

Note Written by Civil War Soldier

From an article in a monthly *Newsletter* of the Orange County Historical Society:

Men fight for various reasons and in various circumstances, but in the daily life of the average soldier, just trying to survive day-to-day, some feelings are simple and universal.

The following note, written on the wall of Antioch Church in Orange County near where the battle of the Wilderness was fought, was found by Captain J.G. Nelson of the 89th Ohio Infantry on Sunday evening, May 14, 1865. He recorded the note in his diary. The grammar and spelling are original as found on the wall:

"I don't want any body too get their tale up about this what I say I mean it

"What a time i will halve when this war is over i expect too cum to this church too pick out mee a wife. I want one about five feat by, and i want her too be good lucking, if they are eny her that is of this description please sine her name under this

Your truly & sincere lover"¹

¹ Author unknown, "*Diary of Capt. J.G. Nelson*," in possession of Herbert H Wills, Thornwood, N.Y., *Orange County Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter*, Vol. 13, No. 5 (May 1982), 2.