

Col. Elsworth's
blood

Col. Elsworth's
death place

Mr George Hollis
Chelsea
Mass.



Georgetown, D.C., July 5th.

Friend Hollis,

I am sitting
in the guard tent assigned
to Co. H, being placed in the
delectable position of sentinel, but
still best with an op-
portunity of leisure every 2
hours - I have just been
relieved, and will try to
write a few lines to you
to day is very warm, but
I expect it will be cool at
night. We have just had
banners that our better
blankets are laid out
in the morning with
the sun warming and drying
the ground. The night
just past we went for
away, to join the

that are gone before." We
celebrated it by music from
the band at sunrise -
target shooting in the forenoon,
and in the afternoon, we
had a battalion drill after
which we formed a hollow
square, and listened to
a fine speech from Hon.
Wm. Pitt, of the first con-
gressional district. The
chaplain made a prayer,
the band played Hail
Columbia, we sang 2 verses
of America, and then
the day was over. For the
evening the boys built
large fires and danced
around them shouting
in concert, in a humble
imitation of an Indian war-
dance. In one corner of the field
a little band gathered in prayer
around the Rev. Mr. Bedworth.

and their hymns came ~~down~~
out along the green banks of the
Potomac.

We have been brigaded with
the 2d & 3d Michigan reg-
iments and the N. Y. 12th. We
hope soon to be able to march to
Virginia. We are anxious
enough to get into a brush,
as we are tired of this life of
inaction. It will soon come, I
think, for an American
congress can hardly debate on
peace while a secession banner
floats over Fort Sumpter. Let it
come soon is the prayer of your
humble servant.

This keeping guard with
a musket loaded with ball-car-
tridge, fixed bayonet, cartridge box
and scabbard, &c., &c., &c., under a
hot sun without a ghost of a
shade - seeing no one, and having
no excitement for 2 hours together

may be very interesting, but
Mr. Ferguson! I prefer the
night guard.

How are things in that
quiet little town now? How
does your school circumstan-
ce? How does the Sabbath
School progress, and how are all
the boys?

Here is a piece of the paper which
was on the wall in the entry where
Jackson stood when he shot Ells-
worth at the Marshall House. I
took it from the wall with
my own hands, two or three days
ago. It is not much, but it is

very interesting. I have taken it from
the wall. Pleased to hear

of your success in the W. Co.
of the State, and private both
in your general, and in your
particular. Best wishes
to you and yours.
Yours truly,
J. W. D.

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

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**CIVIL WAR - Correspondence - Letter from
John W. Day to George F. Hollis, 1861 July 5**



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