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Letter from John W.A. Gillespie to Parents, Brother, and Sisters

John W.A. Gillespie

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Letter from the 78th Ohie Regiment.

Botress, Thru, Musday,
Aug. 3d, 1862. Aug. 3d, 100a.

"Il RAR PARENT'S BROTHER AND SHATERS"

We left Grand Junction, July 12th, and arrived at this place the Lickt day at 3 o'clock,
P. M. The rebels came fato Grand Junction
three boths after we left, and befored a large
amount of cotton that he had to leave. Since
our arrival here, they have been hovering
about within a short distance in pretty strong
force, but, have, not ventured to attack u.—

Monday last, there were They will o file, a blood d force, bus, ... On Sunday Monday last, there were ions of an attack, but both quietly. On Thursday morn-and-20th Ohio, with some the last Bridge of the l force, but, have not ventured to attack us.—
On Sunday and Monday last, there were strong apprehensions of an attack, but both days passed away quietly. On Thursday morning last, the 18th and 20th Obio, with some artillery and cavalry, (composing the last Brigade) and commanded by Gel. M. D. Leggett) started out on a resouncisance to Whiteville, readly willle name. 14 supposite which we started that we would have a brush with the rebel cavalry reported to be in the vicinity of Whileville. But when we got there, at. 5 of clock, P. M. we found no enemy except one long catalryman, who was taken by surprise, and captured by our savalry who galloped into town before he could accapd. The enemy three thousand strong, had been there, but puiled up stakes, and low nonday of the same week. We remained in town until atter dark, then marched back three miles to a creek, and bivounced for the night. On Friday moraing early we started and reached our samp again at noon. Both days were quite warm, but the march there and back was not a very upleasant one.

The Jerce now at Bolivar numbers without seven thousand, and consitutes the 2d divisored thousand, and consitutes the 2d divisored the same the same thousand, and consitutes the 2d divisored the same the same three same than the same three same ef. uit ay nd he d back was no.

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mmanded by Brigadier General L.

The the way, is very much of a generate the St. seven thousand, and constitutes used the army of West Teurnssee. It is commanded by Brigadier General L. F. Roes, who, by the way, is very much of a gentleman. The force here, represents the States of Ohio, Indians. Illinois. Iows. Michigan and Wisconsin: Four Iowa regiments came to from Corinth day before yesterday, also a Battery of alx guns, and a Batterion of cavalry. There is no danger of an attack apprehended by a now. If the rebule should be foolbardy enough to do so, they will have with a large party of the rebule should be foolbardy enough to do so, they will have with a ble of enough to do no, they will the reception that they have Thereals McClernand and Logan are still at Jackson with a large force, and ready when necessary to send re-enforcements to this . to poots.

Bolivar is a wey nice town, of about 3000 inhabitants. The flatcher River runs near the town, and affords water in abundance for all army purposes. Near our camp, (which is several hundred yards from which we get our drinking and sooking, water.

Gen Ross has a large number of "contrabands" engaged in doing the drudgery about camps and depot. Also in digging trenches and throwing up breast works. This way of desing things takes a great deal of hard labor from the soldiers, and punishes rebel masters in a new sedy, and I am of the opinion that this policy should be adopted in all our future dealings with rebels and traitors. Whenmi• the to vis, in a new way, and I am of the opinion that this policy should be adopted in all our future dealings with rebels and traitors. Whenever the negroes of the South can be made useful to the Union cases, I say take them are use them, let the concernience to their master, be what it may. We are fighting for the maintenance of the Constitution and the Union. Rebels and black heavted traitors are trying to break them up, and are in the Southern army doing all that they can to bring about inseln a result, will their slaves are mostlered restay at home, and take care of the Fe gly and that they can to brin
seeh a result, with their slaves ar
to restay at "home and take care of the
g crops. "We have been using a mild
after policy 'long enough. We have
d rebul property until we are tired of the
beard our soldiure."
by South. growing crops. ...We have been using a ...milk and weater policy 'long enough. We have guarded rebel property until we are tired of it. We have heard our soldiurs called all sorts of sames, by Southern women, who think that they are cutilled to the respect which is all ways due a true lady. Of this we are also tired, and I thank God that our Government at last, intends to pursue a different course towards all rebels. I go in now for using all the means which God has given us, to crush this great rebellion, and to punish all rebels unch I go in how ion do.

I do has given us, to come and to punish all reports are well aware to abolitionist, and I have expect to be, 150 is which use rebellion, and to rebellion, and to rebellion. You are well as no no abolitionist, a spect to reny the many this great rependence of the control of th it is done, the people of the acy will have none to blame n ambitious leaders. If in the out "Behold our house is left ite," they can say in all truth, reclees." States, bogus.Confedent bogus.Confedent bogus.Confedent betweet their own ambituting their own ambituting their own away in the state of their own they can say in an in the future will adone solve the problem.—The future will adone solve the problem.—Thousands of brave and true men will yet have to fall in the struggle—Millions of moony will yet have to be expended. Many happy homes must yet be made sad and desolate, and the haparts of untold numbers will yet be a search. "But the Union must have earth. "But the Union must have a stall hazards.

GILLESPIE. 1 70 Gap the han and die iles

August 3, 1862

Letter from the 78th Ohio Regiment¹ BOLIVAR, TENN, SUNDAY Aug. 3d, 1862

DEAR PARENT'S, BROTHER, AND SISTERS –

We left Grand Junction July 24th and arrived at this place the next day at 3 o'clock. The rebels came into Grand Junction three hours after we left, and burned a large amount of cotton that we had to leave. Since our arrival here, they have been hovering about within a short distance within a short distance in pretty strong force, but have not ventured to attack us. – On Sunday and Monday last, there were strong apprehensions of an attack, but both days passed away quietly. On Thursday morning last, the 78th and 20th Ohio, with some artillery and cavalry (composed of the 1st Brigade, and commanded by Col. M.D. Leggett) started out on a reconnaissance to Whiteville, twelve miles north west of this place. It was supposed when we started that we would have a brush with rebel cavalry reported to be in the vicinity of Whiteville. But when we got there at 5 o'clock P.M., we found no enemy except one lone cavalryman, who was taken by surprise, and captured by our cavalry who galloped into town before he could escape. The enemy three thousand strong, had been there, but pulled up stakes, and left on Monday of the same week. We remained in town until after dark, then marched back three miles to a creek, and bivouaced (sic) for the night. On Friday morning early we started and reached our camp again at noon. Both days were quite warm, but the march there and back was not a very unpleasant one.

The force now at Bolivar numbers six or seven thousand, and constitutes the 2d division of the army of West Tennessee. It is commanded by Brigadier General L.F. Ross, who, by the way, is very much of a gentleman. The force here, represents the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Four Iowa regiments came in from Corinth day before yesterday, also a Battery of six guns and a Battalion of cavalry. There is no danger of an attack apprehended ______ now. If the rebels should be foolhardy enough to do so, they will meet with a warmer reception than they have yet bargained for.

Generals McClernand and Logan are still at Jackson with a large force, and ready when necessary to send re-enforcements to the post.

Bolivar is a very nice town of about 3000 inhabitants. The Hatchee River nears the town, and affords water in abundance for all army purposes. Near our camp (which is several hundred yards from town) we have three fine springs from which we can get our drinking and cooking water.

Gen. Ross has a large number of "contrabands" engaged in doing the drudgery about camps and depot. Also in digging trenches and throwing up breast works. This way of doing things takes a great deal of hard labor, and punishes rebel masters in a new way, and I am of the opinion that this policy should be adopted in all our future dealings with rebels and traitors. Whenever the negroes of the South can be made useful to the Union cause, I say take them and use them, let the consequences to their masters be what it may. We are fighting for the maintenance of the Constitution and the union. Rebels and black hearted traitors are trying to break them up and are to the Southern army doing all that they can to bring about such a result while their slaves are made to stay at home and take care of the growing crops. We have been

¹ Daily Zanesville Courier, August 16, 1862, p. 2

using a *milk* and *water* policy long enough. We have guarded rebel property until we are tired of it. We have heard our soldiers be called all sorts of names, by Southern women, who think that they are entitled to the respect which is always due to a true lady. Of this we are also tired, and I thank God that our Government at last, intends to pursue a different course towards all rebels. I go in now for using all the means which God has given us, to crush this great rebellion, and to punish rebels wherever found. You are well aware that I have never been on (sic) abolitionist, and I can assure you that I never expect to be, but I can tell you that it is my firm conviction *that this war will end slavery in the United States*, and if it is done, the people of the bogus Confederacy will have none to blame but their own ambitious leaders. If in the future *they cry out "Behold our house is left unto us desolate,"* they can say in all truth, "We did to ourselves."

When the war will end, no one can tell. – The future alone will solve the problem. – Thousands of brave and true men will yet have to fall in the struggle. Millions of money will have to be expended. Many happy homes must yet be made sad and desolate, and the hearts of untold numbers will yet be made to bleed and suffer for those they will see no more on earth. "But the Union *must* and *shall* be preserved" at all hazards.

J.W.A. GILLESPIE