

2013.70.43a-b

Shelbyville Tenn. July 5th 1863.

Dear Mother

I thought as I sat looking out from my window this Sabbath day that I'de [sic] write you again & you must excuse me for not having written more frequently. & you will do so when I tell you that for the past five weeks this army has been the most of the time "on the march" & consequently I have had but little time or advantages or conveniences [sic] for writing as at such times I am most busily employed keeping up the Survey of the country in advance of the troops & collecting information concurring the character of the Roads & country for emediate [sic] use - So that of late I have neglected writing my friends more than I would otherwise have done - About the first of June we broke up camp at Franklin Tenn and marched to Triune - about 12 miles dist. [sic] & on the 23d we marched to a point South of Murfeshoro [sic] to move on the Right of the Army of the Cumberland in its advance towards Brags army then at Shelbyville & other points near by - Those heavy rains commenced & never did I see such rain

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rain. rain continually nothing but rain & mud. but Genl. Rosecrans not to be daunted by rain or mud nor by all the eliments [sic] combined steadily pushed his Grand Army along - moving about 5 miles per day. but some of the Corps. which marched on the Pike road could easily keep pace with those marching on Dirt Roads - Instead of moveing [sic] on Shelbyville directly & by converging roads to its front. Rosy threw the main portion of his army around Shelbyville to the East & leaving Genl Granger's Corps to bring up the Right & protect the Rear & right - well has he done it for no sooner had Genl Granger the order to march forward than he put his cavalry in front (consisting of two Divisins [sic] under Genl. Stanly & the finest Cavalry I have ever seene [sic]) & pushed right onto Shelbyville & so great was the shock produced by the Rebs that what forces Brag had left there broke in confusion in every directin [sic] & Granger's Cavalry charging through [sic] the town like a [Whirlund] drove every thing opposed to them & [litterly] forced nearly two Hundred rebel cavalry in to Duck River drownng [sic] about 75 - this cavalry left [Granger &] assisted in the pursuit of Brag & now are pressing him on all sides in his hasty retreat from Tullahoma which Genl[sic] Rosecran occupied on the 3d Yesterday I was in-

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formed that Genl Brag had lost quite a large train capturd [sic] by our Cav. You ought to be here in Shelbyville & witness the Sights & see how many poor refugees are comg [sic] back to their homes. now that the [iron head] of despotism [sic] is lifted by the presence of Rosy - These persons in many cases are old men who have sons in the federal Tenn. Regimints [sic] & they thronged the streets with anxious [sic] hearts & Strand [sic] eyes watching our Cavalry as it passed through [sic] to get a glimps [sic] at their friends - many a poor mothes [sic] heart was made glad to behold her son again. Indeed this is the first City in all my sojourning in the army since leaving Rockford last fall where there is a Jenuine [sic] Union Spirit & feeling exhibited the ladies instead of throwing a dark veil over their still darker hearts & faces - as they are in

Kentucky & all along our line of march. look cheerful & very frequently condesend [sic] to wave the handkerchief - So you can easily determine that their [sic] is a broad basis of Union Sentiment in Middle Tennessee - and those soldiers under the drill of U.S. officis [sic] - or in the cause of the Union proved in the late encounters to be more than a match for the Reb. Ten. Cavalry which have been so long holding this portion of the State in thraldom [sic] & subjection - I think Tenne [sic] is lost forever to Rebellion

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dont believe that the whole Confederate Army combined could drive Rosy back to the Cumberland. Recruiting will go on here briskly - I think our cause looks very hopeful indeed & shortly the misguided & decived [sic] people of the south will be compelled to respect the old National Government - I am staying here having recd an order from Genl Rosy to make a map of this place & vicinity as soon as possible. Genl. Bond & cmd [sic] is at Wartrace about 8 miles East of Shelbyville – on the Rail Red [sic] -

I recd a letter from my dear Sadie last evening - & with it her photograph - how pleasant & calm she looks so much like a woman - her countenance look more frail then [sic] it used to look - dear mother does she worry much concerning me - If I thought she did and it was [infuring] her health I would resign & come home - for I do believe it my duty to do so I could not remain in the service & know my sweet wife was gradually suffering or pining on the account of it & I have been in the service nearly two & one half years - I know I could [do] will out of the service now - but I do so dislike to leave it when so many brave ones are willing to sacrifice their lives - but dear mother write me emediately [sic] will you about Sadie - tell me just how she is & how she takes my being absent from her - I will awat [sic] your letter anxiously [sic] Am glad to hear that Luther & Aaron are all right - nothing new to day Rain again - here hard rain evry [sic] day for 13 days - direct to Shelbyville

Your Affet[sic] Son in Law
C.T. Dunham

To
May F. Hess