

MELVIN RADABAUGH TO MACK

January the 1<sup>st</sup> AD 1865

Dear Cousin Mc I seat My self this New year Morning to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are all well but sorry to hear that you was wounded; but glad that it was no worse than it was we would have wrote to you sooner but we did not know where to Direct to you. Well Mc We are glad that you can write to, to, us well, Mc there is a quite a house full Now Ems and Leas and Johns Children they are all well We got or Em got a letter from Andy last night he was well better than comon D.C Also well the weather is prety sharp and Cold here now but it is not, as cold as it was last new years; but it is cold enough. well Mc I have been a going to scholl this winter; I have got to Addition of Fractions in the Arithmetic; and turned back to Multiplication twice; I got a letter from Pa last night he was well and I also got one from Bill Dillman he did not write Much Andy wrote that D.C Was just as struting around Because he thought that the War Was a coming to an end the news is good I expect if D.C had a good chance he Would give old Abe a harty shake of the paw Well Mc you must excuse me for writing such noncense to you when you are a feeling bad withe your wound Aunt has gone up to Leas to night Leas call their Baby Henry Mc the little coot grows like Every thing Ben; and Net was over this afternoon but did not stay very long Little Jany grows a good deal She can walk All over the house and not fall down she is well Bess and the children is well Well Mc I have never got a leter from you yet but I supose it has been so you could write when ever you wanted to so do but I heard from you whenever any of the rest of the connection did so I am sattisfied we have got to letters from you scince you was wounded but they was short ones but good what they was of them the one you sent from cob fort give a good deal of sattis faction for we was anxious to hear from you well Mc I hope you have had a good time to day Pa said he had a good time on Christmas better than he had, had for a good while and expected to have soon again I am in hopes you will get where he is for you would be company for him and him for you We Mack I must begin to think of closing my letter for my sheat is full excuse my Poor Writing and write as soon as you can Mc I have got the war fever some Well I must Close for this time good by Mell

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Note: Melvin Radabaugh was a son of father's cousin Thomas C. Radabaugh. Melvin's mother was dead. Melvin was living with his Ewing relatives; think he made his home with grandfather and grandmother. He called grandmother Ewing "aunt" for she was aunt to his father. Ben, Net and Jany were the Whites. I do not know Melvin's age but he was old enough to have the war fever. I remember seeing him once, I would say about 1870, when he came back to Woodbridge from some lumbering camp up in Michigan. As I remember him, he was large, well dressed and fine looking. He died not long after that. His "Pa" at the time this letter was written was in Chester Hospital, 12 miles out of Philadelphia.

AEE 030431

Note: Melvin Radabaugh was born in February, 1850, and was almost 15 when he wrote this letter. Neither AE nor I understand Melvin's reference to "cob fort." His father, T.C., had enlisted in Company D the same time as Mack and the others. T.C. was 42 at the time of enlistment.

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