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## Letter from John W.A. Gillespie to Sister

John W.A. Gillespie

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Bot. var, Tsvn. Sect. Sila, as Sirva: Your letter edishe 25th to hand night before, last sind for I was glud to Shart that you years at Sarurday a seek we had hout the je-bels four miles from Solivar I the term of the seek. heavy skirmish of 7th Only regimmus with many average of opieces of smillery, was the only force engi-it with the enemy during the day. The rebeli-re six or even thousand strong, but our little aly for sk three different teres commelled to fall nile, where we took position on an el piece of ground and held it until the rebe-egan drives back, and routed by the hear terriffic firing of our artitlery.—Oaly two o ger driven back, and rounger driven back, and rounger driven back, and rounger driven back, and rounger driven dri all on ad Hi du 181 tb A tic in ol ranks they turned and fled and thus ended the Java-Jattle. The rabel loss the set instead at 150 m killed and sequenced is hipped 57 Apput 75 freeze of the 200 killed and sequenced is hipped 57 Apput 75 freeze of the 200 killed and sequenced in hipped 50 Apput 75 freeze of the coming the innuisher Capt. Chandler, Capt Willed Lieut. About a wind comparise if and Comma very near heap septimed in the same way. Private Stephen of Co. H. of our regiment, was shot through the trigh, we sad note killed. Three men of the 20th were everely whanded, and 2 killed, two or three were slightly wounded, Lieut. Col. Hogg if the 2nd Illinois Cavalry, in attempting to the specific periods of the cavalry were killed and wounded in this fell, and made a narrow escape himself. Severil of the cavalry were killed and wounded in this charge. Lieut. Col. Hogg was a brave and gelant officer and his death is much, lamented by larger a Lieut. Col. Hogg was a brave and gelant officer and his death is much, lamented by 60 41 ce lo th the If the 2nd lilinuis on the price of by six or sign charps the enemy, fell, pierced by six or sign eiths bills, Col. Legart was near him when he fell, and made a narrow escape himself. Saveral of the cavarry were killed and wounded ir this sharps. Licat, Col. Hogy was a brave and gallent officer and his death is much lamented by intentifier command. Our Brigade of (mule) avalry did noble service during the fight. The cavalry is composed of man from both regiment cavalry is composed of man from both regiment. the el the te th er or Cavalry did non-cavalry is comprised of mea uses. In a commended by Linux and the 28th Ayers of the 29th and Lieut. Museon of the 28th They assisted in making the attack and drove the stack as mile in the beginning of the castant praise for their castant praise for their alci. 18 C fri the incementy back a, mile in the beginning of the fight. They dearwe the greatest prairie for their colores and bravery under the heavy fire of the nearwe. Col. Leggett was in the front during the entire fight, and by his undannted courage on procedule the entire fight, and by his undannted courage on procedule the entire fight, and by his undannted courage on procedule the entire fight. during n r th d bravery as a contact Chaudler •kill a lende in his skill and bravery as a arrua soldier, and good officer. Capts. Chaudler and Wiles, and Lieuts Mctharty and Roberts, also displayed grast courage, as did every one of the men in their commands. The men loaded and fried their trusty Enfield rifles at the enemy 22 times arch and didther work cooly and deliberately. When they care diring, their gun bands were so hot from the constant filing that they had to carry chem for several minutes by the strap. Every man engaged did his work well, in fact he could not be well be better. th gu itı of Ti an ther attack, but pr tell of course, when it win course, went our from Bolivar 22 miles expecting to et the enemy on last Friday, but wa got beck check. Sunday morning without having met replace and brought back with us. not tell of cours S po fie rning, Sept. the 9th,-W. troops are coming to take our place. The division is going to move, I do not know to, but I have an idea that Grant's arm be concentrated at some point below, for lo to th In ncentrated at some point below, for a fe movement, perhaps at Grand Jauction leage. No more at present, from your a fora Grauge No more as pro-lectionate brother, JOHN W. A. GILLESPIE. th from your afho uching Story of the War. touching scenes in the

## <u>September 26, 1862</u>

Bolivar, Tenn. Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sister: Your letter of the 25th of Aug. came in hand night before last and found me well. I was glad to hear that you were all well. On last Saturday a week we had another fight with the rebels two miles from Bolivar on the Grand Junction road. The fight commenced at 8 o'clock in the morning and continued until 2 o'clock P.M. when the rebels fell back, and fighting ceased. The 20<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio regiments with some cavalry, and two pieces of artillery was the only force engaged with the enemy during the day. The rebels were six or seven thousand strong, but our little force drove them back three different times. - Then we in turn were compelled to fall back a mile, where we took a position on an elevated piece of ground and held it until the rebels were again driven back and routed by the heavy and terrific firing of our artillery. Only two companies of the 78th were engaged with the enemy during the fight, they fought and stood their ground, and fought like heroes. The balance of the regiment was pushing forward through the corn field and woods to take part in the fight, and expected every moment to meet the enemy face to face when an order came from Col. Leggett commanding the brigade to fall back to a safer position, and held it until reinforcements (which were on the road) could reach us. We fell back as ordered and took our position (the battery on the left of the road, the 78<sup>th</sup> to the right of the battery, the 20<sup>th</sup> on the left and the cavalry in the rear, there we stood in position (as before mentioned) every man determined to do or die, and as the rebels advanced in full, we all felt that the contest was soon to be renewed. On they came nearer and nearer when all at once boom! boom!! boom!!! boom!!!! went our big guns in rapid succession carrying death and dismay into the rebel ranks they turned and fled and thus ended the days battle. The rebel loss is estimated at 150 killed and wounded. Our loss in killed and wounded is about 15. About 75 men of the 20<sup>th</sup> were surrounded by a large force of rebel cavalry, and taken There are four officers among the number Capt. Chandler, Cap. Wiles, Lieut and C came very near being captured in the McCarty, and Lieut Roberts with companies same way. Private Stephen of Company H of our regiment was shot through was shot through the thigh and none killed. Three men of the 20th were severely wounded, and 2 killed, two or three others were slightly wounded. Lieut. Col. Hogg od the 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Cavalry, in attempting to charge the enemy fell, pierced by six or eight rifle balls. Col. Leggett was near him when he fell, and made a narrow escape himself. Several of the cavalry were killed or wounded in this charge. Lieut. Col. Hogg was a brave and gallant officer and his death is much lamented by his entire command. Our Brigade of (mule) cavalry did noble service during the fight. This cavalry is composed of men from both regiments mounted on mules and commanded by Lieut. Ayers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and Lieut. Munson of the 78<sup>th</sup>. The assisted in making the attack and rove the enemy back a mile in the beginning of the fight. They deserve the greatest praise for their bravery under the heavy fire of the enemy. Col. Leggett was in the front during the entire fight, and by his undaunted courage, inspired his entire command with fresh confidence of his skill and bravery as a true soldier and good officer. Capts. Chandler and Wiles say Lieuts McCarty and Roberts, also displayed great courage as did every one of the men in their command. The men loaded and fired their trusty Enfield rifles at the enemy 22 time each and did their work cooly and deliberately. When they ceased firing, their gun bands were so hot from the constant firing that they had to carry them for several minutes by the strap. Every man engaged did his work well. In fact, he could not have done better.

<sup>1</sup> Zanesville Daily Courier, September 26, 1862, p. 2

We are now awaiting another attack, but cannot tell of course when it will come. Our brigade went out from Bolivar 22 miles expecting to meet the enemy on last Friday, but we got back 2 o'clock Sunday morning without having met any rebels except a party of ten cavalry, whom we captured and brought back with us.

Tuesday morning, Sept. the 9<sup>th</sup>. – We have just received orders to move from this place. Other troops are coming to take our place. The whole division is going to move, I do not know where to, but I have an idea that Grant's army is to be concentrated at some point below, for a forward movement, perhaps at Grand Junction or LaGrange. No more at present, from your affectionate brother.

JOHN W.A. GILLESPIE