

Letter From Songer, James W. written Tuesday, August 18th, 1863

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Soldier: Songer, James W.

Allegiance: Union

Unit/Service Branch: 111th Infantry

Date Written: Tuesday, August 18th, 1863

Location: Old Ripley, IL

Correspondence Type: Letter

Subjects: Daily Life, Friends, Negro Soldiers, Politics, Slavery, Western Theater, Daily Life, Friends, Negro Soldiers, Politics, Slavery

Mr. J. W. Songer,

Dear Friend,

Your kind favor of the 12th ins. To hand this morning. It had been so long since I received a letter from you that I rather supposed by some mean you did not get mine. I see from yours that soldiering is just about what it had been described to me by many others. I am glad to learn that you have successfully resisted the vices of camp life so far and hope you will firmly do so in the future. Your health I am happy to learn is good; mine is the same.

I suppose it is now nearly a year since you tendered your service to our common country for the restoration of the Union and enforcement of the constitution. At the time of your enlistment I cam very near giving myself, but was prevented by my uncertain health and now am glad that I am not a soldier – for several reasons. I am for the unity of our country as much as any one. The maintainance of this unity was the impulsive motive that called forth that powerful army of last year. But since it's organization it was not only to be the means of restoring the union, nor asserting and carrying out the rights which the seceded states gave up to establish a more permanent form of government, but it is to be the instrument particularly with which to turn loos all the Negroes in the south. This appears to be the prominent object – the restoration of the union the secondary, at the present time.