
James B. Safford Civil War correspondence

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11-1-1864

1864-11-01, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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Sept 26/1864

Postaski Tennessee

Sept 28th 1864

My Dear Father

I am permitted once
more by a kind providence to
write you again. We have had
a hard battle - You no doubt
have read of it in the papers
before this will reach you -
Forrist you will see first
struck the Road at Athens
Ala capturing that Post
he then came on up capturing
every Bridge and Block House and
destroying all the road from
Athens here - Our Regt that
is what is left of it here (the
most of it being at Decatur)
was in the fight from Sunday
morning until Tuesday night
they went 12 miles down

the road and fought his
from there to the edge of town
I was not in any of the
fight except the fight of
Yesterday (Tuesday). Yesterday
Morning our advance was
three miles from town
and the Ball opened at
6 A.M. Our Regt was
under fire of one Battery
of Artillery for two hours
and a half we gradually
fell back to the town where
our Artillery could play on
them when we drove them
back it was a hard fight
and lasted from 6 A.M. until
12 at night when they left
and have not been heard
from since - We had a
good force of reinforcements
Tuesday from Nashville or
they would have captured

us all - I was on kind
Starkweather's Body Guard
and was under fire most
of the day - I have heard
of (Musket Balls whizzing
near ones head and of shells
and shot whizzing all around
one but never knew what
it was before - it makes one
feel a little queer at first
but he soon gets so he don't
notice a shell falling and
bursting near him ~~they~~
Burst in a few feet of
us several times I did not
get a scratch myself but
there was plenty that I see
torn all to pieces - Jo Baker
caught a Musket Ball in
leg but it was a flesh wound
and he is around again
walking with a stick and
will be well in a week
Billy Thomas ^{of the 5th and 6th car} also got a

a slight wound in the
arm from a shell but he
will soon recover you do
not know any one that
was wounded or I will not
mention names now.

I intend to send a list
to the Courier of our Regt ...
as soon as it can be prepared
He had one limb torn almost
to pieces by a shell - Dr Davis
was captured - Our Regt fought
like veterans old troops
here said they done well -
Genl Forrest shelled the town
for two hours but did not
do very much damage -
I went out over the Battle
Field ^{this morning} every few steps you could
see Federal dead and rebel
dead yet unburied - Genl
was not here he is a dictator
but communication has been
cut off from them for a
week - the report is here that
maj Williamson with Co B & C
of our Regt went from

Ducatur to Athens to reinforce
that command and were
captured them I will write
as soon as I find out
Rebel Prisoners say they sent
their prisoners south of the
Tennessee via Florida Ala
and thence to Richmond
I hope our Company did
not get to Athens for if
they did they are prisoners.

It^m Robinson Alex Smith Jr
Bromwell Lieut Breunham
and I are all here and
all got through the fight
safe - I wrote you and sent
letter by ~~Mr~~ Severer on the
21th I have not heard from
you since the 17th inst I am
very anxious to hear from
you - I don't know when this
letter will reach you but I
hope soon for the friends must
be anxious about us if the

Papers have given particulars
of the fight - I will close
now - Adieu soon

Yours affly

James B. Saffell

[[Safford Correspondence #21]]

[[Page 1- Letter]]

[[different handwriting in pencil:]] Sept 28/1864

[[embossing print – shield]]

Pulaski Tennessee
Sept 28th 1864

My Dear Father

I am permitted once
more by a kind providence to
write you again. We have had
a hard Battle – You no doubt
have read of it in the papers
before this will reach you --
[[one word]] you will see first
struck the Road at Athens
Ala capturing that Post
he then came on up capturing
every Bridgr and Block House and
destroying all the road from
Athens here – Our Regn that
is what is left of it here (the
most of it being at Decatur)
Was in the fight from Sunday
morning until Thursday night
they went 12 miles down

[[Page 2- Letter]]

the road and fought him
from there to the Edge of town
I was not in any of the
fight except the fight of Yesterday
(Thursday): Yesterday
morning our advance was
three miles from town.
And the Ball opened at
6 A.M. our Regt was
under fire of one Battery
of Artillery for two hours
and a half we gradually
fell back to the town where
our Artillery could play on
them when we drove them
back it was a hard fight
and lasted from 6 A.M. until
12 at night when they left
and have not been heard
from since – we had a
good force of reinforcements
Thursday from Nashville or
they would have captured

[[Page 3- Letter]]

Us all – I was on Gnrl
Starkweathers Body Guard
and was under fire most
of the day – I have heard
of Musket Balls whizzing
near ones heard and of shells
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one but never knew what
it was before – it makes one
feel a little quiet at first
but he soon gets so he don't
notice a shell falling and
Bursting near him they
Burst in a few feet of
us several times I did not
get a scratch myself but
there was plenty that I see
turn all to pieces – Jo Baker
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leg but it was a flesh wound
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walking with a stick and
will be well in a week
Billy Thomas of the 8th Ind Cav also got a

[[Page 4- Letter]]

slight wound in the
arm from a shell but he
will soon recover you do
not know any more that
were wounded so I will not
mention names now.
I intend to send a list
to the carrier of our Regt
as soon as it can be prepared
We had one list torn almost
to pieces by a shell – Dr Davis
was captured – Our Regt fought
like veterans old troops
here said they done well –
Gnrl Forrest shelled the town
for two hours Our did not
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I went out over the Battle
Field this morning every few steps you could
see federal dead and rebel
dead yet unburied – Georgie
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but Communication has been
cut off from there for a
week – the report is here that
Maj Williamson with Co H + C
of our Regt went from

[[Page 5 - Letter]]

Decatur to Athens to reinforce
that command and were
captured there I will write
as soon as I find out
Rebel prisoners say they sent
their prisoners south of the
Tennessee via Florence Ata
and then to Richmond
I hope our campaign did
not get to Athens for if
they did they are prisoners
W Robinson Alex Smiths Jo
Bramnell [[Lin-]] Branham
and I are all here and
all got through the fight
safe – I wrote you and sent
letters by Mr Suran written
20th I have not heard from
you since the 17th [[one word]] I am
very anxious to hear from
you – I don't know when this
letter will reach you and I
hope soon for the friends must
be anxious about us if the

[[Page 6- Letter]]

papers have given particulars
of the fight – I will close
now – Write soon
Your Off son
James B. Safford