7-21-1864

James B. Safford Civil War Correspondence #10

James Broderick Safford

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Falerii Teni, June 12th

Dear Father,

I received your letter some days ago and this is the first opportunity that I have had to answer it. We are on picket every other day and are gone from camp from six in the morning till 12 O'clock the next day. Then we have till six the next morning to rest ourselves before going out again. The duty when away from camp is very easy but a little dangerous the bush sometimes fire on the man that is on post although I have never been fired on yet but do not know when I will be.
The Grumblies are about cleaned out in this part of the country, but they can not be wholly exterminated because they only go in bands of two or three and can slip down the mountain side in the thick woods and fire on the pickets and the next day they can not be found. Capt. Mitchell had a scouting party out last week and had two fights with them. I did not go out, my horse did. I was on outpost guard uptown and the orderly took my horse. It was a very hard march and most of the horses played put mine. I stood it all the way through and did not lose much flesh; he is in better order now than when he left Columbus. We have to take our horses out to Pickel with us and get plenty of feed for them if we see...
any corn or hay we have ordered to feed from it and of the owner if it can prove himself to be a Union man he gets pay for it and if he cannot he dont see any pay I suppose you know Al Elkin was captured and Paroled they took all his money watch coat hat and even the buttons off his jacket it will be worth to the prisoners that Co K captures after this U.S. judge is of our account not having been signed by him he was in their hands and these men were guarding them (another man from Co K was captured and burned) when the Capt was fighting them if our boys had of had Carbines instead of the Enfield rifles they would have captured all but they have to deman to load while the Rabs can shoot off their horses as it was they were badly whipped three more of our boys were hurt a bullet turned
The hair on the raft Negro crew he kept along side of the raft all the time riding a little mule and the boat say that he was the bravest log among the lot. The Cap says he is going to give him something to almost with just time and he captured some cannon that the Rebs left in them hung he gave him one this morning he is very proud and talks about our Company very big.

I will send you a box of things from here and will send you some Magnolia flowers in sealed bottles. I will send you instructions how to keep them from the aging in box, they are about eight inches long and two inches in diameter in the bud and when full blown are fully twelve inches across when in the bud they are a spotless white and when fully blown are a beautiful crown. They are the best smelling flower that I ever saw you can smell a tree of them fifty yards off. There is lots of trees here and I can get plenty of them. I would like to send Aunt Lucina one but it would cost too much to send it. When I am going to send other things I will have to pay all the rest. I will have to pay all that extra six dollars for things for Jimmie while
He was sick he has been quite sick although he is better now I was never in better health in my life I had the Diarrhea about a week ago but have got well I weigh 154 1/2 now just 14 pounds more than when I left Columbus The boys all call me Fatty Joe Baker is sick a little now but will soon be well Ed Burns likes to have died on Friday the other night with the Cholera Mortis but is well again but looks very thin and pale I do not think we stay here long  than August we are soon to give up our Rifles and draw Carabiners and Revolvers that idea suits me very well

Dr Lewis is very good to our Company and he and I are great friends he says that the
first vacancy in the Hospital department he will give it to one Dr. Davis and the other Asst. Surgeon have quarrelled and one or the other will resign Dr. Colborne swears he will not stay in this regiment unless Dr. Davis resigns and Dr. D say he will stay if Dr. C stays I think Dr. Davis will go home there is none of the officers like him he drinks or hard and is no rough I always supposed that he was a very good man but he is no man at all our Company presented Dr. Lewis with a splendid sword, sabre and horse equipment costing $115 as we have good things on the Dr. business, I do not know the time I will take that place with love or wait in the company the Capt. said that he would give me a non commissioned officer the first
vacancy. I will not take less than a sergeant and told him so. He said that it was to my interest to stay in the Company. I want you to send me five dollars the next time you write unless you have sent some in the Post. It will cost three dollars to fix up that box and the flowers. When you see the flowers you will think a great deal of them. I have written to Aunt Lucia and Uncle George but have received no answer as yet. How did your strawberry supper come off? How much did you make? We have all the strawberries and raspberries we want by taking the trouble to get them. I shall write to Helinda day after tomorrow if she knew how much we had to do she would excuse me for not writing before.
We have not foundermies home yet.
I guess it is a gone case I have looked all over the country for miles around and can not find him.
Alex Smith's hope was the cause of his capture he gave out and all would not leave him as he was captured Alex said that he ought to have left him the next time we go on another outfit I will get him if a horse.
Well I guess I have wrote about enough and as I have twenty one my home it is very tiresome I hope you are all well give my love to Frank and Nellie and Mrs. Woodruff and kiss Anna for me.

Good Bye
Your Wife Lou

George

Saw Louly has come back to the Company but can do nothing yet with his arm. He will have his discharge I guess he said to tell Josh he was better.
Pulaski Tenn June 12th

Dear Father

I received your letter some days ago and this is the first opportunity that I have had to answer it we are on Picket every other day and are gone from camp from six in the morning till 12 Oclock the next day there we have till six the next morning to seat ourselves before going out again the duty when away from camp is very easy but a little dangerous the Bush Whackers sometimes fire on the man that is on post although I have never been fired on yet but do not know I will be
the Guerillas are about cleaned out in the part of the country but they can not be wholly exterminated because they only go in bands of two or three and can slip down the mountain side in the thick woods and fire on the Pickets and the next day they can not be found Capt Mitchell took a scouting party out last week and had two fights with them I did not go but my horse did I was on Provost Guard up turn and the Orderly took my horse but wwas a very hard march and most of the horses played out mine stood it all the way through and did not lose much flesh he is in better order now than when he left Columbus we have to take our horses out on Picket with us and get plenty of feed for them if we see
any corn or hay we have orders
to feed from it and if the owner
of it can prove himself to be a Union
man he gets pay for it and if he can
not he don’t see any pay I suppose
you know Al Elvin was captured and
Paroled they took all his money watch
boots hat and even the buttons off
his jacket it will be woe to the prisoners
that Co H captures after this Als parole
if of no account not having been signed
by him he was in thin hands and
two men were guarding them (another
man from Co K was captured with him)
where the capt was fighting them if
our boys had of had Carbines instead
of the Enfield rifles they would have
recaptured Al but they have to dismount
to load while the Rebs can shoot
off their horses as it was they were
badly whipped three more of our
boys were hurt a bullet burned
the hair on the Capt Nigger boy
he kept along side of the Capt all the
time riding a little mule and the
top say that he was the bravest boy
along the lot the Cap says he is
going to give him something to
shoot with next time and as he
captured some carbines that the Rebs
left in their hurry he gave him one
this morning he is very proud and
talks about our Company very big
I will send you a box of things from
here and will send you some Magnolia
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flower that I ever saw you can smell
a tree of them fifty yards off there
is lots of trees here and I can get
plenty of them I would like to send Aunt
Lucie one but it would cost too much
unless I was going to send other things
with them I will have to prepare in
the box and I spend all that other
four dollars for things for Jimmie while
he was sick he has been quite sick although he is better now I was never in better health in my life I had the Diarhea about a week ago but have got well I weight 154 pods now just 14 pounds more than when I left Columbus the boys all call me Fatty Joe Baker is sick a little now but will soon be well Ed Burns likes to have deed on Picket the other night with the Cholera Morbus but is well again but looks very thin and pale do not think we stay here longer than August we are soon to give up our Rifles and draw Carbines and Revolvers that Idea suits us very well.

Dr Lewis is very good to our Company and he and I are great friends he says that the
first vacancy in the Hospital department he will give it to me
Dr Davis and the other Asst Surgeon have quarreled and one or the other will resign Dr Culbertson swears he will not stay in this regiment unless Dr Davis resigns and Dr D say he wont stay if Dr L stays I think Dr Davis will go home there is none of the officers like him he drinks so hard and is no rough I always supposed that he was a very good man but he no man at all. Our Company presented Dr Lewis with a splendid brown Sash and Horse equipment costing $115 so we have good thing on the Dr business I do not know whether I will take that place with him or wait in the Company the Cap said that he would give me a High Commissioned office the first
vacancy I will not take less [one word] a Sergeant and told him so he said that it was to my interest to stay in the Company I want you to send me five Dollars the next time you write unless you have sent some in the Boots it will cost three dollars to fix up that box and the flowers when you see the flowers you will think a great deal of them I have written to Aunt Lucie and Uncle George but have received no answer as yet How did your Strawberry supper come off and how much did you make we have all the strawberries and raspberries we want by taking the trouble to get them I shall write to Helen say after tomorrow if she knew how much we had to go she would excuse me for not writing before
We have not found Jimmies horse yet
I guess it is a gone case I have looked all over the country for miles around and can not find him
Alex Smithes horse was the cause of Als capture he [[strikethrough]] was [[strikethrough]] gave out and Al would not leave him so he was captured Alex said that Al ought to have left him the time we go on another scout I will get Jim a horse
Well I guess I have written about enough and as I have to write on my knee it is very tiresome I hope you are all well give my love to Frank and Hellen and Mat[?] Snodgrass and kiss Anna for me Good Bye
Your Off Son
George

Sam Cowly has come back to the company but can do nothing yet with his arm he will have his discharge I guess he said to tell Josh he was better
George