

No. Quarters 23 Mich Vol Infy
Camp Pratt Tenn Jan 29th 64

Dear Wife

As I have a few minutes to spare I thought to improve them by penning you a few lines before it gets too dark I wrote to you two or three days ago from this same place and gave you a few particulars of our movements during the past two weeks so I need not go over that again when I closed up I said we were doing Picket duty on the out posts and on the Strawberry Plains Road to Knoxville, and about five miles from Knoxville. Our Camp is pleasantly situated on a small hill or tongue of another hill near a small stream and in plain sight of the road and rail road for nearly a mile. We are busy improving our camp and as we are on the extreme front of the line we have been slashing down the timber around to prevent any approach except by one road which we have for our own use to get in and out of Camp we chose this position on account of it being easy to defend and also near wood and good water the top of the hill is just wide enough to have camping room and not much too long and it is up hill on every approach to it ^{and} after we get a good rifle pit around it no camp will be as secure outside of Knoxville in this vicinity. Our Picket line is in sight and in nearly hailing distance which by the way the rebels visit most every day either in front of our regiment or some other. and gobble up some of the men which makes Picket duty a little dangerous

Day before yesterday about two Hundred Rebel Cavalry made
a charge on one of our picket post ⁱⁿ plain sight of camp
and at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon there was thirty
men and one Officer at the post and the whole gang charged
on the one Post we saw them from camp as soon as the pickets
did and we were soon in line ~~you may bet~~. A Division of two Companies
was immediately sent on the double quick to cover the retreat
of the overpowered pickets and help them check the advance of
the rebs. The Rebels came with all the speed that their horses
could muster and charged clear through the line and cutting
off some of the men who passed in the lead from the reserve
in camp and the small detachment sent out being nearer
did more execution in tumbling horses and riders to
the ground. They soon rode out of range back again out
side of the picket line carrying their wounded with
them. Our loss was from Co K. C. taken prisoners and one
mortally wounded Company K is from Flint Commanded by
Capt Damon Stewart. The rebs had a reserve in sight
of a much larger force which prevented our whole
regt from leaving camp to have a closer range
however some of them never will make another charge
their loss must have been at least 25 wounded
and some killed nearly that number was sent to be
healed of the field. They fired a few shots at
the camp which flew harmlessly by doing no
damage except barking the trees. I am well as
usual. The weather is fine and not cold enough
to wear an over coat I have not had mine on in
several days. It is now dark and I am writing
by gasp. I will write again soon so good night
My love to all and believe me ever your affectionate
Husband

63



6 feet 8 inches

6 " 6 1/3 4

263 Mrs Susan M Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan