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James B. Safford Civil War correspondence

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5-21-1864

## 1864-05-21, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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## Subject Terms

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In Camp near Lebanon  
Knox County south of Rolling  
Fork River 5 P.M.  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Father

I thought I would  
write you a few lines  
as this is the first opportunity  
I have had for several days  
and I may not have another  
for some time. I will tell you  
something about our march from  
Louisville to this place it is  
about 32 miles from Louisville  
but we have marched almost  
as if we got this far we got  
on the wrong Road twice  
and went a good deal out  
of our way both times.

The Recimed Marching Orders  
Wednesday last at 3 P.M. but  
did not get started until  
9 P.M. There was the 9<sup>th</sup> Car  
then the 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> + 12<sup>th</sup> all under

the Command of Col Anderson  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> Me made quite a  
Brigade the 4 Regts of Ind Cav.  
We marched until 12 P.M.  
and then went into Camp  
one lay on the ground I got  
up at 5 drank some Coffee  
and started again. Marched  
back 5 miles and then we  
went south to Shepherd'sville  
on the R.R. at Salt River we  
arrived there 4 P.M. the river  
being too high to ford we  
went into Camp for the night.

In the Morning at 8 a.m. one  
Co was selected to go across  
the river and catch some  
Gambellias we rode hard  
until 3 P.M. but did not  
find them we felt pretty  
tired and at dusk we  
pitched tents and turned  
in for the night expecting



to sleep good for the night  
but at 8 O'Clock we received  
orders to saddle up as quick  
as possible as we had to march  
to Mounfordsville on Green River  
as much as possible we got  
in line with a good deal  
of grumbling at having to  
start on a march of 60 miles  
at that time of the day - We got  
a Cross Salt River and marched  
until 12.30 and then lay down  
on the side of the road to rest  
we lay there until 5 A.M. ~~drunk~~  
next morning (Saturday) and  
started on the forced march  
again - we went 15 miles and  
came to Rolling Fork River  
but could <sup>not</sup> cross without drowning  
our horses They told us if  
we would go up the river 7  
miles to the R.R. we could  
ford it, we went up there

through the Woods and Mud  
and found the River to be high  
again we carried our Saddles  
and Blankets across on the  
R.R. Bridge and drove  
our Horses in a herd across  
and caught them on the other  
side it took us about 4 hours  
to cross it was then 2 P.M.  
we tied up for dinner and then  
we concluded to stay until  
about 5 P.M. and march  
part of the night about 4 P.M.  
we received orders to cross back  
again and go 9 miles back  
in the Country for I don't know  
what we are now waiting  
orders to saddle up and I expect  
we will march all night again  
we are pretty well worn out and  
have nothing to eat but hard  
tack and Coffee that is what we  
have been living on since we left  
Levensville - I took this opportunity  
to write you as we may not  
get to Nashville for several

days yet, We are wearing the  
same clothes that we left Columbus  
with as all of our things went  
on with the other Boys - It would  
not surprise me if we did  
not see Barkhill for 15 days  
yet - We have heard nothing  
from the Boys that were Harsh  
yet. I expect you know a  
good deal more about it  
than we do - Gury says he  
will write you from Green  
River. I may not write you  
again until I get to it -

I will not hear from you  
until I get there write so I  
will get letters send them to  
A 76 10th Ind Cav Barkhill -

All the Boys are well and  
in good spirits but very sore  
and worn out Our Horses  
stand it very well - I am  
writing on the ground and  
you must excuse this as I



Not but a fine minute to  
write all the boys send their  
best to their friends and  
they will write when we get  
to Nashville - It is beginning  
to Rain and I must close as  
they are getting ready to leave

I will write more fully at  
N- write me all the news  
as we have not seen a paper  
for 4 days Good Bye

Yours Aff Dear

James B Cafford

"Love to Helen and Annie"



[[Safford Correspondence #5]]

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[[embossing print: HOLYOKE, CO.]]

In Camp near Lebanonon  
Junction south of Rolling  
Fork River 50 mi.  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Father

I thought I would  
write you a [[one or two words]]  
as this is the first opportunity  
I have had for several days  
and I may not have another  
for some time. I will tell you  
something about our march from  
Louisville to this place it is  
about 32 miles from Louisville  
but we have marched almost  
100 to get this far and[[?]] got  
on the wrong road twice  
and went a good deal out  
of our way both times.

We received marching orders  
Wednesday last at 3 P.M. but  
did not get started until  
9 P.M. There was the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav  
then the 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> + 12<sup>th</sup> all under

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the Command of Col Anderson  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> we made quite a  
Brigade thru 4 Rights of [[one word]] Car.  
We marched until 12 P.M.  
and then went into Camp  
we lay on the ground got  
up at 5 drank some coffee  
and started again. Marched  
back 5 miles and then we  
went south to shepherds ville  
on the R.R. at salt River we  
arrived there 4 P.M. the river  
being to High to ford we  
went into Camp for the night

    In the Morning at 8 A.M. we  
[[Co war?]] selected to go across  
the river and catch some  
gurillas we rode hard  
until 3 P.M. but did not  
find them we felt pretty  
tired and at dark we  
pitched tents and turned  
in for the night expecting

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to sleep good for the night  
but at 8 P.M. we [[Received?]]  
orders to saddle up as quick  
as possible. As we had to march  
to Munfords ville on Green River  
as much as possible we got  
in line with a good deal  
of Grumbling at haveing to  
start on a march of 60 miles  
at that time of the day – We got  
a cross salt River and marched  
until 12:30 and then lay down  
on the side of the road to rest  
we lay there until 5 A.M. ~~drunk~~  
next morning (Saturday) and  
started on the forward march  
again – we went 15 mile and  
came to Rolling Fork River  
but could not cross without swimming  
our horses They told us if  
we would go up the river 7  
mile to the R.R. we could  
ford it, we went up there



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through the woods and mud  
and found the River to High  
again we carried our saddles  
and Blankets across on the  
R.R. Bridge and drove  
our Horses in a heerd across  
and caught them in the other  
side it took us about 4 Hours  
to cross it was then 2 P.M.  
we tied up for dinner and then  
we concluded to stay until  
about 5 P.M. and march  
part of the night about 4 P.M.  
we ricieved orders to cross back  
again and go 9 miles back  
in the country for I don't know  
what we and now waiting  
orders to saddle up and I Expect  
we will march all night again  
we are pretty well worn out and  
store nothing to Eat but Hard  
tack and coffee that is what we  
have been living on since we left  
Louisville – I took this opportunity  
to write you as we may not  
get to Nashville for several

[[Page 5- Letter]]

days yet. We are wearing the  
same clothes that we left Columbus  
with. As all of our things went  
on with the other Boys - It will  
not surprise me if we did  
not see Nashville for 15 days  
yet – we have heard nothing  
From the Boys that were [[First?]]  
yet. I Expect you know a  
good deal more about it  
than we do. George says he  
will write you from Green  
River I may not write you  
again until I yet to N–

I will not hear from you  
until I get there Write so I  
will get letters send them to  
A N 10<sup>th</sup> Ind Cav Nashville

All the Boys are well and  
in good spirits but very sore  
and worn out Our Horses  
stand it very well – I am  
writing on the ground and  
you must Excuse this as I

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not but a few minutes to  
write all the Boys send their  
best to their friends and  
they will write when we get  
to Nashville – It is beginning  
to rain and I must close as  
they are getting ready to leave

I will write more fully at  
N- write me all the news  
as we have not seen a paper  
for 4 days      Good Bye  
Your Off Son  
James Safford  
“Love to Hellen and Annie”