

Ceder Creek Va. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife -

The supply train came in to night, but no mail for this Brigade - Since I last wrote you - We have had a little brush with the Rebs on our rear, taking 300 prisoners 37 wagons 9 ambulances and 11 pieces of Artillery, with but little loss on our side. I should think they would get sick of molesting us, for our force is so strong, with their scattered and disguised troops. It is thought we shall stay at this place some little time. We are about 16 miles South of Winchester. Dr Thayer came to camp to day. Col. Gardiner is dead. His wife ~~was~~ and Mother was with him. The rest of our wounded are getting along very well, the Doc. reports 40 dead and 90 wounded from our Regt. how many sad hearts were made in a few short hours of the 19<sup>th</sup> of Sept. I pray God I may never be called to pass through another such scene. It was enough to make ones blood chill to see the amount of suffering & loss of life, men and beast piled up together on the battle field dead and dying together. Dr Thayer says Lt. Stone suffered very much, was perfectly conscious until the last day of life when he was delirious, he thought he should get well - His friends have sent on for his remains, which were obtained as he was buried in the Cemetery at Winchester. Frank Barker was sent out by the Keene folks to obtain the bodies of those killed from that place but as they were all buried in one grave on the battlefield he had to go back without them. We are having very cold nights and the men suffer much for want of shoes and clothing.

There has been a great overturn in this Regt. a great loss of Officers. We are now without Colonel and Major and there is wide pulling for those Offices, who will get them

Ceder Creek Va. Oct, 11th, 1864

Dear Wife -

The supply train came in to night, but no mail for this Brigade - Since I last wrote you. We have had a little brush with the Rebs on our rear, taking 300 prisoners 37 wagons 9 ambulances and 11 pieces of artillery, with but little loss on our side. I should think they would get sick of molesting us, for our force is so strong, with their scattered and disguised troops. It is thought we shall stay at this place some little time. We are about 16 miles South of Winchester. Dr Thayer came to camp to day. Col. Gardiner is dead. His wife was and Mother was with him. The rest of our wounded are getting along very well, the Doc reports 40 dead and 90 wounded from our Regt. how many sad hearts were made in a few short hours of the 19th of Sept. Mercy God I may never be called to pass through another such scene. It was enough to make ones blood chill to see the amount of suffering & loss of life, men and beast filled up together on the battle field dead and dying together. Dr Thayer says Lt. Stone suffered very much, was perfectly conscious until the last day of life when he was delirious, he thought he should get well. His friends have sent on for his remains, which were obtained as he was buried in the Cemetery at Winchester. Frank Barker was sent out by the Keene folks to obtain the bodies of those killed from that place but as they were all buried in one grave on the battlefield he had to go back without them. We are having very cold nights and the men suffer much for want of shoes and clothing.

There has been a great overturn in this Regt. a great loss of officers. We are now without Colonel and Major and there is wide pulling for those offices, who will get them



remains to be seen. I have but little anxiety about any of the  
officers to be made, should I be one of the chosen ones, I shd  
be in suspense and undecided whether to take a commission  
or not. I now have but little over 11 months to stay, and shd  
I be mustered in as an officer, the Government can hold  
me three years from that date. Our Cavalry report to day  
that some of our stragglers are found behind with their  
throats cut from ear to ear. I doubt not many of the  
citizens who had every thing burnt were so exasperated at  
their loss, they did it. The evenings are now getting to  
be light and pleasant which reminds me my old native  
state, with husking, apple pearings and the merry pleas and  
associations of other days, but now how changed, instead  
of those bloodshed and suffering. How long shall this be  
suffered to continue. You dont know how sweet home  
and loved ones appear to me while passing through such  
scenes, and should my life be spared to reach my home  
again I think I shall appreciate it more than ever  
before. The Guerrillas are very troublesome indeed  
to our supply trains, and often shoot into them. I  
feel anxious to learn whether the money I sent has reached  
you. I sent it by our sutler Mr. Farr to Harpers Ferry  
to put it aboard of the Express. He went with the supply  
train & I have not heard from him since, but I have no fear  
of his honesty. He had as much as \$10000 that the officers sent  
by him. But I felt anxious to get rid of it for should I  
be wounded in battle the rebs. would rob me of it. One  
of them robbed Col. Gardiner of a valuable gold watch his  
money, revolver and boots, but they have since been reco-  
gnized and retaken by a rebel prisoner we took. Capt.  
Berry was taken prisoner and carried to Winchester by  
the rebs. and when he heard the great tumult in the street  
when our forces drove the rebs he managed to slip out of  
the house and went as far as he could and fainted he got  
into a house and escaped them, his wounds are not fatal.  
But I must close, good bye love may angels preserve you love to  
you & the children

remains to be seen. I have but little anxiety about any of the  
officers to be made, should I be one of the chosen ones, I shd  
be in suspense and undecided whether to take a commission  
or not. I now have but little over 11 month to stay, and shd  
I be mustered in as an officer, the government can hold  
me three years from that date. Our Cavalry report to day  
that some of out stragglers are formed behind with their  
throats cut from ear to ear. I doubt not many of the  
citizens who had every thing burnt were so exasperated at  
their loss, they did it. The evenings are now getting to  
be light and pleasant which reminds me of my old native  
state, with husking, apple pearings and the merry pleas and  
associations of other days, but now how changed, instead  
of those bloodshed and suffering. How long shall this be  
suffered to continue. You dont know how sweet home  
and loved ones appear to me while passing through such  
scenes, and should my life be spared to reach my home  
again I think I shall appreciate it more than ever  
before. The Guerrillas are very troublesome indeed  
to our supply trains, and often shoot into them. I  
feel anxious to learn whether the money I sent has reached  
you. I sent it by our sutler Mr. Farr to Harpers Ferry  
to put it aboard of the Express. He went with the supply  
train & I have not heard from him since, but I have no fear  
of his honesty. We had as much as \$10000 that the officers sent  
by him. But I felt anxious to get rid of it for should I  
be wounded in battle the rebs would rob me of it. One  
of them robbed Col. Gardiner of a valuable gold watch his  
money, revolver and boots, but they have since been reco-  
gnized and retaken on a rebel prisoner we took. Capt.  
Berry was taken prisoner and carried to Winchester by  
the rebs, and when he heard the great tumult in the street  
when our forces drove the rebs he managed to step out of  
the house and went as far as he could and fainted he got  
into a house and reaped them, his wounds are not fatal.

But I must close, good bye love may angels preserve you love to  
you & the children Your affectionate husband J. Henry Jenks