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Camp of 27 & 30th M.S. Reg.
Near Shelbyville, Tennessee

April 18th 1863

Ferde, Dear Brother It is with pleasure that I hurt my Self to write to you to inform you the condition of my health it is very good at this time hoping these few lines will find you and family all well. you must excuse me for not writing to you before for I have been thinking for several days I would write to you but Something would always prevent me from doing So.
I have just come off of drill for the morning And I thought I would by and write you to few lines to let you know my where abouts & Ferde I think we will be in a fight before long or other wise make an other Kintucky march there is Something going to be done before very long Some way or other O[illegible] but what it will be I am unable to Say the Orders read on dress parade Yesterday Evening Shows every thing to me that there is going to be Something either fight or move I think it will be a move instead of a fight. Unless General Bragg feels a little uneasy. The orders were to have all of the men prepared for active Service and all heavy bagage Sent to the rear also give over all the tents except Six flies to Every hundred men that looks as if they was expecting Something

Unusual at present every thing appears peacable as long our lines as far as I am able to say, I notice that M Chirgeons are sending all of the sick to the hospital from all afternoon I think we will leave here before I can hear from you if we do it will write and let you know I am certain we will move before you can let me hear from you for the order also states that we would not remain at one encampment longer than thirty days there fore expect we will move from where we are pretty soon but unless we should make in this [illegible] move we will not move very far when you write direct to Shelbyville and if we are any where near the town I will be sure to get your letter Mr Shack Mims has just left me he was over to try and get me transfered to his company he appears very anxious for me to join his company which I would like to do very much for their duty is so much lighter than the duty which I have to perform. I think I would like it very much. And I know it would be much pleasure for Kisber and Sally to know of my being in the Prattville Dragoons there fore I am going to try and see what I can do. Mr Shack Mims says he will let me have money to buy a horse. He offered that favor without my asking him, He also said he would rather I could get in his company as soon as possible for he thought we would go forward

Kentucky he said that what he understood was going to be done. Ferde if I succeed in getting my transfer I will need all the money I will have there fore I will not send you any money until I find out whether I will succeed if not. Ferde I think hop of Mr Mims he is so kind to me and says he and poor Charlie were particular friends, says he thought a great deal of Charlie and that makes one like him more than what I really would.

Ferde you have no idea how bad I want to be at home as spring makes its appearance and the grass burst fourth through the ground and looks so green and beautiful it makes me think of home a great deal more than what I have ever done since I have been a soldiering but I try and content my self the best I can. hoping that this year will first an end to war but God above only knows when it will stop I do hope and pray it will not last much longer for I am getting so tired of war, but as long as we have to fight I do not care how soon it may come on for after every battle I think the war is this much nearer the close and thus nothing that would gratifie my heart and much as to have peace come more among our people but God only knows wheather I will ever see that day or not. I feel thankful that it is as well with

Me as what it is for I have already been through many dangers since I have been in the army and have been spared so far, My wound is intirely healed up but still I have not recovered good use of my arm and shoulder if I have my Knapsack to back I am afraid it will cause my Shoulder to pain me My Lieut will favor me all he can He is a very fine man. when we went out on picket last week he had my Knapsack halted for me he also has me in his mess which I consider is a great favor and I know he will oblige me when ever he can. Our colonel round a little while ago and said he was a going to try and break up the consolidation of the two regiments which I am in hope he will for I would rather be in our old company alone than to consolidate with another company Ferd you must be sure and write to me as soon as you get this and let me hear from you and family tell Arthur and Daniel they are to be smart boys and learn to read and write this year and you must kiss Mannie for me give my love to Sister and Sallie and accept the same for your self So I must also write to me as soon as you can and tell the girls to write give my love to Aunt Brook So no more only I hope to hear from you all soon direct to Shelbyville

Your Brother J. R. Wiggs