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James B. Safford Civil War correspondence

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8-14-1865

## 1865-08-14, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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Camp 10<sup>th</sup> Ind Vol Cavalry  
Near Athens Ala Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear Father

When I last wrote you it was about  
a week ago when we were on Blue Water  
He received orders to march to Huntsville Ala and  
rest for a week or so and then be ready for  
another raid. He started and got this far  
21 miles from Huntsville and were ordered  
to halt and now the probability is that  
we will go back across the River and go  
to Eastport Ala near the Mississippi line  
we are camped six miles from Athens and  
are waiting for Rations we have been out  
now for seven days - We kill Hogs and  
chickens and parch corn and make coffee  
out of parched corn in fact we live off  
of the country - I tell you we have suffered  
I have heard Boys offer 50¢ + 100 for a single  
cracker and I heard one man say he would  
give \$5.00 for a Hard Tack (cracker) but we  
manage to get along by taking every thing  
we can find it leaves citizens in an awful  
situation often taking the last bit of meat  
and corn that they have - but I think such  
a policy will tend to end the war a  
year sooner than to protect these rebel  
citizens as we have been doing - It makes



Union men of this town say they don't want  
any more War or any more Southern Ammis  
coming up here - The Order has been  
since I've left Franklin Tenn to every  
Command to forgo and yet every thing  
they can a command that had it been  
issued two years ago the Office would  
have been relieved immediately, but the  
policy has changed now and I am  
glad of it - I am almost destitute  
of clothing for such weather as we have  
had - part of the time we are in  
mud belly deep to our horses and  
then it will be froze hard for a day  
or two and then it will rain for a  
day or two such weather is awful

I have lost my gloves and have been  
wearing socks ever since my boots are  
fast giving out with such weather as  
I have been through wet and muddy  
and frozen all at once - When we  
get to some place and stop I will  
need some boots socks and a pair  
of gloves - He men in hopes to see  
our boys in a day or so but if we go  
back and go down the Tenn I don't  
know when we will see them - I have had  
no letters or papers yet - keep writing I will  
get them some time - I write every time  
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