

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Perkins Henry F

Civil War letters

DB71-3

1. ~~Letter~~ civil war 1862-3-4

from Henry F. Perkins
to his father R.T. Perkins

7.1-3

✓

To R. L. Perkins, E. Middlebury, Vt. from his son,
Henry E. Perkins, serving in the Union Army.

Ft. Pike, La.
June 8th, 1862

Dear Father: I now sit down to write you and all the rest. I am well and hope this will find you all the same. We have a good time here. The weather is very fine, there was but two showers last month. We go out scouting almost every night and fetch in something almost every time. The 5th some of the Brandon boys and our boys (30 in all) went up Pearl River about 15 miles and captured a Rebel Steamer, the J. M. Brown. They value it at 35,000 dollars. They did not find but three men on her and they run. Our boys was the first on the boat. Oscar Johnson was the 3rd man on the boat. We expect every night to go after some more steamers up the Pearl. There is 4 more there. There is some figs here and they are almost ripe and there are black berrys here and they are ripe. The weather is very cool here now and the mosquitoes are not so thick as they was. We have got 5 in the hospital now and one died the 6th and we had a solemn time yesterday. I tel you it looked hard to bury a man in a rough board box and in the water to for we could not dig 3 ft. without coming to water. It was a Co. B man. The boys all feel well and kick up their heels every night. Rodney Lawrence has been sick but is getting better now. We have had a rumor that the mail for the detachment, over 60 letters, was lost in New Orleans but don't know as it is so. I have just been to see a fish that John Laque caught it was 5 feet long and would weigh 50 lbs. it was a large one. We see lots of aligators every day. Some of them are 10 feet long. We shot one 12 feet long the other day. I want you to send me some papers every week that has got some news in them and write to as soon as you can. I have not had a letter yet. Tell all the boys to write.

From Henry to his Mother and Father

I send you a Confederate shin plaster and a picture of the Brown that we took up the Pearl.

The original of
This letter given Thurwood S. Turner, 2900 St. Clair Tr.,
Apt. 603, Marlow Heights, Md., August 1969, (ZC-2003)
Son of Stephanie + grandson of Henry E
Perkins.

And also the 4 following + an additional one
from Girard, Kas. Letter in back of book.

H. L. P.

Background on Henry C. Perkins from CA Perkins notes in family records

Henry and Charles ran away to Rutland to enlist in the Civil War but their father went after them and reclaimed Charles who was definitely under age at the time. Henry served with the 7th Vt. in the far South and lost a leg in the engagement of Spanish Fort. He had to use crutches the rest of his life but became a successful Pension attorney and was finally employed by the Pension Office in Washington, D.C. where he died at the age of ninety-one.

✓

To R. L. Perkins, East Middlebury, Vt. from his son,
Henry F. Perkins, serving in the Union Army.

Ft. Pike, La.
June 30th, 1862

Dear Father and Mother and all the rest. I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you all are the same. We had a skirmish day before yesterday up Pearl River. About 16 of our Co. and 2 of Co. D (?), 25 in all started about 9 A.M. for Pearlinton and got up there about 13 M. Landed without any trouble and went into the village and took several of the citizens prisoners then went to the store to see what they had there. Found the shelves pretty well filled and took some shot, about 200 lbs., and some gun caps and some other things. I got a silk handkerchief worth about 2.00 and some caps, a pistol and a nice flute and a pipe and 25 packs of cards (which I gave away). Then we went to the boat. The niggers had got about wooded up then but we went up to the town to see what was to be seen. Had been up there about 15 moments when we heard the cry that the rebels was acoming. Started on the run for the boat. Got on the boat and was going upstairs when the rebels fired on us. Just as I got upstairs see one of Co. D men fall shot in the leg. The ball that hit him went by A. Enoses leg and cut his pants in the seem. The balls flew thick for a few moments I tell you. About that time we let loose a six pound gun that we have on the boat and kept firing on them with our rifles and soon they went galloping off into the woods and kept firing at us for about 3/4 of an hour. There was some 5 or 6 of the boys that got hit with shot. Some took them out of their boots as they only went through their pants. I did not get hit but the balls went close to me. I fired 50 (?) times do know that I hit one reb for I saw him throw up his arms after I fired.

H. F. Perkins

When you answer this tel me if you drawed my state pay.

Tell George to be a good boy.

Write as soon as you get this now do.

✓

To R. L. Perkins, East Middlebury, Vt. from his son,
Henry E. Perkins, serving in the Union Army.

Pensacola, Florida
Dec. 2nd, 1862

Dear Father and Mother and all the rest. I now take time to answer your letter of Nov. 5th. Was glad to hear that you are all well. I am about the same as when I wrote last and we expect to go north in 4 or 5 weeks but it is not certain. I guess we have so many camp stories that we can not tell what to believe. I hope that we shall. The weather is very fine here now. It has not rained any for two or three months. There is but three Regiments here now. The celebrated N. Y. 6th was here (Billy Wilson's Pickpockets) but they left when we came here. You said that I had not wrote about the medicines you sent. I wrote in 2 letters certain about it. I got it when we was at Camp Williams all right. I was glad to get the papers you sent for we dont get much news here. I suppose you have fine times up home eating apples and drinking cider. Drink a good big pitcher for me and crack a few butnuts to. I should like to be up home to help but that can not be so there is no use a wishing. The new surgeons arrived here last Saturday so did the new Chaplain. We like them very well. They appear to be nice men and mean to do well. I should like to hear from some of the boys up there. I have not had any answer from Henry East yet. You said he had deserted. I never was so surprised in my life. I thought him to be the last man to do that. Tell Burr that I will write to him before long. Tell George to be a good boy and I will fetch him a little gun when I come home so that he can play soldier as much as he likes and I will learn him all about it. Tell the girls to be good girls and I would like a good Jonny Cake with some of the old cow's butter on it. Tell Charles to keep the pistol clean inside of the barrel and it will shoot well. No more this time. From

Henry E. Perkins.

✓

To R. L. Perkins, East Middlebury, Vt. from his son,
Henry E. Perkins, serving in the Union Army.

Headquarters, Barrancas, Fla.
Dec. 15th, 1863

Dear Father and Mother and all ther rest, I now take the time to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I received your letter of Nov. 11th yesterday and you may believe I was glad to get one from home and to hear that Ida was better and the rest of you as well as usual. I had not received any letters from home for 5 or 6 weeks and the last one I got before this you wrote that Ida was very sick and you may believe that I felt anxious to hear how she was getting along and then not to get a letter for 6 weeks. It is enough to try anyone's patience but I feel better now for she is getting better. There is not much news to write now. The report came here yesterday that the prisoners in Fort Jackson rebelled and drove the troops out of the Fort and killed 4 officers (the troops were black) and took possession of the Fort but the men rallied and took it back again but I have not heard whether it is true or not. We have had some pretty cool weather here lately but it is quite warm even now. I can not write any more now so write after. From

Henry E. Perkins.

✓

To R. L. Perkins, East Middlebury, Vt. from his son,
Henry E. Perkins, serving in the Union Army.

Barrancas, Fla.
April 3rd, 1864

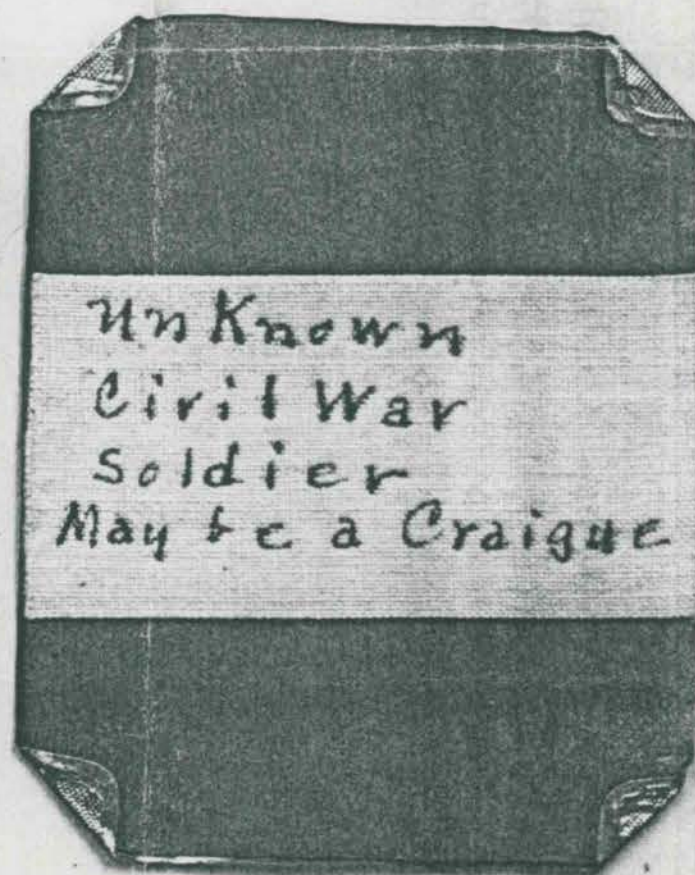
Dear Father and Mother and all the rest. I wrote you a letter yesterday and as I had some time to spare tonight I thought I would write another tonight and give you an account of a skirmish our troops had yesterday with the Rebs. About 2 o'clock yesterday our picket discovered a small square of cavalry out some 1/2 mile from the line and sent word to the Gen. (Asboth) that they was there and he sent out his guard (some of the 14th N. Y. Cavalry), some 35 in all, to reconnoiter. After they had gone about 3/4 of a mile they discovered the Rebs which immediately fell back to where their body was. Our Cavalry following them up pretty sharp when they got within 30 or 40 yards of them the Rebs fired on them and wounded 2, one a Lieut. Our Cavalry then drew sabre and charged them and before they could load was onto them and went to heaving them right and left which soon put them to flight and our men followed them about 20 miles and took 12 prisoners and killed 6 of them. There was about 80 in all of the Rebs and only 35 of ours and you see they had the most men and fired first and our men drove them with their sabres. Our men had revolvers and carbines but did not use them. The Lieut. after he was wounded was surrounded by four of the Rebs who told him to surrender and he pitched into them and killed two and wounded another but the fourth ran. One of the prisoners was a Capt. Our wounded are doing well. We expected an attack in the night but they did not come and we slept sound all night and we learnt this morning from one of the prisoners that the Rebs came on purpose to capture our cavalry who are out scouting almost every day. I can not think of anything more to write. I am well. Write often and I will do the same.

From Henry E. Perkins

Co. C, 7th Vt.

Grandmother was thought by some of the family to be somewhat "psychic". It has been told that, during the War, she would sometimes become restless and say that she "knew that there had been a battle". Then they would read the report of one in the paper. At the time Henry was wounded in a very minor skirmish in the Deep South, she was disturbed and kept saying, "something has happened to Henry". Then, after some hours, she calmed down and said, "I think he is all right now". These ideas later assumed importance when they learned that, at about what they thought was the same time, Henry lay wounded under the guns of Ft. Baracas where he remained for several hours until Rodney Lawrence of Hubbardton went out and brought him in. Henry was a six-footer and Rodney was a small man and it was quite an undertaking. Every summer when Henry came to Rutland, Henry went out to Hubbardton to visit with Rodney Lawrence.

From notes
by Amy L. Perkins
family history
Seems to
be difference
in Fort with
dad's account



Un Known
Civil War
Soldier
May be a Craigue

