

In Camp at Holly Springs, N.C. 1st mo 18th 1863

Dear Father Mother Brothers & Sisters

I thought I would spend a part of new years day writing to you. I am pretty well at present and have been in pretty good health all the time we have a very nice camp here in the edge of Holly Springs, Holly Springs is a nice town it contained some 3000 inhabitants previous to the Rebellion there is a few Citizens here now but not very many. it was here that the Rebs made a dash some 2 weeks ago & took several of our men prisoners they Rebs burned the depo and several valuable stores belonging to the government they they also burned some other buildings there was right smart of resistance offered them by the Illinois Cavalry there are several dead horses laying about 3000 yards from our camp & I saw several laying in town. (they are taken off now) There are a lot of very fine buildings here most of which are used for hospitals. Gen. M. S. Grants Head quarters is in a fine building here he has a telegraph wire detached from the main line to his headquarters he receives and sends

dispatches constantly. we have good tents they are large
there are 12 stays in ours we have a little stove
that some of the men left here and have it fixed
up we can keep the tent very warm all the time it
is pretty cold here now especially of nights it freezes
about 2 inches thick and thaws out in the morning.

We have got no news from home yet the
mail is surpressed we hear news every day but it
is only camp rumors: we got some papers of the
5th of last month they had commenced to fight
at ^{Richmond} ~~Richmond~~ then we have not had any reliable news
since we have heard a time or so that our men
had taken Richmond and we hear once and a
while that Burnside was defeated there, we
have the most reason to believe the latter
for the news would not be likely to be kept
from us if we were victorious there seems to be
no doubt but that vicksburgh is evacuated.

I would like very much to get a letter from
home for the mail is surpressed for 30 days at
least. we hear that there is an armistice of
30 days granted I hope if it be so they will
compramise and quit the whole army of the Mississippi
is going north where I dont know we will go towards Memphis
before long I think I will quit for this time. Your well wishing Son Dr. Niles
Direct letters to Columbus, Ky. and when the mail comes through they will come

In Camp at Holly Springs, Mis 1st mo 1st 1863 (Jan. 1, 1863)

Dear Father Mother Brothers and Sister.

I thought I would spend a part of new years day writing to you. I am pretty well at present and have been in pretty good health all the time we have a very nice camp here in the edge of Holly Springs. Holly Springs is a nice town it contained some 3000 inhabitation previous to the Rebellion there is a few citizens here now but not very many it was here that the Rebs made a dash some 2 weeks ago & took several of our men prisoners they Rebels burned the depot and several valuable stores belonging to the government they also burned some other buildings there was right smart of resistance offered them by the Illinois Cavalry there are several dead horses laying about 3000 yards from our camp & I saw several laying in town. (they are taken off now) There are a lot of very fine buildings here most of which are used for hospitals. Gen U. S. Grants Headquarters is in a fine building here he has a telegraph wire detached from the main line to his headquarters he receives and sends dispatches constantly. We have good tents they are large there are 12 stays in ours we have a little stove that some of the men left here and have it fixed up we can keep the tent very warm all the time it is pretty cold here now especially of nights it freezes about 2 inches thick and thaws out in the morning.

We have got no news from home yet the mail is suppressed we hear news every day but it is only camp rumors we got some papers of the 9th of last month they had commenced to fight at Richmond then we have not had any reliable news since we have heard a time or to that our men had taken Richmond and we hear once and a while that Burnside was defeated there. We have the most reason to believe the latter for the news would not be likely to be kept from us if we were victorious there seems to be no doubt but that Vicksburg is evacuated. I would like very much to get a letter from home for the mail is suppressed for 30 days at least. We hear that there is an armistice of 30 days granted I hope if it be so they will compromise and quit the whole army of the Mississippi is going north where I don't know we will go towards Memphis before long I think. I will quit for this for this time. Your well wishing son Jno Mills

Direct letters to Columbus, KY and when the mail comes through they will come