

White River Station

Sept. 19th, 1864.

Dear Friend "Libby"

I will improve a few minutes of the present very pleasant day by writing to you. We are having a very agreeable time at this place now as our duties are not heavy and the weather is cool enough so that we are quite comfortable in fact some nights are so cool that I hear considerable complaint on that account. Our Co. was detailed on the 14th inst. to go on a foraging expedition. We went by steamboat down the river near the vicinity of the Ark. River about 15 miles from here. We had a pretty hard day's work but some sport and obtained considerable forage.

It is a rough way of doing business but I believe we have as good right to what the country produces as rebels have. Be that as it may we have been feasting on fresh meat and potatoes for the past three days a privilege which had not been granted to us for months previous.

There has been considerable excitement in our Regt. during the past two days caused by the first four companies being mustered out of the service.

Their time expires on the 25th inst. They delivered over all their arms yesterday and have just gone on board the steamboat which will take them to Cairo. If they are fortunate they will soon meet their friends at home.

I can hardly realize the 42nd is no more a Regt. but it is so and all the associations formed during the past three years will soon be broken up. E. Co. is the next on list to be mustered out which long looked for event will take place on the 30th of Oct. according to our muster rolls but not from date of service of most of the men.

I rec'd yours of August 21st before we left Morganza and one of Aug. 13th last evening. One came through very soon the other was detained.

Your description of your summer home was read with interest.

I think indeed it must be a lovely place unless a person could be so

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fully occupied as not to think of the surroundings.

The little time spent at St. Charles did not afford an opportunity of seeing but few of the inhabitants. What few I saw were mostly emigrants from other states and were as rough species of the "genus homo" as is often found. What we term law is not known but each person is his own lawyer and backs what he says with the pistol and knife.

The soil in that vicinity is poor the inhabitants subsist by raising stock and hunting with the addition perhaps of a small amount of corn.

you
I hope we will consider yourself at liberty to ask all the questions you wish but you will certainly bear one thing in mind, that a soldier although he may have traveled many miles has not the same opportunity of making observations as the man who travels for pleasure. Believe me however your inquiries shall be answered to the best of my ability.

It takes something like forty days to receive an answer to a letter from Mich. therefore I hardly expect to get a reply to this but shall look for two or three more from you.

I suppose you are at home by this time and perhaps you may see our people before I do.

The four companies, before mentioned have gone up the river, they went away cheering undoubtedly anticipating a good time.

Hoping this may find you in the enjoyment of health and the pursuit of hapiness I will sign

as ever

Yours truly

Leonard

E. Abbott