hear, but should these  
reports be true the prospect of peace  
looks quite flattering at present, but I  
do not believe them yet nor I don't believe  
we will have peace ~~so~~ very soon neither I  
have made up my mind to stay till my  
three years are up and I believe if I live that  
even then I will have a chance of re-enlisting  
in this same war, I may be mistaken in  
this and I hope that I am, but I cannot see  
anything now more than I could a year ago  
to insure a speedy close of the war, I hear  
that there is quite a split in the cabinet  
~~and~~ I hope it may be for the better I don't think  
things have been carried on quite right  
enough I also heard that there was a likelihood  
of McClellan being reinstated but I hope this  
above all other things is not true if he should  
be reinstated our government is gone up the  
spout, it is reported that the president  
has been shot at three times in the streets  
of Washington, bully for the president if he  
only don't get hurt,

Well I received those Stamps you sent me & am very much obliged to you for them,

Well Lydia's must hurry this to a cloe for the cannons are booming now and we may be called out to fight in a few minutes but I guess it is only our forage train attacked they attack that nearly every day they attacked our regt the other day when we were out but you better believe they cut sticks when they saw our cannons come up on the hill and wheel around hail columbia but didnt they run, and they attacked us, on pricket two day before yesterday but a few shots made them skedaddle, I guess I have written all the news so I will close please excuse all mistakes and bad writing for I am in a great hurry, write soon, I remain as ever your Brother

Chas Soule

Direct Second division  
Co. C. 34<sup>th</sup> Regt Ills vols  
Camp near Nashville, Tenn,

Camp near Marfreesboro Tenn Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

1863

Friend Todia.

It is with a sad and  
heart this afternoon that I pen these  
few lines to you. We have had a  
great fight and a great victory won.  
I came out without a scratch, but am  
sorry to inform you that your friend  
Charlie fell while defending the Stars  
and Stripes, he was shot dead at the  
first fire he was one of the best boys in  
the 34<sup>th</sup> and beloved by all that knew  
him, no doubt you will hear of it before  
this reaches you. I buried him myself  
and gave him as good a burial as the  
circumstances would admit of. He carried  
the colors in the fight, the colors bear  
being sick at the time. When the rebels  
came on us they were 20,000 strong  
and were commanded by Gen. Hardee.

we had no support and when the word was given to retreat the boys broke and fled in all directions it was a general stampede, a Bull's Run race. they took me Prisoner but while they were taking me away a squad of our Cavalry came down on them and they had to save themselves, at night I was ten miles from the battle field you may think it strang in my running but I did not think it safe to halt under that distance.

the fight lasted 8 days and was plenty long enough for me, in our company we had 22 wounded & killed and 1 missing the company is all broke up and I have no more desire to be in the service I never did have much and have less now I wish myself at home again to see my friends and more. Charlie has a bible and a few other trinkets in his knapsack and also two pictures  
your and Miss Evans and will send them to you when his knapsack

comes if you wish them. The weather here is very fine now but during the fight it rained almost every day and night A full account of the fight you will see in the papers and there is no use in my giving you a full description of the fight because I can't do it. with these few remarks I will close my respects to you and the rest of the family. no more write soon.

from your true friend  
J. H. W.

Jan 22 1863

Benton  
Wood

COLLECT YOUR REBATE

34th Reg. Illi. Vols.

James M. Sauter  
Grand & Iron  
Cyle Co.  
Illinois



Sheet 2

49. ~~Number 23~~ ~~Open 1863~~

In Camp near Murfreesboro' Tenn.  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

James M. Cantel  
Grand St. Louis Ills.

Dear Sir,

Bad tidings are ever borne  
the most rapidly, and see this the intelligence has reached  
you through many sources doubtless of the death of your son  
Charles Cantel who fell among the brave at Murfreesboro  
the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Some illness has prevented me from  
communicating with you before, but now, as the Command-  
ing officer of his Company, I can not forbear to speak of  
the many good qualities of this young and brave soldier  
as they have come under my notice during the sixteen months  
of an active Campaign. Always on duty, always at  
his post, always prompt, cheerful and obedient he had  
the respect and love of officers and men. There was no place  
of honor or danger that called our men that did not  
find him among the foremost. He shined especially  
distinguished himself by his bravery and coolness.  
In the many lesser actions and skirmishes<sup>in</sup> which our  
Regiment has participated his good conduct has been  
noticed by many.  
In the last great struggle which swept down so many  
of the brave men of my Company, it was<sup>not</sup> my fortune  
to participate being prostrate by sickness, but the

few who are left of us tell a heroic tale of our Col<sup>l</sup> Beard.  
 It was his lot to bear our ensign and nobly did he  
 stand up amidst the iron storm and leaden tempest  
 that rained upon our Regiment. He fell early, and  
 now sleeps upon the field where he acted so nobly.  
 It is better to die at home and surrounded by ones  
 relatives and friends, but it is glorious to fall <sup>as</sup> did  
 he upon the advanced line, with his face to the foe  
 and enshrouded in the folds of the flag which he  
 had borne so gallantly and bravely. We feel his loss  
 greatly in the Company, but we know that there are  
 those on whom it falls with more crushing weight.  
 To you I offer the sincere sympathy of myself and  
 my company in your bereavement. We ask to share  
 in the grief occasioned by this sad casualty, for we all  
 knew, loved and respected him.

Truly Yours Friends

Amos Wood

Capt. Co. "E." 34<sup>th</sup> Ills.

East Chester. Jan'y 29<sup>th</sup>. 1863.



Mr Santee:

Dear Sir, I have read in the Dixon paper the death of Corporal Charles Santee and I feel that the least I can do is to tell you I am among the number of those who mourn the loss of that brave soldier. The Peace Democrats of the North and their darling friends the cursed slave holders of the South may laugh at your grief and say it is only a "mud-sill" that is killed. But you can tell those men that your son carried the Star spangled banner on the bloody field of Murfreesboro, and died there, a hero after Gods own heart. Prayers may

the pulpit, and deliver  
sermons on what are  
great men of this  
ble columns may  
- where the proud  
reel - But your Chark  
rest to sing his  
monument of stone  
in. Let him rest  
all - his body guard  
l of Freedom - for  
was not afraid even to  
le - and his happy  
found in Heaven  
which God keeps  
who fight for

Eternal Justice,  
I am with great respect

Your friend

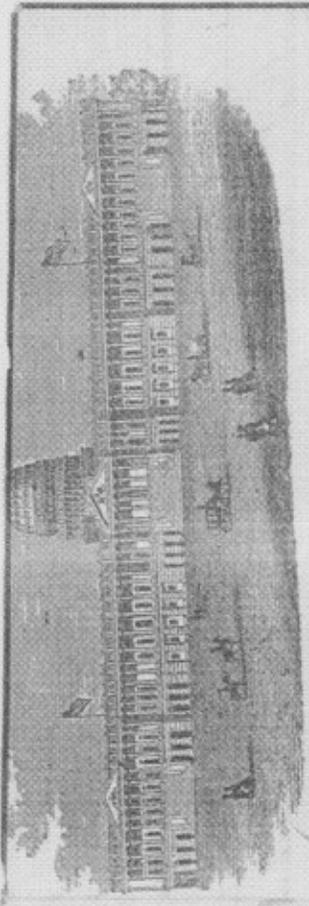
Wm. Letor  
Captain 4th N. Y. Vol

East Chester  
First Chester Co.  
N. Y.

51 of Murphree's 1863

1. The water was not  
highly mineralized  
as it was in the  
other wells.

Comptroller Murphree  
Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to  
acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 21st  
inst. in relation to the  
water of the place  
above mentioned. I  
will be glad to  
furnish you with  
any information  
that may be  
of service to you.  
Very respectfully,  
J. M. Murphree





glarium needs. The Coy Master is there and he is paying the brigade now, we are looking for the green backs with an anxious eye they are going to pay us 4 months but their is six months due. J. B. Lakman is answering a letter which he received from your Father, as needs is scarce I will close hoping to hear from you soon give my respects to your folks, and especially to your mother, no more

From your ever true friend

Henry

P.S. I guess the reason why you did not get my other letter was because I directed it to Dixon

Camp near Maypurbow Lem.

February 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

Esteemed Friends,

It is with pleasure this evening that I seat myself to answer your kind and welcome letter which was thankfully received.

It was not my fault that you did not receive a letter from me for some time ago, but you a letter some time ago, but I will excuse your liberty. Our brigade has been detached from the Division to work on the fortifications at this place so you see we are armed with pikes and pikes and right skillfully we use them. I would much rather use one of them than I would a musket, the works that we are building

Here are very formidable and if the  
rebels will, shall in a little while  
get till we get ready they may come  
and bring their whole force with them  
we will learn them a lesson that  
they won't soon forget, probably they  
have learned one from us already?  
It is the impression of the officers  
here that we are going to be left  
here, British side would for I am getting  
tired of marching. The weather here  
is very wet and muddy, it rains  
almost every day and might side can  
move around much but are quietly  
settled down in the mud. Matt.  
Blair received your letter a few days  
ago I don't know whether he has  
answered it or not, that is not for  
me to know. Well Lydia what

<sup>the</sup> do you think of <sup>the</sup> conscript. I  
don't think much of it, some portions  
of it I like very well as for consolidating  
old regiments I am in for that I am  
in for taking a furlough home.  
you stated in your letter that you  
wished to receive the body of Sharley  
I will do all in my power to aid you  
in getting it. I saw the Major this  
evening and tomorrow he is going  
to send a request to Gen. Beauregard  
to see if he will grant him the  
liberty of sending him home it shall  
be done if it can be done at all. There  
will be nothing left undone that  
can be done. if I send him  
I will have to send to Nashville  
to get a coffin for him which  
will be some time yet.

Camp near Myrtleboro N.C.

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Esteemed Friend

I hope you will excuse me for writing to you the second time. S. P. Lehman received a letter to day from your father. He will answer it soon. Tomorrow if the weather will permit we are going out to take the body of Charlie up and send it home so you need not give yourself any messengers about him, for he will come through if the rebels dont get possession of the rail road. Lieut. Wagner of Mt. Morris is going to bring him through. We have a fine coffin for him. The weather here for the past few days has been very fine and warm but I dont think it will

remain so long. The works here will keep dry, you see  
the Antislavery are progressing slowly of a grand more due  
but will eventually be finished if the  
rebels will hold on a little longer  
I think Lieberberg must fall and then  
they are gone up certain, don't you  
think they are? they will try and get  
possession of Kentucky if they can  
they had better not come up this  
way if they do they will meet with  
a warm reception. Did you receive  
those pictures sent by Geo. Hewitt?

Our Breches gave us a very good  
sermon this afternoon. His text was,  
"He that has ears." I can't tell you  
where you will find it but I presume  
it is in the bible. Some where. I will  
come down and find it for you when  
I come home. Last Monday we received  
a box of Prussian fram hams, it made  
us think of the Lowlanders at home and  
that they have not forgot us entirely.  
Long may they live. If the weather

I don't hardly know what to write, news is  
not very plenty here. This morning I was  
down and had my picture taken and a  
shameful looking thing it is, I wish to  
exchange mine with you if you  
have no objections, I am sure I shall none  
please let me know by the next letter.  
Give my respects to your folks, and  
to yourself, especially, with their few lines  
I will close, hoping to hear from you  
soon, when you write direct to

Kahnsans Division, in place of  
Dills. no more, write soon  
from your true friend

Henry  
S

Camp Murfreesboro Tenn

March 18<sup>th</sup> / 60

Esteemed Friend

I received your  
welcome letter this P.M. and was  
glad to hear from you, and also  
to hear that the folks were all well,  
which is more than I can say.

The weather here is very dry and warm  
if you was down here you would  
think we had Southern climate.  
warm weather in Ill. is not to be compared  
with it. The boys in the company are  
all well with a few exceptions of the  
cold. Old Casey is pushing the  
works on the fortifications with a  
little more vigor than heretofore  
he is fearful of the rebels pitching in  
here some morning, I am looking  
for it myself now to be you would.

mention it in here for fear the letter  
 will not reach him. The price of  
 the game was when forty dollars  
 and the expenses changed from here to  
 Boston will be thirty dollars with  
 make twenty, and if Great Britain  
 can get him through with less money  
 he will do it and if there is any money  
 left it will be given to your father.  
 it will be sent in the care of Mr. J. Howe  
 of Boston. Tell your father that he will  
 drop out of the money as he wishes. Then  
 determine to be paid to the Royal  
 father in Great Britain fifteen dollars  
 of Mr. Blair he is to sleep while  
 further orders and the remainder to  
 be paid to G. G. Fakhman of J. J.  
 Fakhman brother, he resides in Franklin  
 still him to take his own time to  
 pay it as he can not in a hurry, and  
 tell him also that he is a thousand times  
 obliged to him for them things.

not like to see any one hung up by the  
 heels till they are dead, dead, dead  
 about your decision of choice. It  
 would like to see any ~~emphatic~~  
 in the matter that at and not make,  
 if we do not return home  
 of us to knock down or about the first  
 man that talks seems to me.  
 of Nathan you have heard of the death  
 of David Wright of the 75th he had  
 the measles and died in the hospital  
 in New Bedford. I am happy to inform  
 you that the death of your brother  
 was shifted from here to Massachusetts  
 East Monday and will remain there  
 with the undertaker until the arrival  
 of Great Britain, she will leave  
 here next Monday. Mr. Blair and  
 I went out last Monday morning and  
 took him up and had it cleared  
 in a game case and had it put in  
 the same day, I made a colloquy  
 to your father stating the price.

54 Camp N'bord TN 18 May 1863

slen



Murphy's Bone Stem

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Esteemed Sister

It is with a great degree of pleasure this evening that I take my seat to write you a few lines and send them to you. I was glad to hear that you are steadily improving at home. I received your father's letter this afternoon, and I have received a great deal of pleasure from it. The weather here is very fine, but the nights are cool. J. B. Emmet has three weeks spent today he was able to do so. Last night I was over to sleep. Remind me to look it long the anniversary of the battle of Shiloh. I remember it well. The Gen. treated me very kindly and visited me

✓ I wish we are going to. Will command every one that gets  
I call. We are still nervous about you. All the same  
the participants, some is ended and any thing is quiet again  
I wish we had the the same one of the forested camp in  
ice, some of them are the army it is planted full of cedar  
they would make good trees and the birds are said out  
like I am enjoying the. Vegetables, and are kept clean, all  
4. H. <sup>the</sup> Scottish part. Annual exercises morning and  
1 and as I can dance evenings by playing ball and  
sawed about which you marked which you know is a very  
best of the two. I am healthy exercise there is a game  
position that the relation of staff that can be played, which  
be worked out as in so not very healthy. Now bet, and  
I would not I think common death, has in which, so now  
who will provide it in some show I will leave hoping  
an half nations learn to hear from you have  
I cannot and have been from you ever since I came  
time. But Blair has  
but his same time he  
shoulder's than the same  
are? I find out that the  
and keep the people  
of services, I hope they

Henry