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11-1-1864

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

James Broderick Safford

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

**Keywords**

U.S.A., U.S. Soldiers, Columbus, IN, correspondence, army, troops, postal service, family, father, son, cavalry, comradery, morale, self-determination, company, Pulaski, TN, military police, rank, rebels, thoughts on the enemy, combat, marching and drill

**Identifier**

2013.070.w.r\_Safford\_americancivilwar\_1864-11-01\_021

Sept 26/1864

Portaski Tennessee

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 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 him  
from there to the edge of town  
I was not in any of the  
fight except the fight of  
Yesterday (Tuesday). Yesterday  
Morning our adament was  
three mile 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  
Slackneck's Body Guard  
and was under fire most  
of the day - I have heard  
of (Musk) 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  
or several times I did not  
get a scratch myself but  
there was plenty that I see  
torn all to pieces - J. Baker  
caught a Musk 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 <sup>of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> car</sup> 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 <sup>this morning</sup> 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 H & C  
of our Regt went from



Ducatur & athena 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<sup>m</sup> Robinson Alex Smith Jr  
Brommell Lieut Breunham  
and I are all here and  
all got through the fight  
safe - I wrote you and sent  
letter by ~~Mr~~ Sevier on the  
21<sup>st</sup> I have not heard from  
you since the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 - Truly Yours

Yours affly

James B. Safford



[[Safford Correspondence #21]]

[[Page 1- Letter]]

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

[[embossing print – shield]]

Pulaski Tennessee  
Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 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

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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  
and that whizzing all around  
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  
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 8<sup>th</sup> Ind Cav also got a

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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.  
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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  
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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 – Georgie  
was not here he is a Decatur  
but Communication has been  
cut off from there for a  
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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  
20<sup>th</sup> I have not heard from  
you since the 17<sup>th</sup> [[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