

North

...

July 3, 1863

Dear ...

The "Rebels" have burned the bridge
... .. which is very rough and swollen with
... .. our artillery cannot cross we shall
probably cross here early morning. The team have come
up ... so I have an opportunity to write to you again,
not in very fine style it is true but better than pencilling
in I saw
... .. I know you would full in love with me, could
you but you never done so before. I have not showed
since June 24th just the truth have not washed
my face many times - I saw an old slouched white hat,
a pair of old Regulation "Boyer" pants, which are ad-
orned with a caulking of mud at least 1/2 inch; from bot-
tom to as far as the legs go. I saw sitting
on a pile of dust by a camp fire just in front of a dis-
mantled Rebel "earthwork", from which they were shelled
yesterday morning. I will never mind I am going to have
a clean shirt as soon as I can written to you, and taken
a bath and washed my garments. This last feat I shall
perform by simply wading into the river with my

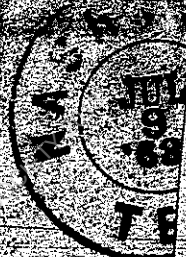
spouts me and just kicking around promises ~~and~~.
We have had a gas. since leaving ~~the~~ Worcester. I wrote
to you from Worcester when we were there. In fact I
was written two letters and given them to Joe, to mail
as you are connected with the Staff of the Div. He will have
a better chance to mail them than I. Right here let me tell
you that we met your cousin - a former Miss Buss
(I believe I believe) at Worcester. He came right over
to tell me we were glad that I might write you about her.
He said we had orders to march at once, and I could
not wait. He inquired for you & he thus learned who she was.
He did not seem to think that she would be very anxious to
meet his Southern friend's man. He said a woman in the
house told him that she was married to "that lame thing."
He was not impressed with the amount of happiness of her situa-
tion. Her husband had converted his rebel money into
to be used expecting to exchange it for Greenbacks when the
Army came and make one or two hundred gain, by the op-
eration. Cook says relieved him of all anxiety by helping
himself. She did not tell him her name and did not seem
sensible that I should visit her - though Joe told her we were
married - It has rained every day ^{but one} since we started and
I have become so perfectly waterproof that a duck over
much but would cover my anxiousness. It makes
the roads awful, but is much better to march in than
the hot sun & dust. I was almost sick when I left, but
am tough & rugged enough now. We are just more

than driving the "rebe" before us. We went into
Falla home night before last. We were not among
the first and so met with our resistance. I visited
all the places of interest to me there, the old General House
Protest Office and the place where I boarded. The
widow of the house Mrs. Johnson was in great tribula-
tion. She did not hardly know which side to hurrah for.
She had moved all her furniture to the upper story which
constituted a sort of barricade to protect her from the
Yankees. She was a perfect - or imperfect - "all
tears." - Her daughter, Miss Hattie, who used to sing "The Bonnie
Blue Flag" for our edification was not so generous. In fact
she was not so bitter last winter. Her appearance & behavior
the other evening almost made me think that she must be the
original of the Dunns, who, seeing our troops fall into
trous - watched them earnestly & she said "Mother, mother,
the confiscation has begun, when will the ravishing com-
merce." Of course I could not have answered the ques-
tion had it been addressed to me. All small north from
Worcester, I know but will continue to send one
now & then & they will be ready to go when they can.
I got your letter of the 18th ult, on the 27th at Manchester.
I am most happy to see that you are in such good spirits.
My brave - true-hearted wife, how often do I thank God for
you! And so you are now, as have been at the fall
and have no doubt had a grand time. I am as glad
as for Dorris, I don't care to hear a word of

She has read in most persistently to say the
2. If she cared anything for me or had any
regard for my feelings she would have done very dif-
ferently I think. No one in the Company has been hurt
yet. We have had some close calls for scares. Conf-
-erents from Eastville had a very narrow escape
A shot struck between his legs as he was lying on the
ground. For instance it did not explode. We are going
straight forward the horses. I have no doubt that we
fore you get this you will be of you occupying that
line. I am your thing I wish come home & get
the boy. I will do all I can. When this weary war
is over! and then we can have a deliberate wedding
trip and enjoy Giggs' expense in regard to the
fact. - Of course I get papers and am most
grateful for anything of the kind. Father sends
me two or three or more every week. Just give
me to all friends you may see
Please write to father to let him know you have
received mine. I am so tired, & it is growing
reluctant. I will send him a minute account
of affairs when we come to a standstill for a few days.

With warmest love

Your Husband
Albion W. Bourque
1864



Mrs C. W. Dodge

Commeent

Miss

North bank Elk River

July 3rd 1863