

Fitzgerald

Topic - Life of a Civil War Soldier - Documents to Interpret

Write a letter home as a Civil War soldier incorporating ideas suggested by these images and our studies.

Write to one of the following:

- Your former teacher (would have been a male teacher)
- Your mother or father
- Your sister
- Your friend
- Your girlfriend
- Your minister

Look at the beautiful script on the letter. Try for that if you can.





The news there was
in camp at present
so you will have to
excuse me this time
and I will try and
do better next time
please answer this as
soon as received my
love to all and a
kiss for Lewis Curtis
this from your
brother and well
wishes

De Grand
To his Sister
Gennie Stone





← Latrines

Latrines were commonly called "sinks" by soldiers North and South during the Civil War. The common sink was a trench 10 to 12 feet long, 1 to 2 feet wide, and 6 to 8 feet deep. Each day six inches of dirt was supposed to be shoveled into the sink to cover the waste. Ideally, carbolic acid or chlorinated lime would also be added to deodorize and sanitize the area. Some regiments surrounded the sink with brush to provide minimal privacy. When the sink was filled to within one and a half to two feet of the edge, it was supposed to be filled in and a new sink dug. Even a sink that was well maintained might be poorly located, in a place where the sewage seeped, drained, or overflowed into the camp water supply. Wells and streams were easily polluted with germs that caused intestinal diseases. Some latrines were located close to camp kitchens or cooking areas, where flies spread disease from the excrement to the food. In October 1861, the surgeon of the Third Tennessee Regiment (Confederate) complained that the men of the Eighteenth Tennessee were digging a sink right next to his regimental hospital. Each regiment was supposed to have a sink on the left and right ends of the camp as well as a third sink for the officers

