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James B. Safford Civil War Correspondence #27

James Broderick Safford

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My dear Farku,

The last time I wrote you was from Camp near Columbia Station on the 23d at 3 o'clock. We arrived here on the 28th. We were on the right flank and pushed the enemy to three miles south of Lynnville and two miles from Pontiac. On the 28th Christmas day we attacked out on the Pica and charged the enemy through Pontiac. Captain Johnson and I entered Pontiac at 10 a.m. After coming to the Creek there our right was deployed as skirmishers and we drove the enemy skirmishes over a range of hills for two miles. It was very hard fighting as the ground was covered with brush I leaped very many times. Skirmished two miles, broke two field guns, and one of my horses fell. I dismounted and carried it off. I was wounded in my left arm. I thought I would be unable to come but it did not Anne. The Camp that night six miles from Pontiac having fought for every inch of the way from Pontiac to Camp. I saw a good many of my old comrades at Pontiac who were very glad to see me again. Pontiac looked very dirty and bedlam had been filled with Rebels since we left. You know when it rains small...
I need to celebrate Christmas by firing guns outside.

On Christmas Day, we were at the same string but on a more serious scale. Sketching the battle lines, changing the names. I couldn't help when on the battlefield that day to think of the difference between my situation today and last year but I couldn't make a difference.

On the 26th, the stand began again on the march at 3 AM. Caught up with the enemy, drove them for 7 or 8 miles. Our Brigade was in the advance. At 12, we camen in between two hills that were full on both sides. They fired a volley into us before we were aware that they were near us. For a moment, our Brigade was thrown in to confusion but were rallied and around the second Valley, the old troops charged them and took several prisoners also took possession of the Valley as the first had. My Stump, a broad was cut into by a bullet I thought that was very close but the next volley killed my horse. I thought that still clear and got up and left. Then the next volley came after driving them from the Valley and we're going to rest today and work for Ration to come into.

On Sunday morning and it is now Tuesday morning, it is not uncommon to go 24 hours without food and 48 without sleep. We can get a meal to eat and can lay down and sleep in the rain as well as I am used to at home. It has rained for the last three days and we have no tents but I can as nearly as I could if he had it can, they as well...
have been in a good college. Well I must confess that since the 15th I have been enough fighting to do you have ever seen what our men have done. Who ever heard of such advances and such victories as in this campaign, but our men are not enameled but they are satisfied as long as they can whip the enemy they are very happy. Only as long as they have done, but I suppose you read it all in the papers. We have not had a paper or a letter since we left Harrodsburg. I wish to hear from you very much while we are on the raid. I want to know 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 hairbreadth of me and have not been scratched yet. I have not heard from George yet. Have you written to him? I am the only one of the 14th here so all the rest are anxious and left book between Albemarle and Nashville. Will Robinson and A. Elsin are both safe. Al Bramham left and wish our friends at Orleans as he passed through that they were treated tolerably well but were stripped of clothes and every thing valuable. I am still Acting Adjutant of the 1st and the Capt. of A Co., commanding Col. Graham's 80th. I am also commanding all wounded and all that command their wounds of our Division. Our Brigade commands the right of our Division. Our Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Hebron. A brave and good officer and one that I like and he also likes me and
he will be some thing for some that will surprise me one of these days, but I have written to much more and I have such a few chances to write that you will have hard work to read this. I am afraid I will not soon come to all my friends and tell them I am through safely.

Yours truly,

James B. [Signature]
A. Next相处

Passed by Mr. [Signature]
Nashville, Tenn.
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 persued 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 several times. Limbs were cut off in two or three inches of my Head three or four times and one make 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
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 received 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
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 Hemol[?] 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
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