

S O L D \$2530.00

Synopses of John Crandal Civil War Letters

This is a collection of 38 letters, all of which have been transcribed. Thirty-four of the letters were written by John Crandal between March 1863 and June 1865, primarily to his wife Nan.

John was a sergeant who served with Co. F of the 124th Regiment, Ohio Infantry, which was commanded by Colonel Oliver Hazzard Payne.

Many of the letters provide very interesting eye witness accounts of battles, troop movements, camp activities and circumstances, and descriptions of local conditions in several southern communities. References include Chattanooga, Chicamauga, Nashville, and a host of other skirmish sites. The letters give eye witness accounts of the sights and emotions experienced by this Union soldier who served on the front lines. Throughout these letters one can sense Sgt. Crandal's love and concern for his family at home and for his deep faith, which sustains him during the trying ordeals of war.

Long marches, desertions, the loss of friends, and loneliness are all themes which are addressed in this collection of letters.

1863

- 2/19 Letter is somewhat damaged , so much text is missing.
- 3/3 113th Ohio, 87th Illinois and 18th Ohio under command of General Gilbert. 6,000 to 8,000 troops. Good account of camp activities.
- 3/20 Discusses conditions in camp and provides input for decisions to be made at home on the farm.
- 4/26 Tells of a three-time Union deserter from the 125th Regiment who is soon to be executed.
- 5/30 General small talk.
- 6/12 Descriptive account of a battle. Awaiting General Rosencrans' order to move out.

- 6/18 Writes about troop movements and mentions Generals Gilbert and Granger. Many Confederate desertions from General Bragg.
- 6/30 Interesting letter which provides details concerning his march to Chattanooga. Mentions General Crittendon and McCook; also mentions Col. Pane and Col. Hagens.
- 7/7 Personal insights about life in the camp.
- 7/16 Writes of mass desertions (20-50 per day) of rebel troops. Surmises that Bragg fears Rosencrans.
- 7/27 General correspondence.
- 8/2 Account of a fellow soldier's funeral. General discussion about issues at home.
- 8/5 General correspondence.
- 8/8 Describes relationships and trade with the local "natives". Mentions a Confederate Lieutenant from Bragg's Army who reports a mass desertion of his men.
- 8/31 Describes the effect of the Union Battery on the Confederates across the Ohio River. Discusses the dress of the locals and activities in the camp. Rumor mentioned that Mead "whipped" Lee again.
- 11/11 Debates how to best send his pay home to his wife. Inquires who got drafted and disparages the copperheads.
- 11/15 Two soldiers shot for desertion. Describes the punishment meted out to three other deserters who ran from the Battle of Chickamauga.
- 11/21 Describes a recent battle in which he received a minor wound and his best friend was killed.

1864

- 2/6 Detailed description of the Union stockade and conditions in camp. Misses the companionship of a woman, repeating feelings expressed in other letters.

- 3/7 Small talk from Camp Dennison.
- 3/31 Talks of his ten day pass to go to the Chickamauga battlefield in order to locate the body of a Union sergeant for burial.
- 6/26 Interesting letter from Chattanooga. Writes about guerrilla action and his anticipated of Atlanta by Sherman and Richmond by Grant. Relates his confidence in Grant. Anxious for the war to end.
- 8/11 Mentions Col. Payne and Col. Luis. Very descriptive account of his experience during the taking of Atlanta.
- 11/2 On the way to Nashville from Chattanooga and Athens, Alabama after a 230 mile march.
- 12/9 Written from hospital. Sick with digestive disorder.

1865

- 1/3 From Mary Marshall to Nancy Crandal, expressing her loneliness with her husband being away at war.
- 1/17 Dr. Harper in the unit replaced by younger man. Additional small talk.
- 3/5 General small talk.
- 4/2 Describes attempted theft of General Wood's horses by "bushwackers". Three or four escaped. The fourth was shot in the leg which needed to be amputated while the soldier was waiting to be hung.
- 4/5 Tells of eighteen mile march from Ball's Gap to Greenville. Watched 60 Reb prisoners being marched north.
- 5/12 Anticipating being mustered out in time to plant potatoes.
- 6/13 Letter to Crandal from a friend, Hayden, anxious for Crandal to get home. Relates of the death of two mutual friends due to the ravages of war.
- 6/19 Crandal waiting to muster out.

1887

2/14 Small talk.

End