

Letters

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looked better than any thing else and I was so glad to see you now if you are good at taking hints... fry up some cakes in grease and send some bullets and butter and a cold ham and a peace of Dried beef."

Lorenzo Gantz, to his parents

April 7, 1862 - Nashville, Tennessee

"I will give the names of some of the boys which fell in the battle. James Wood Thomas E. Kent Samuel Thornton The names of those with whom you are acquainted. Kent was shot through the shoulder and crippled and afterward a bayonet was run through him which was the cause of his death. Sam Thornton was crippled with a shot in the Arm and Thigh Wound in Severely."

Lorenzo Gantz, to his parents possibly after the battle of Shiloh in southwestern Tennessee, which occurred on April 6 and 7.

Nov. 7, 1862 - Kentucky (?)

"Mother you stated in your letter that you could see my Pale form in your visions. I would have give nite smart to have bin in your care while I lay sick and you could have me something that I could Eat and a good bed to sleep on...."

"I received a letter from Martha This morning which was written The 31st and she said She had written 7 letters And had not received one letter from me and she said that She wont write any more till I write."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents describing how ill he was from typhoid fever.

Nov. 22, 1862 - Carleteria, Kentucky

"We have very poor health in the Regiment. The men and mumps are raging and Sending the boys to the hospital quite fast.... there was an Awful accident in the regiment on Sat. urday night. old Johnny Lipa Son while Standing on guard was shot through The wrist and it liked to took his hand With it. the poor boy was standing on guard About 12 o'clock at night and was by the Fire. it is supposed that the gun got hot and exploded. mums it made me think That I did not want to go into a battle."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents

Feb. 7, 1863

"...I Suppose that you have heard the dreadful News of John W. Being killed at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn.... I trembled worse when I saw his Name mentioned in the list killed.... Now mother I do not want you to Study to much About that news as hundreds of Mothers heard the Same news. I truly wish that I and Lorenzo was at home to Rejoice our Families and loved ones at home where parting would be No more until nature finally takes us from earth one by one."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents about the death of his brother, John.

Feb. 28, 1863 - Nashville, Tennessee

"I received a letter from Lorenzo dated the 19th. he is well and hearty But In considerable of trouble in consequences Of the fall of J.V. at the late fight at that point."

"Now father and mother I must tell you Something in regard to this country. land cannot be beaten on earth. And on there farms they (have) large Stone Spring Houses. Mam it is nice and I would like to live here if Slavery was blotted out. But negrow is every thing."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents

Dec. 6, 1863 - Camp 36 Ind., near Whiteside, Tenn.

"I Suppose that Ere this time you have heard of the brilliant victory Achieved by the union arms in this Department which took place of the 24th of last month at old lookout mountain. I was in that fight from A bout Eight o'clock until 12 at night A bout 36 hours that we had to stand the whistling of rebel bullets. yet through the kind providence of heaven I am spared thus far through and I hope that I can have it to say that the last battle is fought as I am wanting to get home.... It looks (undecipherable) rebels can not Stand much more like they have been getting in the last fight down here"

Lorenzo Gantz, to his parents. The "brilliant victory" he described was the hard-won fight by the Union Army in the Battle of Chattanooga on November 23, 1863, and the Battle of Lookout Mountain on November 24, 1863.



Life after the war: Shortly after Lorenzo Gantz returned from the war, he married Sarah McComish. They settled back on the farm and raised 10 children. This picture was taken in 1890.

Dec. 18, 1863 - Shellmound, Tenn.

"I was up to Whitesides on a visit to See Lorenzo and Francis French. they was tolerable well only Lorenzo was afflicted with his old complaint.... Lorenzo said if uncle Sam would give him 1000 dollars he would Reenlist again And tells me to Mother I am Just this near to it. I left it to my old woman to decide.... Lorenzo helped to take Lookout mountain and he told me that he had the dirt throwed over him 3



times."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents

March 4, 1864

"I was glad to learn though your letter that you and the boys was all well but was sorry to hear that you had to take up the line of march for the battle field again. I hope that it will be the last."

"the buttornuts are plenty at home and the nights of the golden surcle. it looks like you will have to come home to fight. thar was a mob went into the Webs house and threatened to kill him. his wife holowed murder and Titus came and they broke and run and several such depredations."

Elizabeth Gantz, to son, Samuel. "Butternuts" and "Copperheads" were terms for people who

sympathized with the Southern cause. The Knights of the Golden Circle was a group of militants whose goal in 1860 was secession.

March 12, 1864 - Blue Springs East Tenn.

"Well mother in regard to that Set nast Stinking Set of butter Nuts that meets from time to time in Emmetsville my prayr

for them is that there Bones be black and the wood around there little town."

Samuel Gantz, to his parents

Sept. 26, 1864 - in camp north of Atlanta

Well Lorenzo we are in camp close to where the 15th corps had that fight on the 22nd of July. We fell Back to atlanta from lovejoy on the 8th. our old Regt. charged the Rebel Works lovejoy Station and lost 18 or 20 men....

The Sights are hard here. Rebel grave yard all over the woods and they are Buried So Shallow. J. Tilson and myself and two of the 33rd Ind. Boys pried up Piece of cracker Box and fond A Johnny Sargents Bones under it. We was also on the spot. When gen. McPherson was killed.

Well the first thing that I well tell is that col John A. Benet of the 75th is in command of this Brigain during Bill Grosses absence and he is fuller of orders thgan a dog is of fleas. he has ordered drill 4 hours pr. day.

Samuel Gantz, to Lorenzo (who is now home from the war)

Nov. 12, 1864 - Palaski, Tennessee

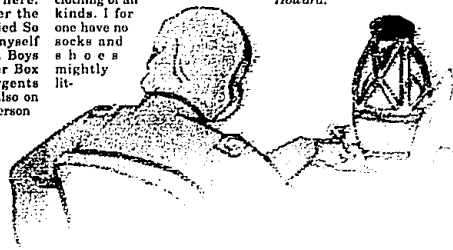
With pleasure I take my pen in hand after a long time to answer you kind gladly received letter of the first of last month and have not had time until now to give you an answer on account of a long and wearisome march and raiding through the state of

Alabama after Old Hood and I think that the marching headed anything that ever I was on. We averaged 20 miles per day and had considerable of very incimate weather.

We was all together at Gainsville Alabama. The army of the Tennessee and the 23rd A.C. went south from there and the 4th and 14th A.C. came north. The 20th stayed at atlanta and now I cant tell where the 14th is.

Well Lorenzo we are tolerable bad off for

clothing of all kinds. I for one have no socks and shoes a mighty lit-



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