

John Shoemaker Military Records

Letter

Camp on Stone River

January the 27th 1863

[stamp: US PENSION OFFICE APR 10 1883]

Dear Wm and Mary

I received your kind letter last Evening in answer to one that I wrote to you while I was at Nashville I went from my Regiment for the first time in nerly [sic] two years but I did not alow [sic] myself to Stay away long as you [illegible] there. I Stated in my Letter that Rosecrans had moved to the front and also my Regt and I was determined if they Engaged the Enemy to go to the front and if fighting thare [sic] was I was resolve to partisipate [sic] and while I was [illegible due to page tear] these thoughts the news Came that our right had comenced [sic] giving away that Genr [sic] Johnson had alowed [sic] his Command to be Suprised [sic] erly [sic] Wendesday [sic] morning and that Giving the Enemy Chance to mask his entire left upon our Centre [sic] throing [sic] our Devision [sic] in Imediate [sic] Peril and danger but our Boys maintained ther [sic] position although Blood was floing [sic] as a mighty River from the Veines [sic] of Amaricas [sic] best and Bravest Sones [sic] my Col had falen [sic] the Bravest of the Brave while my Regiment was Charging upon charging upon and [sic] entire Gorga [sic] Brigade. he fel [sic] while waving his Hat in one hand and soward [sic] in the other Chering [sic] his men on to Victory Shout Go In 42nd go into them and as the Rebbelyan [sic] to Sho [sic] more Courage he would yell down with their [sic] my Boys and on they rushed but they could not [illegible] our Glistning [sic] soward [sic] Bayonetts [sic] and they ran inglourous [sic] run out numbering my Regiment four to one but we lost our Galient [sic] Col and let evry [sic] true Amarican [sic] lament his Deth [sic] he was Commanding our Brigade and Camision [sic] was sent for a Brigadier as I am told his name was Capt [sic] Roberts a man that I loved [illegible due to tear in the letter] this transfered [sic] Wensday [sic] and when I herd [sic] that my Comander [sic] was Ded [sic] I was determined to go to my Regiment at once and I went to Genn [sic] Michel [sic] Comanding [sic] the Post and I maid [sic] known my wishes but he said I could not go but I Insisted on going and he told me that thare [sic] was danger going out as the Enemy Calvery [sic] wer [sic] prowling in the rear of our Army than I told him that I could rais [sic] a company of convilescents [sic] and he told me if I could get a Company of 23 I might go So I went to Som [sic] Comision [sic] officers that I was aquainted [sic] with and before 3 Hours we had a Good Regiment to acompany [sic] [illegible] top line on next piece of paper] you Said thought that I Should have an office well when I came in the [illegible] I was Elected first Corporal but our Company was to

[sic] much of a family Company to have any one promoted Acording [sic] to Rank our capt [sic] had to [sic] many Brothers and Brothers in Laws for me so when there was any Vacancy he put his Relatives over me and I am of that Disposition that I wil [sic] not [illegible] a [illegible] of my nose and I jerked that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and became an [sic] Honerbel [sic] private in the front Rank if thare [sic] had bin [sic] any fariness [sic] in my Capt [sic] I would be first Lut [sic] now as [torn page] Comdg [sic] [illegible] him sent for and he being [illegible] me when we came in to the Service but I do not Cair [sic] as I did not Cum [sic] to war to fight for Comisions [sic] but fur [sic] my Country I have [illegible] months pay due me now Al [sic] I have sent Home is 80 Dollars and [illegible] that I [illegible] [illegible] Co present [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 4 or five Ds [sic] ago he was wel [sic] but [illegible] insist [illegible] and if you can read his when it gets cold tel [sic] me to in answer to this i have to write up on my [illegible] but Excuse this [illegible][illegible][illegible] was his to all [illegible] [illegible line] [illegible line on left margin][rest is missing]

John Shoemaker Biography

John W Shoemaker private, in Capt [sic] Richards Co D, 42 ILL INFANTRY

Born Penn Yan, County of Yates, New York 1842

He had 3 brothers

Home in 1850 Jerusalem, NY Home in 1860 Elmira, NY

Age 20, 5'10", light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, farmer,

Enrolled in Kankakee, ILL Aug 3, 1861

Mustered in Chicago ILL Sept 17, 1861

Corporal Jan-May 1862 then demoted to private

SERVICE RECORD STATES:

Reported sick Jan and Feb 1862

Reported sick Aug 18, 1862

Reported sick at Nashville Dec 27 1862

Reported sick Jan and Feb 1863

Reported sick Nov 1863 - Sick at Chattanooga TN since Nov 25, 1863

Wounded in battle of Mission Ridge

Reported absent Jan and Feb 1864 Sick at Chattanooga, Tn since Nov 25, 1863 (wounded)

Report 1865 wounded in right hand at battle of Mission Ridge Nov 25, 1863, killed in action near Lost Mountain, GA June 15, 1864

Pension states:

Died of wounds received in skirmish near Marietta June 15th 1864

Muster roll reports him killed in action at Lost Mountain, GA June 15th 1864

Pension reports him killed at Kennesaw Mountain of a gunshot wound.

September 1875 Anna Shoemaker applies for Mother's pension in the county of Bureau, ILL

October 1881 Anna Shoemaker applies for Mother's pension in the county of Bureau, ILL Father's name is John Shoemaker, parents married 1833

History of 42nd Illinois

42nd ILL

Left state for St. Louis, Mo., September 20, 1861. Attached to Dept. of Missouri, to February, 1862. Flotilla Brigade, Army of Mississippi, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army Miss., to September, 1862. 1st Brigade, 13th Division, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Right Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland to January, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 4th Army Corps to June, 1865.

Department of Missouri: September 1861- February 1862

Army of the Mississippi: February 1862- November 1862

Army of the Cumberland: November 1862- August 1865

History of the 42nd ILL, engaged at the fight for Island No 10, April 1862; engaged at the siege of Corinth, MS 1862; engaged at the battle of Stones River 1862; engaged at the Chickamauga Campaign, 1863; engaged at the battle of Mission Ridge, 1863; engaged in the Atlanta Campaign, 1864; engaged at the battle of Franklin, TN 1864; engaged at the battle of Nashville, TN 1864; spent winter in Northern Alabama 1865 before returning to Nashville at the end of the war.