

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn. Jan 5th 1862

My Dear Pettie

Since I wrote you last we have had a good battle and I feel grateful that I am able to inform you that I am safe. On the 29th of Dec we left our camp and marched out two miles beyond Murfreesboro to meet the enemy. Our line of Battle was formed by noon and we were then ordered to rest in our position to await their approach. The day passed off quietly untill late in the evening when our Pickets were attacked by the Yankee Pickets. Heavy firing was then kept up by both Pickets all along in front of our lines untill late the next morning the 30th when the firing was increased on both sides to such an extent as to seem like a general engagement had commenced. Our men all the time were lying down on the ground to be more secure from the bullets of the enemy which were flying thick and fast over our heads. Late in the evening they succeeded in getting a Battery in position in our front which threw shell all amongst us but fortunately but few were hurt. When night came on the firing ceased in a good measure. We all felt confident that the next day would be the great day of battle. We were all ordered into line at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 31st and there remained untill day light when the firing in our front told us that the battle had begun. About 8 o'clock our Pickets were driven

in when the order was given to our Regiment and
the 38th Ala to Charge. The Enemy were very
strongly posted behind fences in a lane about
350 Yds in our front. The 24th marched boldly up
to within 30 Yds of the Enemy when the ^{men} were ordered
to lie down. After remaining there some minutes
we were ordered we given to fall back to our
first position, it having been ascertained that
they were too strong for the 24th alone. The 38th Ala
charged in a different direction towards a Battery
which was posted on our left. They had to fall back
also. A second charge was then made but with
no better result. A third was made but with
no better effect. We were charging a whole
Bri-gade at the time. Finally the whole Bri-gade
made a charge together and the Enemy were
driven back from their position. The advance
was kept up the enemy falling back slowly until
late in the evening when they made a stand in
a dense thicket of wood where the Battle
raged furiously for some time but they were
finally driven back beyond the woods and
our men then took position in the same woods
and remained there all night. The battle field
was covered with the dead and wounded.

I was badly hurt by a fall in making the charge
and have been very lame ever since. The
24th had 82 wounded and 15 killed. J. H. Pillard
was the only one killed in my old Company.

Sigh Spraggins was slightly wounded in the hand. Willie Wear wounded in the ~~hand~~ ^{leg} also thigh slightly. Spillar in the side slightly. Next escaped unhurt. Col Buck had his thumb shot off. It is impossible to tell how many of us escaped. Shells. Grape. Canister shot and minnie balls were as thick as hail. We remained in our positions for three days after the fight without changing our line of battle. Neither side appeared willing to advance. Yesterday our whole army fell back to this place. It was reported that the Enemy were sending a large force around to get in our rear so as to ^{cut} off communication with Chattanooga. But that I think is doubtful. Our loss in the entire engagement is said to be in killed & wounded to be between 5 & 6 thousand. That of the Enemy from 10 to 20 thousand. Their dead on the field was 5 or 6 times as great as ours. I saw about 70 dead yankees in one place. We captured 41 pieces of artillery. I have no time to say more. Col Buck is going to Chattanooga & I am writing this to send them by him. Will write you as soon as we get to a stopping place but dont know where that will be. Kifs the dear children for Pa. May God Bless you my dear wife. Good Bye
Yours devoted Husband
R. R. Pariss

I have not heard from Col Talburt's Regiment
but heard that it was in the fight. I
hope that Jim & Ira have escaped.

Newton.

I trust Dr Jim is safe so long as
Dr W. is in Portland. W. is his brother

J. J. H.

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.
Jan. 5th, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

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Your devoted Husband,
N. W. Davis.

I have not heard from Col. Talberts Regiment, but heard that it was in the fight. I hope that Jim & Ira have escaped.

Newton.

Ira & Dr. Jim is safe so say Dr. W. A. Portwood to his Father.

I.I.H.