

G.E. Goudelock Letters

Estill Springs Tenn [sic]

Jan 7, 1863

Mrs. N. J. Goudelock

My dear Wife:

I am through the mercies of a kind providence enabled to again drop you a few lines to let you hear from me. Since I last wrote to you I have seen a very severe time. I believe we were at College Grove when I wrote you a short letter by Rufus Meek. When we left there the snow was three or four inches deep on the ground. (We were at Shelbyville and went to C. Grove) We remained at College Grove two or three weeks during our stay at that place we were called out once to meet the enemy. We went out 10 miles to Nolensville and the enemy was forced back. We stayd [sic] out of our camp one night and returned again at night. The time did come when we ran to face the enemy on Satterday [sic] the 27th Dec. one [illegible]tioning the enemy. Hardies [sic] Corps left College Grove for Murfreesboro early to go in a short distance of the battlefield and it was sundown when we were placed in line of battle. We remained in line of battle with the Regiment when we were charged from the right wing of our Army to the left wing. That night we slept close by the enemy and where we were to engage them next morning. About daylight the firing commenced. About sun up we engaged the enemy heavily. If you are fortunate enough to see a history of the battle it will be better no doubt than I can give you. We did not fight therein a great while before the Yankees gave way. We then ran them two or three miles tiring and killing them all the way. We drove them into their strongest positions when a Tenn [sic] Regiment coming in between our Brigade and the Yankees we were forced back a short distance with some loss. but we held the battlefield. On the right-wing of our forces Genl. Breckenrige [sic] engaged the enemy Thursday very heavy. We whiped [sic] them severly [sic] until the enemy were strongly reinforced when Breckenrige [sic] gave back to his original ground. Expect our heaviest loss was with him. We left the battlefield on last Saturday night about eleven o'clock and traveled 30 or 35 miles before sleeping over very rough roads. We were about one week on the battlefield with but one blanket in cold and rain. There is something very strange in the winding up of the affair. I suppose the enemy commanding retreating two hours before we did. The rear guard of the enemy when they found out that we had left returned and took Murfreesboro. Our forces destroyed 600 or 800 of their wagons. The battle lasted for several days during which time I was in many dangerous positions. I was protected by God and did not I believe get

a scratch for which I hope I feel thankful. I saw a great many more men doing nothing during the fight than I expected. Our company lossed [sic] on killed and sixteen or eighteen wounded. Rubin Bennett was shot through the arm and I suppose it will have to be taken off so will Dan Jones. Watkins was the man who was killed in the company. Harry Stewart Jos Savage Geo Irwin was also wounded but not severely. Our mess escaped entirely. Mr. Brady came to us on Wednesday night of our fight. He had brought our clothes to Murfreesboro. He did not anticipate our leaving the place and opened the bales of clothing to let such as had gotten wounded have theirs. When he had to leave he could not get transportation for all the clothing and a great deal of that that he started (with) was lossed [sic] on the way. I think a good deal of it was owing to carelessness of the wagoners [sic] and a good deal because it could not be helped. In the rounds I lossed [sic] my overcoat that you took so much trouble to fix for me. If we happen with no more bad luck this winter I will be able to make out very well without it. I am quite sorry you were put to so much trouble to do no good. Whilst I think of it I wish you to if you can to prepare me two heavy pairs of cotton pants by Spring two shirts and a pair or two of drawers also a pair of socks cotton socks will do. The clothing I have will answer me quite well until spring but it is very hard to keep from abusing clothes when we are so much exposed. It has now been about or near two weeks since I slept in a tent. I have abused my clothes as much in the last week or two as I have in a month before. I could not have expected to have had to undergo what I have without making me sick but as yet I feel quite well and have felt so since I write you before. I enjoy better health here so far this winter than I usually do at home. The health of our company has been and is now very good indeed. I was glad to hear that you have made arrangements to [sic] for shoes. If you can get them anywhere I would be glad for you to get shoes for Maggie and Billie. It will be very hard for you to get Sunday shoes. I want you to send to Warren or some where and have you a nice pair made. You may have to pay \$5.00 or more dollars for them but I wish you to get them. I am still wearing the same shoes that I left home with. They wore until about a month ago when I had to have them half-soled and heels. I paid three dollars for the job and they are now nearly gone. You did not tell me how much corn you made neither did you tell me what you have had the boys doing since you had the crop gathered. I suppose you had a fince [sic] chance for fodder. You write like your chances for meat was not very good. I hope you will find no difficulty in getting all you need. You ought to have as much as six hogs. If the sow I got from Jas. does not stay about home and you can have time to get her fattened enough to kill you had better do so. I was in hopes you could have killed the meek sow. You must try and get more. If you can't get it from Jas. [sic] try and get it from some one else. I do not wish you to lack at all. You speak of paying for your loom with cloth if you think it best to do so you can do so but I think you will need all the cloth you can make. I do not know when you will be able to get more cotton cards. I think you would do well to pay for your weaving with

money notwithstanding get your loom if you wish it for I do not know when this war will end.

You write like you scarcely ever hear from your Pa's. I am very much supprised [sic] at it for I enjoined it urgently upon them to write to you often. I have not gotten a letter from So. Car. since I left there. I have long expected letters but as yet have been disappointed. I will write as soon as I can to our parents for they will be very anxious to hear from me after the battle. Give my respect to all who may inquire after me and receive my best and most devoted love to yourself and children.

Your husband
G. E. Goudelock