

Folder 1: Jacob S. Holtz Correspondence - 164th OVI. Co. H

Fort Strong

Arlington Hights [Heights], VA

Dear Brothers,

It is Sunday here and I have been out a visiting. I was up to General Derusey [?] head quarters. Wilber Lee is there he is ambulance driver he has a good time there. He has nothing to do but to take the sick to the hospital. He has had nothing to do yet I got my dinner there I tell you he lives well. I tell you we have had hard living for a couple of days we have [?] enough but we have a couple of cooks that cook what they please. What they do with the rest I do not know. It is not the fault of the officers we have good officers. I drew rations the other day myself now I know what we have. If we do not get it we will have a mess this morning. I came off guard and went to my breakfast and they had a piece of bread, a piece of fat meet [meat], and a cup of coffee. This is the first time I have to complain but we are going to have it right. We had some of that butter and apple butter that we brought from Cleveland until yesterday. Mr. Beymers folks are going to send a box Bitt and Jeff Raymond are going to have things sent. Beymer asked me if you would send some things. So we concluded to let them send them after that is gone. Egberts, Tom Park and me would have one sent. Beymer said if you went to Clyde you could take something down but it makes no difference about that. I tell you the sounded men in George town are dying fast I was down to the grave yard the other day and there was 9 coffins. There with men in them. To day I was down and there was five and about 20 Irish and Niggers at work burying. I Saw Uncle Si to day he is all right I received a letter with that receipt in it and last night one with stamps I am well and feel first rate. The weather is very warm, corn is up nice but awful poor farming sheep are sheared, Niggers are plenty, Strawberrys are ripe and all sick dink. I must close. Write often and tell me how the wiliam fence is.

Direct as before except the fort leave this off it need not be on.

J. S. Holtz

Camp Cleveland

May 5, 1864

Dear Folks,

We are here all safe and sound. We arrived here last night about 1 o'clock we found good quarters. They are house white washed it is a nice camp. We was the first Company on the ground we did not find a man here. We busted the things open and went in. Now we are about fixed I have nothing to say only I am all right. I will let you know more next time. I am going to Drury a over coat and send this one home.

No more,

J. S. Holtz

Write and Ed and [?] and me sleep together.

Camp Cleveland

May 6, 1864

Dear Brother Charles,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that we are all right. We have nice weather and a more beautiful Camp is not be found. We can see to the city from where we are and about 5 rods from the Camp is a Great large Seminary. There is 15 of our boys on Guard to day. The boys feel all right. There is two letters in the Tiffin post office for me, send them to me. We are drilling to day we are consolidated with the 78 and Sg Batt under Col Blake. I shall write every couple of days. So I will close.

Direct to Co. A. 83rd Batt N. G. Camp Cleveland Cleveland Ohio in care of Capt. [?].

J. S. Holtz

Camp Cleveland Ohio

Sunday

Dear Father and all the rest, I am well only a little sleepy I was Sargeant [Sergeant] of the Guard and May was Corporal of the Guard. Him and we had charge of one relief. I tell you we don the thing up in order. I placed the Guards and then May he would run the fellows down that run Guard. We are having a big time. Generally they have toin Company all to Seces they are going to have a big time. Dan is at home now, he is going to Columbus. I tell you our officers stand up to them they are mustering them in to day that is the other Companies. We are in the 68 Reg Co A there is 21 of us in the Company the other boys are Scattered around, where they are mustering our boys will not go in there is more of us. Going in with out they put us back in our Company Col Ford is an old [?] the boys as good as told him So (that is Norm and Dan and Walt) they Stand right to them. It looks as though I would get home. I do not know how it will be they are examining to day I was just looking at them they threw out a good many. I want to go if we go as a Company if not I shan't go.

I must Close

J. S. Holtz

Saturday Eve

Dear Father,

We are [?] for a start. I drew an over coat and thought it was too nice to wear. So you set it and keep it for me. It will be at Elias Jacksons at Green Springs as soon as a we stop. I will write.

Yours Jacob S. Holtz.

Camp Cleveland

Dear Mother,

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear from you [?] and John Egbert and Mr Bonnell has just arrived. Old Jerry pitches in big about swearing in I do not know how it will be yet but we will stand up to them till the last. Mr Titus was here this morning he done all he could for us. Dan has his Commission.

I had my photographs taken that coat makes me look a little awkward but I could not get to town with out the shoulder straps as commissioned officer passes out any time. So I had to put on rits drowns coat they will do first rate I think.

I must close. I do not know what we will do yet. As soon as I know I will let you know.

The Old fellow

J. S. Holtz

Camp Cleveland

May 14, 1864

Dear Father Mother and brothers,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and feel first rate. As long as I feel so I will you so but as soon as I do not feel so or get sick I will let you know, you may be shure [sure] of that.

We expect to leave any time now. We are to report to General Auger at Washington our boys feel good. I hope we will feel so all the time [?]. Drown Came back this morning you need not write until I write again then I want you to write often it has been special cold here to day it is getting warmer now.

I must close. Send this to [?].

Yours

J. S. Holtz

Washington D.C.

May 17, 1864

Dear Father Mother and Brothers,

We arrived in Washington about 1 hour ago we left Cleveland. On Saturday Evening marched to Cleveland in the rain and mud then took the cars about 8 o'clock. Then Nute and me went to sleep and when we awake we was in Dimkirk. N.J. got our breakfast and started and in the evening was at Elmira, N.Y changed cars and went to sleep in the morning was at Williams Port Penn got breakfast and started. In the evening was little York Penn got super and started. Arrived at Baltimore at 1 o'clock at night remained there until 11 o'clock to day. Started for Washington arrive here at 4 o'clock. I tell you as well as I would like to be at home. I would not have missed the trip for a good deal. Such hills and streams of water I never saw. I will tell you all about it when I get home. I saw a man in Baltimore this morning who said he knew you, his name was Faulkner. I do not know what we are going to do. I like it first rate. I am well I have not been sick at all. I want you to go to Doc Gibson and get the receipt for that stuff he made for me it is the best thing for Diarea [Diarrhea]. I spilt a lot of mine and sent the receipt to me. We are in good quarters here. Now I want you to write direct to Co. H 164 regt O.N.G. Care of Capt Hunsberger via Washington, D.C. we have first rate officers. Our Second Lieut acts a good deal like Isac Rule. The boys are good fellows we get along. First rate together.

Write Soon

J.S. Holtz

Well Peat and Benj, I want you to tell Susy and [?] we [?] and Aunt Fonsy if you see her how to direct. I wrote them when I was in Cleveland and tell them to write and tell all the rest to write. I tell you I saw some nice pine trees. Some of us rode on top of the cars and when the cars stoped [stopped] to water we got out and cut bushes bigger than any we have and put them on top of the cars. They looked nice I tell. When we come home Norm and me are going to hook a little dog and bring him along. We saw some [?] ones. I must close. J.S. Holtz

Write Soon

The corn is up and the rye is in head wheat looks about like ours.

Baltimore, M.D.

Dear Father Mother and Brothers,

We are in Baltimore this morning. We arrived here last night at 1 o'clock put up for the night. We are going to Washington. This morning it is worth any ones time and wages to come here the way we came such beautiful senery [scenery] I never Saw before. I am well and feel first rate. As soon as settle I will write and tell you how to direct that over coat. Cost \$5. We have the best kind of officers. I must Close and get ready to go.

Yours.

J. S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury VA

Dear Folks,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and feel first rate. Yesterday we came from Washington and arrived here last night. We are in Arlington Heights and guard Fort Woodbury. It is a beautiful place we can see down on the city of Washington if I only keep. Well I would not have missed this for a good deal. I was at General Lees (rebel) house yesterday it is a beautiful place. I wish you could be here to see us, we have as good quarters as our kitchen and good bunks to sleep in. They are better that my bed that I had at home 2 sleeps in one bunk. Courtney and me sleeps to together. There is a good stream of soft water here and nice grove of trees about like the at Mr Dunages. Our regiment is divided in divisions of 2 companys wach [watch] and placed in the forts. The forts are about ½ mile apart we can run around and go down to the river some of the boys are fishing to day. I will tell you more next time I will send a dollar home. It will not go here I got it in York and I want you to send me some stamps. It is so much trouble to get them here I can get ever thing else. Here my address is Co H, 164th Reg O.V.I Fort Woodbury Derusseys Division via Washington, D.C. Tell all the folks to write not to wait till I write I cannot write to all first.

No more this time.

J.S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury

May 23, 1864

Dear Father,

Bitt Drown and me took a notion we would have the Tiffin Tribune sent here. We want you to have it sent. Send the dollar times when ever you can. We are well and feel first rate. Bitt has burnt his fingers with tender. I want you folks to write once a week. Any how I am going to town Wednesday and get me a pair of shoes my feet is little sore the mail is going. I must close.

Direct Co. H 164 reg O.V.I Derusseys Division Fort Woodbury via

Washington D.C.

J. S. Holtz

Arlington Heights, VA

May 26, 1864

Dear Father Mother Brother and Sisters,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I have not received a letter from home. I have received but one since I came here that was from McMeens. The boys received some. I tell you I was on guard yesterday. Standing Guard is here is nothing to what it was in Cleveland. We just stand around in the fort and watch the guns and the Picket Guard is easy all they have to do is to examine the passes of the folks passing the road. We have a first rate Company our Capt is a plain common man he does not feel above us. He will wallow around with any of us, him and me had a wallow the other day he does not wear his feathers and all his rigging only when he must. Our Second Leuit [Lieutenant] is a quiet man a good deal like Isac Rule was and Norm you know hem. The boys are all pretty good there is a few that are hard cases they quarrel and swear. I have not swore, drank whisky or played cards here is a good chance to learn them all. You need not fear for me I am well and feel first rate. The boys are well

except George Strichling he got to complaining and his spirit does not rais. I wish you would write him a cheering letter. Do not let him know that I wrote this. I want you to send me \$10 I guess you will think I spend a good deal of money. We was used hard last week we did not get half enough to so we had to bye [buy] there was an old Colonel came in here and took Col Stem place. Lee was Brigadier but Lee has hot his place again he took command of the Brigade yesterday. Things will go better now I have a dollar that will not go here. I got it when I got the other that I sent home. I forgot to send it. I must Close. Write Soon.

J.S. Holtz

Tell Till to send me her picture.

Fort Woodbury

Washington Heights, VA

Dear Brother,

I received your most welcome letter yesterday and Shell Miller wanted me to write to Billy So I thought I could do both at once I was glad to hear that you folks was getting along So well your folks must not work to hard while I am gone I am well I feel bully I got a letter from Aunt Fons and Alice Reynolds I tell you it done me good when I got your letters I want you to write often It will shorten our time about a week I wrot a letter to Oliver Holtz yesterday it is fun to go on Picket we go about 2 miles out Near Fairfax Court Hours Beymers and Bitts Box is in Washington Now he got the Bill of it yesterday if I want any thing I will let you know I guess I must close. Write often I write often enough I think but it does me good to write home.

Good Bye

J. S. Holtz

Barny to Stumpy

Arlington Hights, VA

June 2, 1864

Well Shonny I thought I would you a few lines to let you know what I am doing. I have been fishing Shell Miller and me went Down to the river I caught 5 Some big ones you aught to be here then you could fish Enough it only about 10 rods from our house Courtney is a to Cook then they will make the best meal I have had for a week there is plenty of Strawberries here but there is So many to Gather them that a fellow Cannot Get many them Some talk among the men about our being Sent home the last of this month but I Guess it will be rather Doubtful we Cannot get a great Deal of news here all we got is the war news but that is good now I hope it will Get better we get a paper from Washington but it is pretty near Secesh then we get the Philadelphia Enquirer that Gives us pretty good news this Washington paper is Called the morning Chronicle there is am and fellow Comes Every morning with it you will hear him hollor before you see him the morning Chronicle the rebels in a hell of a fix they got not any breakfast now when we See him Coming we Commence to hollor that at him I want you to write often and all the rest to write I like to hear from home and I like to write home now do not forget it I got a letter last Saturday from home Write Soon and let me know if you got that over coat and give me all the news you boys or father got that money that not from giddings and do what you Please with it.

J. S. Holtz

Arlington Hights [Heights]

June 5, 1864

Dear father Mother and Brothers,

I received your most welcome letter last night in which I found \$5 I have received all your letters I one from Tillie Friday night I also received one from Bye last night I tell you it Does me good to get a letter from the People at home I went on Guard last Friday night and at Friday noon we had nothing to eat but Molases and bread and it Gave me the Diarea I tell you I got sick Friday night Raymond took my place on Guard and I took a Dose of pills and in the morning I was a Good Deal better Docter yingling Comes around Every morning and he gave me one Dose of Stuff and this morning I am about right again if I had Something good to Eat it would go first rate I went down to breakfast this morning and they had nothing but sou belly and Bread So I went to the Eating house where the officers board and got some good Coffee and a Piece of Pie and now I feel first rate I tell you Courtney is a good man to have along so is Strichling Strichling is all right again I hope Beymers Box of apple butter will Come Soon for I want

something good to Eat Co.I received a box yesterday we can get milk for 5 cts a Pint about 10 rods from our house it is good milk I tell you good and fresh I get a pint once and a while it is the best thing I can get we have first rate Bread that is about the only good thing we have I could not get my bitters until yesterday I Sent over to town with Bitt and he got all but the whisky they would not sell him they would not sell him any whisky So I told Doc yingling about it this morning and he Gave me an order that will make them Sell it I want you to write Soon and tell me all the news I have nothing more our time was one third out yesterday.

No more.

J.S. Holtz

Tell Tom to Stay at home and help do the work they can not make him come.

Saturday Eve

Dear father,

We are packing for a Start I Drew an Over coat and thought it was too nice to wear So you get it and keep it for me it will at Elias Jacksons at Green springs as Soon as we stop I will write.

Yours J.S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury

Arlington Heights, VA

June 8, 1864

Dear Folks,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and feel first rate this morning Courtney is Complaining a little he is around I got my whiskey yesterday what do you think it cost me just my flask full it only cost me a Dollar and the other Stuff that I put in it Cost a Quarter Every thing in Washington is so high Eggs 3 for ten cts Butter fifty Cts Courtney and

me got a bottle of Pepper sauce this morning for our sou belly it is the Pure Stuff I tell you it makes it go a deal better. Now I want you to write and let me know if there any talk at home about our getting home in 60 days there is such talk here Col Lee has said he would get us home in that time to harvest that is the talk here but there is So much talk we Canot get any news here that we can beleave about Such things we get the news about the Fighting all Straight and that is all the news we do get that we can beleave we expect to hear this morning Old Abe is Candidate for President that will be good news to the boys Tom Parks got a letter from home yesterday they the report there was that we took a vote to go to the front and that Every man was for it But Jim Stinchcomb now that is one of the biggest lies that Ever was we have never taken a vote and I don't think we will if we do I will let you know the result they are not going to run us to the front Col Lee Says he has taken us as far as he wants to but Some must talk it makes me mad to hear Some of them talk they will Start a report just to talk last night one of fool said Grant had fell back to the White house that raised an awful talk and there is nothing of it

I want you to write Sam Bitt said you should be shure and keep that lamb for him have many lambs we got and how much wool have we got I must lose for this time be Shure and write soon.

J. S. Holtz

I got a letter from home last Saturday I expect we are to stay.

Yours for the Union.

Fort Woodbury

June 9, 1864

Dear Father Mother Brothers and all the rest,

I was so Shure that I would get a letter to night and was disappointed that I thought I must Write you one I would like to write you one Every day but it Costs me to much for Stamps them that you Sent me are all gone this is the Third one I have wrote to you this week Eg and Norm Egbert and Bitt got two a Piece from home this week I have not received any since last Saturday with that nearly why I want the boys to write they better if they know what is good for them we have nice Cool weather here for a few Days we had a very heavy Storm the other Day it is raining Some to night I have just Eat my Supper our Cooks Does better than the others Dud May is the best Cook the Capt & Lieut and orderly got a box yesterday butter dried Cherries, Onions and some other little things I got a Couple onions I tell you they was good Now I want you to keep

me Posted about the Draft Business Now be Shure to do this for I want to keep the run of it I do not want to go any longer than this time we have only Eight weeks more we may get off Sooner I like it well Enough but it is Business that Does not Suit me I am well and feel first rate and Can Say I have the good will of Every man in the Company which Every one has not this is braging a little it is so keep this to your Selves until it Comes out from Some one else or Some will think I have to do y own Braging Especially hard of the officers keep a Civil tong and Do your Duty and you have it all must lose Want you Write Sundays and as many more times through the week as you can I must close for this time. J. S. Holtz Write soon Let me know if you got that money I Sent home

I did not have paper Enough Paper So I thought I would take another piece all the boys are getting there Pictures taken So I thought I would get mine So you Could See how fat I was getting I am getting quite “fleshy” I never Saw So many Pictures taken as they take here in Camp I must Close and write a letter for Shell Miller he had his Picture taken J. S. Holtz

Sunday

June 12th 1864

Dear Brother

When I received your letter last Wednesday evening and was glad to hear from you Charl and Dad and Till or it might as Well be till got letter from you last night now Byron Was here last Friday night and sparked in the kitchen he had bin at shearing sheep that day We have got 44 sheep to shear yet 10 of them is Bucks the Rest are weathers We sheared our * Buck and he had 11 lbs of wool on Charl got it lightness in his letter I herd To day that David Miller was wounded in the shoulder and Jeferson Daywalt was wounded and david call But I don't know weathr it is so or not

The gals are all here yet Charles and Tillie has gone to Shermans now now I guess I must leave it for this time so must go to supper now This is all

J S holtz

Wright soon

Fort Woodbury

June 14, 1864

Dear father mother

Brothers and all the rest of the folks

I received your most welcome letter Sunday and was awful glad to hear from home I am well and feel first rate I hope these few lines will find you all the same the boys are all well except Courtney he is complaining some.

I am working among the ammunition to day it is Pretty hard work but we do not work very hard So we can get along we only work 8 hours a day from 7 till 10 in the forenoon then from 2 till 6 in the afternoon. This is the first work I have done except Guard duty but if I keep well as I am now I can stand it we have very cool weather how is it there You said you would Send me a box you need not send until I send for it. We look for Beymers Box to night that money would be good, but victuals I will let you know after Beymers and Bitts is gone. You said Sarah was going away. Let me know who you get a good one Norm is out on Picket to day it is Easy Duty the Boys all want to go they can do as they please out there I do not Buy any thing to Eat any more only once and 5 cts worth of milk I tell you there is plenty of Blackberries here they are turning some now there is some talk of us getting home in 60 days but I do not know, they say Gov. Brough is in Washington now Seeing about it it may be all talk do you folks get any Such news let me know how the work is Getting along Write soon Yours as ever write soon J.S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury

June 15, 1864

Dear Father Mother and Brothers,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and feel first rate we got that box of beymer and Drowns to day Every thing Came first rate tell you the Apple butter ad Butter was good they Sent Some things that I would not have Sent they Sent Loaf Shugar and Dried Apples we drawed apples and Shugar apple butter and butter is the best we had and of the Grand reviews or inspections which the Potomac army are so famous for the inspector is a hard case if the boys Ever Catch him out he will get it he is an artillery Lieutenant but when he Commenced at our Company Col Lee Came up to where we was he did not Let loose on us as he did on the others he did Curse them awful but when old John Lee drawed his eyes down I tell

you it is for nothing he a man I tell you the boys like him to a man Courtney is about right again I got a letter from Uncle Dennis this Evening he Says he is Exempt from the Draft

Let me know how much wool I have got I am an artilleryman part of the time no I like the Drill first rate I Can Learn it very Soon I am in the heavy artillery Tell Philip I wish he was here to help me we would have a big time.

I have nothing more to write Write Soon Yours

J. S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury

June 18, 1864

Dear Father,

I just received your letter and was glad to hear that you was getting along So well with the work I am well and all the rest of the boys are Except Raymond he eat to much when we received that box he went in to heavy the rest of us went at it more Easy I tell you it went good we received 20 lbs of Stuff it will Last some time we do not drill much infantry I do not Drill any more in it I belong to the artillery there Is two Sections in our Company I like it very well a good Deal better than infantry it is Pretty warm here now it has been very Cool for Some time I tell you this is a hard Country here I would Die here if I had to make my living by farming I have not Seen a rail fence Since I Came here Nothing but Posts and two wires Drawn around it See you have bought that land it is Cheap Enough Since I have Seen this Land here we can make our money out of it in a couple of years the men are good to Day peterbough has fallen you hear the boys around the Camp hollering "bully for Grant" it would be impossible for a force to Come to Washington the way is fortified Some of the boys was over to town the other day and Saw Old Abe he Shook hands with them and them if they were Some of his boys and talked to them we have a Couple of Copper heads in our Company but I tell you they have not got much rest here we just more than go for them I received a letter the other Day which had \$5 dollars in it I want to make that go through if I would Spend money as Some do it would not last long Monday will be 50 Days the time goes pretty fast I have nothing more to write this time So I Close Write Soon

Yours J. S. Holtz

Tell Suse and Till and Byron Rule to write and that before long.

J. S. Holtz

Fort Woodbury, VA

June 20, 1864

Dear Brothers

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well only I have a Slight Cold the boys are all well and feel first rate it is Pretty warm and dry here but we do have very heavy duty we have to work Some on the fort Drill two hours in a day when we do not work we work as we Please they know it is no use to hurry us I have done Nothing Since Thursday But Drill on the artillery 2 hours and work on the fort 4 hours I Expect to Come on Guard tomorrow I have got so I Can go it on the artillery Pretty good there was a Great Accident in Washington last Friday the arsenal where they make cartridges was blown up and killed about 40 Girls that was at work in it burnt and Blowed them So much to Pieces that they only got 17 of them they was buried yesterday there was about 3000 People there the President and all his officers was there I tell you there was a lot of bells ringing all at once I have Nothing more to write I want you to write Soon and give me all the news

Yours J. S. Holtz

To Stumpy and Bony

The Huckle and raspberries are getting ripe there is plenty of them.

Fort Woodbury, VA

June 22, 1864

Dear Mother,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am Grunting a little with a Cold but it is Getting better I do not know how I got it for I am very Careful what I do I think I will be all

right in a Couple of Days we are getting along very well it is very warm and Dry there is much news here now it is one thing every Day but I am willing to Stand it if they leave us here till our time is out it is half our it Does not Seem a great while Since we left home if I keep as well the rest of the time that is gone I will be Satisfied a fellow being here will have some little Spels that is Shure but if a fellow takes care of him Self it will not last long I hope you folks are getting along well with the work when you write I want you to write how you are getting along the with the work I thought I would get a letter to nigh but did not I guess I will tomorrow I have nothing more to write Write soon

From your Son

J.S. Holtz

My Love to all

June 26, 1864

Dear Father mother and Brother,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am not very well I had a very bad Cold and it settled in my head and the weather is So warm and Dry that it keeps me awak I am in my bunk Part of the time I think I get right in a Couple of days Mother I got a letter from you yesterday our box in Washington Norm is going to get it to morrow when you write Send me a little wormwool

I must Close for it is so warm it looks like rain.

Yours J. S. Holtz

[no heading]

[n.d]

[no greeting],

When I get a letter from home or write one home it all most as good to me as Coming home we are Expecting a Cavalry raid from Mosby but I am not afraid they will come if they Do come they will meet with a warm reception our fort has 13 guards and a Ditch around about 6 feet Deep and 12 feet wide I must Close Expecting to hear from you to night

J. S. Holtz

Tell me what is for the ague we have not got it but the Doctor Said this was a great ague Country I think I can keep all right for 8 week it will have gone around.

Folder 2: Holtz, Jacob S. & Schumaker, William to William Feaga

Shumackers House

Sabbath Eve, September 5, 1861

Friend Bill,

The girls says I must write something but I do not know what to write but let me see. It would have done you good to saw [see] Jule when she met Ol Brown. She was so mad I thought she would go up. Bill I heard yesterday that Preacher Peelan was taken prisoner and is at Johnsons Island. I hope they will string him up it is the one that had the Book Store in Tiffin I suppose you knew him. I was at the party at your home last Monday night and froze out and had to borrow your coat to go home with. I would liked to [have] had you in it. Well Bill I feel as well as ever and the Doctor says I can be a soldier this winter I hope so Bill. I received your most welcome letter the other day so I will write you this and I will write you an old he one soon. It is about time for me to go so I must close so.

Good By

From your old Friend

J. S. Holtz

Wm H Shumaker

Write soon and I will do the same.

Folder 3: Letters to Jacob S. Holtz While in Service - 164th OVI. Co. H

Ceader hill Ohio April 8th 1863

Mr. Holtz

I this lovely evening set my self to Write you a few lines after so long a time I hope that you Will pardon me for not Writing to you sooner I received your letter some time and was glad to here from you I thought I would not write to you until I came home I just came home last Saturday evening I Was gone 8 weeks and enjoyed my self very Well While I was gone P Tusing brought Alex home and his funeral was preached here a Sunday and one of the Tusing boys Was brought home dead and Was buried a monday

I must bring my letter to a close for I have nothing to Write at present

You must Write soon

From Maria

Send your to Groveport

Apr 1st 63

My darling Sweetest april fool,

My dear april fool fool fool my dear dear dear april fool fool

You are mine april fool

Your honey moon forever amen

Bidy

Watsons Station

May 8, 1864

Dear Son,

I am very sorry to here that your company has been broken to pieces and has caused general dissatisfaction among the members of your company. Now my advice to you is if you cannot company organized again I would refuse to swear into the N G service. But if you are satisfied with your new order of things And can ascertain certain that it will exempt you from the draft By going into the N L service for 100 days then do as you may think best but I would not do it under Capt again. But if you are dissatisfied I would not swear in on any conditions I would sooner stand the draft then be imposed on and if you are drafted I will furnish you the money to pay the commutation Give my Best to all the boys. We are all well Rite as soon as you can and let me know how you are all situated. Affectionately your Father J.P. Holtz

Tuesday May 10, 1864

Dear Son,

We got your letter this morning and was glad to hear that you stand for your rights. Dan was here on Sunday and you best believe his grit was up. Father sent you a letter yesterday and we want you to do as he advised you not to go in the United States Service unless your Company is organized again and not then unless you are perfectly satisfied. The Draft goes out on Thursday and some of the papers say they N.Y are not except and if you are drafted we will pay the three hundred and you can come home. I look for you this week because I think you will be exempt now if you want any thing let us know and we will send it now Jake if you stay and you should get sick let us know directly and Father will come and fetch you home we are all well and have had very warm weather until to day we have a cold northesertern when you write let us know which of the boys are with you in your new company one of them letters was for dad from Lewis I will send the envelop maby you can tel who your letter is from Father directed your letter in care of Capt Rule instead of Egbert.

Mother

Jake write often By was here last Sunday night

Ottawa

May 11, 1864

Dear Cousin

I received your letter last evening and was glad to hear from you again, it is raining now and has been for two or three day in succession the road are quite muddy. Our school commenced last monday we have an extra good schoolmistress she is a second Mrs. Bork but she is an old maid instead of a widow, we have 40 schollars in the school that I go to and 70 in the school that Nelly & Lolly goes to. When I got your letter could not imagine who it was from not until I opened it I could not think of any one. knowing me in Cleveland I was not thinking of the Independent Company being there. Pa said he would take \$16.00 for the sword and belt. Jake I would like to see you very much but as I cant I would to like to have your picture in uniform. Give my best respects to Norman tell him to have his picture taken with yours for I would like to have all my cousins pretty face to look at. No more.

Dellie Holtz

P.S. I hope it wont be long till you all can come home and then you must come and see us, take good care of yourself while in camp and be a good boy.

Write soon

May 12th 64

Kind friend

It is with pleasure I attempt to drop you a few lines in reply to your which I received last evening I was glad to hear that you were all well and enjoying yourselves. I hope you may always have such good times while you are gone. We have nothing going on here now but Sabbath school and that does not amount to much we had but three classes last Sunday and but three large boys there. It has been raining here all week and yesterday it turned the tune and began to snow to day the sun is shining very pleasant I presume you have a good soft bed out of a board I suppose you sleep on the board and take your Boots for a Pillow dont you I expect you have singing school every evening how or where did you spend Sunday. I spent mine at home and did hardly see anybody But Kate McMeen she came up in the afternoon.

Well I shall Close for I have nothing interesting to write to you But still remain yours

From N Miller

To

Excuse all mistakes

J Holtz

Sunday morning May 23, 1864

Dear Son

We received your letter Saturday evening and was very glad to here from you and to now that was well we are all well Charles is a plowing John is a harrowing Father is making a dam to wash Sheep we are getting a long pretty well only it is very lonesome here what few youngsters is left looks as if they ware hunting some thing and could not find it all but the copper heads they look as bold as Sheep Jake if you all keep well and back safe you will never regret summer trip and I want you to take good care of your self.

Charles went to Tiffin yesterday and got that receipt from dr Gipson now when you get the stuff be shure and get the write kind and if there is any thing else you want let us now if you get out of money we will send you some in a letter

We are getting along very well planting corn we have planted the big field and clover field and to morrow we plant the low meadow Susy was here yesterday she is going to write to you this week by was here Saturday night he is looking for a letter from you now Jake I want you to write often you have been a good boy so far about writing and I want you to continue so every boddy is well as far as I know

I gess I will have to stop writing I don't now any news to write Jonny is waiting to take the letter to the office from your

Father and Mother

Peet and Bony sais I mus tell you they are going to write you a big letter in a few days Till and all the rest send ther love to you Till sais she wants you to write to her soon..
A.H.

Green Springs

May 25, 1864

Dear Son,

We got your letter last night and was glad to hear you are so well. First we sent you a letter last Monday directed to Washington that receipt was in it. Father and myself are in green Springs. I send you 10 stamps.

I cannot write any more this time. I am in the post office

From your

Mother

May 29 1864

Friend Jac

I received yours of the 20inst and was pleased to hear that you was well and satisfied with your lot and hope that you will continue to be favored with all those blessings and return safe once more to enjoy the blessings of home and friends which is a heaven born privilege I am well but very lonely the folks are all well in the neighborhood I would like to see you all very much But I must hasten on the woman is all doing well But some would like to old J S very muchly I have worked very hard since you left no time to run around to see our girls But I think they are doing well I have not time to rite much I will tell you more the next time the weather is cold next with rain tell me all about the boys

Rite soon no more at present But remain your friend

B. Rule

May 29, 1864

Dear Son,

I received your letter a few days since and was glad to here that you were well and that you were pleasantly situated. Now I will tell you that we have got done planting corn once. But tomorrow we must go at it again and plant the Cabin field over again for the worms have eat it up clean. And then we will go to Shearing sheep so if you see Lysander tell him he can come on with his shears any time. Report says you have all turned Buternuts and I would like to know wether it is true. We have had some very warm wether but now it is quite cool almost cold enough for frost. I will send you the papers now every week. Give my best respects to all the boys.

Affectionately yours Jacob P. Holtz

Sunday afternoon

May the 29, 64

Dear Son

It is lonesome here to day I don't now what to doe so I thought I would write to you there is no one at home but father and me Charle and John are gon a way some wheres I dont now whare Till has gon to Clyde Sal has gone home on another billy Scrap I think I aint rightly Shure but I think it is old Ezry don't tell any boddy we have had some very warm wether since you left but the last few days have been cool and to day it threatens rain I know you are better Satisfide where you are than you would bee at home it is the dullest time I ever saw there is nothing going on old butternut preaches once and awhile and they have a little dry Sunday school it is nothing but work work the cut worms are so bad we will have to plant Some of our corn over we are going to commence shearing Sheep this week Jake I would not take 5 dollars for that photograph when I sene it looked so much like the old fellow I had to cry just a little now Jake take good care of your health and if you should get sick let us know directly telegraph to George Huss and he will let us know that is if you can when you write let us know all about the way you live

Tilly sent you a letter yesterday and we sent you too last week and will send one or too every week last Thursday I sent you 10 stamps and will send you some oftener so you will be Shure to write often Tilly and we has it all planed to have a great time when you get back we got your over coat and it is a real nice one I must stop writing and go do milking it is most sundown yours and so forth

Ann Holtz

John has just come home he sais tell * I will write soon.

Jake don't forget to write often you must excuse my poor writing and speling Mother

June the 1 1864

Dear Son

We received your letter on Tuesday and was very sorry to hear you had got none from home this makes the 4 we have sent since you got to Washington Father and the boys are shelling corn he said I should write and tell you he would send you 5 dolars now and as soon as you got this you should write and he would send you the other we thought because you had got none of our letters it was best to send 5 at a time Jake I was glad to hear you say you have not swore nor drank whiskey nor played cards nor I don't think you ever will we are all well and every boddy else as far as I now there is no news to write every thing gose on Just as it did when you left Byron still comes pretty often I think they will be reddy for that tour as soon as you get back well I must stop writing and get dinner

Affectionately your

Father and Mother

Jake write often

Watsons Station Ohio

June 5th/64

Dear Brother

I thought I would write you a few lines this afternoon to let you know how I am a getting along We are all well and sound, we have just commenced Shearing Sheep I believe we have got 44 Sheared, I don't know weather we will get any one to help us or not we are done planting corn

and have got seven acres plowed once. The cut worms eat that big field so bad that we had to plant it over. You said I should tell you how the willow fence is getting along well it is getting along first rate some them have growed about nine inches I think it will make a fence yet. The wheat looks tolerable well at least our does I was up at Dennis Derr's one week ago yesterday helping to shear there Sheep I did not see a good field of wheat around there your two sheep had 6 pounds and a quarter I think we have heard from Clay since the battle in Georgia he came out all Sound. So did Gittinger Boys and Charles Dudrow. Have heard that Several of the boys had got poisoned Mother said I Should tell you to be careful about where you get any thing to eat and that if them boxed of Bitts came through Safe that we would send you one if you want one,

when you write let us know whether you got them five Dollars that we sent you last week and we will send you five more. Pete is over at smiths to day.

Well I Guess that I must Stop writing for this time So no more for this time

Bony

Sheep tick and Lice

June 5th 1864

My Dear Nephew

I take this opportunity of answering your welcome letter we also received one from you yesterday I am glad you like to be a soldier but you say you would rather be at home well you must try and enjoy yourself the best you can and if you canot eat that fat meat you spoke of I do not know what you will do unless you go and ketch you some fish to eat that is if there are any. Well I a glad that Jacob did not have go but there are drafts yet but I hope he may slip clear but this is an awful war and when will their be peace we will pause for an answer. Jacob I just finished planting corn last week. I received your fotograph and I think it is a very good one. I saw your little Julia the other day as I was passing by the school house but did not have any conversation with her as I had no opportunity. Pap and Mother have gone to your Fathers to day Mother wanted to go so as to hear from you. Write us awl the news and how you get along and if you keep well. Your Aunt Lizzy is here and Alice so I will leave a space for Al to write a few lines. So I will close by wishing you well.

Write soon Fons Huss

Friend Holtz

I have been just hunting all over the house to find something good to read while Fons has been writing to you I just came in the room. She told me she had finished her letter then got up and went off. She left her letter laying here so of course as soon as she was out of the room I snatched the letter and read it. She says she has "left a space for Al" So I will endeavor to fill the space but I shall not promise you anything interesting for I can't tell you anything about Julia nor anything about the Lowell folks so what could I write that would interest you? Lizzie and I are getting along admirably We get pretty lonesome some times but when I get lonesome I just put on my bonnet and come down to see Fons But then don't come down here often I only spent four afternoons here this week and then came down this morning and have been here all day so you see I hardly ever visit Fons

I believe you said Fons should tell me to "take good care of that hat" that hat is all right but I don't wear it down here often I generally wear a bonnet here for you know Uncle Davy is death on hats I think I have gassed enough for once I presume I have already written more than you will care about reading so with many kind wishes I close.

Ever your friend

Al Reynolds

Watson June 6th 1864

Dear Brother

I received your letter a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you. We all look for a letter once or twice a week and feel disappointed if we do not receive the expected number.

Well Jake we have had some changes at home since you left I do not mean to say an increase in the family but a decrease. Our Sallie has moved home Bag and Baggage she went last Friday her and encourage them on there lonely journey Billy especily I have not seen him yet-but when I do I think I shall talk to him some I suppose he will think some as Sall did it wont amount to no (more than that) I told Ev G the story about (no more than) that the other day and I thought she would go up and she said she went to ask Byron what he thought about it but I guess she wont dare to for you know brother Lewis came after her. You would have been pleased to see her

pack up the old Bureau you can guess about what the sene was for my part I did not care much about it-but how I pity Billy I am afraid he will take hard and I am afraid Byron will miss her too you must write the boys I have swore vengeance on any one that does tell him.

We were all at Clyde sunday that is Ev Sallie Parks Toms wife & myself we went to Thorps Alma told me to tell you that her Mrs Jones got back to Memphis all safe I suppose you have heard what a hard time the 72 Reg had near Memphis and Jones in the fight they met with a great * Charley Dirlam is among the missing and a great many that you have heard of and I presume you are acquainted with but I will not stop to write their names How consoling it is that we have an omen of peace perhaps you never heard the old story that when every family is blest with a Daughter it is an omen of peace and if that is every sign I think we will have peace around here and at Clyde at the house of Ames and at the house of Strcklino and John Egberts & Ruben Thacker I thought old Ruben want not praying for nothing last winter you see he was praying for peace And Minnie says just wait till you see the house of Rules she thinks there will be peace a plenty but I think it will be a long time before you see the house of Rules or the house that house that-she means not til you boys return then we will have a gay old time

Well Jake it is school time and I must bring this scribbling to a close dont show this to any of the boys or if you do I wont write you any more of the news.

From Tillie

June 8th 1864

Dear Son

We received two letters from you last night was very glad to hear from you we are all well father and the boys are shearing sheep all alone they could get help by paying all most as much as the wool is worth so the boys got spunky and sed they would doe it themselves.

I bet they would like to have you here to bend over the sheep for John gets the belly ake once and a while billy and Tom and Even are at it too and you better believe they make it go I would write you lots of news if there was any but every thing is so dul there is nothing going on but work ondy Shumakers are improving there store site

Jake I gess you think there is nobody to write but me but the men are always busy and when night comes they are tierd Charles sent you a letter on Monday John is going to write next Sunday and if we hear you got that five dollars we will send 5 more Father sais you must keep

good Spirits your time is all most half gone and mind if you get sick telegraph and he will come and fetch you home Sarah is going home next week to stay and so when you come home I gess I will have a new girl Tilly has been a good girl to me this summer

Minney is coming up in a week or too if there is any boxes comes for the bois we will send you one let us now what we had better send Father sais I should tell you they were about half done shearing Grandfather and mother were down last Sunday they said they were going to write this week I must close for this time write soon and often

From your affectionate

Father and Mother

Jake good care of your Self and you will get a long well if there any thing you want let know and we will send it, be a good boy

6 oclock

Sunday evening June 12

Dear Son

Enclosed you will find \$5 and when you want any thing more let us now and we will send it we will get thru shearing to morrow then father is going to give you a statement of the wool and Sheep Jake we would like to have you at home first rate but the national gard has been a great thing for the army and your time is most half out we have very cool weather for the last week all most cold enough for frost Jake I cant write mutch for Charley is waiting take the letter to the office I want to send you some butter and applebutter as soon as wee can Lerry Egberts is going to send and I think we will send together and any thing you and let us now and we will sent it there is no news to write so I must close Affectionately yours, Mother

Tiffin June 12th 1864

J.S. Holtz

Dear Nephew

Yours of the 7th was rather unexpected but very agreeably received to day. I am glad to hear that you are well, but I am sorry to hear that * is not well for I would like to hear that you was all well, but I hope that you are all well by this time & will keep well for it is hard enough to be sick at home but worse from home. We are about as well as usual. Your folks are well so far as I know your Father & Mother was here a week ago that is the last I heard of them. I am not well nor I do not expect to be. I was down to Sandusky a Thursday to another examination they want all those that are unfit for the service to be stricken off the Enrollment list. I was examined & they pronounced me unfit so I am exempted from the draft on account of my lame hip. They also told me that they did not believe I would ever get cured of it. They also thought I would never get entirely well of this disease in my face. Other ways I am as well as usual. The weather here is pretty dry some days are very hot & some are quite cold. I expect * home shortly his time was out a week ago to day. But Jacob I must close for it is getting late & I am getting sleepy don't forget to write soon again for we are always glad to hear from any of you.

Yours truly

Dennis Holtz

Watson Station Seneca 6

June 14, 1864

Friend,

It is with greatest of pleasure that I set myself to let you know that I received that paper sent and glad to get it and I am very much obliged to you I could not think who sent it until I opened it I don't know whether Mollie got hers or not but I received mine last nite Byron got a letter from Robert gittinger the other morning and he had just got well he that there was any amount of cherries and apples and lots of peaches and some strawberries but they are all gone I just tell you I never saw such a dry spring and a great many day so we have not had any rain since you went a way only one little shower and that did not amount to any thing Is Bitt with you men we have not heard from him but twice since he ahs gone tell him when you see him that Mary J is well tell that Byron has gone down to take his horses home for had them up to hall wheat. I guess that they have sold his wool and Mary kept it up stairs to keep any one from stealing it.

Well I guess I will hafta Close by

Saying Good morning Clara B.

Write soon

Watson Station June 15 1864

Dear Son

I received your letter last night and am glad to here that you are well. I received two dollars that you sent me and it went at par and I am also glad to here that you are on good terms with all the members of your company. You also wish me to keep you posted on the draft Our Township lacked three and the draft come of yesterday and the men drafted are Wm H Grove Ed Troxel and Wm Amsted So you can tell Bitmer that you have both sliped clear and the drafted men in Adams Township are Wm Neikirk Fred Bose and T. F. Reed So you may also tell Courtney and George Frickling that they have went clear. Now I must tell you what we are doing I have been ploughing corn and Charles & John have gone to shear Uncle Dennis sheep to day yesterday we planted the old meadow in corn again the wire worm eat it all up the first time and I expect they will eat it again and the day before yesterday we finished shearing our sheep Me and the boys sheared all ourselves but their ten that Frane Shearman sheared the last day that we were at it. We have got 1187 pound of wool beside that at D Derrs yours at home here is 16 ½ pound and it is bringing from Seventy five to Eighty Cent. I am holding ours at eighty five Cents and I believe I will get it some are holding for a dollar but I think they are to steep. Now I must tell you that I have bought G Wolfs land for \$712.50 if he does not back out we are to close the bargain tomorrow morning when you write I would like to know what you think of it You can tell Bitmer that I have kept that Lamb for him I have left Eleven Bucks run and he can have his choice of the them all. We sent you five dollars more last week and if you need any more you must let me know and I will send you some more. Our wheat crop I think will make about 10 bushels per acre if the weevil let it alone But the grass will be very light if it does not rain soon. We have got a very dry time sugar Creek has almost stoped running Now Jacob I want you to take care of health try to keep your bowels regular and you will not be likely to get the ague and if you get * I would take a pill or two every night. We are all well rite often I must close for this time

Affectionately yours

Jacob P. Holtz

June the 17th 1864

Friend Jacob

I set down this evening to say a few words to you first I received yours of the * and should have been more punctual in answering it I have been very busy Shearing sheep I am now done I sheared nine days I am weary and week the folks are all well I saw your father to day is right the prospect for crops is poor it is very dry here and warm the sight for speculation is good at this time I have been Buying sheep and wool to day I paid 80 cnts per pound to day I would like to see you the time will soon roll around when you will return safe I hope well pleased with your trip I saw Mr. Jordan the other day he says hanah is as fat as ever and well pleased with her new home Bully for her I think that is all you of her at present I think if you was at home we would take a trip to Clyde to see * James Babbing and some Buddy else that would Be nice Jacob the Ball is open I shal Bring thing to a close

Give respects to all the Boys right soon

Yours truly

B Rule

Adams

June 19th 1864

Esteemed Young Friend

I have been for the last ten days writing you a letter and I have just got at it I received yours last Evening it give me a start. So now what shall I talk & tell you about. Well here goes about something. Byron and me will tend to the girles I have them all right & Blooming as the Rose for you all when you come home. Byron & Sis appears to Be getting along right * if Sis don't look out there will be another Bull run into the door & brake down the kitchen floor aint the above pretty guess that that will for once The weather is very warm and dry here now with prospect of rain it is needed Inclosed you will find the Stamps for I had tell him that I seened his Father yesterday he said he had lent him some money but did not say how much inclosed you will find two dollars for him with my best wishes he expects his (Shells) Brother * home Your folks are all well Your Mother says now you must write a good letter Jake Charly is as fat as Pork every thing goes on as well as can be expected in your absence Mrs Mays family I believe are well

Jake I believe I have no more to write at present A wishing you all as good a time as it is possible for Soldiers to enjoy

Shall close

P.S. Holtz

Your Friend

Wm. Morton

You forgot to date your letter

June 21st 1864

Dear Son

I thought you would like to now what we are doing this hot weather. Father and the boys are making hay and I am getting things ready to send to you Terry Egberts and us are going to start a box this week I am going to send you 2 cans of apple butter 2 of butter 1 of pickels some crackers and other things but I will mark every thing so you will now which is yours mind I will put scratch your name on the bottom of the cans Yesterday Lucy and me tuck the wagon and loaded up flour and lard and went to Tiffin to have crackers made we are going to have 50 pounds a piece I have been making cheese I made one that was 22 pounds for you when come home Jake you wanted to now how much wool you had you had 16 ½ lbs besides den derrs Father sent you a letter last week and give you a statement of the whole thing I am doing my work myself only when Tillie is at home then she flies around like a little top Lib young has found a man and came around maby Sally will get one too now she has your home I hope she will we have had very warm and dry weather we have had no rain for 3 weeks to do any good Tillie is going to send you all the little particulars

Jake you must write often let us now wether you got the last 5 Dollars we sent you last Thursday father sent you 14 stamps and we will continue sending so you will write often that's Lucy and me you ought to seen Terry and Till laughing at us yesterday when we started to Tiffin with our load we told them we did not care we was getting some thing for our boys to eat Jake I want you to write and tell us what you have to do and how you live why did you all have your hair cut so close did the gray back bit you Jake we donot want any of you boys to go any further south if you can help it father sais we must send 3 letters a week let us now wether you get the papers we send 2 a week.

Affectionately yours Ann Holtz

Watson Station

Sunday June 23, 1864

Dear Brother,

I thought today I would write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along I am well and sound and I believe all the rest of the folks are well too. The weather is very warm today the thermometer stands at 960 in the shade on the middle Porch, in the sun it stands at 1170. So you see that it is pretty hot yesterday we was stacking hay I tell you it was warm work we are getting along firstrate with our work so far we have got our hay all cut except that little field in front of the School house. The wheat is beginning to turn yellow in some spots now. So I think that harvest will be here about the 4th of July. Our corn does not look very good except 7 acres below the one hard it looks pretty good. The wire worms have just about eat up the old Meadow I suppose you have heard of David Millers Death. Oliver Ragan is also wounded. I suppose you have heard of the loss of the 72nd Regiment D. Dudrow got a letter from Nels Barber he says that Bill Feaga Jim Drinkwater two of Say's boys & Ellick Almond are prisoners he mentioned about 20 others but I do not know any more names. We have not Sold our Wool yet. We have been offered 90 cts for it but we will not Sell for that yet a While Well I suppose I must Close John has got a pet Red Squirrel

By is holding the School [?] to day

Bony

I guess your Box will start to marrow

C.D. H

June 23rd/64

Friend "Holtz"

I acknowledge the receipt of your * missil and as this evening presents a favorable opportunity I will respond I went home last Saturday and staid until Monday it was the first time I had been home for four weeks so you may imagine I was just a little bit homesick.

The language in your letter indicated that you don't like soldiering quite as well as you had anticipated I thought by the way you talked when you called here that evening that you was willing to go right along for "during the war" But you find it is not quite so pleasant don't you friend Jake.

I thought while you was talking that after you had been in the army a while you wouldn't think it quite so nice I do pity all of our good and noble soldiers and do hope the war will soon be over so that the Soldiers may all return to their homes. I have not heard from Will and John for a good while they are about 125 miles from Martinsburg and there is Guerilla bands all along the road they rob the mail so it is hardly possible for us to hear from them or them to hear from us I was down to see Fons yesterday she and Jake was down to your Fathers last Sunday Fons says she enjoyed herself while there but she thought she would choke with the dust going down and coming back as near as I can judge the dust is about six inches deep

I presume you are acquainted with Jim Lighteap he came home a short time ago. He staid at your grand fathers a few days but has now gone to Fulton Co to see his mother—Clare and Ida go to school so Lizzie and I get rather lonesome through the day nevertheless we get along fine. I think that photograph you sent Fons is splendid Your Grandmother has made her a present of a photograph Album since she received your photo. I have just written to John and Will don't know whether they will ever get the letter or not but I am going to send it

Why! On looking up I see they have all gone off to bed so I will close. Good night

Please accept the many kind wishes of your friend

"Al"

June 28th 1864

Dear Son

We received a letter from you to day dated the 22 and was sorry to hear you was not well but hope when you get this you will be all right we started a box of provisions to day I will tell you what is in it for you 3 cans of apple butter 2 of butter one of pickels one of onions and of fried ham I have marked them all your ham is in a little bucket some dried apples and 1 peas of dried beef some crackers and sweet cakes that little bag of sweet cakes is not very good I think they will spoil before you get them, I did not make them I hope you will get it very soon when you doe write and let us now how the things carried we are getting along very well with the work we are done the hay all to baling two loads but every thing is wool excitement now father was offered 94 cts to night but he will get more as soon as he sels he is going to write and tell you all about it we have had very warm weather for the last we but to day it is cool and pleasant but very dry we think it will harvest in about one week and I wish you was here to wrake of the moshien but your time is growing shorter every day only 40 days more.

Jake when you write let us now if you get the papers we send we send 2 every week the Tiffin paper and the times and we send 2 and some times 3 letters every week now Jake if you should get sick Telegraph to George Huss and father will come after you he sais you must doe so Dan Colaster wrote home that they was offering 100 dollars bounty if they would reenlist for a hundred days more but don't you go for it they would give if they would give one thousand for we want you home as soon as your time is out

Jake I must stop writing I am so sleappy it is all most eleven oclock I will write soon again and try to doe better

From your Mother

A Holtz

Write often and so will we I for got to tell you I sent you some paper and envelops in that box. Jake I hurd that some of the boys had sore throat put fat pork and salt on your throat.

Mr. Thomas Parks,

My Dear Uncle

You must not forget to write to me.

Good by My Dear Uncle.

Tell Uncle Billie to write to all of us.

And tell him goodbye,

From Belle

Old Mr Dear good Jake I dont know when he will come up but when he dose you will see him I suppose well he is good and pretty and intenigent a gentleman and ever thing that is wise I well Jake perhaps you don't know who I am a talking about it is A Dyndand that is who. O Jake I want to see you so bad Come down and tell me what Black snake said.

I * him from the bottom of my gizzard I remain your old friend Olive

Jake we was sorry to hear you was not well and glad to hear was better again mind if you get sick telegraph to George Huss and he is to let us now write often

Jake I got that letter with the picture

Bony

Folder 4 Bonnell, Richard W. - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Enlisted August 9, 1862. Discharged as disabled February 1, 1863 in Nashville, TN. Died shortly afterward of measles.

Camp Stem, Ky

September 17, 1862

Dear Friend Jacob,

I now take the pleasure of writing to you to let you know how we are all getting along. I am not very well just now but the rest of the boys feel pretty well for they have just started out on picket duty and I would like to have went along with them but it so happened that I could not go. But I hope that the next time that they go that I will be able to go with them. We have not got in any fight yet but we don't know how soon we may for it reported that the rebels are within about six miles of here but I don't believe that we will any fight here at all at least. I am not scared should it any way. I would like to see you down with us and the rest of you young folks. Jessie Hall has found our company and I would to see some more of young fellows I suppose that we will see you down here with us soon when you write to me. I want you to let me know how the girls is getting along and all the rest of the folks. Send my love to all my inquiring friend so excuse all mistakes so no more at present write soon.

From Richard Bonnell to Jacob S. Holtz

In care of Capt. Barnes

Co I 101st Regt Camp

Near Covington

Via Cincinnati

Folder 5: Bowersox, John C. - 49th OVI. Co. B to Jacob S. Holtz

Saturday, October 26, 1861

Friend Bob,

I received your most welcome letter and two others and as yours was the first I recd [received] I will answer it first. Jacob, I wish the boys was all like you and would not wait for me to write first. I cannot write to all the boys first and would like to hear from them all. I tell you how it is me and all the rest of the boys here and that is this. I will haf [have] to ask you and all that wants to hear from to send stamp in there [sic] letter me to send a letter back to them for we can't get

stamps here for love nor money. I haf [have] to get my stamps sent from home to me I don't want you to get mad at me and think I don't want to answer your letters for I do love to hear from you all. So I hope you will do as I request if you and of you all for I can't help my self. You said you want me to let you know how a soldiers life was. Well I like it first rate when I am well and when I am not well I don't like so well for the accommodations for a sick man is not much I have experienced both. Our living is now is pretty hard we have hard crackers and fat pork one day and the next day we have fat pork and hard crackers. You would laugh to see the boys brake [break] there [their] crackers with the hatchet and the worst of all we haf [have] to throw some them in hot coffey [coffee] to keep the worms from cralling [crawling] off with them but that is nothing for a soldier. You would like it I know for we have lots of fun here some times a man can get in any kind of amusement he likes but good and respectable company is the most desireable for me and I think that company would be your choice if you were here I judge from the way you was raised. Well, I must bring my letter to a close for I must go on skirmish drill pretty soon. I want to you to write me and tell Dud to be sure and write to me and let me have the partie [party]. I want you to give me all the news. Tell Phillip for me that I know I am a great boy for the girls but a poor chance with them here. Give my best to all girls and of your folks and good share for your self. No more at present write more news the next time so good by from your true friend Hurrah for Abe.

Cal

Camp Noline

November 15, 1861

Friend Jacob,

It has been several days since I received your most welcome letter and stamps which was very welcome. You may be assured we can get some stamps here now but they cost us five cents a piece [apiece] when we give tickets for stamps. We expect to get our pay soon every day we was to get it last Friday for sure but [?]. So I can't tell for sure or how we will get it now but when we do get it I will lay in a good supply of stamps. You want me to send all the knews [news] I suppose, but you hear more knews [news] there than I do here for I have not heard or seen any thing but what happens here in the camp and that hasn't any thing any importance. When we march again nearly I will hear or see something. So I can't write something worth while. Dave tell Dud I will answer his letter as soon as we march again you can tell him how I am and getting along. I wish I could be to some of your dances for I know you have some good times while us poor devils has to lay here in the cold and damp ground. There are a great many sick boys here know we have buryings or two here every day. The buryings are not out of our Regiment a lone

there as more that dies out of some other regiment these out of ours. I can't tell what the disease is but I suppose it is a sort of a camp fever of some kind or other. Will I must close my letter for this time answer soon and oblige your true friend

Calvin

Mr. R. Bonnell told me when I wrote to you I should tell to tell your father to write to him with out fail. I believe he said that he wrote to your father and never got any answer yet.

Cal

I almost forgot to tell you I was [?] lonely and ready to fight for uncle Sam any time. Hurrah for the Union.

Camp Wood Hart Co. Ky

December 21, 1861

Absent Friend,

It has been some time since I received your letter and now I set my self down to answer it. The reason I did not write sooner was because I have several letters to write and as news was scarce I thought it would wait till I could write something knew [new]. But I guess you have saw an account in the papers of what I am going to write about. The 17th of this month the 32nd Indianah [Indiana] was attacked by the Rebbels [rebels] and the south side of green river there was only 4 companies of the 32nd and the Rebbel force numbered one thousand infantry, five hundred cavalry, and six pieces of artillery. The Rebbels had almost surrounded our little Band but the Rebbels could not take them. There was only two companies of the 32nd that was in the hardest of the battle the Rebbels had surrounded our little band but could not take them. The loss on the side of the 32nd was eight killed on the field and 25 wounded. But there has six died since the Rebbels surrounded one of the Lieutenants and wanted him to surrender and be taken prisoner but he refused and began Shooting them with his revolver. The Rebbels shot him five times through Brest, one ball went threw [through] his neck, one threw [through] his foot so he had seven shots thru him. But the loss of the Rebbels loss was greater than the loss of the Union men. The loss of the Rebbels killed and wounded was eighty fifty killed and if General Jonson would have let the 49th reinforce the 32nd a little sooner we would of taken the most of them prisoner and taken there [their] Battery anyhow. But the General would not let us go till it was to

late. The Rebbels had retreated Company B was sent over the Battle field to hand up the ded [dead] and wounded I was over the field and saw several of the ded Rebbels and some of our own men layed [laid] there to and a lot of horses that was ded and some wounded. It was a hard looking sight a sight that I never saw before. I tell you I heard the Canon Balls wistle [whistle] and but I tell you the way they roared wasn't slow there was some scart [scared] boys about the time the old Dog Began to Bark. I did not feel scart [scared] a bit I don't say so to brag but I was not scart a bit it just seamed to me like going out to drill I just felt as cool as a cucumber. One of the Rebbels got after one of our boys and run him to the fence and there our Union boy turned on him and the Rebbel can't hold of the Boys Bayonet off and they had quite a tussel for the bayonet but the Rebbel jerked the bayonet off of his gun but that did not scare the boy a bit he just up with his gun and shot the Rebbel ded [dead] and got his bayonet again. And one of the Cavalry Rebbels got after one of our Union Captens [Captains] and just as the Captain went to jump over the fence the Rebbel drew his revolver and was a going to shoot the captain but the Rebbel was little to slow on trigger. One of the Union boys up with his gun and shot the Rebbel down off of his hoss [horse] and saved the life of his Captain (Bulley for him). The 32nd Regiment that had the fight is all German we all call am them the dutch Regiment. One of the dutch and one of the Rebbels had a fight the Rebbel found out that the union man could talk dutch and the Rebble commenst [could've] talk to him but that would do no good the dutch union man ran his Bayonet threw the Rebbel and killed him ded. At another place one of the dutch found a Rebbel that was not quite ded and the dutchman turned him over and filled his mouth with mud and then left him lay and choke to dith [ditch] that was rather hard but the dutch was so mad at the Rebbels because they would not show them any quarters. Wile [while] they had the upper hand of the dutch that the dutch would of faught [fought] as long there was a man left but the Rebbels had to retreat and left one of there [their] ded on the field (I made little mistake the Rebbels left eight on the field instead of one) and the next morning the Rebbels came in to our camp with a flag of truse [truce] the next morning to burry there ded. The Rebbels was a little mad because we did not burry there ded I can't tell why we did not but I guess the reason was because it was to late it was rather bad to let them lay there all night for the hogs tore one of them topeices. Our men got some of there guns and a sword and several revolvers and six or eight saddels and bridles. There guns that we got was double barel shot guns and single barled pistols a couple of revolvers. We got some blankets and some other little things. I can't tell for sure many things but what I saw my self but there is a great many stories here about the fight. Some of the boys say there was two regiments and a regiment of cavalry and I can't tell hardly how many there was only one of the Dutch told me as I stated first. Well I guess I have told you all about the fun I knew and some that I herd and I will bring my letter to a close.

Tell Johnathon Shafer that I would like to hear from him. Tell him that he must give me all the knews a bout the girls and you must give a me a full description of the girls and folks in general. Give my love to all the folks and take good care of Lib for she is firstrate girl. You must write soon perhaps I can tell you something more for we expect a fight here any day ad if I should be spared to tell the story. We have about 20 thousand soldiers here now and still more a coming.

When you write put the full directions on the letter and be sure to put the O.V.I.U.S.A. from your friend till death.

Calvin B.

Camp Wood, Ky

January 30, 1862

Friend Jacob,

Your kind and interesting letter came to hand last eve. It found me well and hearty and that is the best and only news [news] of any account that I have write. I wish that we could get in a fight so that I could have something interesting to write. We have good and easy times. I was detailed for guard [guard] yesterday and it began raining in the morning and they took the guards off of duty and so I got rid of guard. So that was good for me. We don't drill of any account now as it is very muddy so that we cant drill. All we do now is eat and sleep and stand guard and all the fun that you can think of. There is only one thing that we are at a loss for and that is the girls. If we had the them yet I should not change places with Uncle Abe but them we hant got I haven't tuched a girl since I left home. Hold on til I get home if I don't make some of the girls git it is wonder to me. I don't want you to let any of the girls spoil for the want of sparking for if they get out of practice it will take me some time before I get them in practice again. I am bound to come home by next July if I can get a furlow [furlough] and I think I can by that time. I must come home to help cut our harvest and then I want to have a good time. I am bound to have some good times if I get home. You must have place picked out to have a dance by that time and after I get to a good dance and our harvest out I am ready to come back to the old camp again. And if I cant get home I am satisfied to stay and help to put own this most base rebellion but I think that this war can not last long. Any more by the way things are going on now our boys (I mean the Union boys including all) have taking Ft. Henry in Tennessee) and the union flag waves once more in old Tennessee and shall forever.

I began this letter Jan. 30th and finish it February 8th.

We have all Buckners supplies cut off and I think that we will have fight here at Green, Ky ware [where] we are camped let them come if they think that we cant fight. We will show them that the buckeye boys knows how to fight. I shall close hoping to hear from you again.

From Cal.

I am well and sound as a cuss.

Folder 6: Dudrow, Charles D. - 55th OVI. Co. H to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp [?]

New Creek Va

February 15, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I know set down to answer your kind letter wich I received in Camp McClellan. I am well and hearty and hope this letter will find you the same state of health. Jacob we have had two hard marches. One was to Romney 26 miles from the place where we are camp and the other march was to Mansfield about 40 miles from camp. We started the first time at 3 oclock in the morning on Monday and landed in Romney Tuesday noon and we staid [stayed] at Romney one day and did not get to see no Rebbles [rebels] that time. Well Jacob ile [I'll] tell you about our other tramp to Mansfield. We started on Monday after noon and arrived in town on Wednesday morning about sun up and Jacob we trained all night to go to a camp of Rebbs wich was about 42 miles from town. We landed on this side of the River when the pickets fired on us so we all hured [hurried] a cross the river and got redy to march in to town and the old Brass Cannon fired and took the General and Major from their horses. So you may know that made us feel good to see them Secish fall. We marched up into town and took every man in town a prisoner and you [?] how many we got. We got 31 Secish prisoners and one Capt also. Jacob the talk is now that we will go to Kentucky next week if it is so I am glad of it. So we will get to see the 49 Regt and go with them through war. Jacob you said that you was going to get a kiss from my girl se you do it and when go rite to me tell me how it went and what kind of party did you have at Robert McMean home. Jacob I hear you say in Clays letter that Ehick was or trying to pick in at Shumaker. I say good for him if he can. Jacob they plague Clay every day on how Josie Hoover and it makes Clay grin to plague him about Josie. Jacob we have a great time hear a eating our meals if they don't get what they want they growl about it. Jacob if we have to get back we wont know how to eat like decent people but hear we pack in or get none. Stand with our hats on to eat and pitch in with our fingers for forks. So may know how we get along with our meals. Jacob I guess I must close my letter. Jacob I want you to take care of the girls around there. Jacob we got to see about 7.00 hr rebbls [?] we selves was standing by a fire morning our when wack after wack came over our heads from the Secish camp. Ile [I'll] tell you it made our heare [hair] stand

on our heads when we heard them but they did not do it long for as soon as we could get in line of battle [?] rite into them forth [?]

C. Dudrow

Jacob you must excuse this led pencil this time for I have not got enough ink to rite and the paper is nearly as hard as the pencil. John Gittinger is on picket guard to day. Jacob John is always talking about the girls. Jacob, Dave, Jack and Tom Thacker is in our tent know. So ilel [I'll] close by telling you to rite soon.

From C. Dudrow

Culpeper County, Virginia

August 17, 1862

Friend Jacob,

Being as it has been a long time since I have heard from you I thought that I would wright [write] you a short letter to see if I could hear from you once more and to let you know that was well and hearty and so is the rest of the Boys. Jacob Hank just received a letter stating in it that the boys on the Ridge Road has all made up their minds to enlist and come. [?] Serg Bently [?] them but Jacob I did not see your name down or Will Shinn after know you don't stand back. I hope and see your cousin Billy enlist wich is younger than your self. Well there is some more that I could mentions that is younger than you know. Jacob dont stand back but enlist and come as well as the rest of the Boys your county needs you. Hear is John & Hank and all boys that has gone and Cal and my self. I sopose that little Juley is what keeps you back aint it know the next letter we get hear that is from Old Seneca will Steele in that of Jacob and Will Shumaker has enlisted and is a again. Jacob since Clay has left our company we don't get to hear from your boys atall. I sopose they will have Singing School at the church. Jacob it has been a hard battle fought since last month. This Battle took place on the 9 of Aug 9 miles south west of Culpeper County House at a place called Sedar Mountain. Our regt was not in it but was with in 7 miles of the place but got thir after the battle was over we got to see the battle ground. I tell you is a hard site to see. It is hard enough to see a battle but wen it comes to see the dead wich has been killed it is afful [awful] site. Jacob we are with in 55 miles of Richmond. Jacob it is 10 months to day since I enlisted in the 55th Regt one year almost gone and still we are in old Virginia wen I enlisted I did not think it wold last so long as it has but it cant last much longer know any wars. Jacob me Paul nice times hear eating corn we go out and bring in all we can carry then we go to work and rost

and cook it. My Sheet is nearly full I gess [guess] I will hafter [have to] close. All I got to say got to say to you is to rite as soon as you received this letter. Dont fail to rite me.

No more at present my best respects to you and all the rest of the folks round and about Watson' Station.

From Charles D. Dudrow

To Jacob Holtz Seneca Ohio

P.S Jacob I heard from a certain person in our Regt that Some young fellow got the [?] close by I should think aint that so Jacob it aint you but it is some other fellow close by.

Camp [?]

New Creek, VA

Monday November 16, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I received your letter last Friday night when I got back from Moore Field. I was glad to here from you I wrote to you about week ago I guess you didn't get it. I am well with the exception of a little cold and that is a general complaint throughout the Regiment. It is raining here now there is but little snow here now and that is [?] and I aint a bit sorry neither. I suppose you have heard of the expedition that that left here last Monday for [?] if you aint you will. It is most dinner time and I guess I must stop till after dinner for I pretty hungary and more over we are eyeing to have some corn fritters for dinner as the boys call them that's some thing new here. Dinner is over I guess I must try and tell you a little about this fight we started out last Monday morn for the fight on five days march. We traveled till night the Monday we traveled all day and pretty much all night. We came within half a mile of the town rested a little while the artillery went ahead and opened the battle which consisted of four cannon shot. The first shot was made eight oclock the rebels never responded. The cannon was to far off to do any harm to them. They planted there cannon again then the boys began to cross then the rebels cavalry came down and pitched in like thunder but they could not stand the cannon pills. They soon found that it was sent paying very big they wheeled and run to the opposite side of the town to there camp. They lost several men in the operation. There was two or three of our boys hurt a little one struck on the left cheek just below the eye the ball lodging he took the ball and got it now another was rite aside the heart but

not hurting him very bad there was men of ours killed. There was 15 of the enemy killed and thirty wounded thirty odd prisoners taken it is said here that the last cannon shot killed the colonel and wounded the major so bad he died shortly. Ee went up in to the town at twelve oclock and searched it returned back in the evening across the river the rebels looked and run as though they thought the Yankees was thicker than fiddlers in hell. Our side went did not shoot once they did not get close enough never returned. Some on the road we gathered up some stock two hundred head fat cattle about them many horses are killed ten or fifteen sheep and gathered on the road home we also gathered up some preserves took a few bees hive.

Camp McClellan

Near Norwalk Ohio

December 5, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I sit down to rite a few lines to you to let you know that I am well at present and hope this few lines will find you enjoyen good health. The weather is very fine hear know it is good time for drilling only it is windy. We have had very bold time last week it was very cold at night and morning. Jacob we have not gone yet from hear but we talk about going the 15 of this month ile [I'll] like to see you down hear fore we leave hear. Jacob we had good time hear last night up at Norwalk we had a lecture it was on Men of London and how the people live and how they work for their living. Some live the street some stand and hold this horse while they went in the store and some would picket pocket of other kinds of people. Browns must tell you a little about our camp life we have had no alarms since you left but expect one of this nights wen [when] it is light enough to see the drill. Jacob Gorge and Bill Hytes was down hear a week or too [two] ago they like it very good. Gorge wants to Stay down hear with us. Hank got a letter from Oliver Ragon to day. All Said that the girls down thir was well. Jacob I guess you still have Sunday School up thir yet you and all the rest of the Boys does tend to like the girls very well at night I guess. Juley and Olly get [?] to very well so fair tell July that a young man sends his best respects. I hear it is Mr. Grahm he said that he wanted to have a good old time with hear [her]. Tell Oly that I end my best respects to hear and Inez and you so the other girls that lives over in that other house I send my best respect to hear also. Jacob Clay and Hank John is on guard to day we have got 99 men here in our company know we only want 2 more yet and then our camp is full. Jacob I guess even we start for Camp Denison we will go throu Tiffin and I want you to be thir and all the rest Jacob we talk about coming home Saturday if we can get a furlough.

Folder 7: Egbert, Norman D. - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Nashville, Tenn

November 29

Friend Jacob,

Day before yesterday I received a letter from you I was glad to hear from you. You still seem to want to be a soldier. You better take my advice and stay to home you could not stand it. So I think you had better not come. The boys that are along are all well but John Watson & Jake Shriver they are both pretty sick.

John Watson will never get well [well] as long as he is in the army. If he stays here 3 weeks longer he will be a dead man. I have got a bad cold but it is getting better. I tell you Jake those things Jordan fetched down tasted good besides sow belly and hard crackers.

Its tolerable cool this morning I tell you, it almost makes my whiskers white. I tell you Jake there is an army of boys that wish that this war was over, they would all go home tomorrow if they done and let the south go to the devil.

I don't see why not let her go. All I have seen of her not worth fighting for.

Around Nashville is a splendid country I think I will take my 100 there if nobody has no affections.

I want you to tend to them girls as well as you can.

Give my respects to all.

Write soon.

N.D. Egbert

Direct via Nashville

Folder 8 Egbert, Thomas W. - 72nd OVI. Co. A to Jacob S. Holtz, Sr.

Mr. Jacob Holtz, Sen,

As Wm Fieoga was writing to you I thought I would address you and the rest of mankind (and woman kind also) that I am well. Feel first rate only when I think of home and that is pretty near all the time. When we get on a tear after the rebels in the woods I forget every thing but the business on hand. But when I get back into camp and think of the bullets that came in hearing I go strait [straight] back home (in my thoughts) [?]. I think I could come home and feel as though I have done my duty went through as much hardship and made as great sacrifice as aught to be required of one man. But Sir I am coming home if I live through the siege of Corinth and of course I expect to for I do not think that we shall even see such a scene as I witnessed at Pittsburg. We are very near Corinth and the siege may commence any hour, of course, we expect to defeat them. Every day or two one of the immortal darkeys come into our camp, but they are watched very close. We are within 2 miles of Corinth and completed five lines of fortifications. But if we want to hear the "latest news from Corinth" the Cin Gazette or Chicago papers or some other paper printed up in Canada ten days behind the time will give us all the information we want.

Excuse me for addressing you there is nothing going on but picket firing about ½ mile off it might disturb you if you had never heard it but I have heard it for the last six weeks and of course I am getting the hang of it. It is of no use for me to relate to you what I have saw when I get home you will come and see me and I will tell you all I know. There is considerable sickness in camp. Generally Typhoid fever and camp dysentery.

My respects to all

Yours T. M. Egbert

Camp near Corinth

May 26, 1862

Tell my Father I am well. I wrote yesterday to my wife. Letters from home cheer us. But we can not urge our friends to write they certainly can write better than we can for we have to write on a hard sitting on the ground or on a knapsack or drum head. So write.

T. W. Egbert

Folder 9: Feaga, William - 72nd OVI. Co. A to Jacob S. Holtz

Paducah Camp Buckland

Mar 6th 1862

Friend Jacob, it is with pleasure this morning that I seat my self to write you a few lines for the first time since I left home. I am well at present except a lame shoulder from a strain at camp Chase by carrying a box of goods. James Drinkwater is well and hearty. And all the rest of the boys from our neighborhood when we arrived here our men quartered here in an old house that is the fifers and drummers there is 21 of us we have 2 rooms and a fire place in each room now better think we have some tall times we all have to go out five times a day and play. Then in the evening we put in our time by performing Negro showes. We have two fiddlers in our men and 4 that used to be in a theater as you can just think we have some fun but we expect to go from here this evening or in the morning for Tennussee to Savanah about 2 hundred miles south of this place. And I am glad of it for this is a lone some place, we have a lot of Rebel prisoners here from fort Donnelson some of them are wounded they say they was very foolish in fighting against to north. Last night we could hear heavy cannon shots up the Tennessee river we expect to hear from from a fight from that quarter, now I want you to go and tell Matilda that I am well. And when you write I want you to take and cut the latest news out of the papers and send them to me in your letter for a paper wont come here and I want you to send me 10 or 12 postage stamps for I cannot get them here for love or money. This morning I gave a dime for two. And then could hardly get them now don't you forget to send me what I ask and as soon as you can for it does me some good to hear from you. For our grub is pretty hard the most of the time. hard crackers and old bacon that is strong enough to help itself. for sometimes we get fresh [?] beef and potatoes and coffee that your hogs would not drink. No more this time write a mediately and direct to me

To 72. Reg Co. A.

Paducah via Louisville

[no date]

I have just fetched a kettle of water about a half a mile from here while I am a writing this there is heavy canonading on our left but I know not what it is nomore only I hope till to morrow night the stars and stripes will float over Corinth and about 25,000 Prisoners I got a letter from Matilda yesterday I have answered it. I cannot write much more this time for it is getting late. Tom[?] Egbert is well and hearty he is a good soldier. I can tell you since I commenced writing this letter I have heard more than 100 shots along our pickets line but I can lay down and sleep at

that. Write directly you get this and tell me what you have been a doing on the farm and all around when you write Direct to Pittsburg Landing Tenn via Cairo 72. Regt Co. A O.V.M. this is from your friend Wm. Feaga

Ann and Jacob Holtz

Pittsburg landing Tennessee river Apr. 22, 1862

Dear Friend Jacob. I have just got your letter of the 6 of this month and was glad to hear from you. I can tell you I am sorry you have all got the measles I am pretty well my self just now but I have been sick for some time we are all troubled here with the diarea. I expect you have heard of this great battle fought here before you get this letter. Yes when you was seting at home writing to me I was a laying on a pile of hay in the rain that Sunday night. Jake I always thought I would like to see a battle but now I have saw all I want to for on that very Sunday morning about 7 oclock the rebels come on to us by the thousands I was a eating my breakfast with the wrest of the mess when they began we got our drums and called the Regt. Togeather by this time they was about 40 rods from our camp. The Colonel then ordered the men to march out over a little ridge and there was the rebels sure enough and at it they went. us drummers was not ordered out but we soon had enough to do for the bullets come pretty thick where we was standing I had my drum in my hand when a ball went clear through it and another tore up the ground on the other side. I then put my drum in the tent and got a gun but I could not load it for my wright shoulder was so lame it has been lame ever since I left camp Chase. I then put the gun away and helped to take care of the wounded and that was an awful sight you better believe men shot and tore in all parts of the body this was kept up till night then next morning as soon as they could see and then till 4 oclock Monday evening I had nothing to eat from Sunday morning till Monday night. Monday night I saw the 49 Ohio and saw hank Pennell ham (?) Daywalt mat Lutz and several others that I know Cal Bou? was wounded and died Perry Bogart is wounded but is alive. You must not think that the rebels have nothing to eat for on Tuesday when I was running over the battle field I saw lots of dead rebels laying with their haversacks full of buiscuits and fried ham and that is more than we get I have not eat as mutch in one week as I would at home in one day there is a great many sick in this regt now we cannot get out more than about 300 sound men I suppose you have heard by this time that Leroy Crockett is taken Prisoner our Lieut Colonel was killed we lost in all about 80 killed wounded and missing 18 killed

I cannot tell mutch more this time for I could not tell you all on six sheat of paper when I get home I can tell all then. it is a pleasant to day but it has rained for the last 4 days, it is warm here and the trees are all green if you can I wish you would try and help Matilda to get some potatoes planted this spring when you answer this whitch I wish you would right off direct to Savanah Tennessee I tell you nothing does me more good than to get a letter from home you can see on the map where we are about 10 miles above Savanah close to Corinth no more this is from your friend Wm Feaga

I for got to put my name to that other letter

Direct C. A. 72. Regt. OVM

Savanah Tennessee

State of Miss Camp in the wilderness woods

May. 26. 1862

Friend Jacob

I have just received a letter from you and mother and I was glad to hear from you I am well at present and have time for writing [?] for you the same the weather is very warm here now about as warm here as it is at home in July. We have been here in the woods ever since the 19th of Mar. we have seen nothing like civilization only once an awhile a small spot of clear ground and an old log house but no body in it everything tore to pieces since I wrote to you last we have moved 7 times. We are now as near as we can tell within about 3 miles of corinth a little west of north we are on the extreme right at present if you were here to see our line of breastwork which is about 8 miles long we hear about 200 cannon and a number of large siege guns from 24 to 64 lbers the thing is managed altogether different to what it was before the battle of Shilo we keep a very heavy pickit out now before the other battle we had not enough picket or they was not far enough out. You may think it is fun to soldier but I can tell you it is not we have just finished our dinner we had boiled fresh beef and potatoes and coffee and hard crackers I have been doing the cooking for some days past about a week ago I got a new drum coat and pants and drawers you may think it is strange and warm but we ware woolen pants and shirt and cotton flannel drawers I have only got one shirt and I have to run without while I wash it we have been expecting a battle every day but it is hard to tell when it will come off but I can tell you a man's life is not worth 50 cts. For we cannot tell what hour we will get into a scrape and have a ball stop his breathing, but let her rip I am ready for anything now the rebels have been firing on our pickets for the last week night and day last Saturday a week ago our brigade advanced a mile and a half and drove the rebel pickets back about a mile, that night we lay in the woods all night that night we had nothing to eat since saturday morning until Sunday noon. I have forgot to tell you the water I cooked my dinner was full of wiglers for I had to get it out of a hole in the creek where the water was so scarce that it could not run that is the trouble here – the want of good water I have not had a good drink of water for 3 weeks. You wanted to hear from how I felt when I was in that battle that is hard to tell but I have heard so much firing and saw so many dead and crippled men that I don't mind anything nor care for nothing, a fellow must not have any heart here if he wants to be a soldier. I have not saw Henry Pennell since the 18 of April, our boys that come with me are all well but Ruben Drinkwater he has got the camp fever. He is better today James is not very well but he will be all right in a day or two. Wm

Moscow State of Tennessee. July 10 Thursday 1862. 39 miles East of Memphis on the Memphis and Charleston Rail Road

Friend Jacob Yours of the 29 June came to hand last Sunday evening and I was glad to hear from you I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing my leg has been sore but it is getting well again the health of the Regt is very good at this time. Nelson Barber has been very sick but he is about well again Jimmy (?) is all right. Ric(?) I expect is at home by this time. I am sorry to hear that Clay is a prisoner, for I have just sent a letter to them boys in the 55. Since I wrote to you last we have traveled from Corinth to this place and 9 miles beyond this and back again to where we now are, the citizens are moving out of Town they think we will have a fight here but I think the chance for a fight here is rather slim I want you to send me a paper whenever you can. reading of any kind goes good here and I want you to try and answer my letters sooner if you can we live very well just now and I wish you was here I have not saw Henry Pennell since the battle of Shilo or a few days after he is now in the east part of this state I wish you had been along with us the time we got possession of Corinth that was something worth seeing to see the breastworks and the stuff that they destroyed provisions of all kind I saw in their camp that morning we went in the fires burning and biscuit already cut out ready for to bake but they had got up and left 2 or 3 days before they left our men had give them a little more shell than they thought was good. We had got within half a mile of their breastworks before we knew it.

No more for this time write soon, give my respects to all the friends if I have any there any more

Your friend Wm. Feaga

J.S. Holtz

Memphis State of Tenn

Monday Sept. 15. 62. Fort Pickering

Friend Jacob, I have just received a letter from you wrote 6th and I was glad to hear from you once again. For I thought you had entirely forgot me. I was glad to read in your letter that Clay is safe again I just sent a letter to Matilda yesterday. We are now encamped here in the Fort just below the town on the bank of the Miss river. This is a grand situation for a fort here, there is two mounds in the fort they are about 18 or 20 feet high one of them is large enough for five large guns. From 32 to 120 lbers and the other has got 3 on it now I guess that is all of besides these there is to be 12 or 15 more planted along the breastwork and then five or 6 batteries of 6 guns each. And then to top off we have from 5 to 6 thousand infantry – we have pretty good times here now have to drill twice a day about 1 ½ hour each day [crossed out] time the balance of the time we are engaged at something else our boys are generally well and hearty, Theodore Dern is here again and Jack Egbert we have sent a man home out of our Com. To recruit I wish you would come along with him. his name is Perin He is in Clyde. You could not get in a better

Com our Officers are the best kind of men. Capt. Russell and Lieut Durlam Capt Eaton is now our Major he is a good man if you want to go come here you would not have to drill as much as if you go in a new Regt I expect we will stay here all winter and they say we will have a chance to some of us to man these large guns if so I am going to stay here in the Fort for this is a nice place. I must stop writing for it is time for Dress parade and supper we have a darkie cook in the morning this letter will start. Tell mother I will be glad when I get them things when you write direct to Com. A. 72. Ohio Regt. Memphis Tenn write soon, you give Friends my respects to all Wm Feaga

We are a going down to town Thursday on provost guard our Regt.

[no date; no place] [to Ann Holtz]
Monday evening

Mother I have just been to supper and Jimmy and me are a sitting in the tent. So I thought I would write a few more lines before we go to bed. Now I think you would like to know what we had for supper I will tell you this morning I went about a ½ mile out of the fort & dug some potatoes for we take what ever comes to hand we boiled some for dinner we had some roast beef beans potatoes bread & water we don't have no hard crackers here. This evening we had fried potatoes fried pork coffee and bread that is jim and me we don't have to lay on the ground here jim and me have a bunk. We always sleep together, but if we stay here this winter we will have wooden barracks in the place of tents. I wish Jake was here with us for we have a Com. of good boys and better Officers never walked you may think I am home sick I am not for we have to much ground to run over. The Fort contains about 100 acres and right on the bank of the river. We can stand in front of our tents and look up and down the river and sea the boats for miles. It is now time for tattoo I must stop

Good night Wm Feaga

Feb. 4

White Station, 9 miles East of Memphis

Friend Jacob.

It is with pleasure that that I seat myself to write you a few lines this evening while the balance of the boys are in bed by my side. The weather is rather gloomy here at present it has been cold for the last few days and it has been snowing all the after noon but the snow is soft and also about 3 in. deep. Jake it is fun to soldier here or at least some might think so. It does very well when we are in Camp and have plenty to eat but when we have to march 18 or 19 days right along and have only have rations and mud rain and snow that is fun alive, I will now tell you our

tramp from Memphis to this place we left Memphis 26 day of last Nov we moved from Fort Pickering toward Hernando. South in miss we went 13 miles the first day next day turned to the left towards the Tallahatchie where the rebels were Fortified went 15 miles that day started next morning on the Pidgeon roost road which bore to the right of Hollysprings we went 16 miles that day Camped on Pidgeon roost Creek that Friday night at 8 oclock lay there over Saturday killed hogs and sheep all we wanted. Started Sunday morning for Chulahuma 12 miles went into Camp. 4 oclock stormed that night as hard as I ever saw it storm in my life we lay there until Tuesday we then marched 7 miles to Wyatt on the Tallahatchie one mile from the rebel fortifications which they had evacuated the day before we lay there about one week we then crossed the river which is about from 3 to 4 rods wide I saw a piece in the paper stating that they sometimes shipped cotton from there in boats I think rather small boats though we marched that day to Coledge Hill about 6 miles we stayed there two weeks lacking one day our Regt was then ordered off to the right 2 miles to a plantation belonging to Senator Boles of Miss we stayed there two days and ground corn in his steam mill I run the Engine and Captain Moore from Fremont done the grinding. And a nicer place to live I never saw. Sunday after noon we was ordered forth with 5 miles to Apperville [?] on the Miss Central R.R. from there to Waterford then to Hollysprings on Christmas day we started for Lagrange Tenn. Marched 16 miles rained all day Camped for the night at Davises Mills rained all night next day 2 oclock started for Lagrange 6 miles from there to Moscow & more where we arrived 8 that night tired and hungry lay down on the wet ground slept all night good and sound we lay there 4 days. Marched back 4 miles to guard a R.R. bridge stayed there just one week we was then ordered to join our division at Corinth Miss we started on the morning of 9 Jan. 63. Marched to Grand junction then north to Boliver Tenn then across the Country to Purdy 12 miles from Pitsburg landing then to Corinth where we arrived 15th [?] rained all day water shoe top deep no fire no wood short of half mile snowed all night and next day and froze rather hard and nothing to eat but that is the way to soldier we stay there just two weeks then came here on the cars via Jackson Tenn we are guarding the M. and Ch. R.R. we expect to stay here some time and I am glad of it we have a nice little tent and a stove in it but you cannot guess how we got it I took a mess kettle cut a hole in it put a piece of stove pipe in it run it through the tent and made a small Chimney on the out side so we can keep tolerable comfortable. There is eight in this tent. N. B. Mason C. N. Davis C. Boyd C. H. McLary all from Clyde. Mr. Woolverton J. F. Herrington from Sandusky City Jimy and myself they are all asleep now Jimy and Herrington Orderly Seargent and myself bunk together it is now 10 oclock and I must stop writing give my respects to all yours. While at the bridge I received 3 papers from you truly Wm. Feaga

Write soon we are all well and hearty at present our Ct [?] men Regt. 460 we are in Smiths Division and Bucklands Brigade

Sunday Apr 12th 1863

Camp Near Youngs Point

It is with pleasure that I write to you this afternoon for it is very lonesome or it seems so to me for I have had no news from home for almost two weeks and I begin to get lonesome we came here the first day of this month and have been to work on the canal here ever since that is our Regt works every other day but to day we are a laying still for we had a shower of rain last night which made the digging rather soft for the ground is wet. Anyhow I will send you a piece of map of the river showing you where we now are and where we are digging this Canal.

We are only 12 miles from Vicksburg by the river we can hear their morning and evening guns and some of our boys are down there every day or rather opposite Vicksburg at the Canal within 1 ¼ miles so they can see the fortifications and men working on top of the breastworks. I want to go down there in a day or two if I can. I think if we ever go to take that place there will a great many of us get our land. I think about two by six feet The weather has been nice and pleasant ever since we have been here. And as warm as June at home in Ohio. The trees are all green and peaches as large as hickory nuts and weeds two feet high, our whole division is here two Brigades and two Batteries I will send you a five dollar Confederate bill but I expect you have seen one before this we expect to get pay tomorrow for we have signed the payrolls today. We are going to settle up our clothing account to the first of January and the government owes me \$20.80 for clothing up to that time and while some of our boys over run \$24.00 which will be taken out of their pay and then \$20.00 I cant get until I get discharged which I expect will be at Vicksburg for I don't expect to go up the Miss River again but that is hard to tell. Monday afternoon rainy and muddy. This Canal is so they are a going to let the water in this evening but I think it will never amount to any thing from the looks of things now. I think if we had two or three Old women in the place of some of our Gen here then there would be something done. For all that our head Officers care about is to line their pockets with Uncle Sam's money or at least it seems to me at any rate. No more today when you write direct as before.

Via Memphis Tenn

Yours with respect Wm Feaga

Camp near Youngs Point La. Apr. 17, 1863

Friend Jake. Here we are again weather warm and clear since I wrote you last I have been going to send this to you every day but we expect to get our pay and I was waiting to send some money home in this letter but we have not got any pay yet. But look for it every day Jake had ought to been here last night we had a lively time of it from half past 11 until half past one some of our boats ran passed Vicksburg there was 5 Gun boats, 3 rams one Tug and 3 transports started they went through safe but one Transport got burned the Henry Clay and th Forest Queen was

damaged some. One shot went in a porthole of one of the Gun boats and killed one man and wounded two more this is the total of our loss I believe as near as I can find out after the boats got through they drove the rebels out of Warrenton a place below Vicksburg oposite the mouth of the Canal you se on this piece of map I send you now this Dr. Caul brought up for he was down there all night they have been firing day and while I write we can hear heavy guns one of our boys just came from down there so close that he could se the rebels fire on our guns boats today of all the thunder and lightning I ever heard in my life it would not equal last night so we could se the flash of the gun then hear the report. Which was so terable that the Earth appeard all in a quiver it is only about 6 miles straight through to Vicksburg. You can imagine one report after another then two or three at a time guns of all sizes from .32 up to 120. lbsders the canal at this point is progressing finely in a few days we can run through and get below Vicksburg with transports and men enough to take the place for their communication from the west is all cut of now. The pay is here now he says he will pay us off Monday morning and this is Friday after noon I hope he will for we want it bad enough. There was some talk of giving us furloughs this summer but I think they will be scarce. Old Grant has six thousand blank furloughs sent down here the other day that he expects to have filled out they are about two in wide and 6 feet long and made of boards but instead of sending them back up the river again he has them put in the levee along the river there is two miles of the levee lined with them now one against another, the weather is very warm this afternoon some of the boys are a fishing and some are in a swimming now Jake I want you to write soon and be sure and direct to me as before via Memphis Tenn Bucklands Brigade Jake am a coming home one year from next winter

good bye

Wm. Feaga

Saturday 18. [no place]

I have just been down the river to take a look at Vicksburg but I could see nothing but forts and houses. I was within 5 miles of the town and with a glass I could se the forts and every thing that is there. it is as pretty a place as I ever saw in my life and some splendid buildings on this side of the river we have got a battery of 8 guns 30 lb Parott Rifled at that they will shoot 5 miles and they are only one mile from the town this battery was put up in the night the guns are casemated bomb proof the work around these guns is six feet solid wood then plated 6 inches of Iron on the outside. I could se them firing to day and se the shell burst up in town but the rebels never made any reply I believe from the looks of things now that they will leave Vicksburg before two weeks our men thought that the rebels had lots of Artillery there but it don't show from where I was I could se the breastworks but no guns

Folder 10: Goetschius, Dudley - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Saturday Eve, May 18, 1862

Friend Dudley,

It is with pleasure that I write you few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope these few lines may find you the same.

September 28, 1862

Friend Jacob Holtz,

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you now [know] that all the boys from old Seneca is all well but myself. I have been considerable under the weather but I am getting sum beter now and I think that I well get along now with out any difficulty. I have been in the hospital for too [two] weeks and are still in yet but I hope to get out soon.

Well, Jacob we are now in Louisville Kentucky it is a [?] big place I tell you deed it is nice place Jake. I wish you was here this place best all places for darkeys that I ever saw. Jake there is some of the biggest nigger wenches here that I ever saw I tell you they were clever as we came threw [through] the town. White ladies came with there baskets with peaches aples and buckets with water but I tell you the niggers beats the whites. There is about forty darkeys to one white the little black [?] would come around there with bred and peaches and the boys would ask them how they sell they say [?] sir you bet the boy would pitch in wed had all the water and bred peaches that we wanted.

Well Jacob I want to tell you any thing more about the darkeys. I haven't seen but one pretty girl since I crossed the Ohio river and she was pretty. I was sick and she sent some beef soop. I tell you that was good. Well, Jacob Ile [I'll] swear now that pretty girl was not in Kentucky. She was in Indiania rite across from Louis ville in Jeffersonville. I tell you I would like to spark her well I would. Well Jake if we dont get back before three years I must have a spark in old Kentucky I spect it will bee a spark wont it especially if I should spark a nigger gal. Well I suppose the girls are al right.

Jacob I believe I don't know what to write any more. Robert macmean said that I should give you his best respects and he said that he wanted you to rite to him without fail.

Jake I believe that is all. Direct your letters 101 Regiment, OVI co I in care of Capt. Barnes via Louisville.

Rite soon as you get this

Your ever friend D. Goetschius

Convalescent Camp

Davis Division

March 6, 1863

Friend Jacob,

sir I take this oportunity [opportunity] to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and I hope this will find you the same and all the rest of the folk. Jacob it has been raining here for the last 2 months and is raining to day the Cumberland river is up to the first notch and the steamboats as thick as geese. There is any amount of boxes and freight coming threw [through] Jacob we live first rate in camp. We have [?] bread, beef, pork, beans, rice, pears, coffee, sugar, molasses and Tea.

Jacob we had a big time here on Washing birthday we had a big celebration and if you don't bleive [believe] I will tell you. There was one brass band and a speech by governer Johnson that was all that done. Now don't you bleive me. We have big time here in camp we have Nothing to dew [do] but to eat, sleepe, and play checkers. Jacob Soldiering is a pretty hard life you better bleive it and if don't bleive it, come and try it. Jacob if you are not very stout you stay where you are. I should like to see you all and the girls too. Well I think again my two years and a half is up if nothing happens I shall see you all. Well Jake we have not been paid off yet but there is some prospect of it now. The news came here that our regiment has not been mustered into service, yet they say our regiment has not been paid off and all the rest of the regiment has been paid off in our division and the devil only knows when we will be paid off. Well bether rip Jacob I tell you the war matters. We had a very hard fight here at Murfreesboro and I tell you our boys whipped them bad. I tell you old rosy can just dew it that is what to matter. I expect we will have another battle oute in front same if we do they will get whipped worse yet after we have a good many

reinforcement. Well Jake the boy that that is not dead is all getting along very well. I bleive John shafer and walt miller and wallis davalt is all that is left in our mess. Well Jake a soldiers letter and nary red hard tack in the place of bred post master shove this threw.

Nary stamp but 7 months dew. Well I must close for this time rite soon and tell me all the news. Direct your letters D. Goetschius Convalescent Camp Davis division Nashville Tennessee write soon nomore.

Respectfully your Dudley Goetschius

April 15, 1863

Friend Jacob,

I take this oportunity [opportunity] to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying good health. Well Jacob detailed as a permanent gard at the prison hospital we have a good time. Here, we are on gard every other day and every other day we get a pass and go where ever we please. Jacob I wish you could come and see me I would I would like to see you [?] and I would like to see your women. Jake it is kind of lonesome here now. I am away from my regiment and I expect never to go to it any more. I tell you our regiment is badly used up, the boys are all scattered and a good many of them died and killed off and our colonel Stem killed. I don't care any thing aboute going to the regiment those some of the boys yet that I would like to see firstrait. Our captain I don't like nor never will he is a perfect rascal that is what he is he was what I supposed he was. Jacob if you ever come to war I would chose you never to come in the hundred and first.

Well Jake times is pretty dull here now the Cumberland river is pretty low here. Now the boats cant hardly come now but it has been raining now for the last couple of days and I think it is not over yet. The dang rebels captured one of our trains between here and Murfreesboro. They damaged some of the spikes from the siding and when the cars came long down they went the rebels fired in to her and killed 4 or 5 then they grabed the mail and they burned the train. They got a good deal of money. I tell they boys was just paid of and then they was a sending it home they suppose they got a hundred thousand dollars. Damn the rebels. I say the armies are skirmishing a long the front I suppose they will find a fight here soon. I think if our men whip them oute here the war will soon be over well old rosy can do it to them every time he can.

Well Jacob I must close. Jake I want you to write me and tell me all the news (Direct your letters to Nashville post office Box N. 575 tennessee). I send my respects to all enquiring friends and all the girls and [?] it yourself.

D. Goetschius

Folder 11: Holtz, Clay - 55th OVI. Co. H Jacob S. Holtz

Camp [?]

February 4, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I take the present opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you now that I am well the rest of the boys are well. Thomas Thacker has been under the weather for three or four days that is he is not down sick but not well. Jake I have not seen many secesh yet but we are not [?] ways from them. While we was at Franklin the boys took receipt of the chaps and brought them in camp, they say they were tearing up the track but I don't now what they done with them. We staid out Grafton one week last Sunday. We drawed three days rations and was ordered to [?] them and we did it to cooked all day Sunday and first of the night and the rest of the night was spent in packing up and loading the baggage. In the morning, about three oclock in the morning the camp was raised and the tents were all packed up and loaded in short time, but it was a kind of delirious time for it snowed like thunder all the morning here. We had to stand out in this for about two hours awaiting for the cars, at last they came and on we got rode all day got to they [?] the uper potomic river at which place we are now. We came cross the corner of Maryland were in Virginia now but I can through in Maryland our camp is on the bottom the river potomic on our right, the 78th Ohio Regt on our left, the 67th Ohio on our rear in Maryland. A cavalry on our front on the first big hill right on the top the first Ohio artillery it arrived at this place yesterday. They say that there is a great many troops about here there picket extend about five miles from camp towards Rosecrans. The boys that are here say that the pickets have been run in several times lately but they were not run in last night [?]. I no of night before last one of the pickets was wounded. This morning three of our boys is to start out on picket. I think they will have a cold time of it the snow is from six to eight inches deep last night, was the coldest that I have seen since I have been in camp though we slept comfortable. Sunday night one of the company G boys met with an accident. He had his gun loaded and when was relieved the Captain the load drawed [drawn], the boy went to drawing the load while he was at work sooner came up and began to fool with the lock and ask questions when his fingers sliped off the lock and away

went the load. The ball and hamer passed through the pan off his elbow making sore place. He is now at Grafton in the hospital. Well it is about mail time and I must close so good by write soon

Direct in this way the name Company H, 55th OVI

Via New Creek, Virginia

Write soon and let all of the [?]

Clay Holtz

Cumberland, Md

Saturday, July 12, 1862

Sir Friend Jake,

I seat myself down to write a few scratches to you to let you know that I am all right again and have got out of lines again. We celebrated the fourth moving the hospital from Franklin to Petersburg, we got there the third day here we found our own soldiers again. Sunday evening, I guess that I will try and finish I haven't much to say. I have been a prisoner for 6 weeks and I is now but not in their hands left them on the forth and I am now in Cumberland Md, but I don't know how long I will stay here. I think not longer than the middle of this week it is thought that we will either be exchanged shortly or else sent to Columbus Ohio such at this might be home. But I think not, I think to Richmond is the place for us it is, the place they need us and I am afraid they need more than what they have got. I have not saw the regiment for 9 weeks and I don't know where it is at this time but I believe they haven't been in any battle or that is what I hear from some of the boys that are here. The weather is nice ere and the harvest is being cut. There was some cut on the forth up the valley from Peters Burgh to Franklin. I suppose that you are all done harvesting around here by this time. I have not had a letter from home or from any one for 7 going on 8 weeks but I hope that you are all well around there I cannot say much more only that I believe that I am getting the mumps at enrate. My face is pretty well swelled up that is all for the present you will not answer this until you hear from again for I don't know where I will be in a week from now. I will write home shortly again and I will tell them where to write to.

That's all

Yours with respect

Clay Holtz

Camp Chase Columbus, Oh

August 25, 1862

Sir I embrace to present opportunity of writing to you if no reason I received your letter last week one day. I was glad to hear from you. The weather is nice and warm, warmer than I care for but as our task is not very hard it make but little difference. I have been here every day since the 6th of August and have not done the first item of duty nor wont if they keep us here 6 months but I wish that they don't keep us here so long. As all that all though there is some that say we are all exchanged but I don't believe it. They brought out some of there pets to day and the ex Govenor of Tenn held a short consultation with them and the subject of the oath of allegiance which resulted in about 12 out of hundred took the oath and was immediately released and started home for Tennessee about Precilah. I say bully for her go while young bull for you I say well I guess that is about all only more at present you must excuse all mistakes.

yours with respect

Clay Holtz to Jacob S. Holtz

You will answer on receipt.

Camp Near Brooks Station, VA

April 8, 1863

Friend J,

Sir I quietly seat my self down to write a few lines in answer to your letter of March 26 which I received a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you to get letters from home or near there are always exceptable [acceptable]. Well I hardly no [know] what to write. I am considerable comfudled and sleepy both taken in consideration it is as much as I can do to keep my eyes open. I am well at present and so is all the rest of the boys as far as I no except E. Sherman he has only a frog in his throught [throat]. He was in our parlor this morning and barked a little but I guess he will be all rite in a day or two. Last week, me and Hank and John was out on picket three day hich the weather was nice and we had a fine time of it. I heard nothing while on guard more than

the crowing of some chickens (as Jake heath says) and if there had been any site to harry had one of them for roast we shurly [surely] would have one. We could only see them in the day time what went with them at night we couldnt finde out.

We hung up a beef one morning rite early I take notice we can hardly call a beef for it wasn't much else but bones. But we could use the stake pretty well, only it tasted rather poor. We could taste the pine burrs it had eaten, for there is no grass here yet and they have nothing else here to feed them, and you say Den is maryed [married] bully him.

Oh its shore alittle easy when you first do begin for it always seems to hurt me until get it the girl say that mary asked me if she was [?] buly for her---I cant say I don't think she asked me that questions but I think that not with standing I tell some about it [?].

I guess the girls lied alittle and so you can just grin and give them fits.

I guess enough of this no more for this time.

Write soon

Fare ye well

From your friend Clay

Direct as before via Washington, D.C.

Camp Near Brooks Station, Va

Sunday, May 10, 1863

Friend Jake,

So I take my pencil in hand to pen you a few scratches to let you know that I am well and as harty. As wars things apear so ate for out of my days rations of bread that I drewed to day, two fifths remains unhurt the other 3/5 I eat for my dinner. I guess I will haf to make out and extra requisition for supper and breakfast. Well Uncle Sam is good for another meal yet. I suppose that you have before this time heard something of the late Frederick Burgh fight [damaged section]

and more of us knows is we left this place on Monday April 27th for some unknown destination to us. Though we hadent [haven't] traveled more than 2 days before I could give a pretty good guess where we were bound for. The evening of the 4th days travel we halted and awaited movements of the rebs. The next day being Friday, the rebs got around some place where they commenced shelling at us and our artillery at them the cannonading lasted but a short time when every thing became quiet and all of the troops lay silent for the night. The next day we still held our old [?] until in the evening about 2 oclock when the rebs made a dash on our rite flank and succeeded, turning it that the rebs. Then 2 pieces of artillery up in the road and commenced [?] us the troops then commenced on our rite to [?] the rebs encouraged at this pressed on the harder shouting and shooting as fast the load would let them and just as careless [?], as though they didnt care where they hit fellow just so as they hurt him. Monday we were not in the fight that day there was some desperate fighting done the rebs were influenced with whiskey and they were about as tight as whiskey will make men. Well Jake I have not told you near all nor I haven't time to we got back to this last Wednesday evening.

Hank was wound in 2 places, not dangerously. I sent him this morning David Park it thought by some is cornered is wound and taken prisoner. C. D. Dudrow we know nothing of the rest of the boys are all sound as far I no old Cap is missing but whether he was hurt or what became of him we don't or cant tell.

I lost my knap sack and a soldier losing that is like a mans house burning down when he is off some and don't see it.

I must close for the time. Excuse all mistakes and write soon. Direct as before. Clay

The church call has blowed and I must go as that is the order.

Folder 12: Jordan, Alonzo - 49th OVI. Co. A to Jacob S. Holtz

July 3, 1864

Friend Jacob,

I take my pen to inform you that I am not ded. The next time that you hear I am ded just write to me and find out the truth of it. I should like to know who your informant was. I think he had better tell another and quit. I was sick but not so bad as was reported. I am as well as ever and having a good time generally. I received a letter from you about the time that you went away and did not know where you was until Father received a letter you last week. I also receive that money you sent to me I am very much obliged to you for your trouble.

How do you like soldiering by this time having big times I expect.

Well I must stop scribbling for this time.

Write soon

Yours truly

Alonzo Jordan

Folder 13: McMeen, Robert M. - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Bowling Green

November 9, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I received your kind letter about a week ago and was glad to hear your health was improving and also to know that you don't forget your old friend when far away. I am well at present as usual and hope these few lines may find you the same. Well we have tramp over considerable ground since I saw you last, having marched over three hundred miles since we left Louisville which was the first of last month. A soldiers life is a hard one you may bet living on hard tax, meat and coffee. I for one is getting tired of it

then being away from the girls the pretty critters if I only had them with us I would be contented but they aint along and we have to be contented by thinking of them, which don't do a fellow so much good as to hug them once and a while. Now Jake you said you would be with us just as soon as the doctors would pass you on as we would like to see you on first rate a wish but takes a fools advice and never enlist for I know you cant stand. We are leaving the boys on the road like sick sheep. We have the best company in the regiment and we cant muster more 58 fit for duty. We have been without tents blankets or any thing else to sleep under and the nights is very cool but we are drawing them now then we will be fixed. It must keep you busy to tend all the girls I wish I was there to help you but wait till we come home then they will suffer you [?] but so you had better take your turn now. I expect we will go to Nashville from here but cant tell for certain I must close give my love to the all the girls my love to you I remain your friend as ever.

R. M. McMeen

Old hos

Folder 14: Park, David W. - 55th OVI. Co. G to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp Near Brook Station, Va

March 11, 1863

Friend Jacob,

Once more I seat myself to try and write you a few lines in answer to yours to E. Sherman I myself he is writing to Charles and I will enclose my letter in his. The Boys are all well as far as I know that is of your acquaintance with the exception of myself, I am some under the weather with a cold but will be all right in a few days. It makes me feel sad to know so much sad news from home neighborhood. I suppose times are very dull in that part of the country but I hope their will soon be a change for the better for I think the times are rather dubious at present. But I never want to see a reb enter the state of my birth until Rebellion is sunk beneath the surface of our once happy country. I know it through correspondence that the army of the Potomac was discourage but dont believe any such stuff for it is the talk of some Copperheads and cannot be relied on it is true. Some few did dissert but they was about all German or Irish we get very good rations now and are very well satisfied. Congress has passed an act to furlough 50 out of a hundred and the Boys will all get home that want to go by having a little Patience. As there is no news to write I am in no state of mind to write. I will draw my nonsense to a close wishing you good luck and with the prospect of seeing you soon also of hearing from you when this reaches you.

This is from your friend,

D.W. Park

Jacob Holtz

Give my Respects to all friends of mine.

Co. G 55th Ohio Regt

[?] Brigade

Sigels Corps

Via Washington, D.C.

Folder 15: Pennell, Henry L. - 49th OVI. Co. B to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp Stanton

Maury County, Tennessee

Friday, March 28, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I take my pen to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well & hearty as usual. I hope this will find you and your folks all in the same state of health. I received your kind letter by the hand of Cal yesterday, I was glad to hear that you were all well. The health of our Regiment is very good & I hope it will continue so. We are in one the most splendid countries I have seen nice land lays nice to the Residences are of the nicest kind & are adorned with Evergreen & Shrubbery in a very tasteful style. They plant their corn about the 1st & cotton about the middle of April. We are having the nicest kind of weather at this time. We are camped on the North Bank of Duck River. Opposite Columbia, the county seat of Maury County, Tennessee we are rebuilding a bridge that the Rebels destroyed before they left. They burned a nice covered bridge & then sloped as usual. The bridge will be done on Monday if nothing happens & we will be apt to cross on Tuesday if we do not before. We have quite a large force here in this division, some

70,000 or more. General Buell is here at this time in person & I expect he will keep along with us. As it is reported that the rebels are getting a large force together near Decatur, Allabamma [Alabama] & are going to give us a fight there & I suppose we will to Decatur when we move on. Which we will do when the Bridge is done if not before. If they stand their ground & give us Battle I think they are a whipped nation & if so the War will be of short duration. Which I hope will be the case. So we can all get home again & enjoy the pleasures of Peace & Plenty again. Now Jacob as to the papers you spoke of I will say that I have received some from several times & always mentioned it in the letters I wrote to Horace Hall & Jesse & I wrote a letter to your Father & afterwards to you but I never got an answer to either of them, & thinking you had other correspondents enough without me I concluded I would not write again, but as you have broken the string I will do so to. I hope you will continue to do so & I will do the same. Give my respects to all that enquire after me & to Halls folks & the Mills Boys, Josh Weagley & in fact all of my friends you may see & accept the same for yourself & folks. Please write as soon as you can & as often & send me a paper once in a while & direct to H.L. Pennell Company B, 49th Regt via Louisville, Kentucky & I will get them & now with my best wishes for your welfare and Prosperity I will come to a close by Subscribing myself your friend & Well Wisher. H.L. Pennell.

Jacob S. Holtz & others

Camp Shiloh near Pittsburg

Landing, Tennessee

Wednesday, April 30, 1862

Friend Jacob S. Holtz,

I take my pen to let you know that I received your kind & welcome letter of Apr 18th & was glad to hear that you were well again after your illness also that of your folks. Yours found me well & hearty as usual. You say you guess I know what a fight is, well Jake I do that very thing for I was into it as hard as any of them I think & I also think that I droped some of those cussed rebels in the bargain, but some our Boys had to take the same course of which you have heard before & there is no use in my repeating it. As to the papers we are very glad to get them from home as our chance to hear the news are very poor except by mail. We do not get any by the newsboys here for the reason that they sell out before they get this far. Yes, Jake we had a big fight it said it was the Biggest fight ever fought on this Continent. We are all looking for it wishing to hear of McClellans victory at Yorktown and Richmond but it seems as though we never would hear of it. But time will tell as the fellow said by the old race horse. Jake McCormack just come back to day & brought a few recruits & some letters for the regiment. But have not the Particulars. Perry

Bogart was at Louisville the last we heard from him which was a few days ago doing very well. We moved our camp out in advance yesterday toward Corinth Some 5 or six Miles & are camped in the woods where the land is rolling and uneven, lizzards plenty & very neighborly. There is field of young corn near us that is 6 inches high & looks nice. Some of the Boys were over last evening & plowed and had some so to tell that they worked in a cornfield in the State of Tennessee. Well let them rip for it is all Oak any how, I hope it will not be long before we will visit the city of Corinth Mississippi and take Peaceable Possession of it. But take the place anyhow that is my way of feeling & if we have a big fight I expect to feel as I did in the other as cool as a cucumber. There was not more excitement about me than there is now while I am writing this letter & I am sure there is none but I am tired of writing for this only the 6th letter for me to day & that is enough to make one tired the way we have to sit & write. But I must close for this time. Give my respects to all of my friends & accept the same for yourself & folks. Write when can conveniently do so & I will do the same this from your friend & Well Wisher

Jacob S. Holtz

H.L. Pennell

P.S. Direct to H.L. Pennell Co. B, 49th Regiment O.V. U.S.A. Care of Captain Porter via Louisville, Kentucky, McCooks Division & I will get them. H. L. P.

Hospital at Stevenson, Alabama

July 25, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I take pen to let you know that I just received your kind letter of June 8th which was only not quite 7 weeks on the road a short time that, but nevertheless I as glad to get it as it showed me that you had not forgotten me. I have not heard from my wife or Mr. Halls folks since the date of June 16th. I do not know how they are. I have been in the Hospital since June 19th. I had a severe fever when I went there & I got that broke & I have had a very lame back ever since which I think & some doctors say the same that my spine is affected & it probably will be some time before I will be able to go to my regiment for duty if ever. I tried to get a furlough to come home a while where I could have care & rest but they will not give any more furloughs. Our regiment is camped at Battle Creek 13 miles from here East towards Chattonooga, how long they will stay there I cannot tell. I heard from there yesterday. They were generally well and subsisting on half rations. The left wing of our regiment was out on a foraging expedition yesterday. There has been some of our Officers resigning lately. Col. Gibson is Nashville where

he stoped on his way back & he has been very sick but I understand he is getting better slowly. There is not much in the way of news that I can tell you as there is not much going on here excepting some Bushwhacking occasionally & as to news at a distance I do not get any lately. What few papers that come here are old & do not have any war news in them. There was list of Georgians & some Alabamians come here a few days ago to join our army to get away from the rebels & they were sent to General Buell at Huntsville some 60 miles from here & I am told that they are drilling there at this time. They have been feeding me on quinine for the last six weeks but I do not fatten much on it & to day I have a big blister 8 inches square on my back which will make me grin tonight I expect. But I must come to a close for this time. Please give my respects to Mr. Halls folks & other that may Enquire & if my wife is there yet tell her I sent her a letter to day to McCutchenville not knowing where she was but supposing that she had gone back by this time. Give my respects to your fathers family & accept the same for yourself & hoping to hear from you before long I remain your friend & Well Wisher.

H.L. Pennell

Jacob S. Holtz

Folder 16: Ragen, Oliver - 49th OVI. Co. B to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp Chase, Ohio

March 21, 1862

Friend Jacob,

I once more take my pen in hand to let you know how I am a getting along I am well & I hope these few lines find you enjoying the same good blessing. Well Jacob I suppose you know that I am a parole prisoner & all about where I was taken and it is not worth my while to say any thing about it if ever I get home. I can tell all about my travail I had through Dixy I had a purty [pretty] hard time of it. We had to go sometimes 3 or 4 days without any thing to eat and you know that was ruff [rough]. I tell you Jacob that I have seen the elephant. Well Jake I don't know of any thing to write to you that will be interesting to you. Well Jacob I thought when I got to Camp Chase I would get to come home but that is played out now I cant get home unless I take a french and that I wont do. So I cant get to see my little woman but I guess she is all right. Jacob when you write to me give me all the knews [news] of the neighborhood I have not herd any thing of any them in that part of the county. I have not herd from home for a longtime no more this time write soon.

Oliver Ragen

Jacob S. Holtz

Camp near Corinth

May 31, 1862

Old Friend,

It is with great pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines may find you the same. I am a way down in old Mississippi within 9 miles of Corinth where that big fight was going to be but the fight is all over now. The rebels left there when they found we were a going to give hell. There is some of our forces are in Corinth now and I will [be] there in a day or two if nothing happens so I will guess they have gone back to the grand junction. They say if we follow them up they will give us another Shiloh battle but I think they cant hurt us mutch [much]. All the hurt they can do us is to leave there that will hurt us more than if they would fight us for then we will have to follow them and marching is hard work this warm weather. We were all ready to fight them here when they left. They left in the night and the time they had out a heavy picket as to fool us and they did fool us two for in the morning when were a going to make the attack there was nothing there to attact [attack]. To sharp for us that time but they cant fool that way very soon again. Well, Jacob I must ask you one question and that is if you still go Shumaker house yet. If you do luck to you and all the [?] that you can get. I would like to be there to race around with you once more that's whats the matter Jake you must tell John Shafer he must not let that big fratarery [fraternity]. Get him down that is all. Give my best respects to all the folks and them that don't tell them they can light my jolly brown a---h---. No more this time but remain your friend till death. Good by. Answer soon.

Oliver Ragen

Well Jacob I am a going to send this letter without paying the postage for I have no stamps nor any money.

Tennessee Nashville

November 9, 1862

Friend,

Jacob I once more take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and sound as a cuss and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. I am out on picket to day and I thought I would write to you as it has been a long time since I wrote to you and mutch longer since I herd from you. I received a letter from you when I was at Corinth and never got any answer to the one I wrote you while we were at florence. I have wrote two to you that I never have received any answer to yet but I hope that if you get this one you will not forget to answer. It [if] you do [don't] I will write no more until I get one from you. Well Jacob I have seen some awful hard times since I left Ohio but I have lived through it all. We have marched in the last 70 days 800 miles and I have never rode one step since here. I have been I have kept my health very well since I left home. I was only sick about 4 or 5 days since I left home and it has been now over 8 months since I enlisted and if I live through the next 8 months as well as I have these last eight I think I will be at home for I don't think this darned war can last mutch longer. If ever I get home I will the gals suffer to make up for the lost time. Well Jacob you must not let the girls hurt you till we all get back there is most to many there for you. I believe you are about all the young man that is left on that road. Now Jacob when you write to me let me know how old Father Shumakers gals is a getting a long and how my little woman is and if she is all right on the goose. I saw the 101 Regiment at Louisville and saw all the boys they were all sound then they are about eight miles from here. Now we are expecting them up here every day and if ever they get with in 2 or 3 miles of us I am a going to see them. Well Jacob I don't know of anything more to write this time I am a poor hand to write letter so no more this time write soon.

Good Day

Jacob S. Holtz

Oliver Ragen

Camp Near Nashville, Tenn.

November 29, 1862

Old Friend,

Jacob your most kind and long looked for has at last come to hand. It found me well and sound as a cuss & I hope these few lines may find you enjoying the good blessing. We are encamped on a very nice piece of ground it is high and dry and water is close at hand and plenty of it but I believe we are a going to move our camp this afternoon about three miles from here. I dont think we will go very far anyhow for we cant go very far without a fight. We had quite a little fight yesterday with the reb yesterday they came up and atacted [attacked] our picket line but we made them git up and dust. We drove them back about 9 miles. We had only too [two] men wounded. As for what they had killed or wounded I could not say but I think they had some killed and I know we took more prisoners than they did. We took 4 that I know of and they did not get any of us so you see that is clear gain for us. Well Jacob I don't know of any more to wright [write]. I have not seen John Shafer since we left Louisville. They were all well then and I hope they are yet that is all what I can say. Well Jacob you told me how my woman was but you did not say anything about your Judy or Olley. I herd that Oley was very sick now as you are the only union man back there I think you might try your skill on her as she is quite young. I think if you will apply a little coat sleeve occasionally would cause a quick recovery for I don't think it is nothing more than her little pussy hurting her all this time. Now Jacob be a man and don't let her suffer long. Well that I guess that will do for that any how for this time. Well Jacob I want to ask you one question and that is this, if you know why they buried Old Zollicoffer with his face down. Now if you dont know I will tell you if you was here I would let guess it but as you are not I will tell but I guess you know. The reason is this. So his friends could kiss his ass without turning him over. So good Friend Jacob

I am your Friend as ever

Oliver Ragen

[?] Tennessee

April 10, 1864

Jacob,

Thinking you would be glad to hear from one [of] your old friends. Ho has been Serving his county for quit [quite] a spell and is still living yet. So he consider it tolerable good. So thus he begins his days [?]. I am still bobbing a long just like a Shitepoke bobbing for eels. I suppose you know how that is don't you.

Well Jacob how are you making it at home with those girls. Do you keep them all straight yet or have they got the upper hand of you. Well don't you have any idea of enlisting yet or cant you

leave Adele Jordan long enough to come soldier a while. Well esq if I was in your place I would not leave either. I would stay home until I got married to some Zerog Laidy who would take care of you. I know you are getting well in years and for that reason you wont have body to take care of you in your old age. Poor Fellow yes indeed Poor enough. Esq.

Well I must bring my big letter to a close by telling you not to think hard of this for you now I am a cuss. Since I have went on soldiering I cant tell wether it is the making or breaking of me at any rub I am hard enough. Since I have started out for myself and not only one but a quite many more also Esq. I want you to give my best wishes to all the Young Ladys that are still around their and would be hapy to form aquintance with some young Lady that you know. It has been a long time since I have been a round them Corners as mutch as Laurel Zeurfarmar.

Excuse all mistakes and bad writing and speling write if thing lest would be hapy to hear from you.

Bluesprings, Tenn.

April 20, 1864

Friend Jacob,

I take my pen in hand this evening to answer your most kind & welcome letter witch came to hand yesterday it found me well and as sound as a cuss. And I hope those [these] few lines will find you the same. Well Jacob I was very mutch surprised when I got your letter. You are the first person that has written to me first since I have been in the service. I always had to write first. You can bet it gave me a great deal of pleasure to hear from you and that you were well but was sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Lutz. Well Jacob I have nothing knew [new] to write to you at this time as it is all quiet here now. We have good times here now lots of fun. The Boys are all well lively as a bee while I am here in my tent a writing the Boys are out a making so mutch noise that I hardly can write. I have to stop some times and laugh at them. You must excuse all mistakes for I guess they are numerous. You stated in your letter that was a going to see Eveline now when you go there again give her my best respects and tell her to write to me for she owes a letter or two. I wrote to her but never received any answer maybe she thinks I hant worth writing to. Well Jacob I will have to close for this time hoping to hear from you soon.

Oliver Ragen

Jacob S. Holtz

Direct to Co. B 49th O.V.I.

Well Jacob I will have to give you a little poetry or rather a Prayer.

Now I lay me down to sleep
The lice and wood ticks on me creep
If they should bite me before I wake
I hope the devil there jaws will break
Amen

As I was a going down the lane I saw a crane.
He flew strait a cross our ass hole
He stretched his neck and shit a
And then closed up his ass hole
Shake Speer

By Professer Ragon, Esq.
Sheep thief & a liar

Folder 17: Rule, Isaac P. - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

March 16, 1863

Friend Jacob,

I recd a letter from you dated Feb. March 1st about one week since, but started on a scout the next day, consequently have not had time to write until to day.

I am well and have had work enough to so since I came back to keep me from getting lonesome.

The boys of your acquaintance are all well except John Bonnell, he is troubled with some with rheumatism, but is doing duty around camp. I am pleased to learn that there is grit and patriotism enough among your boys that are left at home to resent the base insinuations of your copperhead neighbors whose greatest delight would be to see the men who are fighting for the defense of their homes and the perpetuation of the only form of government known upon earth which guarantees to all men all the rights which are necessary to the full enjoyment of life, and the pursuit of happiness.

I believe, however, that their race is nearly run, and the evils which they desire should fall upon us, will recoil upon their own heads.

The weather has been delightful here for the last six days, equal to our fine may days in Ohio, though vegetation is not so far advanced.

The roads are fast becoming good, the soil drying much faster than our Ohio soil. I tell you if you could see some of the beautiful plantations in this country, you would feel as if you make it your home, if peace did but reign, instead of ravaging war.

May God hasten the day when this beautiful portion of his footstool shall b e made to bird and blossom as the rose, not by the labor of the oppressed slave, but by the hand of willing, free and enlightened white labor, rejoicing in all the elements of a pure, cultivated, civilization.

I have been waiting with great anxiety the result of the engagement pending at Vicksburg, as it will greatly affect the feelings of our foes, either cause them to exalt in the hope of a final triumph, or, fill their hearts with despair for the unholy cause, which they have espoused. But as yet no news of decisive movements have reached us.

Jacob, I must quit writing for the present, though I have said but little which can prove interesting to you, as there is no news here of importance to communicate. Give my respects to your parents and brothers, and to all other friends who may enquire after my welfare, and believe me Yours Truly, in the cause of the Union.

Write soon,

I.P. Rule

Winchester, Tenn

July 12, 1863

Friend Jacob,

Dear sir I recd last evening your letter of the 4th inst. in which you inform me that you had written some time since but had recd no answer. You are right in your conjecture that I did not get the letter; If I had got it I should have promptly responded, for it is indeed a great pleasure to me to spend a portion of my leisure time in an interchange of thoughts with the dear friends I have left at hand.

We started from Murfreesboro on the 24th of June, as you have no doubt heard, some time since. Since that time we have seen some pretty tough times but feel ourselves amply paid for all our hardships in the glorious success with which we have met.

Tis true the points have not been gained through much shedding of blood but through the bold rapid movements made under the direction of our glorious chieftain. Our casualties thus far amount to the wounding of one man of Co. C whilst skirmishing with the enemy beyond Liberty gap on the 26th ult. and the accidental wounding of George Vandenburg by a man of his own company. He shot him through the right thigh very near the body. George was unwell and this with the wound has ended his mortal career. He was wounded on the morning of the 29th of June and died at Manchester on the morning of 1st inst. Thus passes away my valued soldier friend. George was highly esteemed by the members of his company of which he was orderly sergeant.

The weather has been very unfavorable since we left Murfreesboro. It has rained 15 days of the 18 which we have spent in this campaign. It is the prevailing opinion here that had Bragg fought us as he no doubt intended to do up to a very few hours before his evacuation of Tullahoma we would have captured his entire army.

I rejoice to hear that you have the courage to rebuke so base a libel as that uttered by Andrew Kagy and hope that you will under like circumstances act as promptly as you did there. By the way I imagine the copperhead fraternity have by this time become quite chopfallen. We are hearing glorious news from nearly all quarters and should we meet with no reverses, I think, those that are left of us may have the pleasure of confronting those same copperheads face to face.

I have written this very hastily and occupied time which some of the folks may think I should have spent upon the pay rolls of which I have four to make to day. But I will take time to write letters.

Give my respects to your Father and mother and all other friends and yourself accept the kind wishes of your friend.

I.P.Rule

P.S.

Write soon, give me the news.

John Bonnell and William Holtz are with us and are reasonably well.

Direct your letters as before.

I.P.R.

Folder 18: Shafer, John A. - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Camp near Bolinggreen, Ky

November 2, 1862

Sir Jacob,

It is with much pleasure that I take this opportunity to talk with you a few moments. I am at most almost ashamed to write. It has been so long since I received your first letter. I kept putting it off until I forgot it in truth. Well we know what it is to be soldiers. Well to write you a good letter I had ought to give you the particulars of our march but tell you what we have seen would be

impossible but I can tell you what we have done. Some big marching that is so but I have stood it first rate. I am fatter that ever you seen me the hordes we march the localities are ify as soon as we camp the boys get to complaining but I think we are stand it first rate the most of us. Well we are not alone marching yet there is such samness that we are going to Louisville (and that we are coming home) from there I do not know where we will go but I expect we will camp there awhile perhaps all winter. Well I am on gard [guard] to day and not got time to write you a long letter but must give you a little advise, if you get the fever to go to war take my advise and stay at home or go some place else. You may think that I am tired of this business well I cant say that am or that I am not but when my 3 years are up, I will quit for awhile all I have against it the hard marching. I must close for this time and promise to do better the next time give my best wishes to all the folks at home and the girls in particular.

From your friend

John Shafer

[?]

Direct by the way of Louisville

Nashville

November 27th

1862

Sir, Jacob,

Your most welcome letter came to hand to day while we was eating dinner and I was glad to hear from you once again. William Jordan came here yesterday with 20 boxes of one thing and another for co. I and we do just more than live.

Jake, we have not forgot you because we do not write to you we have not got time that what the war. We have nice weather here though cold weather but we have no corn to husk. I expect John Souder will go home more often once he gets through husking. Jake you say it is so darned lonesome you don't know what we would think when we get lonesome. Some have nothing to chear [cheer] us up. But we have got over that know at least I have but as I said before if you know whether you are well stay at home it might agree with you. It does with me, I am as fat as a pig and have got more lines on my face than you would shake a stick at. So we have some nice girls down here James had better believe their hair is all curley and their teeth shines and their eyes like diamonds and so does their faces and they are Negroes that is what it is the mater can you do that well Jake.

Change of subject Walter Milles and day walt says when ears you more to the time they will answer you. We think of you often you know that deep waters run still I would give my old hat to see all once again and hope to in the Spring but think not the only for us to see each other is for you to come and see us come for we would be glad to see you coming.

Sgt Lutz says your bayonet is not long enough to send out.

That Bull have not you found him yet. I have thought that I had found him down here sometimes when marching.

We are all well and here but William Shumakers have left him at Bowling Green sick and herd he could not live and have heard to day he was ded. I hope not he was a good boy and good soldier. From you friend, Shafer.

Camp near Murfreesboro

January 18, 1863

Friend Jake,

Once more I find myself seated to answer yours most welcome which I received with much pleasure. Yours stated that you are all well and the folks generaly it found us the same. Some that is what is left and a few and far between.

Jake we have seen the elephant we had a big fight and an awful foot race the race was the funny side of the war. Slaughter I am down on this butchering human flesh. But I hate the sight of the rebel and can only level my gun at them with the greatest ease in the world and I don't like to seen from them but was only [?] time I would thought to give you a history of the battlefield but it is a hard sight to write about.

When we lost Wm Shumacker we lost one of the best soldiers or among the best 101st could offer. He was already to do his part and did but we have lost [?]. A few for the weather two or three days ago we went on picket well the night before we were to go it rained all night until

every thing was dripping with water. It still rained the next morning but we had to come out and go. Well we started and went and through the mud over 8 inches deep if not a foot [?] and still it rained well a long. Toward noon it commenced to snow and get cold and freeze and that night was the coldest that we ever experienced in Tenn and we wet and know shelter and dare not have any fire on gard. Jake I can't make it look as hard to you as it was it was heavy but it is not often this way.

You spoke about going to see [?]. Go your length and see her a little for me while you are there and I will not object in the least my best wishes and success to you this is all for present.

General Field Hospital

Near Murfreesboro Tenn

June 17, 1862

Dear Jake,

I take the opportunity of writing a few lines in answer to your welcome epistle which came to hand yesterday. It was perused with pleasure found me still on top of the sand but I cannot say it found me well most sick for I am doing lite duty in the hospital. You may wonder what this duty is I will tell you something about this: Well in the first place did you know we had women here. Well we have some nice ones too. This hospital is divided in to ward and there is lady to prepare thing (nick nacks) for the sick and there is to be some one to wait upon each of those and this is my duty. Don't you be like some of the young ladies at home that heard they had to keep the 101st under gard to keep them from messing up the black women. Those ladies are white. That lady must have been out her hed some while. She herd that I was over to the Regiment on Sunday last the Boys are all well and harty [hearty] and full of mirth never saw them so lively. They are just like that many wild men or Boys.

Philip Jordan has got up to regiment all sound as a cuss. I believe if there does not some air stir pretty soon I will stop writing for my goodness sake how hot you say it was raining when you wrote. I wish it mite [might] rain here before night.

The girls are all right side up. I am glad to hear that Lind has gone rip let me rip it the best from. The reason I did not tell you where to direct this I did not no where I would be. So I thought you might send them to the Regiment & I would get them any how.

I will close. Exercising takes.

Your Friend,

John Shafer

Camp Fisk Paralli

Near Vicksburg, Miss

April 1, 1865

Friend Jake,

Once more I am seated in the land of the living to write you a few lines hoping they may find you in good health. I am well and the same old John as ever. We crossed the big Black the 27th of last month that was the happiest crossing ever I experienced in my life. To think I was once more in the land of the living. I think we have served our time in hope or confidence but have lived there where some have laid their bones in Georgia. Some I see yes thousands among them I am sorry to tell you we laid your Co. I Willy. I had him taken care of the best I could under such circumstances. He came into the hospital the last of Feb and died March the 7. He died of the dropsy.

Hoping we may be exchanged soon then I think I will get to see you then I will give you the particulars.

Please excuse my poor letter for it has been some time since I done any writing of this kind [kind].

We could not write but they could not keep us from thinking and we done lots of it I tell you.

Write I may not be here to receive your letter but it will make no difference if I do not get it & if I did tongue cannot tell the pleasure it will be to me.

Ever your Friend

J.A. Shafer

Camp Fisk

Near Vicksburg, Miss.

Camp Stem

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines to let you know that I am well but Dud he has got the sore throat. The rest of us got the [?] and full of fever. Day before yesterday [?] not see a thing but some [?]. That night it rained blew harder than I ever saw it [?]. Today there is enough at the camp we go on [?]. Jake we have some good times here and some the other very hard. Uncle Sam has got us more [?] easy we have got two blankets our overcoats two a piece of [?] two Shirts and other tings [things] to [?] to mention. Jake I guess the folks at home [?] Heard about the boys here but there is [?] more danger of there being [?] than there is at home I think the word is to day that the rebels hare falling back we have taken several prisoners here. [?] taken any yet. We have not got any girls here Jake and but females of any sort we miss them very much indeed but the letters begin to come in by the [?]. Some of the Boys got as his affair lot night that made them get up and [?] some of the boys would like to come home on furlough I think but I believe I don't need to come home until the thing is settled but I hope it will be before long [?]. I think the boys like it pretty well I do better than I thought, for it is not [?] here there is no going in bugging here with the girls. I miss old Sam more than any thing I left at home except my old [?]. Is too much for me to write that will interest you. I will Stop this time you must take good care of all the girls especially one for me. Give my love to one and all of the girls

Folder 19: Sherman, Eldridge - 55th OVI. Co. E to Jacob S. Holtz

October 16, 1862

Mr. Holtz,

I received your kind letter and was very glad to hear from you. I am well and harty and hope you enjoying the same health. I have gained 18 pounds in five weeks. We are at Center Ville yet and are expecting an attack here Thomas Thacker with Regt now but is not well yet. Thomas was not calculated [calculated] for marching as chopping wood I suppose William Holtz knows how marching goes. By this time we are having very good times here now we have half rations of soft

bread and pork and beef. We had three potatoes a peace to day and some dried apples too. I [?] so good by you must excuse my poor paper and writing.

Write soon

Eldridge

Sherman

To Charles Holtz

Pleasant Ridge

September 17, 1862

Old Friend Bill,

I take this opportunity to let you that I am kicking yet the folks are all well So far as I know I feel bully I think if I keep doing as well as I am no I will be able to go to work I received a letter from Some of you boys in your Company it had no name to it it Said I Should Direct to Kentucky nd that is all I think it is from Wm Holtz we had a meeting at the Church last night and organized a Soldiers Aid Society intended for Company I 101 Reg then I suppose you know where it will go and your mother said I Should Scold you a Considerable for not writing but I guess I will not till I See if you will write to me Juli and myself was Down to Mr Jordans last Sunday they have got 2 letters from Son now bill I want to tell you something Oliver Brown has been expelled from School at Berea for being caught in bed with two girls I think that is a Pretty Smart move for a preachers Son any how if it had been me it would not have been So much but let him rip let him get all he Can bully for him Bill I have been drilling wheat all day I feel frustrate I have got my last Dose of medicine to tak to night, I Seen Girls and Ol this Evening and they just came out of the Corn field they had been Cutting Corn Ol had on her bloomers She looked Pretty keen I tell you I heard to day that Js Fry had been discharged on the account of his Disability to do Duty as a Soldier Bill I believe I have nothing more to tell you at this time but next time I will try and write more.

Write soon and Direct to Adams Twp Seneca Co Ohio Excuse my pencil and poor writing for I am in an awful splutter So no more from your old and true friend Jacob Holtz

Wm. Sherman

Good By

Dear Friend

Thank you for [?] Bill please hand this other letter to John.

Folder 20: Schumaker, William - 101st OVI. Co. I to Jacob S. Holtz

Louisville

Thursday October 1, 1862

Respected friend,

It is with grate pleasure that I take my pen in hand to tell you know that I am well and harty and hope that these few lines may find all enjoying the same blessing there is quite a change since I herd from you one week ago last night we had orders to march and we pulled down tents and started for Louisville we went to Cincinnati we have walked the Ohio missipi RR at 11 oclock at night got aboard of the cars and started for Louisville Ky reached camp gilbert the next night about 10 oclock.

This camp is on the Indiana side across from Louisville we laid at this camp one day then we crossed over the river in one day we was in 3 states the 49 regt Came to town the same night and we seen the boys Ol Ragon and him and Jef Daiwalt- I think * was here last night for J lutz is not with them the boys look hard they received there pay here today had not been paid for 4 months.

O yes Jake I almost forgot to tell you that Isec Cyleous * but Charly * has deserted and went home

Jake tell our folks that gehue Holopeter is here I have just been talking to him he has been promoted to signal officer he looks as harty as ever. Well Jake I want you to take good care of your self. I should love to be home to be at that party at our house and see how that you get along Jake I must stop for we have marching orders and I have not time to write more direct your letters to Co I 101st Regt O V I care of Capt Barnes via Louisville Ky

From your friend

W H Shoemaker

Headquarters 101st Regiment O.V.I

Camp near Crab Orchard

October 17, 1862

Friend Jake,

I received your letter while on the march from Louisville to this place. We have done hard marching for the last 13 days but stood it very well. I did not give out once more than half of the company gave out one day.

One day we could not see 2 files a head for the dust with out water it is very hard that day 300 men could have taken the entire regiment. I could not have run to have saved myself from being taken prisoner. Shafer, Segt Miller, Goetschin Daywalt are well. Lee is not well to day. Yesterday, we got the first mail for 12 days. We did not see a paper hardly during the entire march, we got some yesterday it did us good.

It gave us some knowledge of the out side world. You say you are bound to be a soldier.

My advice is don't go to war unless you think you can stand it. Although I have had better health since I enlisted than before, we have enough men to whip them if they give us a chance. You have doubtless heard of the battle of Chaplin Hills. In the Louisville Journal no mention is made of Michels division. The truth is that a Reporter was hired by the Generals to blow for them. Our (Michels) division lost 200 killed and 400 wounded if they were not in the fight I don't know who was yet we must do the fighting and them must get the praise. This is not fair, besides our Brigade captured 12 ammunition wagons and 3 ambulances. That is something I think we whipped them again day before yesterday.

The particulars I have not learned. It would do you good to see the rebels run when we fire our batteries on them. The Second Minesota battery is attached to our brigade. I have stood behind it several times and laughed to see them run when our shells would [?]. One day there was an officer behind a hay stack we fired our six shooter at it. You bet he made his horse do some tall running, his horse fell down and threw him over his head he did not wait for his horse but went on running. We have his nigger in our company.

Saturday January 7

Friend Jake,

It is the best thing that you could of done to tell me the truth about it for I knew that gar—had told Frank all about the valentine.

Your Frank told Lib that you told him I had sent tho it Lib was plaguing me about the valentine and I denied it I said that I had not sent it. When she said I need not deny it there was a young gentleman told Frank that he had taken it to the PO. I then made her tell me who told Frank. And therefore it came so that I knew that you had told Frank.

I do not know that I can blame you for telling the way you was fixed. But one thing I can tell you it is one of the greatest [?] one me that ever was. Although I do not care so much as it is a valentine, if it was anything else I would care more about it but as it is a valentine I hope he will look over it and look at it as a sport.

Jake please excuse this scribbling for I write in a mighty hurry.

I thank you very much for that message you wrote me last night wishing me good health and a good man through life.

I remain your friend.

W.H. Shoemaker

Camp Stem

September 16

Friend Jake,

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know how I get along. I am well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same. It is so warm that it makes every one get in the shade the boys are about all well except Dud gotschius he is a little unwell to day.

We have to dril 5 1/2 hours a day. In 8 minutes we have to drill. We do not how soon we will have to march from here the rebels have left for good, I guess. Our force at florence about 5 mi from them we went out after them we went on skirmish line. Locke was in the front rank we were out about a mi from here took one prisoner they had just left before we got there well I must close for this evening drilling

September 18

Jake it is not Thursday afternoon we went to drill and drilled till night and from 6 o' the next morning 10 1/2 o' and went out on picket duty for 24 hours but seen no rebels it was an awful night to stand on picket the wind blew so hard that it blowed trees out of there roots it was so dark that one Could not see a man 10 feet off it rained some to we begin to know how soldiering goes but after all for the next morning we found a vineyard of the finest grapes that I ever saw. Well I guess I must tell you something about the rebels these was about 20 mi from here but there is a small of men at Florence there is only about 15 thousand of them there was 10000 men sent out after them well Jacob I must close but before I close let me tell you not to let them girls hurt you for they are very dangerous the girls are very scarce here I have not seen but one good looking girl since we came to Ky. dud says he would write but he is not able to the rest of the boys are all well at present. Jacob Shriver says he would write but he has not time to he says you must take good care of them girls he says you must take good care of that one especially. Well I must Close write soon for if you ever did a soldier good in your life it is when you write to them tell the girls to write we would write more but we canot find time to write at all. Direct you're letters to Co I 101st regt O V I in Care of Barnes via Cincinnati

From your friend

W. H Shoemaker

Folder 21: Olive [Brown] to Jacob S. Holtz

Mr Holtz

Come down next Sunday if you please I am desirous of seeing you and also I have a message for you from some of the Ladies of Tiffin.

Come and you will oblige.

Olive

So but come down down and tell me what Black snake said. I hate him from the bottom of my gizzard.

I remain your old friend, Olive

Folder 22: Dellie Holtz to Jacob S. Holtz

Ottawa Jan

January 15, 1864

Cousin Jake,

I received your letter this evening and was very glad to hear from the old place of my nativity. I thought I must answer it right off. You are the only friend I have in old Seneca that thinks me worth writing to. I wrote to cousin Sue Holtz about six weeks ago and have had no word from her. Dora Egbert writes to me regular. I wrote to Lewis Cramer yesterday. We have had the coldest weather I ever saw we have had good slaying for the last two weeks. On new years evening I was at a party at Dr. Godfrey's there was about twenty-six there, I wish you had been there, we have some pretty fair specimen of humanity in this town of both sex. Jake I want you to come and see us soon for I long to look on some old familiar face of my by gone days. I don't want you to think I have the blues for I have not but still I would like to see some my old friends. You never spoke a word of Aunt Catherine boys I would like to know whether she has ever

heard from them since we came to Ottawa for we had had no word about them. If you have I want you to write soon and let us know how they are getting along we are well at present my love to Mrs York and the rest of the family. I want Charlie to write to me for I wont get to may letters from the old place.

Write soon

From Dellie Holtz

To Mr Jacob Holtz

Jacob tell your father that is a just debt of Smiths and he should pay it and we will make it all right with him he must been afraid he would loos [loose] the large sum. I pitty his poor little soul, ten thousand such souls could stand on the point of cambric needle and have more room than a bull-frog would have in Lake Erie.

Ann C. Holtz

Lewis is going to start for old Seneca on next Sunday night he may see Smith himself if so he can pay him.

Ann if Lewis should get to your house I wish you would give him a little head lettuce seed and oblige me.

My complements to Miss [?] soliciting her Company to attend the Dance at Green Springs.

Ottawa Putnam Co

March, 1864

Cousin Jake,

I received your letter three weeks ago I thought you was not going to answer my letter so I thought I would keep you in suspense a while. It is very lonesome here to day it is raining. I have not got any news to write but I thought it was about time to answer your letter if it did not contain mutch. Jake you said you had quit the business of hunting a sweet hart [sweetheart] and

you want me to hunt you wife now. I would like to know if you if you want two wives. Now you think I don't know that you go to Mr Jordans to see one of his daughters some one has told on you, you cant fool this child. We have some pretty girls out here but I don't know [how] good they are but I guess they are all good enough. Well enough of this. We are all well except bad colds. We have protracted meeting here this week I went last night to see them shout but as it happened they did not. I guess it was because I was there they got scared out although they kept a great groaning I guess I will close my scribe for the present. I want you to write me a great long letter next time. No more.

From your Cousin

Dellie Holtz

Reply soon.

Ottawa Putnam Co

Apr 27, 1864

Dear Cousin,

I received your letter some time since and have neglected answering it for I have not had time. I am taking music lessons now and we was making Garden last week and I have had a great deal of company since I got my Piano. It has been rain most all week and the river is very high I thought we was going to have one of Noah's flood but it has quit raining and the river is falling gradually. Jake you said you was coming out to Ottawa. I have been looking for you so long that I am getting tired of looking. I don't believe you want to come. I got a letter from Charly last night which took be me by surprise. I wrote to Susy about two months ago and she has not answered it yet I guess she don't care for any one but Norm Egbert now. I will now bring my letter to close for I have to you all the news. Now I want you to stick to your promise and write soon.

No More. Truly Yours,

Dellie Holtz

Mrs. J. S. Holtz

Ottawa Ohio

Watson Station, Ohio

Ottawa Putnam Co

June 2, 1864

Dear Cousin,

I received your letter a long time ago which was very much unexpected. I should of answered it sooner but I did not have time. I am going to school now we have a first class teacher this summer she is the second Mrs York only she is an old maid instead of a widow she is middling cross. We have to write a composition and get Declamation every friday afternoon, we have no school on Saturday and I most always go fishing. I got three letters from Jake since he has been in camp. Ottawa is a very pleasant place I the summer there are a great many green forest trees here. Charly I wish you would come out to Ottawa this summer after you get done planting corn (we will have strawberries about the last of this week). Charley if you have your photography taken I want you to send me one. This is a bad looking letter to send away but I am in a hurray for fear the train comes. But I guess you can read it. No more.

Write soon and write a longer letter next time. Don't let any one see this poor writing or dirty sheet of paper I would of got a clean one but the teacher would not let me go down Street.

Dellie

Folder 23: Jenny Ramsey to Jacob S. Holtz

Cedar Hill Ohio

April 19, 1863

Sunday afternoon

Mr Holtz,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you now that we are all well at this present time except uncle and Douglas is not very well to day. You must excuse me for not writing to you it is so lonsome. To day the rouds [rounds] is so nice Adlia is at Lancaster to day, Maria is going a buggy riding, Miss Pierly she told me to tell you ode your Philpen to her and she sent her love to you. Hour [our] school is out and it is going to commence Monday a week and I am going I had too. Good sleigh riding this winter and it was nice. I was to a good party wen [when] the snow laid it was so lonsome when you and Alx was gon.

I heard bad news from my brother when you left I wish the [there] was never any war. I went to school the day you started I was so sleepy. I had a cousin come back from the war he was discharge his name is Samel Ramsy at Lancaster Ohio. Miss Pannel is still out here at the sam [same] old place I have only seen her twice cince [since] the party. Tell Alx Smith that I will ancer [answer] his letter when I get time if you please. I hant [haven't] much to write this time I will do better in the future. I will close by saing [saying] write.

From Jennie Ramsey

To J Holtz

To Jake Holtz

I will remain your friend,

Jennie Ramsey

Mr J. Holtz

Groveport Ohio