

May 14, 1864

Mr Sylvester Sherman

Sir. Please pardon me if I assume too much liberty in thus addressing you, I have more than one design in so doing, and I will try to explain in as few words as possible. In the first place, I have a brother in law some where in your Regt from whom I have heard nothing since you went away. I do not know what Company he is in, or I could write to him. I have been trying to find out some ones address, thinking perhaps in that way I might chance to get his. In the second place, I called at your Mother's yesterday, and she asked me to write to you; and gave me your address. Last, (but perhaps not least) I am writing to gratify myself; and if by so doing I displease you, I beg your pardon. I will tell you my brother in law's name, and if you know any thing about him, you will confer a great favor, by reminding him, he has friends at home who are anxious to know of his whereabouts. Or if it is not too much trouble, I would

be pleased to have you write. His name is Stephen
Barkelow. He is from Clinton Township. Perhaps
he has written to his wife, but I have not seen her.
Your mothers folks are all well, but feeling considerably
lonely without res. (you'll let me call you that won't
you?) Ann Gecker was there. They had all been over to
Green Lawn Cemetery, and had just returned, when I called.
Marten Gecker has got home, I believe, though I have
not seen him. I was down to the Cates yesterday too.
they are well. How do you like soldiering? and how
do you like the country down in Dixie; Well I must
begin to close pretty soon, or I shall tire your patience.
Sylvester, you know I am a poor scholar, and I
hope you will not laugh at my awkward letter. I
have no other apology to offer. Please remember me kindly
to all my friends if I have any. Tell Mr Oliver Merion
I saw his little girl yesterday, and I think she is real
handsome. If you have time, and it is convenient, I
would be pleased to hear from you, and if so, please
tell me all the news, and how you are all getting along,
and do not forget to tell me how well pleased you are
and so on. I heard a few minutes ago, you had been

in a little skirmish with the rebels and had lost
seven of the boys killed and 15 wounded. Is it
true or not? Yes, be a good boy; but I know you
will for I believe you have always been a good boy.
Write often to your mother, for she will always be
anxious and pleased to hear from you. Perhaps I have
written too much. Good Bye.

your friend Elanie Coulter
Columbus Ohio.

Saturday Evening May 14th 1864

Mr Sylvester Sherman
Company F. 133rd Regt OVI

71.2009.083.01129