

I would liked to have been at
your closing exercises, & taken a
part. I would be willing to try
& speak that "mael" piece, though
I don't think I should make
out very well now with it.

If you see Henry Fowler tell him
that I will write to him soon.

My best respects to all school-
mates & old friends, & especially
to your folks - Don't forget me
to Grace - Tell her I have not
yet forgotten that poetry I com-
posed about her once.

Now I close wishing you health
prosperity & happiness. I remain
as ever your sincere friends &
well-wishers.

Philip F. Gery

Mr. Edgar A. Dick

2010.022.497

Brump Starkweather,
Lookout Mt. Tenn.
April 22, 1864

Dear Friend Edgar,

I received a kind &
welcome letter from you a while ago
dated March 20th, & will now try & ans.
it. Should have written before this
if my time had not been so much
occupied. I am still blessed with
good health & kind friends, for which
I am very thankful. I often
think if any soldier has cause to
be contented & cheerful it is myself;
for I have so many kind friends
at home to encourage me. What
do you think Edgar, when I tell
you that I have fifteen regular
correspondents & nearly as many oc-
casional ones. For the last two
months I have written & received
nearly an average of one letter per day.

I have no news of interest
to write this time. We are
still continuing to receive new
recruits, every one & a while. Co. C.
has got but four yet. Most of the other
Cos. have received a great deal more.
Some Cos. have nearly or ^{quite} doubled their
nos. I am sorry, Edgar, your health
is so poor. You will, probably, never
have good enough health to go on
soldering again.

O, Edgar, since receiving your
letter I have received one from
Cunice informing me of your
brother Asa's death. This must
be a sad, sad blow indeed. How
uncertain is life, especially the
life of a soldier. How many are
thus called to mourn for loved
ones who have given their lives
for the cause of right. Asa was
a good boy, & I used to think

a great deal of him, as a scholar
in school - always so clever, so
good natured & beloved by all.
Let his death be the means of
pointing us to the instability of
life & the shortness of time; &
O, may you & I, Edgar, be prepared
to die whether called sooner or
later. May God bless you & all
your folks, & enable you all to put
your trust in Him!

We are having fine weather
here now. I enjoy standing out
on picket such pleasant nights.
Uncle Sam is doing well by the old
Bt^{ys} in letting them stay on this
Mt. I hope we will remain
here all summer, it is so healthy.

So your School is out; & you
have had a pleasant one the
past winter. Well I am glad
for your sake, & all the scholars'.