10-24-1864

James B. Safford Civil War Correspondence #18

James Broderick Safford
Sept 31st 1864

Office For Mrs

Cleveland
Sept 3rd 1864

Dear Father,

I expect you think it strange you do not hear from me but the fact is we are surrounded with Rebel Wheeler between us and Nashville and Roddy north of us Re Rd and they have 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. I have orders to hold the Court...
Home at all Olds and we proposed to hold it no matter what some arms 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 patrols and sentries and water for some time. We have been looking for them to come in for three days. One might or more all might. Owing our Court last night I lay down at 2 a.m. There are exciting times here and we don't know what will come except Georgia is put with the Command. They are only twelve miles below us and last report say that Starks has said he will hold them in check until
enforcements could reach him. We have not had any letters for five or six days - I don't know whether this letter will reach you or 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, 1867

I will write you more to day so as to keep you posted since the 5th here has been a good deal of some done here and the Rebels are still around us. Our forces that went

Don't done their work and

they returned and are now

Most of this place where

Wheeler is - our troops

Came out from below near

the 6th Lake and 107 Ohio

and 36 Ills and a Brigade
I'm 2 mo.

I have to rest but I miss

Miss and Mr. Smith. But

She is only 9 of us. Anyway.

And I have to wait

My turn. I need to write

You a letter. But I can't.

So I will write off tomorrow.

On this, I can prepare it.

September 6, 1947

[Signature]
to Dunham. Alex Smith, Wm. Robinson and myself are all on duty here at the Court House and cannot leave or we would have gone along - I am afraid. Meade will get out if he does. it is not bad for we had plenty of troops to capture him. He had three Maj. kinds and three brigades after him in all about 21,000. I think they ought to have got him. it is true a great deal of our force was fighting out of which over 3000 to hold stockade and forts & towns. The bare came to the conclusion that we will not have a fight here, but I suppose you have heard that in last I was captured and probably that we were Prisoners I must
have telegraphed you if I could  
but the telegraph wires were  
down South — Maj. Williamso  
Crawford from Decatur yesterday  
our Boys there are all well.  
I am very anxious to hear  
from home and also to see  
paper. It has been a long  
piece for us here not to hear  
and word from any where  
for so long — But I  
must close now I have  
written a long letter and  
most of it asking great  
Excitement and I am sure  
probably find it a mixed  
up. Mrs. — give any  
line to all Helen once one  
a letter and you owe one  
form to catch up as soon  
as possible —  
Yours aff. Son  
James C. Safford
Office Pro Mar
Pulaski Ten
Sept 3rd
1864

Dear Father

I Expect you think it strange you do not hear from us but the fast of it is we are surrounded with Rebels Wheeler between Ky and Nashville and Roddy south of us R'R'd 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
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 worked all night fixing our Court House last night. I lay down at 2a.m. these are exciting times here and we don’t know what will come next. Georgie is out with the command they are only twelve miles below us and last reports say that Starkweather said he could hold them in Chick 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 today 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
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
As there is some prospect of a mail going off tomorrow
I will write you more this P.M. – We are still safe here
all the troops are out after heeler – Georgie left here on 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
Gen Branham, Alex Smith & 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 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
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