

Camp on Stone River
January 21st 1863

Dear Wm and Mary

I received your kind Letter last evening in
answer to one that I wrote to you ^{from} ~~at~~ Nashville
from my ^{Regiment} ~~Regiment~~ for
the first time in nearly two years but I did
not allow myself to stay away long as
you no that I stated in my letter that
Percy Craig had marched to the front and
also my Regt and I was determined if they
engaged the Enemy to go to the front and
if fighting there was I was resolved to partici-
pate and while I was ^{present} ~~present~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~
thought the ~~news~~ ^{news} came that our right
had ~~arranged~~ ^{arranged} giving away that Gen
Johnson had allowed his Command to be ~~surprised~~
surprised early Wednesday morning and that
giving the Enemy chance to make his entire
left upon our Centre throwing our Division
in immediate peril and danger but our
Boys maintained their position although
blood was flowing as a mighty River
from the veins of Americas best and
bravest Jones my Col had fallen the
bravest of the brave while my Regiment
was charging upon an entire Georgia
Brigade. he fell while waving his hat
in one hand and sword in the other



Cherish his men on to Victory I should
go in 21st and go into them and as the Regt
began to show more Courage he would
yell down with them my Boys and
on they rushed, but they could not stand
our glistening Bayonets and
they ran inglorious run out number
ing my Regiment four to one but we
lost our Gallant Col. and let every
True American lament his Death
he was Commanding our Brigade and
Comission was sent for as Brigadier
As I am told his name was
Capt. ~~Phillips~~ ~~to a man that I loved~~

~~of the 1st Battalion~~
This transpired ~~Wednesday~~ and when I heard
that my Commander was Dead I was
determined to go to my Regiment at once
and I went to Genl Michel Commanding
the Post and I would know my ~~the~~
wishes but he said I could not go but
I insisted on going and he told me that
there was danger going out as the enemy
Cavalry were prowling in the rear of our
Army then I told him that I could raise
a Company of Convalescents and he told me
if I could get a Company of 25 I might
go so I went to Genl Comission officers
that I was acquainted with and before
3 hours we had a Good Regiment to accompany

John W Shoemaker private, in Capt Richards Co D, 42 ILL INFANTRY

Born Penn Yan, County of Yates, New York @1842

He had 3 brothers Home in 1850 Jerusalem, NY Home in 1860 Elmira, NY

Age 20 5'10' light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, farmer,

Enrolled in Kankakee, ILL Aug 3 , 1861

Mustered in Chicago ILL Sept 17, 1861

Corporal Jan-May 1862 then demoted to private

SERVICE RECORD STATES:

Reported sick Jan & Feb 1862

Reported sick Aug 18, 1862

Reported sick at Nashville Dec 27, 1862

Reported sick Jan & Feb 1863

Reported sick Nov 1863- Sick at Chattanooga TN since Nov 25, 1863

Wounded in battle of Mission Ridge

Reported absent Jan & Feb 1864 Sick at Chattanooga, Tn since Nov 25, 1863
(wounded)

Report 1865 wounded in right hand at battle of Mission Ridge Nov 25, 1863,
killed in action near Lost Mountain, GA June 15, 1864

Pension states:

Died of wounds received in skirmish near Marietta June 15th 1864

Muster roll reports him killed in action at Lost Mountain, GA June 15th 1864

Pension reports him killed at Kennesaw Mountain of a gunshot wound.

September 1875 Anna Shoemaker applies for Mother's pension in the county of
Bureau, ILL

October 1881 Anna Shoemaker applies for Mother's pension in the county of
Nodaway, MO. Father's name is John Shoemaker, parents married 1833

42nd ILL

Left state for St. Louis, Mo., September 20, 1861. Attached to Dept. of Missouri, to February, 1862. Flotilla Brigade, Army of Mississippi, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army Miss., to September, 1862. 1st Brigade, 13th Division, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Right Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland to January, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 4th Army Corps to June, 1865.

- Department of Missouri: September 1861 - February 1862
- Army of the Mississippi: February 1862 - November 1862
- Army of the Cumberland: November 1862 - August 1865

History of the 42nd ILL, engaged at the fight for Island No 10, April 1862; engaged at the siege of Corinth, MS 1862; engaged at the battle of Stones River 1862; engaged at the Chickamauga Campaign, 1863; engaged at the battle of Mission Ridge, 1863; engaged in the Atlanta Campaign, 1864; engaged at the battle of Franklin, TN 1864; engaged at the battle of Nashville, TN 1864; spent winter in Northern Alabama 1865 before returning to Nashville at the end of the war.