

When you send Billy, give him a pap from Columbus to Sattillo by
Rail Road

Camp Near Sattillo, July 9th 1862

My Dear Betty

I know you will be surprised to receive to receive a letter written from this place. We did hope that, when we received marching orders we would have the privilege of going some other way, but it seems that it was destined for us to go some other way. Sunday evening late we received orders to cook two days rations and be ready to march Monday morning at 4^{1/2} o'clock. Morning came and we started, not knowing where we were going to. Every thing we could hear in regard to our destiny was nothing but rumor. After marching a few hours we learned positively that we were going to Sattillo. We arrived here a little while after dinner time, after going through with the hardest days march that I ever experienced. You cannot imagine what suffering the men had to endure. It was an continual cloud of dust all the way and frequently it was so thick that you could not see a man ten feet from you. Sometimes in passing through lanes I would look back at the line of men in rear and I could see nothing but a cloud of dust reaching back as far as I could see. The poor Soldiers had truly a hard time of it. The entire division became so completely exhausted about noon

that the Officer in Command of the train was forced to halt and rest the men. Two men I learn fell on the road side from being over heated and died in a few minutes. I cannot understand the object of our Officer in Command in making such a forced march in the heat of the day through the dust, when there was really no necessity for it. It was sixteen miles the way we came from Tupelo to our present encampment. We are about a mile from Sattely a Station on the Rail Road. I understand; (but how true it is I cannot tell) that as soon as we get a good rain so as to make water plentiful along the road that we are going back through Corinth and on to Tunnicliffe. It is reported that Corinth has been almost entirely evacuated by the Federal Army. Two Brigades from our division went as far up on the road as Ripley last week to attack a Division of the Federals stationed at that place, but by some means they found out that our troops were coming and they abandoned the plan burning their tents and some Commissary Stores. We captured four of them that were found straggling along the road gathering Blackberries. We have as good water here as I ever drank in my life. There are two Springs here that afford water sufficient for one Hundred thousand Men.

The only trouble is, that the Springs are not quite
convenient enough to the Camp. But, it is impossible
for Ten Thousand Men to camp around two Springs
and be convenient to them and at the same time
have room sufficient for tents of the men. Numbly
broke down on the road and and stopped to rest.
He came up at night. Suits Lavender and him
remained behind together. The men are all
busy clearing of the Camp Ground and putting up
their tents. Col. Buck will be here to night,
and I assure you that I am truly glad of it. Col
Dunnett has been sick for two or three days and I
have been left in command of the Regiment. I don't
like the responsibility at all. I have just received
your very welcome favor of the 3rd Inst. which reached me
a few minutes ago. I was very agreeably surprised
to receive as I expected that our Mail arrangements
would be somewhat disarranged by our move. As it
happened, our Post Master remained behind until the
Mail came up ^{from} below and brought it along with him.
One of my letters certainly did not reach you as you
state that you had no letter from me between the one
sent by Billy and the 25th. I wrote you about three or
four days after Billy left for home. It is my wish to write
to you a week but I do always do so. Frequently
I am busy during the day and don't have time to
write, and I cannot write at night as I cannot get
any candles. I wish to know when to

send Billy back. I write you in my last
letter to send him as soon as you think he is
sufficiently strong to stand the trip. I am
wanting him very badly indeed. Our Cook was
sold by his master a few days ago and has
left us. We are now without any and it
seems to be impossible to hire one here. We
are bad of now in the eating line. We can get
provisions plenty but we have no one to cook it
& often long for the good things at home and I
hope that it will not be long before I shall be
permitted to enjoy them. The news from Richmond
is truly encouraging. I learned on yesterday that
France & England had recognized the Confederacy
and had demand a Suspension of hostilities
with a view of bringing about a permanent separation
of the Union. I hope it may be true. I
have been expecting a letter from your Papa.

My Saddle Bags came to hand just in
good time. I had no way of sending my
trunk home and to keep from losing it I
sent it to Mobile by our Adjutant who was
sent home sick the day we left Tupelo.
James Pateon keeps well, and so is Mr
Hells. I have been on my feet all day
and feel very tired, and besides I have
a cold which make me feel worse than I
would otherwise. Tell Harmonie & Willie to be
good children. Papa hope the war will end soon
when he can come home to see them. Kip them
all for Pa. May God Bless you all
Your devoted husband W. W. Davis

Camp Near Saltillo, July 9th, 1862.

My Dear Bettie:

I know you will be surprised to receive a letter written from this place. We did hope that when we received marching orders we would have the privilege of going some other way, but it seems that it was destined for us to go some other way. Sunday evening late we received orders to cook two days rations and be ready to march Monday Morning at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock. Morning came and we started not knowing where we were going to. Every thing we could hear in regard to our destiny was nothing but rumor. After marching a few hours we learned positively that we were going to Saltillo. We arrived here a little while after dinner time after going through with the hardest days march that I ever experienced. You cannot imagine what suffering the men had to endure. It was one continual cloud of dust all the way and frequently it was so thick that you could not see a man ten feet from you. Sometimes in passing through lanes I would look back at the line of men in rear and I could see nothing but a cloud of dust reaching back as far as I could see. The poor soldiers had truly a hard time of it. The entire division became so completely exhausted about noon that the officer in command of the train was forced to halt and rest the men. Two men I learn fell on the road side from being over heated and died in a few minutes. I cannot understand the object of our officers in command in making such a forced march in the heat of the day through the dust when there was really no necessity for it. It was sixteen miles the way we came from Tupelo to our present encampment. We are about a mile from Saltillo a Station on the Rail Road.

I understand but how true it is I cannot tell that as soon as we get a good rain so as to make water plentiful along the road that we are going back through Corinth and on to Tennessee. It is reported that Corinth has been almost entirely evacuated by the Federal Army. Two Brigades from our division went as far up on the road as Ripley last week to attack a Division of the Federals stationed at that place, but by some means they found out that our troops were coming and they abandoned the place burning their tents and some Commissary Stores. We captured four of them that were found stragling along the road gathering Black Berries. We have as good water here as I ever drank in my life. There are two Springs here that afford water sufficient for one hundred thousand men. The only trouble is that the Springs are not quite convenient enough to the camp. But it is impossible for Ten Thousand Men to camp around two Springs and be convenient to them and at the same time have room sufficient for tents of the men. Newt broke down on the road and stopped to rest. He came up at night. Lieut. Lavender and him remained behind together. The men are all busy cleaning off the camp ground and putting up their tents. Col. Buck will be here to night and I assure you that I am truly glad of it. Col. Dennett has been sick for two or three days and I have been left in command of the Regiment. I don't like the responsibility at all. I have just received your very welcome favor of the 3rd Inst, reached me a few minutes ago. I was very agreeably surprised to receive as I expected that our mail arrangements would be somewhat disarranged by our move. As it happened our Post Master remained behind until the mail came up from below and brought it along with him.

One of my letters certainly did not reach you as you state that you had no letters from me between the one sent by Billy and the 25th. I wrote you about three or four days after Billy left for home. It is my wish to write two twice a week but I do always do so. Frequently I am busy during the day and don't have time to write and I cannot write at night as I cannot get any candles. You wish to know when to send Billy back. I wrote you in my last letter to send him as soon as you think he is sufficiently strong to stand the trip. I am wanting him very badly indeed. Our Cook was sold by his master a few days ago and has left us. We are now without any and it seems to be impossible to hire one here. We are bad off now in the eating line. We can get provision plenty but we have no one to cook it. I often long for the good things at home and I hope that it will not be long before I shall be permitted to enjoy them.

The news from Richmond is truly encouraging. I learned on yesterday that France & England had recognized the **Confederacy** and had demand a Suspension of hostilities with a view of bringing about a permanent separation of the Union. I hope it may be true. I have been expecting a letter from your Papa.

My Saddle Bags came to hand just in good time. I had no way of sending my trunk home and to keep from loosing it I sent it to Mobile by our Adjutant who was sent home sick the day we left Tupelo.

James Dotson keeps well and so is Mr. Wells. I have been on my feet all day and feel very tired and besides I have a cold which makes me feel worse than I would otherwise. Tell Hattie & Willie to be good children. Papa hopes the war will end soon where he can come home to see them. Kiss them all for Pa. May God Bless You All.

Your Devoted Husband,
N. N. Davis.

When you send Billy give him a pass from Columbus to Saltillo by Rail Road.