

John S. Walker letter

Camp on the Battle Field near Murfreesboro Tennessee [sic]

Jan 5th 1863

Dear Wife

I wrote and sent you a few [sic] lines yesterday morning before daylight I told you in it the Battle was not [sic] over but it is now over and we have gained the victory I am well But somewhat fatigued we were fighting more or less for nine days on the 31st the enemy made a desperate charge on our men and above them our Regt was next to the front the Regt that was in front of us came running panic struck through our lines we stood our ground and when the Rebels [sic] come we let in on them and soon drove them Back But it was a desperate engagement in which we lost sixteen of our company in killed and wounded I have often read a discription [sic] of a Battle but no one can realize what it is without being in it I hope I will not [sic] ever have to witness it again the man on my left sighed [sic] fell dead shot through the heart and the one on my right fell badly wounded [sic] I dont [sic] see how I escaped the Balls flew around me as thick it seemed to me as drops of rain in a shower I felt as though God had answered the prayers of my Dear friends at home and spared my life

I was not at all frightened in the engagement I felt as though it was as Gods [sic] will that I should die that I was prepared but I thought of my Dear Wife and children and the pain and anxiety that you would suffer when you hear it that we were in the Battle and not know who had fallen, the 84th Regt recieved [sic] great prais [sic] here for the way it fought here Col. Waters has aproved [sic] himself to be a Brave and good offiser [sic] one that we are all proud of. on the 2 Day of this month we got into another severe engagement in which we routed the Rebels [sic] with great slanter [sic] and did not lose but three or four in our Regt We had but 39 men in our company when we went into the fight and we had seventeen of them killed and wounded Ed Ball shot his own thumb off I will have to stop writing for this time I will try and write again soon, it is all confusion here yet I would give all I am worth if this difficulty could be settled and I could return to my home and family, give my love to all God Bless and Comfort you my dear Wife is the prayer of your Husband Kiss the dear children for me - what I would give to be with you

John S. Walker

to

Lavina E Walker