

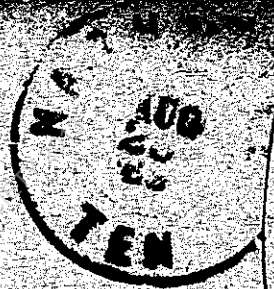
Camp near Battle Creek Tenn  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Wife:

Your letter from a sick bed  
informing me of your illness has just been re-  
ceived. It would have reached me several days  
sooner had it not been for your moving some-  
days since. We left Camp tomorrow day before yester-  
day morning and reached here last night. Your  
letter has undoubtedly been following me all the time  
I am much alarmed about your illness. Undoubtedly  
the worst is over for this time but it shall be in  
constant surveillance. I shall hear of you again. I  
am very sorry about that letter. Coming just at  
that time I know you must have thought it much  
harder than it was ever intended to be. It is nothing  
dear, and if you had been well you would have  
known that it was not. You must not let it give you  
another thought. You must rest and get well as  
I shall be too anxious to remain here. I'll just  
beast and so, if I can go in other way.  
Be sure you have some one write me very often  
for I cannot rest while you are suffering so  
greatly. I am in command of the Company

on this march. Though I ought readily to be counted  
ed as being on detached service since the duty of  
our Court Martial is not yet over but merely  
adjourned for the time being. We have come  
through some very lovely valleys and along some  
noble ridges since our march began. We are living  
principally on green corn and peaches, of which latter  
there are thousands of bushels in this little valley.  
I do not remember that this is termed the Switzerland  
of America. I never saw such beautiful verdant  
valleys and such wild rugged mountains, so  
serenely mingled. Three or four miles  
out west hills the noble Tennessee, and  
on either side rise the precipitous ridges of  
the Cumberland. Along the hillsides and in the  
valleys grow & blossom in their beauty the  
richest flowers. All along our line of march  
yesterday we saw the Passion flower and the  
snock Passion flower its rival in beauty burst-  
ing into gorgeous loneliness. Just beyond me, as the  
left - I have heard it seems scarcely a rifle-shot  
distance, rises a mountain of probably 2000 ft  
along the top of which, is a free stone cliff of nearly  
200 ft <sup>perpendicular</sup> height. Oh! I forgot to say that Madame  
Rumor states that miles a fire of "Rats" are just be-  
yond that mountain. If that is the case we shall  
find them sometime I presume. If we go over there

to unearth them we shall have some excite-  
ment. We are now 27 miles from Chattanooga.  
The Temperature in the valley is only a few  
degrees above the boiling point, and by means  
of abundant water privileges, tents, bushes &  
sundry, forcible expletives, we get along  
very comfortably. I am so fearful with re-  
gard to you, my Darling. If you were with  
you I should feel more reconciled. And yet  
what more could I do than now? I could perhaps  
with my own hands in some measure assuage the  
pains which rack your system, and have the pleasing  
knowledge that your memory of this  
sickness would be associated in your mind with  
memories of my kind care instead of always  
recalling as it probably will, memories of  
my harshness. But with regard to your  
recovery, I could only then at now, commend  
you to the good Father. That He may preserve  
you for life and happiness is the con-  
stant prayer of  
Your anxious Husband  
Wm. Douglas



Mr A. W. Sawyer

McCubber & Company  
Ohio

Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Camp near Battle Run

John

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013