6-14-1865

James B. Safford Civil War Correspondence #32

James Broderick Safford

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My Dear Father

I received your letter of May 28, 1865, yesterday also one written from South Madison. Mail lad May 21, I don’t know why it is but our mail does not come to us as it should. We certainly have a large lot of mail yet behind.

Last night we received an order from Maj. Dunn, Mustering Officer at Indianapolis, to forward the final papers of George R. Pardee and Joel Brownwell. We sent them to him this morning so I suppose before this will reach you he will be a citizen. I hope so at least.

I want to see him very much and would like to have him come and make us a visit after he is discharged.

There is two positions vacant now that Col. Swallow tells me he will give him if he should return one is Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant and the other Hospital Steward both on the Non-Commissioned Staff, but I would rather get him discharged than to have either of them, but if he does not proceed in getting a discharge let me know at once.
To a position can be saved for him. Our dear Col is a
very nice one and I am well pleased with him. He was
Major when you was here — I believe I told you Capt.
James Mitchell were both recommended for Majors
that will make good Capt. Col. I am writing every
day for a Commission as Adjutant. The Col has sent
for it. He has Commissioner Lt. Whistler the adjt.
Captain of 9th Capt. James was the I was offered
my choice Lieutenantcy in 9th or in some other 9 in
the Rgt. or adjutant. I choose the latter as I think
it will suit me better. Baker is 1st Lt. in Bronhams
Co. I think the Col will make Smith the 1st Lt. in 9th. As
he don’t like the 2nd Lt.Codas and Says he will not
promote him. Our Company is turning out Commission
officers by the Wholesale now one will have made more
than any other Company in the Regiment.

I think it is decided that we will not go to
Texas but stay here this summer we have turned
over most all of our horses to the 4th. This Car as they
are under orders to go with Sheridan. I am glad
of this for I did not want to go to Tex as this
Summer I never much relish staying here. If I
receive my Commission I will want a Uniform and
we have a tailor here in the Rgt. I will find
My measures to J. Smith for what I want I want you to pay the bill with him until we are paid which I hope will not be long now. He has 10 months pay due us and we have great need of money. I don't believe there is $50 in my regiment.

George has pay due him since June 30, 1864, to the date of his discharge, and Two Hundred Dollars Bounty due him and by a late order all Prisoners get three months additional pay. His clothing account since he enlisted is but $42.00 and he is entitled to an allowance of $8.37 per month for clothing and when they do not draw the full amount they are entitled to the pay of the Balance. For example his allowance for the 17 months would amount to $95.70 and as he only drew $25.70 he would be entitled to the $70.00. He also is entitled to have his rations amounted to since June 14, 1864, at the rate of 30 per day. Which is quite an item. I want to see him get all that is due him. There is not half the soldiers know what they are entitled to and mustering office they must own and them out of half of it. I want you to see if he gets what is due him it is worth looking after. I wish I was there. I am not watch these fellows that are stealing poor soldiers pay.
I would like to have got home just as George died and I would give any thing in the world to be to stay on Helen's place with you and George. I think to myself sometimes what nice times I will have when I get back and go and visit Helen here. I will eat Butter and Vegetables and drink Milk. By the Way this Preston climate has made me a great lover of Butter and Milk. It would astonish you to see me drink it. I like it in preference to breast milk. I have written you a long letter. This makes the 4th time I have written to you since our arrival here. I am complaining of my not writing regular. I wrote to you on an average twice a week. I am to Helen, Frank and all Friends. Write soon. Don Lewis, Capt James, A. Baker, Smitha and all pray their least to you and Carl. Tell Geo. Maj. William H. new Lt Col. W. wishes to be remembered to you.

Yours Aff'ly

James B. Safford
3rd Major 10th U. S. Cav.

Via Cairo Ill
My Dear Father

I received your letter of May 18, 1865 yesterday also one written from North Madison mailed May 21. I don’t know why it is but our mail does not come to us as it should. We certainly have a large lot of mail yet behind.

Last night we received an order from Maj Dunn, mustering officer at Indianapolis, to forward the final papers of George Rome Prindle and Jo Branwell. We sent them to him this morning to suppose before this will reach you he will be a citizen. I hope so at least.

I want to see Geo very much and would like to have come and make us a visit after he is discharged –

There is two positions vacant now that Col Swallow tells me he will give him if he should return one is Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant and the other Hospital Steward both on the non-commissioned Staff but I would rather see him discharged than to have either of them but if he does not succeed in getting a discharge let me know at once.
so a Position can be saved for him – Our new Col is a Good one and I am well pleased with him he was Major when you was here – I believe I told you Capts James + Mitchell were both recommended for Majors that will make Snark[?] Capt Co H. I am taking Every day for a commission as Adjutant the Col has sent for it he has commissioned Lt Whiteworth the Adjt captain of Co “K” (Capt James old Co) I was offered my choice Lieutenancy in Co H or in some other Co in the Regt or adjutant I chose the latter as I think it will suit me better. Baker is 1st Lieut in Branham's Co. I think the Col will make Smitha 1st Lieut in H. As he don’t like the 2nd Lieut Eccles and says he will not [one word]] him our Company is turning out commissioned officers by the wholesale now we will have made more than any other company in the Regiment—

I think it is decided that we will not go to Texas but stay here this summer we have turned over most all of our Horses to the 4th Wis Cav as they are under orders to go with Sheridan. I am glad of this for I did not want to go to Texas this summer I would much rather stay here – If I receive my commission I will want a uniform and we have a Tailor here in the Regt I will sized
my measure to S. J. Smith for what I want I want you to fix the Bill with him until we are paid which I hope will not be long now We have 10 months pay due us and we have great need of money I don’t believe there is $50 in the Regiment.

George has pay due him since June 30, 1864 to the date of his discharge and two Hundred Dollars Bounty due him and by a late order all Prisoners get three months additional pay – his clothing account since he Enlisted is but $42.00 and he is Entitled to an allowance of $300 per month for clothing and where they do not draw the full amount they are Entitled to the pay of the Balance. For Example his allowance for the 17 months would amt to 59.50 and as he only drew 42$ he would be Entitled to the 17.50 he also is Entitled to have his rations commuted to him since Dec 14, 1864. At the rate of 50 c per day – which is quite an item I want to see him get all that is due him there is not half the soldiers know what they are Entitled to and mustering officers + pay masters swindle them out of half of it – I want you to see if he gets what is due him it is worth looking after

I wish I was there I could watch those sharks that are stealing poor soldier wages--
I would like to have got home just as George did and I would give any thing in the world to be to day on Helens place with you and George I think to myself some times what nice times I will have when I get back and go and visit Helen how I will Eat Butter and vegeatables and drink milk by the way this southern climate has made me a great lover of Butter milk It would astonish you to see me drink it I like it in preference to Sweet milk – I have written you a long letter this makes the 4th I have written to you since Our arrival here. You complain of my out writing regular I write to you in an average twice a week -- love to Helen Frank and all Friends. Write soon – Doc Lewis Capt James, Snark[?] Baker Smitha and all send their best to you and Geo Tell Geo Maj Williamson now Lt Col W – wishes to be remembered to him --

Your Off son
James B. Safford
Sgt Major 10th Ind Cav
Via Cairo
Ill