8-14-1865

James B. Safford Civil War Correspondence #28

James Broderick Safford

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Camp 10th U.S. Cavalry
Near Athens, Ala Jan 24th 1865

My Dear Farmer,

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 he was ordered for Corinth to raid. He started and got his forces 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) - the bill has grown and Indians and parched corn and make coffee out of parched corn in fact we live off of the country. I tell you one thing suffered I have heard to boys offer 50 c for a single cracker and I heard one man pay 75 cents for a hard tack (cracker) but one manage to get along by taking every thing we can find it leaves Citizens in an awful situation often eating the last bit of meat and corn that they have. But I think such a policy will tend to end the war in a year lesson them to protect their rebel Citizens as we have been doing. It makes
My Dear Father

When I last wrote you it was about a week ago when we were on Blue Water. We received orders to march to Huntsville Ala and rest for a week or so and then be ready for another raid. We 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 Elk 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 50c + 100 for a single cracker and I heard one man say he would give $5.00 for a Hard Jack (cracker) but we manage to get along by taking everything 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 then they say they don’t want any more War or any more southern armies coming up here – The order has been since we left Franklin Tenn to every command to forage and get every thing they can a command that had it and 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 there 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 sock and a pair of gloves – We were in hopes to see our Boys in a day or so out if we go back and go down the line I don’t know when we will see them – I have had no letter or papers yet – Keep writing I will get them some time – I write every time we stop -- Your Off son J. B. Safford