

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter Nov. 13th 1864.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Page 1:}*

Quartermasters Office Supply Train, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps  
Nashville, Tennessee, *{Sunday}* November 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife,

Today is Sunday and it is a beautiful day, too, and you may believe that. I can appreciate it after the rains and storms of last week. I last wrote to you from Chattanooga *{TN}* and that I expected to start for this place the next day, but I did not start as I expected. I stayed there in the mud two days longer when I received orders to turn over my mules to the other trains and load my wagons and harness on the cars and proceed to Nashville, which I did and now are fitting up as fast as I can to proceed to Pulaski *{TN}*, about 90 miles south of here. I had to draw new mules, which I did yesterday, and today the boys are drilling them. They never was harnessed before and they have about all that they want to do to handle a wild mule. I arrived here three days ago and I have been very busy ever since about as much

*{Page 2:}*

in a hurry as ever for the trains are wanted at the front. I had to stay at a hotel two nights and sleep in a bed and I caught cold both nights besides laying awake nearly all night and nearly suffocated in a tight room. Yesterday I got my wagons away from the depot and into camp. I had my tent pitched and last night I slept natural again. Nashville is a gay place and cost money to stop here. An officer here has got to put on style with the rest and keep up with the name or he might as well be nowhere. I am in hopes that I shall get away from here in two more days for my funds are not going to last long here. The troops of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps are down to Pulaski and Johnsonville *{TN}*. I am in hopes that they will winter there and that I can get a leave if there is not much to do there. Now I have got to go to dinner and after dinner I have business that calls me to town.

Since writing the above I was over to town and I received some mail, a letter from you, and Sarah Lester, and one from my old quartermaster sergeant that was with me all summer. I am glad to hear that you are well and that brother Frank is at home.

*{Page 3:}*

I have my train all ready to go to the front with the exceptions of a few mules that I am now waiting for to come from Chattanooga. I am at leisure while waiting and as it is the first time since I was north of the Ohio River that I have found anything to eat that I can think of. I have been feasted on what I liked best and for the first time since I have been in the U.S. Army I have seen civilization that was anything like what was before the war.

I have kept up my reputation as an officer and I put on all the style you can imagine with a new uniform and a fast horse and orderlies at my heels to do my bidding.

As this does not last long and as I have to proceed to the front as soon as I get my mules, I thought I would enjoy myself once in three years, for everybody knows that I have seen the hardest of service. I have now orders to report to Captain Winslow as soon as possible and you must excuse ??? this time.

Take good care of Frankey and be a good girl and I will do the same. Give my respects to all and believe me as affectionate as ever.

*{Page 4:}*

I am sorry that you are disappointed about my leave of absence and I will try and make reparation for it when I can. Write often and believe me as your own and  
Affectionate Husband,  
Deck

I N Office Supply Train Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> A.C.  
Washville Tenn Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Wife

To day is Sunday and it is a beautifull day too and you may believe that I can appreciate it after the pains and storms of last week. I last wrote to you from Chattanooga and that I expected to start for this place the next day, but I did not start as I expected I stayed there in the mud two days longer when I received orders to turn over my mules to the other trains and load my Wagons and Horses on the cars and proceed to Washville which I did and now are getting up as fast as I can to proceed to Pulaski about 90 miles south of here I had to draw new mules which I did yesterday and to day the Boys are drilling them They never was harnesssed before and they have about all that they want to do to handle a wild mule I arrived here three days ago and I have been very busy every since about as much

in a hurry as ever for the trains are wanted at  
the front. I had to stay at a Hotel two nights  
and sleep in a bed and I caught cold both  
nights besides laying awake nearly all night and  
nearly suffocated in a tight room yesterday. I got  
my wagons away from the Depot and into camp  
I had my tent pitched and last night I slept  
natural again. Nashville is a gay place and  
cost money to stop here any Officer here has  
got to put on style with the rest and keep up ~~with~~  
the name or he might as well be nowhere. I am  
in hopes that I shall get away from here in two  
more days for my funds are not going to last  
long here. The troops of the 23<sup>rd</sup> A.C. are down  
to Pulaski and Johnsonsvill. I am in hopes that  
they will winter there and that I can get a leave  
if there is not much to do. There now I have got  
to go to ~~the~~ and after dinner I have business that  
calls for my time.

On writing the above I was over to town and  
received some mail a letter from you and Sarah Lister  
and one from my old Q<sup>r</sup> Sergt that was with  
me all summer. I am glad to hear that you are  
well and that Brother Frank is at home.

I have my train all ready to go to the front with the exceptions of a few mules that I am now waiting for to come from Chattanooga I am at leisure while waiting and as it is the first time since I was north of the Ohio River that I have found anything to eat that I can think of I have been feasted on what I liked best and for the first time since I have been in the U.S. Army I have seen civilization that was anything like what was before the war.

I have kept up my reputation as an Officer and I put on all the style you can imagine with a new uniform and a fast horse and orderlies at my heels to do my bidding.

As this does not last long and as I have to proceed to the front as soon as I get my mules I thought I would enjoy my self once in three years. For every body knows that I have seen the hardest of service. I have now orders to report to Capt Winslow as soon as possible and you must excuse hast this time.

Take good care of Franky and be a good girl and I will do the same. Give my respects to all and believe me as affectionate as ever.

I am sorry that you are disappointed about  
my leave of absence and I will try and make  
reparation for it when I can write often and  
believe me as your own and affectionate Husband

Dick