
James B. Safford Civil War correspondence

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10-24-1864

1864-10-24, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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Sept 3/864

Office Post mcr

Indasteri Jm
Sept 3rd
1864

Dear Arthur

I expect you think it strange you do not hear from us but the fact of it is we are surrounded with Rebels Wheeler between us and Nashville and Roddy south of us R & R & and telegraph communication has been cut off several days the Brigade has been out since the 31st and we have news that they fought all yesterday afternoon at Elkton on Elk River below here. Every one here at the Post is under arms and we have barricaded the Court House and sleep on our arms at night we have orders to hold the Court

Home at all Hazards and
we propose to hold it no matter
what force comes against us
we have about 100 men under
arms here the Rest being
out under the General. all
the doors and windows are
filled up and we have
Rations and Water for some
time. We have been looking
for them to come in for
three days. One night we
worked all night fixing
our Coast Defense last night
I lay down at 2 a.m. there
are exciting times here and
we don't know what will
come next. Georgia is out
with the Command they
are only twelve miles below
us and last reports say
that Sherman said he would
hold them in check until

reinforcements could reach him.
We have not had any letters
for five or six days - I don't
know what time this letter
will reach you as it may be
some time before I will
have a chance to send it.

I will write more before
I mail it -

September 6th P.M. -

I will write you more to-
day so as to keep you posted
since the 3rd there has been a
good deal of work done here
and the Rebs are still around
us. Our forces that went
south done their work and
they returned and are now
north of this place where
Wheeler is - Our brigade
came up from below with
the 6th Ind and 102 Ohio
and 36th Ills and a Brigade

Brigade of Cavalry and
Artillery which added to
our force here makes us
safe and also gives us
enough men to capture
Wheeler. Rosecrans is on
the other side of Wheeler
he has driven him from
Franklin to this place he
is now between two fires
He can hear the Cannons
and mistaking very plain
from here. Rosecrans has had
several fights with him
and whipped him every
time - He received the news
that Atlanta was ours with
20,000 prisoners on Sunday
He has communication open
to the south but nothing
from the North - He hasn't out
seen a paper or letter
since the 3rd - I will
have a chance to write
more before I can meet

Sept 9/1864

September 9th 1864

As there is some prospect of a
mail going off tomorrow
I will write you more this
P.M. - He and still safe here
all the troops are out after
heer - Georgie left here on
Monday night with Genl
Grosvenor's Command to
go down towards Lawrenceburg
and Florence the 9th & 10th
are both with Grosvenor we
heard this morning that they
had been in several battles
since Tuesday morning -
There is only 9 of our company
along - Jo Baker Georgie and
Ed Brunkham are all of our
Boys that are with them.
I have not heard from Georgie
since he left but suppose
he is safe

Geo Branhams. Alex Smitha Will
Robinson and myself are
all on duty here at the
Court House and can not
leave or we would have gone
along - I am afraid Wheeler
will get out if he does it
is too bad for we had plenty
of troops to capture him.
We had three Maj Genls and
three Brigadiers after him
in all about 20000 I think
they ought to have got him
it is true a great deal of
our force was defending not
of much use except to hold
stockades and forts & towns.

We have come to the conclusion
that we will not have
a fight here, but I suppose
you have heard that Inlaski
was captured and probably
that we were prisoners I would

have telegraphed you if I could
but the telegraph wires were
down North - Maj Williamson
came up from Decatur yesterday
our Boys there ^{are} all well.

I am very anxious to hear
from home and also to see
a paper it has been a long
piece for us here not to hear
one word from any where
for so long - But I
must close now I have
written a long letter and
most of it during great
excitement and you will
probably find it a mixed
up mass - give my
love to all Helen owes me
a letter and you owe me
four so catch up as soon
as possible -

Yours affly
James B. Safford

[[Safford Correspondence #19]]

[[Page 1- Letter]]

[[embossing print of dog- TURNURES]]

Office Pro Mar
Pulaski Ten
Sept 3rd
1864

Dear Father

I Expect you think
it strange you do not hear
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it is we are surrounded
with Rebels Wheeler between
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all yesterday afternoon at Elkton
on Elk River below here. Every
one here at the Post is under
arms and we have Barricaded
the Court House and sleep
on our arms at night we
have orders to hold the Court

[[Page 2- Letter]]

Horse at all Hazzards and
we propose to hold it no matter
what force comes against us
we have about 100 men under
arms here the Rest being
out under the General. All
the doors and windows are
filled up and we have
Rations and Water for some
time We have been looking
for them to come in for
three days. One night we
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our Court House last night
I lay down at 2a.m. these
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we don't know what will
come next Georgie is out
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are only twelve miles below
us and last reports say
that Starkweather said he could
hold them in Chick until

[[Page 3- Letter]]

reinforcements could reach him.

We have not had any letters
for five or six days – I don't
know what time this letter
will reach you as it may be
some time before I will
have a chance to send it.

I will write more before
I mail it –

September 6th P.M.

I will write you more to
day so as to keep you [[one word]]
since the 3rd there has been a
good deal of work done here
and the Rebs are still around
us. Our forces that went
south done there work and
they returned and are now
North of this place where
Wheeler is – Gen Granger
came up from below with
the 6th Ind and 102 Ohio
and 36th Ills and a Brigade

[[Page 4- Letter]]

Brigade of Cavalry and
Artillery which added to
our Force here makes us
safe and also gives us
Enough men to capture
Wheeler. Rose an is on
the other side of Wheeler
he has driven him from
Franklin to this place he
is now between two fires
We can hear the cannons
and musketry very plain
from here. Rosecan has had
several fights with him
and whipped him every
time – We recieved the news
that Atlanta was ours with
[[20000?]] prisoners on Sunday
We have communication open
to the south but nothing
from the North – We have not
seen a paper or letter
since the 31st – I will
have a chance to write
more before I can mail it

[[Page 5 - Letter]]

[[different handwriting in pencil:]] Sept 9/1864

[[embossing print of dog– TURNURES]]
September 9th/ 64

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mail going off tomorrow
I will write you more this
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all the troops are out after
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Monday night with Gnrl
Grangers command to
go down towards Lawrenceburg
and Florence the 9th + 10th
are both with Granger we
heard this morning that they
had been in several Battles
since Thursday morning –
There is only 9 of our company
along – Jo Baker Georgie and
Ed Branham are all of our
Boys that are with them.

I have not heard from Georgie
since he left but suppose he is safe

[[Page 6- Letter]]

Gen Branham. Alex Smitha Will
Robinson and myself are
all on Duty here at the
Court House and can not
leave or we would have gone
along – I am afraid Wheeler
will get out if he does it
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of troops to capture him.

We had three Maj Genls and
three Brigadiers after him
in all about 20 000 I think
they ought to have got him
it is true a great deal of
our Force was infantry not
of much use except to hold
stockades and Forts + Farms.

We have come to the conclusion
that we will not have
a fight here, but I suppose
you have heard that Pulaski
was captured and probably
that we were Prisoners I would

[[Page 7- Letter]]

have telegraphed you if I could
but the telegraph wires were
down North – Maj Williamson
came up from Decatur yesterday
our Boys there are all well.

I am very anxious to hear
from Home and also to see
a paper it has been a long
siege for us here not to hear
one word from any where
for a so long -- But I
must close now I have
written a long letter and
most of it during great
Excitement and you will
probably find it a mixed
up mess – give my
love to all Helen owes me
a letter and you owe me
four so catch up as soon
as possible -

Your Off son

James B. Safford