

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS OF ALLENDALE

LETTER NUMBER ONE - FROM JUSTUS TO HIS PARENTS

OCTOBER 30, 1862

Dear and affectionate mother and father. I thought that I would improve the present opportunity to let you know that I am well and in the land of the living. I received a letter from you dated Sep. 21 that is the last one that I have received. I wish that you would write often as you can we are on the march all the time, so we don't get much time to write. We stop here today to rest so we have time to write.

We have had quite hard fare of late. We had one cracker yesterday and non today. We had to march 22 miles on one cracker - that ain't nothing when we get youst to it. We are now on the road to Bowling Green or some other place. I think we are going to Nashville. They say that it is 28 miles to Bowling Green so you can look on the map and see where we are. We have marched from Lebanon now to days.

We don't know no more where we are a going than a dog that is following his master when he is hunting. I would like to have you write some of the news what is going on. We don't know anything here - even the battle that we was in we don't know half the result. They say that our General is changed but that I don't know.

Write often and write all the news that you can. Don't know how much we look for letters from home. I haven't half as many letters as I have written so write as often as possible. I will answer all the letters that I received and write as many more. If you can't get stamps, write and let me know. Maybe that I can do as I do for my self. I borrow all that get to use. If father can't furnish stamps, I think he is hard up.

The boys are all well except Bill Herriman - he cut his toe off and went to the hospital. I don't know where no more at present. I will write as soon as I get time. Direct to 21st. Mich. Infit Co. G Louisville, Kentucky.

Justus Balcom to Father and Mother