

*Letter from Uriah W. Oblinger
to Mattie V. Thomas
August 18, 1864*

August 18, 1864 Original letter handwritten by Uriah

2

Transcript

6

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L010

August 18, 1864

Page 1

On bank of Shattahoochie
August 18th 1864

Kind Friend

With much pleasure I
take my pen in a hasty manner
to acknowledge the receipt of your
heartily welcome message which came
to hand only the 15th of this
month it was dated may 25th
why it did not arrive sooner I
cannot tell. I have but a small
piece of paper and but a moment
to write therefore this will not be
much satisfaction to you. I have not
had the shortest time to look for the gg
and therefore I have not heard from
Giles for some time since the 10th of
last month I have been on two

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L010

August 18, 1864

Page 2

raids one commanded by Genl Roscan
the other by Genl McCook the first was
very successful the last we succeeded
in doing what we started to do but lost
almost one third of the command, we
^{were} almost entirely surrounded at one time
but managed by hard fighting and good
running to save a few. since the
10th of last month I have been
under fire continually almost night
and day until the third of this
month. and at present writing am
almost worn out with riding night
& day, but ~~not~~ notwithstanding
start on another expedition at six
this evening I cannot tell where
we are destined for but we will fight
before returning I expect and may
be I will be called upon to sacrifice
my life but if such ~~be~~ be

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L010

August 18, 1864

Page 3

The case it will go free as a drink
of cold water. when I read about
Sabbath School in your letter it
reminded me of happier days, and
I may yet be spared to visit those
loved ones left at home and attend
Sabbath ^{School} with them but if I am not
my life will be given freely to perpetuate
the peace and happiness they now
enjoy with the same freedom ~~and~~
God intended they should I am
glad to hear your Sabbath School class
takes such a hearty interest in the
holy word, and I do not hate it
I assure you, although a Soldier, it
is for such Institutions that I fight
Friend Mattie the day I bid you
farewell I enjoyed a privilege worth
worlds to me and that was attending
Church with all my brothers and

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1346-S01-L010

August 18, 1864

Page 4

and my Father & Mother, but the bitter time was when I bid farewell to loved Father and Mother my brothers and sisters to return to the front to stand between home and an enemy that would destroy our Liberty not knowing whether I would ever again be permitted to behold their forms or not. but if I am not spared I have one faint hope left and that is I may be wafted to a better ~~new~~ World where I may meet my Angelic Mother and sainted sisters.

Matie I have but a few moments before we start and will have to close speedily but if I had paper and time I could fill 20 pages for your perusal.

I am enjoying tolerable good health but am pretty near worn down by riding at night till the Union Ladies to keep treason down till we get home for the young men are so cowardly as traitors.

I will close hoping this may find you with the rose tint of health glowing on your cheeks and enjoying plenty of everything. I remain your sincere Friend

Wm. W. Abinger
P.S. you need not write for I may not get your letter. give my love to all inquiring Union Friends and bitterest animosity to traitors. Excuse all mistakes and bad writing for I was hurried

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Transcript

(Edited slightly for grammar and sense.)

On bank of Chattahoochie
August 18th 1864
Kind Friend

With much pleasure I take my pen in a hasty manner to acknowledge the receipt of your heartily welcome message which came to hand only the 15th of this month. It was dated May 25th. Why it did not arrive sooner I cannot tell. I have but a small piece of paper and but a moments to write, therefore this will not be much satisfaction to you. I have not had the shortest time to look for the 99 Indiana Regiment. Therefore I have not heard from Giles for some time, since the 10th of last month. I have been on two . . .

(Page 2) . . . raids — one commanded by Gen'l Rosseau the other by Gen'l McCook. The first was very successful. The last, we succeeded in doing what we started to do but lost almost one third of the command. We were almost entirely surrounded at one time, but managed by hard fighting and good running to save a few.

Since the 10th of last month I have been under fire continually almost night and day until the third of this month. And at present writing am almost worn out with riding night & day, but notwithstanding, I start on another expedition at six this evening. I cannot tell where we are destined for but we will fight before returning, I expect. And maybe I will be called upon to sacrifice my life, but if such be . . .

(Page 3) . . . the case it will go free as a drink of cold water. When I read about Sabbath School in your letter it reminded me of happier days. And I may yet be spared to visit those loved ones left at home and attend Sabbath with them. But if I am not, my life will be given freely to perpetuate the peace and happiness they now enjoy with the same freedom God intended they should. I am glad to hear your Sabbath School Class takes such a hearty interest in the holy word, and I do not hate it, I assure you, although a Soldier. It is for such Institutions that I fight.

Friend Mattie the day I bid you farewell I enjoyed a privilege worth worlds to me and that was attending Church with all my brothers and my Father & Mother. But the bitter time was when I bid farewell to loved Father and Mother my brothers and . . .

(Page 4) . . . sisters to return to the front to stand between home and an enemy that would destroy our Liberty . . . not knowing whether I would ever again be permitted to behold their forms or not. But if I am not spared I have one faint hope left and that is I may be wafted to a better World where I may meet My Angelic Mother and Sainted sisters.

Mattie I have but a few moments before we start and will have to close speedily but if I had paper and time I could fill 20 pages for your perusal.

I am enjoying tolerable good health but am pretty near worn down by riding at night. Tell the Union Ladies to keep treason down till we get home for the young men are too cowardly or traitorous. I will Close hoping this may find you with the rose tint of health glowing on your cheeks and enjoying plenty of everything I remain your sincere Friend.

Uriah W Oblinger

P. S. you need not write for I may not get your letter. give my love to all inquiring Union Friends and bitterest animosity to traitors. excuse all mistakes and bad writing for I was hurried.