



Bringing Northwestern Virginia's History
into the Classroom

It happened near me . . .

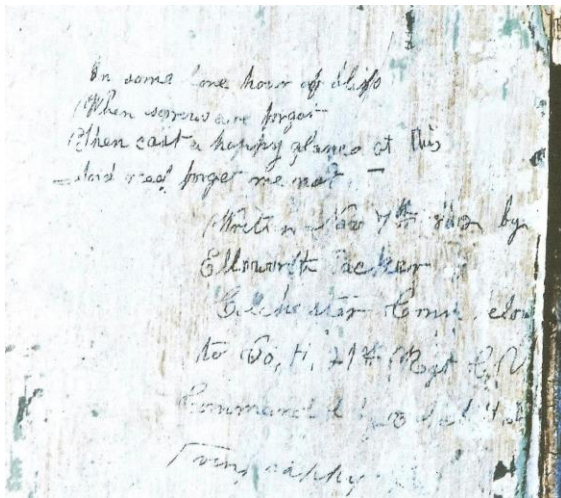
Pieces of the Past from Where *I* Live

County: Loudoun

Date: 1862

Topic : The Civil War and the soldier's life

Background. In 1862, Loudoun was living through its second year of the Civil War. In the church in this picture, people were worshipping on November 2, 1862 when a battle between Union and Confederate Cavalry began in their village of Unison where the church sat. Soon, cannons were firing from across the street. Later that day, the church became a hospital for the men of both sides hit by bullets and cannon shells. Some of the men in the hospital signed their names on the church wall, including Ellsworth Packer of Colchester, Connecticut, a Union soldier, whose graffiti poem you see in the photograph and written out for you to read.



“In some lone hour of bliss,
when sorrows are forgot,
then cast a happy glance at this,
and read ‘forget me not.’”

The soldier signed his little poem

Written on Nov[ember] 7th, 1862 by

Ellsworth Packer

Colchester Conn[ecticut]

Co[pany] H 21st Reg[imen]t C[onnecticut] V[olunteers] . . .

Making Sense of Evidence from the Past.

1. This was signed on a wall of the church in the balcony (second floor) where men who had been wounded and were being operated on were waiting. What do you think Ellsworth Packer used to write with on this wall, something he had with him to write in his diary or write letters home. Why do you think he used that?
2. Do you think Ellsworth Packer was *WOUNDED* (hit by a bullet or shell)? Why or why not? Is he happy?
3. What does Ellsworth Packer mean by “in some *lone* hour of *bliss*, when *sorrows* are forgot”?
4. Ellsworth Packer wants us to do something—what is it?
5. *Why* does Ellsworth Packer want us to do this?
6. How would we find out if Ellsworth Packer lived on to leave this little hospital?