

Camp of the 23<sup>d</sup> Regt of Mich Vol Infy  
 Jamestown Tennessee Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife

An opportunity occurs to send back a letter so I will improve I am well and in good spirits we have had a long march and over a rough road we are at Jamestown in Tennessee on the top of the Cumberland Mountains and we are up pretty high the last hill we climbed was five miles up we crossed the Cumberland river at Creelsboro by fording the water was only three feet deep and run very swift some of the men fell down and got a little wet as it was before day light for we most allways start by 3 or 4 o'clock so as to get through our days march before it gets hot well we had a mountain to climb a mountain so steep that we had to let down ropes and hoist up our cannon and wagons which took 4 regment all day Sunday then we marched ten miles to find a camping place where we found good water and plenty of. we reached this place on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst and have been waiting for our trains and

an other Division to come up now we have quite a force and will probably move on again to morrow to meet the ballance of the 23<sup>d</sup> Army Corps and the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Corps and then commence operation on therebs which are not far off as we now are where can expect them most any day we are going prepared for any emergency and will relieve East Tennessee of Rebels. There never was any Union troops in this part of the country before and the union portion of the people or what is left of them (for there is not many left of any kind now) are almost beside them selves with joy to see us come to their relief. The country is almost desolate nothing growing nor any one to raise any thing. The inhabitant all left the country for the north or in the rebel Army. only once in a while a man is left. I thought I saw desolation in Kentucky but it is nothing to Tennessee, as Dutler goes out to Lebanon in the morning and that is the only chance of sending a mail and that is a poor chance for it is in danger of getting gobbled before it gets out of Tennessee however I will risk one letter and if they do gobble they will not find any thing that will benefit them any. So here it goes any way we can not get any mail for some time for there is no mail rout established yet.

You must not worry about me now for I am  
as safe here as any one and if you hear  
of a fight do not get scart if you do not  
hear from me verry soon for I can not send  
you any word untill the mail goes out  
and no one knows when that will be  
I have got to finish this pretty soon for  
the mail boy will be here for this in a little  
while. Keep up good spirits and do not get  
discouraged in my absence and I will help  
to put down the rebellion as soon as possible  
You may soon look for important news from  
East Tennessee and if we are successful it will  
help our cause amazingly. We have no fears  
of its being any other way for a more confident  
Army never marched than this every one in the  
best of spirits and anxious for something to  
do. Last night I made an invention which is  
admired by every one that has seen it I took  
two corn sacks (and stung them on two poles  
and drove four crotches in the ground and placed  
my poles on them and I had the best bed I ever  
slept on the bags sagged down between the  
poles and layed as easy as could be, It was  
quick mad and cost nothing. Now there is  
a great inquiry for sacks. but they are scarce  
I got my two before any one knew what they  
was good for

I would give you a detail of our march if I had time  
which would be very interesting as there were  
plenty of incidents worthy of mention, but I  
shall have to bring this to a close now.

Take good care of Brandy and may God bless  
you for it remember that I think of you  
and his every day and night. the thoughts of  
the happy life I shall when the war is over  
and I return to you again makes my duty  
light and I feel have nothing to do I walk around  
camp for diversion. so I do not feel the time  
pass so slowly as it might my health is  
very good and I could not ask for better hoping  
you are the same I remain as ever your most

Affectionate Husband

O. D. Woods

Deed as before