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## S. A. J. Clark to his Father (23 May 1863)

Squire A. J. Clark

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7th 1863

Camp near Jackson May  
Dear Father I seat my self to  
write you a few lines to let you  
know how I am getting along I am  
well & hoping these few lines  
will find you all enjoying the  
blessing Father I have all time  
to write you I saw in the mem  
his appeal that Benton & his  
was killed in Benton was killed  
the paper did not say who  
was wounded at whether  
I do not Father we got in  
the day <sup>of the battle</sup> that I was  
never fired a gun they like to  
ben cut off we was held in reserve  
we was on the right & had to  
go to the left we ran quick  
if we had not ben there long  
before we was ordered back in

Sooble quick we went about one  
mile & formed a line of battle.  
& sent out skirmishers & the yan-  
kies was shooting at us on  
each side with there long range  
guns there was one of our men  
wounded in the foot we had  
orders to retreat & by this time  
the yankees had got nearly all  
round us ~~we~~ by this time it was  
nearly night the yankees thought  
they had us in their clausse but  
they was mightly mistaken we  
had Gen. Forney with us we  
went through a little creek bottom  
you couldent hardly see the man  
that was before you we went  
towards vicksburg got in two  
miles of big black & then turned  
south we traveled on that

way until nearly day & then  
turned east we crossed the  
river about twenty five miles  
below Jackson we come up to  
Jackson I was on duty nearly all  
of my time for four or five  
days & nights I was nearly worn  
out my feet was blistered in several  
places we lost all of our artillery  
that belong to the brigade we had  
to give them up or be taken <sup>by</sup> our  
general I dont believe in that he  
told us to follow him if we  
could the most of the boys  
~~that~~ got out I think there is a  
bout two taken that belong to  
our company one was glass &  
S. Laster. W. J. young is missing  
but I think he is in vicksburg  
he ~~is~~ was detailed to stay with

I dont know where to tell you  
of dont know where to tell you  
I think we have as the boy says  
of dont know where to tell you

Dr Blackwell & I think they made  
their escape we left George with  
them & he is gone to I have  
heard that Dr Blackwell got to  
Wicksburg, but I dont know how  
true it is I hate loosing George  
but its was every man take care  
of theirselves Pemberton sent  
a dispatch to  
Gen Johnson that Gen Loring  
& his Division was captured  
but he was mistaken it looks  
like we was sole but they  
didnt get abilligale of us one  
or two more such will stop  
the boys from fighting for him  
I must close give my love to  
all, tell mother & Betie & Sallie  
I write to them soon father  
write soon I remain your  
son & death. S. A. P. Clark