



Addressed to
Miss Mary A.
Halley, Xenia,
Ohio

Camp near Hagerstown
Md Oct 5th 1862
Sister Mary

I received
a letter from
you the other day
the first that I have
got from you for some
time. I was very glad
to hear that you was
well did not know
but that you was sick
and I was glad to
hear that you was
back in Africa. I
feared that times was
so hard that you would
shut the school as
well as usual. Have
got in to comfortable
quarters for the present

It is rumored that
we are going to move
soon. I don't know if it is
I can not say I hope
not however. As I want
to stay here all winter
I like here first - it
we are near what is
called the white
springs. Mary here
We are near the town
of Hagerstown. It is
a place of about four
thousand inhabitants.
There is nothing here
near but out of reach
I expect the rebel
camps will be here soon
I have passed through
the campaign of Mary
here before. At the
battle of Antietam there
was a piece of a shell

struck me on the
shoulder. It just bruise
ed me a little making
my arm a little sore
for a day or two
If it had struck my
shoulder two or three
inches higher, it would
have shattered my
shoulder and probably
I should never get
better. I am very
thankful that I
could get so easy
There is no need to
write so I will
at as far as
from you and
Cordially
I love you

Camp near Hagerstown, Maryland

October 5, 1862

Sister Mary,

I received a letter from you the other day. the first that I have got from you for some time. I was very glad to hear that you was well. Did not know but that you was sick and I was glad to learn that you was back in Xenia. I feared that times were so hard that you would shut the school down.

Well, as I said, we have got into comfortable quarters for the present. It is rumored that we are going to move soon. How true it is, I cannot say. I hope not, however, as I want to stay here all winter. I like it here first rate. We are near what is called the White Springs, Maryland. We are near the town of Hagerstown. It is a place of about four thousand inhabitants.

There is nothing here now but our Brigade. I expect the whole Corps will be here soon. I have passed through the campaign of Maryland safe. At the Battle of Antietam, there was a piece of a shell struck me on the shoulder. It just bruised me a little making my arm a little lame for a day or two. If it had struck my shoulder two or three inches lower, it would have shattered my shoulder and probably I should never get better.

I am very thankful that I came off so easy. There is no news to write so I will close for this time. Yours respectfully and sincerely, — John S. Halley

Bio of John Spital Halley

Born in 1837 the son of John and Jessie (Spital) Halley of Markinch, Fifeshire, Scotland. John grew up in Orange county, Vermont, and was married there in 1861 to Eveline A. Richardson (1841-1924) before enlisting in late August 1861 as a private in Co. H, 4th Vermont Infantry. He was wounded on 14 September 1862 at Crampton's Pass, South Mountain, but the wound was not disabling and he continued in the service until mustering out on 30 September 1864. His name appears variously in military records as Holley or Halley. After the war he relocated to Lincoln, Black Hawk county, Iowa, where he made his living as a farmer. John passed away in 1913