

Camp Charleston. Nov. 2nd, 62.

Friend Elizabeth:

Having re'cd no answer to the last two letters which I have written you please excuse me for writing again. No doubt the reason of my not receiving any letters from you is our moving so often. We left Portland Ohio on Tues the 21st of Oct. and arrived here by short marches on Thursday the 30th. We are now 60 miles up the Kanawha valley and at the mouth of the Elk river.

This valley instead of the terrible place we had expected to see: is the richest place of any extent I have seen since joining the service, although I expect it is much worse as we proceed up the river, as it is much more mountainous and no doubt poorer country. The rebels left the town of Charleston two days previous to the arrival of our advance: they are said to be about 8,000 in number and in full retreat up the river. We dont know how soon we shall leave this place but if it makes no difference to his highness "Uncle Sam" I had as soon stay here as to march over the mountains yet a good soldier goes where he is ordered by his superior officer and asks no questions.

I was somewhat surprised to get a letter from Julia dated Ohio as I did not expect her to go home although she had talked about it. How did she leave affairs in Mich I suppose she intends to return at some future time does she not. Julia informed me that you intended teaching in Uncle Crochers district and as I am considerably well acquainted in the district I wish you would write me all particulars concerning parents and scholars. I wish you success and a pleasant school as you will without doubt have. I have been informed that it has been very sickly in Mich. during the summer this is a great misfortune but probably the sickness will cease with the warm weather.

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You wrote that most of the boys had gone to the war; and it is without doubt rather lonely for those who remain at home and I hope affairs may soon be arranged in such a way that we may return to our friends yet I expect it will require some hard fighting to accomplish a settlement. Until then we must be satisfied by writing as often as circumstances will permit.

Direct to the 42nd Reg. Via of Gallipolis Ohio in care of Lieut M. L. Benham instead of Capt. Howe, and please except this from your friend

Leonard.