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2015.001.054 transcription

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Ordnance Office, District of the Etowah [Letterhead]

Chattanooga, Tenn., January 16th, 1865

My Dear Friend Lottie:

Excuse me for appearing before you again so soon. If you knew my impatience at the non-appearance of the customary semimonthly letter from your pen you would certainly certainly do so. By the way tomorrow evening, if nothing happens you will get my letter written on the 9th inst. You will undoubtedly have a good laugh (excuse me, I had forgotten that ladies never laughed, only smile) at my graphic description of my New Years dinner, and the result of my having had goose for Christmas dinner. I have a fairish idea that I made it appear rather ridiculous, is it not so?

Do you still intend going home with your sister Mary? I hope you have given it up for if you do it will cause me some trouble to hunt you up when I get my furlough (which by the way will be forthcoming as soon as we Ordnance fellows can get things a little straightened up. I am now taking an inventory of all stores on hand preparatory to turning them over to the Ordnance Depot. As Lieut. Stokes, Dist Ord Officer, expects to be made Captain of the Battery to which he belongs, and intends getting relieved from Genl. Steadman's(?) staff. When the inventory is completed, the stores turned over, and the Quarterly return completed and dispatched to Washington then and not till then can I get away. I shall make application for my furlough about the 20th inst. It is

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my present intention to start about the 1st of February. Perhaps I may get away a few days sooner perhaps a few days later.

Chattanooga is a "slow Coach" just now. All that is to be seen in the streets is mud and mule teams. More of the former than the latter. I am speaking of the past week. Now the weather is fine if it continues a few days longer the dust will be as bad as the wind has been. I never saw quite such another place. Here is where you can find the two extremes in almost everything.

How is everything in Norwich [Pennsylvania]. I want to know everything that transpires. It is asking a great deal I know but then I am "Far, far from the scenes of my childhood!" And every transaction, no matter how trifling has a charm for me. It never entered my mind, until leaving home the last

time, how dear my birthplace was to me. I often think of the book we wrote about last spring entitled "The Old Homestead" How I wish I could be with you this evening. We would read it together and point out the choice passages. That would be after we had wearied of talking. Which, I imagine would be somewhere in the "wee small hours in a morning."

I have not yet got rested from my 40 days campaign. Still feel sore and wearied. I think 30 days at home and vicinity would be of very great importance to me.

I am ~~still~~ also of the opinion that the "ship of State will be safely moored in the beautiful Harbor of Peace." And before many moons pass too. "Oh! That will be joyful, that will be joyful." Then mothers will dry their tears sisters faces will again beam with the smile so long a stranger to them. All nature will put on her most becoming face.

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I will close the evening exercises with the following poem

To one I love.

"Oh! tis sweet to sit at twilight

And think of one I love;

Of the many happy hours

We have passed within the grove;

And when at eve I ponder

On the days that are to come,

My thoughts will fondly wander

To one far from my home. (My home is for the present at Chattanooga)

Then I think how sweet a fate

T'would be with thee to roam,

Along life's flowing pathway

With thee to bless my home.

And when, at eve, turned homeward

My weary steps would be

One blessing only would I ask

To share that home with thee.

Please give my love to all your people, your father, Mary, Cassie, Lyda and Charlie. Don't forget to take a small portion for yourself for it is sent you.

Sincerely Your Friend, Geo. L. Young

P.S. Don't you think I am improving my hand writing very fast. George

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[NOTE: This is a letter to Lottie from her sister Cassie, written on the back of George's letter.]

Norwich the 28th / January

Dear Lottie This evening finds us in comfortable health. Pa and myself are all alone and it seems lonesome enough I assure you. We reached home on Tuesday. Last Monday we came to Denises before we stopped staid there about one hour and then came to the Valey staid all night the next day Henry folks came home with us. We came up to Mr Curtiss the colt got scart and jumped up on the bank and tipt us all over in the snow and broke the sleigh. Fung clear ough [flung clear off] they tied it up and we came up to Smethport and got another tounge [tongue] put in we took diner to Mr Shepards. West B came home with us we had a good visit Lyd and Charley went and took them back and was agoin to visit around in the Valey several days the next day after we got home Dan and his mother came here a visiting just a Henrys folk started away. I have had lots of work to do ever since I got home and I for one am glad to morrow is the day of rest it is very cold here. I have often thought of you Mary and how you got home with your children it is so very cold. As to the sick Floretta has got well Herick is know better and if anything worse. Mrs Evans has become worse and is now very sick I have not been in to a neighbors house since I got home and as for news I know none. Sunday the [illegible] Charley and Lyd arrived home last evening they went to see Henry Curtis and got his Photo (Don't you wish you had one) Orpha and Miss Melvin wer to Perys a visiting yesterday Orpha received a letter from Chattanooga yesterday. I don't see what George is agoin to do now that you are gone you may expect to see him out there for I think he will go there before he goes back you had two from him since I got home I will send them both to you in sepret envelopes so I have taken the liberty to scrach a few lines on the back of this. Oh! Lottie what do you suppose you drew in that lottery business as I called it. I have herd [sic] a set of silver forks I have not seen Orin yet but I think you have done well. As it is getting meeting time I must close and prepare for meeting perhaps I shall have more to write next time. You don't know how much I miss the children. I wished a good many times after I got home that I had Merty here but I must close love to all Don't fail to write soon for we want to know if you got through safe. Cassie