Civil War Letters

Written by L.S. Willard

Letter 1, March 14, 1862, page 1

Very Dear Mother,

I wrote Abby a long letter the other day but don’t know as you would get the benefit of it for in her letter she spoke of going with Sister to a friend’s home in St. Louis. I am well and doing as well as could be expected. I want to take good care of myself and shall be very glad when we get out of this. It is not the pleasant place in the world, it is very muddy now to march so that we have got drilled and to-day Comm. is Sunday but a soldier...
Letter 1, March 14, 1862, page 2

Sunday is very little different from any other day in the army in fact I have not heard of any preaching here on Sunday. Our Regt had received their sabres and Colts and Whitney Revolvers which are the best in use we have not received any pay as yet and the men and officers are very much in need of money probably we will not stay very long here there to some expectations of our being sent to Arkansas if such is the case we will probably go on Lee's Active Service which I am anxious to see. To try the mettle of the 11th Illinois Cavalry I think we have a good Regt and have no doubt they will make their mark if Opportunity ever offers.

Suppose Sister C. is Married hope she has a good man and will live happy now if Henry gets Married C. will resolve to live a life of single happiness, and expect to any how but there is one thing
I am pretty sure that I do not want to join the Regular Army when the volunteers are discharged. Mr. Bipp is well and enjoying himself. Sperling well, should be very glad to hear from you and Mr. Hathaway direct to St. Louis one card 11th Regt. 1st cavalry. Please remember me to all.

Very Affe Your Son

L. D. W. Rollard
Enoch's Respected Parent

Your letter of a recent date was received by me in due time was very glad to hear from you although it was rather brief. Letters are very acceptable in Camp & assure you I often think I will let down and write to everybody I ever knew for the purpose of getting letters in reply. I succeeded in getting a pass yesterday to visit the City to learn what I could about the death of George.
he died at the Military Hospital, corner of 5th and Chestnut Street of Pneumonia on March 2nd. He was admitted there Feb 28th, he came here from some point on the North Missouri R.R. He had all the care which there that could be given to anyone, I have the number of his grave and the number of the grave yard, where he was buried, his effects consisted of what clothing he had only. I could not find out what wages were coming to him as his offers failed to leave a descriptive Roll with him. The Hospital is a very fine one and one of the largest and
best buildings is the City. 
there is a large 

Quantity of troops here. 
but they are coming and 
giving all the time. But the 
papers are not allowed to 
mention the arrival or 
departure of any Regiment. 
there is some very good 
batteries here which have 
just been fitted out and 
will probably leave amicably 
the defences of the City. 
which there has been. 
So much said about 
are certainly very formidable. 
they were put up by the 
late Gen. Fremont. But 
thanks he is not in command 
of this department now. 
as you are aware our 
Troops are being rapidly.
Letter 2, March 19, 1862, page 4

[Image of handwritten letter]

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Letter 3, April 13, 1862, page 1

Dear sir,

11th N.Y. L.I. cavalry,

Gen. Grant's Division,

West Teng.

VAULT FOLIO CASE MS 1083 4/19

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Dear Mother and Father,

One week ago this morning commenced one of the most terrible battles ever fought on this continent. I wrote to Mr. Gripp immediately that Mr. Gripp and myself were safe and asked him to inform you as soon as possible. Supposing you might feel some alarm before this you have got full accounts of it and I have no heart to describe the fearful scene the slaughter was dreadful on both sides. Such as I never want to behold nor have I any desire to see another battle, hope I may not.
Still I find that I have as strong nerves as most men and never expect to fall in duty.

what newspaper accounts I have heard of this battle don't give the credit as I think it should go but I don't say more on that subject now undoubtedly there will soon be another engagement either here or at some place at no great distance, have no thought but our folks will be victorious.

Mr. Tripp has been sick for a week but still is about sometimes am afraid he is going to have a serious time this climate doesn't seem to agree with our men one thing it has
Letter 3, April 13, 1862, page 4

been raining most of the time and is very smoky but this morning the sun has come out and it is rather pleasant. I think of home and friends continually and of the time when I shall once more be amongst them for this is anything but a pleasant life no comforts whatever.

I have no idea this war will be of long duration now and God grant it may be brought speedily to a close.

I have not received a letter since I left Berks and am getting anxious to hear from you please excuse this writing for I am setting on the ground and holding the paper on my knee every other hand.

L. J. Willard