



Davis Ford wa

Dec. 26. 1861.

My dear father, I have at least been grievously disappointed about the furloughs. The general order allowing them to ten men in each company has been rescinded & we will not be allowed to go home except on the most urgent business. As I do not exactly understand the character of the chance which you thought I might have to get a position by going home I cannot make an application for the nature of my business would here to be stated. If when you get this you still think I have any chance at home please

let me know. What chance
is there to raise a compa-
ny? Or if not a company
how about a part of one
for George Goldthwaite has
been speaking to me of
getting up an artillery co.
of course if he could do such
a thing & I could count on
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However I should prefer in-
fantry ^{with} which I am better
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labor is greater. If I do
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time is out. This is the feeling
with nearly every one in the
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rest awhile after their term
of enlistment has expired.
I am sorry that I could
not get a chance to see you
all but console myself by
knowing that the joy of

seeing you all will be so
much the greater when
we all get back together
at same time.

We are still engaged in
picketing & preparing winter
quarters. Three or four
days ago my company &
four others were out on
picket. Of course we had
no tents. One night it com-
menced drizzling rain about dark.
I woke up about eleven o'clock
find myself lying in a stream
about three inches deep. Of
course my side next to the
ground under such circumstances
was pretty cool. I had succeeded
so far in keeping my upper
side about half dry. I then
turned over & got both sides
wet equally after which I
found no difficulty in sleep-
ing fine until morning
when I woke & discover it still

raining with a mixture of sleet &
snow. The trees were all hung
with icicles. Before I got up
some fellow came along &
commenced laughing at
my hair. I felt up & found
it had been ringing wet
but was then each hair on
its own responsibility an
icicle. However I passed this
first night very well - the
trouble was now to get along
with the next for my blan-
kets all wet it was not pleas-
ant to go to bed in such a fix
though I could very well afford
to stand getting wet after going
to bed. It rained sleeted &
snowed alternately until late
in the evening when it
stopped & I succeeded partially
in drying the blankets & fin-
ally made out very well to
pass the next night.

We are all very much dis-
pleased with our generals.
Rhodes is considered a perfect ty-
rant who treats us as regulars
& at the same time drinks
very hard. Vandoren is a hair
brained fool who also drinks
hard. Gen. Beauregard also we
know was bloated badly at our last

We all absolutely hate
Rhodes & the very fear
that they may have to
go under him again
will have great effect in
detering the men from
enlisting under the recent
act of congress. His own
regt say they are glad he
was app'd Brigadier because
they wished to get rid of
him. However he is a fine
drill master. You would
be astonished at the popu-
larity of Col. Sibels. The
men of this regt. would now
I believe do just anything
he would tell them. I know
he could easily make them
arrest Rhodes & Wadsworth &
believe they would even try
Beauregard or Johnston if
the Col wished it. Even
companies which to a man
went agst. him at first now

think him the greatest officer
in the service. His popular-
ity has been gained by always
seeing that the men are not
imposed on by officers of any
kind. He always hears com-
plaints & has justice done.
He even pitches into Rhodus
& Vendome once in a while
& though he can't make ^{much} out
of them yet the men all
he is interested for them &
it renders him very popular.
Yesterday was Christmas & the
Col. had whiskey rationed provided
& given out first telling them if
there was any riotous conduct
he would ^{have} every one arrested.
You may imagine they were
all a jolly set here. Everything
went off very well though many
were drunk. The Col. himself
is the most temperate officer
I have seen or heard of in the
service. Tell his & Lanza to write
often. I do not think there is any
chance for me to get a position here,
for of course the officers are all trying
to get in again while most privates
will not so there are more privates
than officers than privates.

Write soon
Yr. affectionate
Boading

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Yr affc son

Bolling Hall Jr