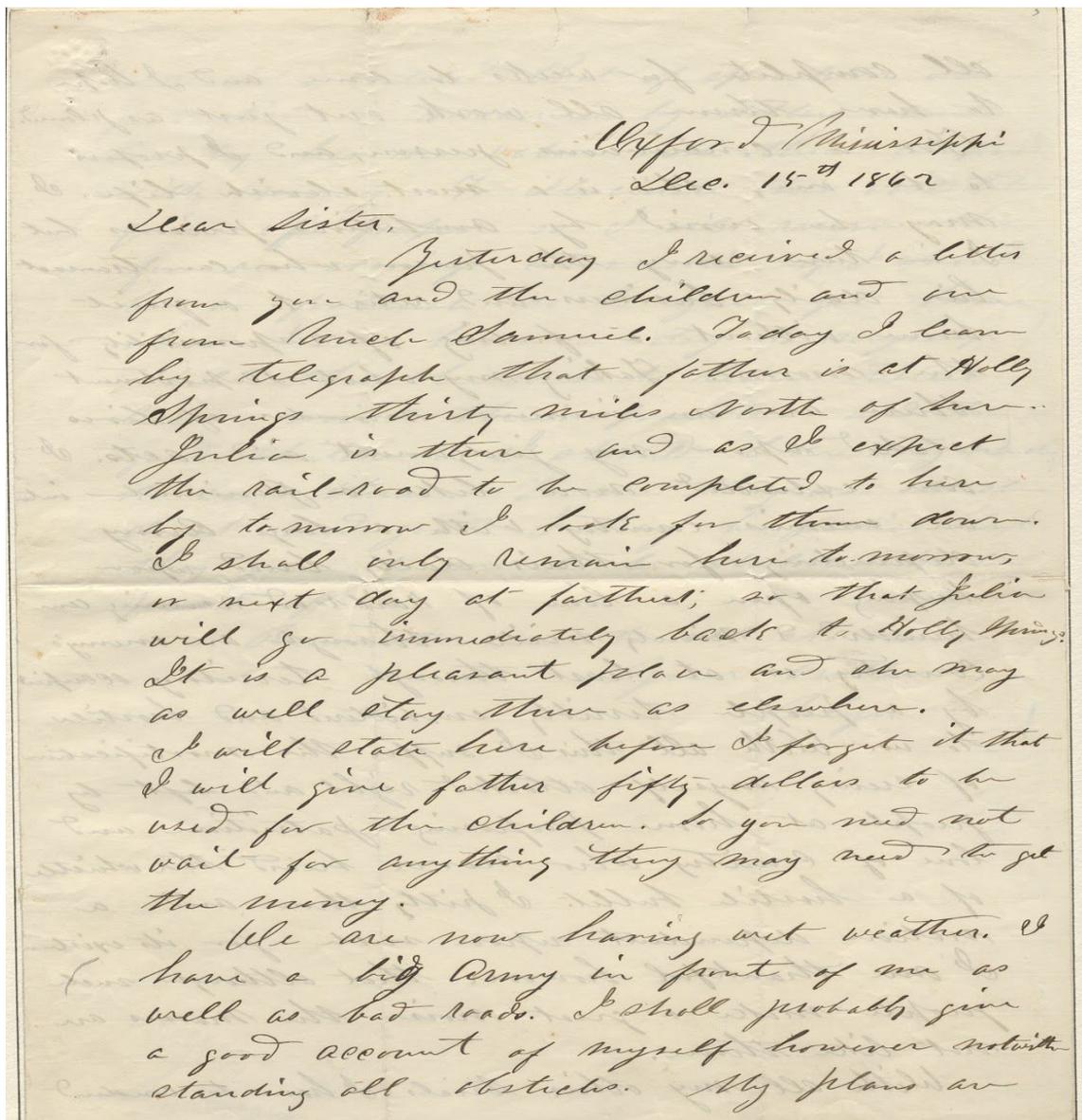


# THE ROSENBACH

## My Historical Broadway Show, Lesson Four

Level: Grades 7-12

Today you'll be finishing up your research for your historical Broadway show. This letter was written by Ulysses S. Grant to his sister Mary. Grant was the Lieutenant General of the union army during the Civil War. The letter was written in December of 1862 during the second year of the war and a day before the Battle of Fredericksburg, where the union army was badly defeated.



Oxford, Mississippi  
Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sister,

Yesterday I received a letter from you and the children and one from Aunt Samuel. Today I learn by telegraph that father is at Holly Springs thirty miles north of here. Julia is there and as I expect the rail-road to be completed to here by tomorrow I look for them down. I shall only remain here tomorrow, or next day at father's, so that Julia will go immediately back to Holly Springs. It is a pleasant place and she may as well stay there as elsewhere. I will state here before I forget it that I will give father fifty dollars to be used for the children. So you need not wait for anything they may need to get the money.

We are now having wet weather. I have a big Army in front of me as well as bad roads. I shall probably give a good account of myself however notwithstanding all obstacles. My plans are

Oxford Mississippi  
Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sister,

Yesterday I received a letter from you and the children and one from Uncle Samuel. Today I learn by telegraph that father is at Holly Springs thirty miles North of here. Julia is there and as I expect the rail-road to be completed to here by tomorrow I look for them soon. I shall only remain here tomorrow, or next day at farthest; so that Julia will go immediately back to Holly Springs. It was a pleasant place and she may as well stay there as elsewhere.

We are now having wet weather. I have a big Army in front of me as well as bad roads. I shall probably give a good account of myself however not with-standing all obstacles. My plans are all complete for weeks to come and I hope to have them all work out just as planned.

For a conscientious person, and I profess to be one, this is a most slavish life. I may be envied by ambitious persons but I in turn envy the person who can transact his daily business and retire to a quiet home without a feeling of responsibility for the morrow. Taking my whole department there are an immense number of lives staked upon my judgment and acts. I am extended now like a Peninsula into an enemies country with a large Army depending for their daily bread upon keeping open a line of rail-road running one hundred & ninety miles through an enemy's country, or at least through territory occupied by a people terribly embittered and hostile to us. With all this I suffer the mortification of seeing myself attacked right and left by people at home professing patriotism and love of country who never heard the whistle of a hostile bullet. I pity them and a nation dependant upon such for its existence. I am thankful however that although such people make a great noise the masses are not like them.

With all my other trials I have to conduct against is added that of speculators whose patriotism is measured by dollars and cents. Country has no value with them compared with money. To elucidate this would take quires of paper so I will resume this for an evenings conversation if I should be so fortunate as to again get home where I can have a day to myself.

Tell the children to learn their lessons, mind their grandma and be good children. I should like very much to see them. To me they are all obi-dient and good. I may be partial but they seem to me to be children to be proud of.

Remember me to all at home.

Your brother

Ulys.

Read the letter carefully and then consider these questions.

1. How would you describe Grant's mood in this letter? What does he write that makes you say that?
2. Let's imagine we're looking at a letter that Grant wrote to Abraham Lincoln during this same time. Abraham Lincoln, as president of the United States, would've been Grant's "boss." Do you think it would be similar to the letter he wrote to his sister? If not, why would it be different?