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10-24-1864

### 1864-10-24, James B. to James M.

James Broderick Safford

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**1864-10-24, James B. to James M.**

**Keywords**

U.S.A., U.S. Soldiers, Columbus, IN, correspondence, army, troops, postal service, family, father, son, cavalry, comradery, morale, self-determination, company, Pulaski, TN, military police, rank, North Madison, Ohio, Decatur, AL, brother, Nashville, TN, clothing, gift, Indianapolis, IN, election

**Identifier**

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Sept 3/1864

Office Postman

Postmaster Gen  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1864

Dear Father

I expect you think it strange you do not hear from us but the fact of it is we are surrounded with Rebels Wheeler between us and Nashville and Roddy south of us R.R. and telegraph communication has been cut off several days the Brigade has been out since the 31<sup>st</sup> and we have news that they fought all yesterday afternoon at Elkton on Elk River below here. Every one here at the Post is under arms and we have barricaded the Court House and sleep on our arms at night we have orders to hold the Court

House at all Hazzards and  
we propose to hold it no matter  
what force comes against us  
we have about 100 men under  
arms here the rest being  
out under the General. all  
the doors and windows are  
filled up and we have  
Rations and Water for some  
time. We have been looking  
for them to come in for  
three days. One night we  
worked all night fixing  
our Coast Defense last night  
I lay down at 2 a.m. there  
are exciting times here and  
we dont know what will  
come next. Georgia is out  
with the Command they  
are only twelve miles below  
us and last reports say  
that Starbuck said he would  
hold them in check until

reinforcements could reach him.  
We have not had any letters  
for five or six days - I don't  
know what time this letter  
will reach you as it may be  
some time before I will  
have a chance to send it.

I will write more before  
I mail it -

September 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. -

I will write you more to  
day so as to keep you posted  
since the 3<sup>rd</sup> there has been a  
good deal of work done here  
and the Rebs are still around  
us. Our forces that went  
south done their work and  
they returned and are now  
north of this place where  
Wheeler is - Gen. Thompson  
came up from below with  
the 6<sup>th</sup> Ind and 102 Ohio  
and 36<sup>th</sup> Ills and a Brigade

Brigade of Cavalry and  
Artillery which added to  
our force here makes us  
safe and also gives us  
enough men to capture  
Wheeler. Rosseau is on  
the other side of Wheeler  
he has driven him from  
Franklin to this place he  
is now between two fires  
He can hear the Cannons  
and musketry very plain  
from here. Rosseau has had  
several fights with him  
and whipped him every  
time - He received the news  
that Atlanta was ours with  
20000 prisoners on Sunday  
He has communication open  
to the south but nothing  
from the North - He hasn't out  
seen a paper or letter  
since the 31<sup>st</sup> - I will  
have a channel to write  
more before I can meet

Sept 9/1864

September 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

As there is some prospect of a  
mail going off tomorrow  
I will write you more this  
P.M. - He and still safe here  
all the troops are out after  
heeler - Georgie left here on  
Monday night with Genl  
Gronyos Command to  
go down towards Lawrenceburg  
and Florence. The 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup>  
are both with Gronyos we  
heard this morning that they  
had been in several battles  
since Tuesday morning -  
There is only 9 of our company  
along. Jo Baker Georgie and  
Edt Brunkam are all of our  
Boys that are with them.  
I have not heard from Georgie  
since he left but suppose  
he is safe

Geo Brantam. Alex Smitha Will  
Robinson and myself are  
all on duty here at the  
Court House and can not  
leave or we would have gone  
along - I am afraid Wheeler  
will get out if he does it  
is too bad for we had plenty  
of troops to capture him.  
We had three Maj Gen's and  
three Brigadiers after him  
in all about 20000 I think  
they ought to have got him  
it is true a great deal of  
our force was defending not  
of much use except to hold  
stock ads and forts & towns.

We have come to the conclusion  
that we will not have  
a fight here, but I suppose  
you have heard that Inlaski  
was captured and probably  
that we were Prisoners I would

have telegraphed you if I could  
but the telegraph wires were  
down North - Maj Williamson  
came up from Decatur yesterday  
our Boys there <sup>are</sup> all well.

I am very anxious to hear  
from Home and also to see  
a paper it has been a long  
piece for us here not to hear  
one word from any where  
for so long - But I  
must close now I have  
written a long letter and  
must of it bring great  
excitement and you will  
probably find it a mixed  
up mess - give my  
love to all I then owe one  
a letter and you owe one  
from so catch up as soon  
as possible -

~~Yours aff~~  
Yours aff  
James B. Safford

[[Safford Correspondence #19]]

[[Page 1- Letter]]

[[embossing print of dog- TURNURES]]

Office Pro Mar  
Pulaski Ten  
Sept 3<sup>d</sup>  
1864

Dear Father

I Expect you think  
it strange you do not hear  
from us but the fast of  
it is we are surrounded  
with Rebels Wheeler between  
Ky and Nashville and  
Roddy south of us R<sup>l</sup>R<sup>d</sup>  
and telegraph communication  
has been cut off several  
days the Brigade has been  
out since the 31<sup>st</sup> and  
we have news that they fought  
all yesterday afternoon at Elkton  
on Elk River below here. Every  
one here at the Post is under  
arms and we have Barricaded  
the Court House and sleep  
on our arms at night we  
have orders to hold the Court

[[Page 2- Letter]]

Horse at all Hazzards and  
we propose to hold it no matter  
what force comes against us  
we have about 100 men under  
arms here the Rest being  
out under the General. All  
the doors and windows are  
filled up and we have  
Rations and Water for some  
time We have been looking  
for them to come in for  
three days. One night we  
worked all night fixing  
our Court House last night  
I lay down at 2a.m. these  
are exciting times here and  
we don't know what will  
come next Georgie is out  
with the command they  
are only twelve miles below  
us and last reports say  
that Starkweather said he could  
hold them in Chick until

[[Page 3- Letter]]

reinforcements could reach him.

We have not had any letters for five or six days – I don't know what time this letter will reach you as it may be some time before I will have a chance to send it.

I will write more before I mail it –

September 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

I will write you more to day so as to keep you [[one word]] since the 3<sup>rd</sup> there has been a good deal of work done here and the Rebs are still around us. Our forces that went south done there work and they returned and are now North of this place where Wheeler is – Gen Granger came up from below with the 6<sup>th</sup> Ind and 102 Ohio and 36<sup>th</sup> Ills and a Brigade

[[Page 4- Letter]]

Brigade of Cavalry and  
Artillery which added to  
our Force here makes us  
safe and also gives us  
Enough men to capture  
Wheeler. Rose an is on  
the other side of Wheeler  
he has driven him from  
Franklin to this place he  
is now between two fires  
We can hear the cannons  
and musketry very plain  
from here. Rosecan has had  
several fights with him  
and whipped him every  
time – We recieved the news  
that Atlanta was ours with  
[[20000?]] prisoners on Sunday  
We have communication open  
to the south but nothing  
from the North – We have not  
seen a paper or letter  
since the 31<sup>st</sup> – I will  
have a chance to write  
more before I can mail it

[[Page 5 - Letter]]

[[different handwriting in pencil:]] Sept 9/1864

[[embossing print of dog- TURNURES]]  
September 9<sup>th</sup>/ 64

As there is some prospect of a  
mail going off tomorrow  
I will write you more this  
P.M. – We are still safe here  
all the troops are out after  
heeler – Georgie left here on  
Monday night with Gnr  
Grangers command to  
go down towards Lawrenceburg  
and Florence the 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup>  
are both with Granger we  
heard this morning that they  
had been in several Battles  
since Thursday morning –  
There is only 9 of our company  
along – Jo Baker Georgie and  
Ed Branham are all of our  
Boys that are with them.

I have not heard from Georgie  
since he left but suppose he is safe

[[Page 6- Letter]]

Gen Branham. Alex Smitha Will  
Robinson and myself are  
all on Duty here at the  
Court House and can not  
leave or we would have gone  
along – I am afraid Wheeler  
will get out if he does it  
is too bad for we had plenty [[ink stain]]  
of troops to capture him.

We had three Maj Genls and  
three Brigadiers after him  
in all about 20 000 I think  
they ought to have got him  
it is true a great deal of  
our Force was infantry not  
of much use except to hold  
stockades and Forts + Farms.

We have come to the conclusion  
that we will not have  
a fight here, but I suppose  
you have heard that Pulaski  
was captured and probably  
that we were Prisoners I would

[[Page 7- Letter]]

have telegraphed you if I could  
but the telegraph wires were  
down North – Maj Williamson  
came up from Decatur yesterday  
our Boys there are all well.

I am very anxious to hear  
from Home and also to see  
a paper it has been a long  
siege for us here not to hear  
one word from any where  
for a so long -- But I  
must close now I have  
written a long letter and  
most of it during great  
Excitement and you will  
probably find it a mixed  
up mess – give my  
love to all Helen owes me  
a letter and you owe me  
four so catch up as soon  
as possible -

Your Off son  
James B. Safford