

Camp near Louisville Ky

Sept 7th 1862

Emma

I really forget how much I have written to you of my duties and business. I think I wrote you just a word at Shelbyville but you will probably never get it as the enemy soon had the town and we were obliged to retreat. We left Lexington on Wednesday 30th about five o'clock P.M. to go to Richmond Ky. as reinforcements for Gen. Nelson who had been engaged there and was surrounded about ten miles that night and then we were more in the morning. We did not have any part in the engagement however, but were stationed in a cornfield beside a cross-road where it was expected the enemy's cavalry would attempt to pass to attack our trains in the rear. It was a terrible hot place there but we had no fighting, only had to retreat with the enemy in sight from our rear. It was a hard march back to Lexington as it rained most of the way and the men were very tired. It was only the beginning of evil however.

you probably know before this time. We arrived at Lexington at about midnight and slept in the market house on soft stone pavement with wet clothes and wet blankets. The next day we looked for rest and an easier time. We had it for that day but about four o'clock in the afternoon we were ordered out and marched three or four miles towards Nicholasville or to the southward and then back about dark. As soon as we could pick up knapsacks, &c. we were ordered out and took the road to Versailles. Another night march in retreat with the light of burning houses, bridges and other buildings for our beacon-fires. An hour's sleep at four in the morning, and I started out for breakfast. Luckily for me I found a place where the thing was to be had, and as I was among the first, I got a very good meal, and was ready for the march which was resumed in half an hour. Only twelve miles had been conquered and the men looked as if they were entirely worn out. Fifteen more weary dusty hot miles on to Frankfort. Sleep from 12 till four at night. Then up again and resume the march toward Louisville. Three days, with all the accompanying horrors of a forced retreat - thirst, hunger, and fatigue, and we find a camp at Louisville. Here we have remained since, and have flattered ourselves

that now we should be quiet for two consecutive minutes. But no. This morning comes the order to march again, accompanied with orders that no officers' trunks can be transported on this march. I presume I shall undertake to have though many of the officers have made arrangements to leave their trunks in town. Mine might as well be sent from here as from Louisville. If we leave tomorrow, and have anything of a march, there is one man who will fall out very soon, probably in a day or two. It's all right, however, I obey orders while I live. The march has been along timbered pikes very dusty and very sultry. I stood the march much better than I expected to, though fell out between Frankfort and Shelbyville at which place I remained over night. It was more sun-stroke than fatigue. If I could have a few days rest I should be all right. Our brigade is pretty nearly worned, under Gen. Perry's late of the Army of the Potomac. He's a fat old General By God. I hate this retreat though it may have been necessary. A battle would not have been half as hard. I wish peace would come. I declare I would come down here into Ky and settle down for domestic felicity. I am something more than sorry that I did not make Emma a wife before leaving home. It

I had expected anything of this kind I would have done
it when at least on furlough. I will repair any
error as soon as possible. The Adjutant and one of the
etc of the regiment were married just as we left
Covington and were not able to get home to stay
even one night with their wives and have been
board almost to death about it. I would be
most willing to endure this for the
sake of addressing you as "wife" as it is dear
it must remain as heretofore. If however
the Paymaster would come around, you should
come down here and we would be married.
I have not written any letters so lately since I
have been in camp. I have not had time.

I suppose all my dear friends are saying
"John Don't he write! Well it's just his way."
Today - Monday - we are ordered on outpost

for the next 24 hours. We are liable to
be ordered on a march or engaged in a fight
at any moment. I have no idea of ever
coming home again. Our present and
late losses must give us a stirring time
and fierce conflicts. I think we shall have
no more rest soon. The boys are all in
good health and spirits except two or three
among whom is Rome of Company. A few
of them were taken prisoners.

Write to me as often as convenient
and you will see great joy. I have not heard from
you since I saw you. Lovingly
H. W. George



Mrs Emma L. Hill

Concord

Ashtabula Co

Ohio

Confession
Sept 7th 1861