

Summary of Historic Family Letters

File Number: 1861 (1)
Date: Nov 7, 1861
From: Mortimer D. Leggett (Lt. Col)
To: Benny
Addressed in envelope to Isaac Newton Leggett
Montville, Geauga Co, OH
Format: One page lined with printed military stationary
Head Quarters 78th Regiment
Relationships: Brother

General Content:

- Disappointed to learn that Benjamin has joined the cavalry as he is too young (under 18) and not hard enough.
- Mortimer would not have joined if he thought that Benny would also leave their father and mother as they need care in their declining years.
- Mortimer has family himself

Head Quarters 78th Regiment, O. V. U. S. A. }

No. 132 Main Street, (over Potwin's Store.) }

Zanesville, O. 7th Nov 1861

Dear Brother Benny,

I have just heard that you had volunteered into the military service. Now Benny, while I admire your pluck and patriotism, yet I think you do very wrong to think of going into the service. In the first place you are too young and can never begin to stand the hardships of camp life, especially in the Cavalry service, where the labor & exposure to the storm and other hardships, ^{are} more than double what they are in the infantry service. Though you may be strong & healthy, yet your muscles have not got the hardness & maturity necessary for such service.

And again, you do very wrong to leave father and mother at such a time as this, I

would not myself have thought of going, but
from the fact that I had no doubt you would
stay at home. Though I am away from home
& have a family of my own, yet I feel under
obligations to see that our good parents have
abundant care and protection in their declining
years. While you will be comparatively worthless
as a soldier, on account of being so young,
yet you are just the age to be the greatest
comfort & support of our parents. You must
not think of going - and being under 18 years
of age, & not having the consent of your
parents, you must and can get released.
Now I mean what I say Benny, you do
a great wrong by going into the army, &
if you have any desire to befriend me,
you will stay faithfully with father and
mother during my absence. I shall feel like
resigning myself, if you persist in going.

Your Brother
Mortimer