

MACK TO NAN

June first. My Dear Nan it is one great pleasure and the greatest earthly pleasure that I enjoy at the present is to read your letter that are penned by you and then to have the privilege of conversing with you by the Same manor of conversation. Nan when I have not the privilege of talking with you face to face the nearest thing is to get a letter from you. Nan I got a letter from you yesterday in a raper with Als. Nan I sent a letter to you yesterday about two hours before we got your letter. Nan the male comes to us two and sometimes three times a week we can send letters home every week Nan I have rote a letter to you one a week. I dont know whether you get them or not but I hope you do. Your letter was dated 22nd of May. You said that you was going to start to Jackson pretty soon. Oh Nan I hope you will have good health and have a good visit at home. Nan I know that you feel bad. I wish that I could be with you. Nan you must be as patient and reconciled as possible and if we both live we will enjoy comfort and satisfaction to gether again. Nan we are out on the front line of battle today. We came out here yesterday afternoon and made some breastworks. the rebel balls are flying thick on all sides of us now but they have not hit any of our boys yet. there were one of the Hillsdale boys wounded yesterday in the leg. Nan we can hear the canonading on the James River this morning. we are about 12 miles from Richmond. Nan I got a letter from Jane fitzsimmmons yesterday they were all well. I have not got any letter from home yet. Andy got one from Em and dewitt got one from bess yesterday the folks were all well at home. Nan do you hear from Mrs Crandle. Marshall has not heard from her yet. Now I will stop for today good by. Nan.

June 2nd

about 5 oclock and we are behind our rifle pit watching the rebs. we expected that they pich in to us last night but they did not but there were a hard fight close on both sides of us yesterday evening. Nan I had five shots at the jakes yesterday. the most of the rebs Skedadled from here last night all of our regt left here this morning only our Company. we are here yet on picket. now I hant time to write any more. the rebs pickets are throwing balls over our heads and I must get my old united States of America and tell the rebs to stop Shooting. good by for the present

June 4th Nan I have a minite to right now. Nan I got your letter last night and Al [got] one from Lyda bothe together. Nan you say you dont get any letters from me. Nan I have mailed one to you every week. I dont know why they dont come. I have received only 4 from you. well Nan we had a hot time yesterday with the rebs there were 5 of our company wounded but not killed. Mike Overly was wounded in the leg. Al shot the end of his thumb last night he is back at the hospital. Nan right to me often and I will right wether you get them or not. we are all well. Nan pray for me. I have not got any letter from home yet. Dewitt and Andy got letters last night the folks are all well. Now Nan I will have to stop righting for this time. Nan you wanted me to pray for you. Yes Nan I pray [for] you every day. And Shall untill death dont neglect your duty and pray for me good by I will write as soon as possible from Mc to Nan

Note: This letter of June 1, 1864, written in pencil, was addressed to Mrs Nancy A. Ewing/Steubenville/Jefferson Co/Ohio/In care of Rev. A. Abbott, and forwarded to Jackson CH/Jackson Co. The postmark of the sending office is undiscernable, but that of the receiving office, is plainly stamped, "Steubenville, O., Jun 21," from which it would appear the letter was long delayed in transmission.

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Note: Mike Overly was another Hillsdale enlistee, who was mustered in on the same date as Mac and the others, April 8, 1864. The envelope for this letter has two 3 c. stamps on it, indicating that forwarded mail required additional postage.

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