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Otter, William

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Knoxville Feb 5th 1864

Dear Sister

I received your letter on the 28th ult. I should have answered it before only for my wound which has been very painful and made hard work for me to write I am glad to inform you that I am fast recovering I think in two weeks I shall be fit for duty all been & well you have probably given yourself some trouble if you have heard of my misfortune but you know that such things can not be helped in war time. My wound was not at all serious simply a flesh wound in my arm it is nearly dry now though it formerly as discharged a large quantity

I hope there will be no serious draft
in Wisconsin I have enlisted as
a veteran and I think I shall
be home on a furlough in a
short time as you know I must
return South before peaches are
ripe. There is little or nothing to
do here no news a few dismount-
ed men here that's all if I had
a horse I might be with the
reg. where I might see the en-
emy every day and exchange
shots but as there is no com-
missioned officer in command
of the company it is not at
all desirable in this condition
of affairs my horse was shot at
Dandridge on the same day with
me as if he would ever share
my misfortunes in war he
was ever a faithful friend to me
and I miss him wonderfully
I do not seem very contented

It here now but I hope I shall
be more ~~so~~ soon.

P.S. Give my love to
Mother tell her I hope soon
not to see her but ~~it~~ it will only be
for a little while I suppose she
will be loath to part with me
again but I dont see how it
will be helped as I am bound
to put off the armour as well
as to put it on although I sup-
ose that I could not make
her more happy or comfortable
if I were at home yet I do
not think a volunteer army
will be required after this
year as the spring campaign
it must carry the war into Geor-
gia Alabama and Carolina
North and south and I am
certain that they can not
stand the pressure their im-
derpining being already

rotten as may be seen from
many important facts
I must conclude I
Remain as ever your
affectionate Brother

William Otter
1st Wis. Cav.
1st Div. 2nd Brig.
1st Cav Corps.
Department of the
Cumberland



Knoxville Tennessee

Feb 23rd 1864

Dear sister

I hope this will find you in good health and fine spirits as it leaves me at present the wheather here has been fine for some time back but to day it is a little missy and rainy but we are nice and dry and comfortable I wish that every soldier could say so how happy it would make me to know it but there are thous ands who are out in the storm and who will have no shelter to night except the canopy of heaven for a covering and scarcely any thing to eat or drink except such as nature afords but they are

hardened like myself to
the hardships of war and
stimulated by the love of home
and victory the true principal
of a soldier obedience to order
and law dear sister I suppose
you think the time long and
lonesome I hope the dark hour
will soon pass and the sun
again shine with all her for
mer splendor and beauty
the Eagle again soar up to
the sun as in former times
and there be a new relation
between the slave and mas
ter when hostilities shall
cease and brother no long
er lift up his hand a
gainst brother when
commerce from her bonds
of oppression set free
shall link nation to
nation and sea into

sea then will the old
state arm hang in the ar
senal untouched and the
mules burden be lightened
and the ax and spade no lon
ger be used on the defences
but all will be harmony
and love the tears of the
widow and the orphan will
cease to flow in turrents be
caused their loved ones have
been swept of by the power
of gunpowder and cold
steel I know that the storm
is terriffic the ship groans
beneath the presure of the
gale and the swell of the
sea but it is all ways the
worst just before the calm
the storm is near over there
must be a lul and then
will come peace and tran
quility do not fear keep

good courage and all will
yet be well remember
that true loyalty to the
government is the only sure
means of true happiness and
sure and protected firesides
without our ship of state we
should be lost our little
life boats would be dashed
to peices in an instant
and we should be lost
Good by this time with
my kiss from your
affectionate Brother

Wm Otter
1st Miss Cas
Knoxville
Tennessee.

Knoxville Tennessee

Feb 24th 1864

Dear Sister

I hope this letter will find you in good health as it leaves me at present I have not heard from you since I last wrote but I thought I would not wait as I am so far improved in my condition respecting my late wound as to be fit for light duty I dont know exactly what time I shall be home as I have not my descriptive roll here and I can not go to any reg. untill I can be again mounted and horses are very scarce here and provinder still scarce Troops still live on half rations Longstreet is said to be retreating though not officially

affirmed get our Infantry
are moving from this point
I think it very probably that
he is moving thro to some other
point it is also reported that
Beaufort's command has gone
in to his rear across the
big smoky mountains and
cut of his railroad connection
yet I do not believe this report
as the last I heard from Beau-
fort he was on his way to
Kentucky to recruit his com-
mand for a spring campaign
however he manages to get
the honour of every battle
that is fought in this de-
partment whether his com-
mand is engaged in the ac-
tion or whether they are 40
miles from the place at the
time of the engagement and
I do believe that there are

two reg. in our Brigade
that can clean out his
whole command there is
much more in blowing than
in fighting as there is not
half as much danger in
that branch of the service
sister I have not much to
write to you as I suppose
you are as comfortable as
I can make you it is impossible
for me to write as often as I
wish yet my sister as I
love and esteem you as a
brother I promise to write
as often as I can make it
convenient but you must
remember that the contin-
ual moving of Cavalry
and the reverses of the
elements render it an
almost utter impossibil-
ity to carry writing mater-
ial

I am as ever your true
Friend and affectionate
Brother William Otter
Co D 1st Wis Cav
2nd Brig 1st Div
Cav command
Department of the
Cumberland

P.S. The weather is fine
and balmy as June in
Wisconsin and I think
our winter is past nothing
more to fear only the spring
rains and the heat of this
climate

E.H. OWEN

Nashville Tenn Oct 15th 64

Dear Sister

You may think perhaps that I have not wrote to you as often as I might I hope you will excuse me as it as been impossible to receive any letters from you I have no news to write I hardly know what to write give my respects to Mother and I think you can address me by sending it to nashville Zollicoffer Barracks and also if you see Nellie in a day or two after you get this tell her where to find me also tell her not to send me any books untill she hears from me again dear sister I am in excellent health and hope this rebellion will soon

be at an end so we can
enjoy ourselves in civil life
tell me all the news you
know when you write and
write as soon as possible
for time is uncertain with
me here tell me about aunt
and all my old friends at
Brandon they are not
forgotten I dont write often
er because that my mode
of life is after unhapply
and uncomfortable to
me and I dont want to
mar's your peace of mind
with my troubles I am
very truly your affectionate

Brother William Otter

Zollicoffer Barracks
Nashville

to M A Otter

Tennessee

When you write please to
let me know if Mother has
got My master out rolls and
where she is living and also
if there is any thing else I
can do for her comfort
you can tell whether she
will need any more money
before spring it may be
a long time before I get pay
again I am prepared for money
for my own use no more
this time from y - - - -
20 17

EMORY

When you write please to
let me know if you
get the report out well
which one is living and
if there is anything else
can do for the company
you can let me know
I will send you more
before you get it out
I hope that report get
again I am prepared for
you can use as much
the time you
L. E.