

Portland, Jackson, Co. Ohio Oct. 6th, 62

Absent Friend

You no doubt know the reason of not receiving any letters from me for the past two months, if not I think I have realized the reason of not hearing anything from my friends during that time. I rec'd a letter from you on the 19th of August, dated the 7th that being the last mail we as an army have re'ed. We were surrounded at the Gap by the enemy at that time and remained there until the 19th of Sep. when our subsistence being exhausted and obtaining no relief Gen. Morgan was obliged to destroy all the public property and evacuate one of the strongest forts in the country and to undertake a march through the enemies country 230 miles on a route hitherto considered impracticable. We took up our line of march for the Ohio river on the 21st Sep. The division consists of 12000 infantry and 28 pieces of artillery. The enemy thought it impossible for this force to march through their lines such a distance over such roads without any supplies, but it has been done and we are out of their grasp and ready to advance on them again as soon as we can obtain supplies. We arrived at the Ohio on the 3rd inst at a small town at the mouth of the Little Sandy river 20 miles from the corner of the state of Ky. and after being 5 months in such a desolate place as the southeastern part of Ky. never was men more glad to look once more on their native state.

We get on the cars yesterday and supposed we were going to camp Donnisson but 40 miles travel we were ordered to to this place to await further orders. We have seen some rather rough times but who would be a soldier without seeing some of the realities of a soldiers life.

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I suppose your school is out and you are having as good a time as you wish. I cannot be with you very soon but shall expect read a lengthy letter from you in a few days. Good bye for to day.

Direct to Oak Hill, P.O. Jackson, Co. Ohio to fellow the Regt.

L. G. Loomis