
James B. Safford Civil War correspondence

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6-14-1865

1865-06-14, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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Camp 10th Ind Inf Cavalry
on Sugar Creek 25 miles from Pontaski Tenn
Dec 27th 1864

My Dear Father

The last time I wrote you was from camp near Columbia Tenn. on the 23rd at 3 A.M. we moved forward & crossed Duck River pursued the enemy until dark - on the 24th the (our) Brigade was on the Right flank and pushed the enemy to three miles south of Lynnville and Ten miles from Pontaski - On the 25th Christmas day we moved out on the Pike and charged the enemy through Pontaski capturing several we entered Pontaski at 10 A.M. after crossing the creek there our Right was deployed as skirmishers and we drove the enemy's skirmishers over a range of hills for six miles it was very hard fighting as the ground was covered with brush I escaped very narrowly several times, limbs were cut off in two or three inches of my head three or four times and one man wounded by my side and one horse on my left killed I thought the next would be mine but it did not come - We camped that night six miles from Pontaski having fought for every inch of the way from Pontaski to camp - I saw a good many of my old acquaintances in Pontaski who were very glad to see us again. Pontaski looked very dirty and bad having been filled with Rebels since we left - You know when I was small

I need to celebrate Christmas by firing guns. Pistols
&c well on this Christmas we done the same thing
but on a more extensive scale shooting Rebels and
chasing them North. I could not help when on
the Battle Field that day to think of the difference
between my situation to day and last year but I
could not fumble - On the next day, the 26th we
started again on the march at 3 A.M. caught up
with the enemy drove them for 7 or 8 miles our
Brigade was in the advance at 12 we were in
between two hills that were full on both sides they
poured a volley into us before we were aware that
they were near us for a moment our Brigade
was thrown in to confusion but soon rallied and
received the second volley like old troops charged
them and took several Prisoners also took possession
of the Works at the first fire my stirrup strap
was cut into by a Ball I thought that was very
close but the next volley killed my horse I thought
that still clear and got up and left there -
we went into camp after driving them from their
Position and are going to rest to day and wait
for Rations to come up the last meal I eat was
on Sunday Morning and it is now Tuesday noon
it is not uncommon to go 24 hours without food
and 48 without sleep we are getting used to it
and can lay down and sleep in the rain as well
as I used to at home - it has rained for the last
three days and we have no tents but I am as
healthy as I could be had I every thing as we

have them in a good count. Well I must
confess that since the 15th I have seen enough
fighting to do some you have no idea what our
men have done. Who ever heard of such advances
and such victories as in this Campaign but
our men do not grumble but say they are satisfied
as long as they can whip the enemy they way we
have done - but I suppose you read it all in
the Papers. We have not had a Paper or a letter since
we left Nashville. I would like to hear from
you very much while we are on the Raid
I will write when we get stopped long enough
you need not be alarmed about me as I
think I am safe from Rebel Bullets as they have
come in a hair Breadth of me and I have not been
scratched yet - I have not heard from George yet
have you write me soon - I am the only one
of a "re" here as all the rest are dismounted
and left back between Columbia and Nashville
Wm Robinson and Al Elvin are both safe - Ed
Bramham left with our friends at Pulaski
as he passed through that they were treated
tolerable well but were stripped of cloths and
every thing valuable - I am still acting
Adjutant of the Regt and the Capt of Co A is
Commanding Col Graham Maj Swallow Maj Harnell
were all wounded and Col Pace commands the
2nd Btry of our Division - Our 1st Brigade is Commanded
by Brig Gen Hemmon a Brave and good Officer
and one that I like and he also likes me and

he will do some thing for me that will surprise
me some of them days but I have written
to much now and I have such a poor
chance to write that you will have hard work
to read this I am afraid - Write soon
Love to all my friends and tell them I am
throughly safe

Yours aff Sam

James B Safford

C N 10 1/2 Dec 1864

107 Brigg ^{the} corner Div

Nashville Tenn

[[Safford Correspondence #28]]

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[[faded embossing print]]

Camp 10th Ind Vol Cavalry
On Sugar Creek 25 miles from Pulaski
Dec 17th 1864

My Dear Father

The last time I wrote you was from camp near Columbia Tenn on the 23rd at 3 A.M. we moved forward crossed Duck River pursued the Enemy until dark – on the 24th We (our Brigade) was on the Right flank and pushed the Enemy to three miles south of Lynnville and ten miles from Pulaski – On the 25th Christmas day we moved out in the Pike and charged the Enemy through Pulaski capturing several we Entered Pulaski at 10 A.M. after crossing the creek there our Regt was deployed as skirmishes and we drove the Enemys skirmishes over a Range of hills for six miles it was very hard fighting as the ground was covered with Brush I escaped very [[nambly?]] several times. Limbs were cut off in two or three inches of my Head three or four times and one make [[wor—ted]] by my side and one Horse on my left was killed I thought the next would be mine but it did not come – We camped that night six miles from Pulaski having fought for every inch of the Way from Pulaski to camp – I saw a good may of my old acquaintances in Pulaski who were very glad to see us again. Pulaski looked very dirty and bad having been filled with Rebels since we left – You know when I was small

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I used to celebrate Christmas by firing guns. Pistols to well on this Christmas we done the same thing but on a mon[[?]] Exterism[[?]] scale shooting Rebels and charging their Works. I could not help when on the Battlefield that day to think of the difference between my situation to day and last year but I could not grumble – On the next day the 26th We started again on the march at 3 A.M. caught up with – the Enemy drove them for 7 or 8 miles our Brigade was to the advance at 12 we were in between two hills that were full on Both sides they poured a volley into us before we were aware that they were near us for a moment our Brigade was thrown in to confusion but soon rallied and ricieved the second volley like old troops charged them and took several Prisoners also took possessions of their Works as the first time my stirrup strap was cut into by a Ball I thought that was very close but the next volley killed my Horse I thought that still clear and got up and left there – We went into camp after driving them from their position and are going to rest today and wait for Rations to come up the last meal I eat was on Sunday morning and it is now Tuesday noon it is not uncommon to go 24 Hours with out food and 48 without a cup[[?]] we are getting used to it and can lay and sleep in the rain as well as I used to at home – it has rained for the last three days and we have no tents but I am as hearty as I could be had I every thing as we

[[Page 3- Letter]]

have when in a good camp – Well I must confess that since the 15th I have seen enough fighting to do [[one word]] you have no idea what our men have done who ever heard of such advances and such victories as in this campaign but our men do not grumble but say they are satisfied as long as they can whip the Enemy this way we have done – but I suppose you read it all in the Papers We have not had a Paper or a letter since We left Nashville I would like to hear from you very much while we are on the Raid I will write when we get stopped long enough you need not be alarmed about me as I think I am safe from Rebel Bullets as they have come in a hair breath of me and I have not been scratched yet – I have not heard from George yet have you Write me soon – I am the only one of Co “H” here as all the rest are dismounted and left back between Columbia and Nashville Will Robinson and Al Elvin are back safe – Ed Branham left word with our friends at Pulaski as he parsed[[?]] through that they were treated tolerable well but were stripped of clothes and every thing valuable -- I am still acting Adjutant of the Regt and the Capt of Co A is commanding Col Graham Maj Swallow Maj Hemolt[[?]] were all wounded and Col Pace commands the 2nd Brig of our Division – Our Brigade is commanded by Brig Gnrl Hammon a Brave and good officer and one that I like and he also likes me and

[[Page4- Letter]]

he will do something for me that will surprise
me some [[one word]] danger but I have written
to much now and I have such a poor
chance to write that you will have hard work
to read this I am afraid – write soon
Love to all my friends and tell them I am
through safe

Your Off son

James B. Safford

Co. H. 10th Ind Cav

1st Brig 7th Cav Div

Nashville