

Second Brig. Hosp.
Lookout Valley Tenn
February 12th 1864

Dear Friend Melba,

I believe I owe you
a letter and now this morning it shall
be paid in my poor way of doing business.
there is nothing new in this Valley of particular
interest, we are in long winter quarters but I
do not believe we shall soon evacuate them
for a little active service, that is providing the
weather continues as fine as it has been
for the past few weeks.

Paymaster Campbell
arrived here today bringing I suppose a superfluous
supply of Greenbacks. He is the guest of Dr
Hovey (being a relative) consequently he sits
right here counting out the "tens" in readiness
for tomorrow's operation. I believe I
could not stand the pressure of being pay m-
over 24 hours, I should have to make
a deposit in Canada or England, but this
does not interest you, but what shall I

write. I cannot think of anything new. Love &
Romance, goes beyond my talent, but I will
say I am busy from morning until night
our Quarters are about 1/2 mile from the
Regiment & I have not been there in over a
week - consequently am not posted in affairs
there, I have not seen your Brothers in a
long time, but presume they are well. If
they are Sick should know it.

Still at one time
last fall I concluded I would try and
come home on a furlough, but as matters
have shaped since then have given up the
idea, I often wonder how Danville and its worthy
inhabitants look, it now is nearly one year and a
half since I took my last look, and it was
"to" with a long & deep sigh - knowing that the
chances of a three years campaign were not
a pleasant contract to fulfill - occupied with
it exposure and battles, but I am thankful
that my labor has been satisfactory to the
Medical Department, and the field has opened to
me a great chance for advancement which
I have tried to improve, but still undoubtedly
the position to many would have not been
desirable - for me enlisting as a private it
was, but enough now you are probably not inter-
ested, I shall have to close but

you will please excuse poor writing, and
next time I will try and make my
letter more welcome, I heard from
Arehmer a few days ago, although not
directly, ^{is} does he still marry - K^o gallant,
I presume he tries to flirt as usual,
but I must not talk about my neighbors
How does Lillie Jones enjoy life, I presume
as gay as ever, hoping this will find you
"O.K." (all correct) and enjoying life rightly I will
not detain you longer - but answer soon
and Remember ^{me} as ever with much love
Yours Truly,
Dan Shull

Lookout Valley Tenn.

U. S. A. MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.



Miss Malpa G. Finkle
Scottsburg Liv. Co. N. York