

MS92_9_7_06

Mooresville Station-Memphis & Charleston R. R.
near Decatur Alabama July 5th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

Yours of the 17th nlt _has just been received, just read, and without stopping to fold it up- have commenced on an answer. I wrote you last from Tuscumbia, which I suppose you have received ere this time. I think if you have all my letters since our correspondence began- you will have a good journal of our travels-incidents &e. & e.-since I have written to you from almost evry hill and brook we have passed. We left Tuscumbia on the 17th nlt-arrived at Decatur on the 29th three days of hard marching through heat and dust- weather extremely hot- could scarcely march at all started on march evry morning at 3 o'clock march till 10 A.M. then rest till 4 P. M. -on the 2^d day-we marched 22 miles. Crossed the Tenn River at Decatur on the evening of the 3^d days march -and immediately our company and one other from the Regiment were ordered to march to this Depot, to take possession and guard- the distance here by the Rail-Road- was only 4 miles- but our guide and commander concluded we had better march by the earth road-up the river to avoid a huge swamp- we arrived here at 2 o'clock in the morning-making a march of 14 miles to get-4 miles- and that too after marching hard all day.

(next page)

It was a hard march for us-and we were a used up set of soldiers when we got here-but in consequence of the difficulty we had in getting here-we have been kindly permitted to remain- and we are now having an easy time- with but little to do-and a nice comfortable in which to stay. The Capt and Myself have the ticket Office for our quarters-the slaves from the surrounding plantations keep us well supplied with young chickens- vegetables and fruits of all kinds. We are really living in splendid style-and will probably stay here until the Brigade moves again-which may be in a few days-and perhaps not for weeks. I cannot speak definitely regarding that. We now get a Mail evry day- directly through from Louisville via Nashville-so I hope to hear from you hereafter-more regularly. Your letter came up in a delayed mail from Corinth and we have more yet somewhere in the rear of us-we have kept on the move so constantly of late-that Post-Master never knew to what point to send our letters-but in future- at least for a time-we can expect a regular mail- since trains are passing here almost hourly, we now received Louisville papers the 2^d day after they are printed- seems like we were getting into the world once more. I think if we move from here-we will be on the R.R. and in more direct communication then we have been for some time post. There is no enemy through here- except some Guerrilla bands, who pick off some of our men almost daily-either while out on picket duty or

(next page)

when straying away from Camp. I presume our Division has lost over a dozen men during the last week by these armed citizen cut-throats and yet we cannot find them-on account of the almost impenetrable swamps and canebrakes which abound along the River. Our movements will in a great measure-be governed by affairs at Richmond-there has been hard fighting going on there within the last few days, and perhaps-by this time affairs are decided there for or against us, though I have no doubt that as to final results there. I think our forces will gain a complete victory-but it will be a bloody one. If I am not much mistaken in that prospect of affairs here-our next move will be towards Chattanooga, if our Division takes any active part in any direction I would be well enough satisfied to (remain?) along this R. R. where we are-for some time-at least

during this hot weather-we have certainly (can/care?) about marching enough-are now about 100 miles from Corinth-and marched all the distance. I am of the opinion-that no other Regiment in the service-has done as much marching as we have-since in the service- and I am getting tired of this tramp-tramp-tramp- and no fight ~they ought to let us lie by for a while and put some troops on the march-that have been doing but little of it. I made last march well enough-though I had to carry my right arm in a sling all the time and it is not well yet by considerable, cannot raise my arm to my head.

(next page)

Two days before we left Tuscumbia-I was detailed with 60 men under my command-to go to the Tenn River and take a Steam Engine off a flat-boat, that had been brought up the River-and put the Engine onto the Rail Road track, we had to make a rail-road for near half a mile-laying the track on the dirt-road and then draw the Engine by hand or ropes and pulleys. About half the way- was up considerable of a hill- and you can well imagine we had a hard time of it- for an Engine is no small thing to handle- we succeeded-during two days-in getting it on the track-but the first day-I got my arm twisted almost off-and have suffered very much from it. I continued to command the work the second day-but could not lend a helping hand and was in such pain I could scarcely speak. I carried my arm in a swing during the march, it is getting better now- but still stiff and sore at the elbow-the only wonder is-that it was not wrenched entirely from my body-in fact, if it had not been for my presence of mind in extricating myself when I did-I would have had one arm less-sure-think of it- but one arm-and that having a crippled hand on it. I can only use my fingers to write with now-so excuse my scratches.