

Name: Millie [Savilla] Miller

Date: May 1862

Location: Sharpsburg

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Type: Letter

Subject: Civilian Support for the Confederacy; Impact on Civilians; African Americans

Keywords: political opinion; freedom seekers;

[Letter from Millie [Savilla?] with the last page written upside down in the top margin of the first page and over the first page text at a 90 degree angle. Also there is a large faded patch on each page at a fold where the letter got wet. This is the hardest letter to read in the whole collection. Since we now have the collection in hand at the park, perhaps other eyes could make out more of this letter than Jan Wetterer & I. Paul Chiles 2/20/95]

[May 1862?]

...of all things and dear sister not because I am prejudiced in favor of the South but because it is really so, the southern do humble themselves more than the federal people do. They have prayer meetings almost daily and do have prayer meetings in their camps every evening and morning and the _____ make out to have preaching on Sunday sometimes _____ then it was most always universal and might _____ have none as that.

...I suppose they have a right to their opinion but dear sister how a professor of religion can wage _____ the war when they could certainly see so that it is against the commandments that our Lord as set down in his holy work and says blessed are the peace makers how they after reading the Book can ask the Lord to prosper this cause is mor than I can tell. Indeed I can hardly bare to sit and look at Startzman up on the pulpit but I know it was not right and tried to stifle my feelings. Oh my I did not know I had so much gall in my nature until this war question was brought up and when one of these Union shirkers murdered our dear cousin. Dear sister I shudder now at my feelings then I hated my most intimate friends because they were in favor of the Union right or wrong. We got news yesterday that Banks had retreated to Strasburg and Jackson was following on only eleven miles behind him. I do hope wh _____ do bring _____ have again they will not let them stop in _____ I do not care about having our land enriched with _____ if it is brought here in animated form. Now dear sister do not think that expression is my own. It is borrowed. I _____ the last battle they had the Confederates took nine hundred prisoners and general Shields had his head shot off with a cannon ball besides a great many others that was killed and perhaps you heard that Col Sahby [?] had his arm shot off

and that they had blowed up the _____ It has all been contradicted and I hope it is _____ I would feel so sorry if it were so ____ we can learn nothing that we would like to, though the press the ____ are not allowed to print any thing that is favorable to the south. It is as hard to read the Yankee lies and some are so plain that we can not even see any likeness to the truth...

...there are a great many negroes running off from Jefferson county and the countys adjoining in fact ware ever the yankees are the were about one _____ ran off last week in the vicinity of Winchester and Sunday night _____ old black Sam walked off. He went to Martinsburg after him. We have not heard whether he got him or not. [They go] to Martinsburg yet _____ get on the cars and go to Washington City, then they are free. Jackson has driven the men as far as Winchester and I do hope he will take them on through Maryland. I do hope he will flay [?] them so well that they will never forget it and always remember hereafter to stay at home and mind their own business and let the negroes alone.

...

your ever fond sister
Millie