

Camp near Chattanooga Tenn

June 14th 1862

for M & T. A. Love:

Dear parents!

After a long delay I have an opportunity to give you some information of my whereabouts and condition = We were started from Corinth about 6 or 7 weeks ago and came up to Lamb's ferry where Scott's cavalry had just had a brush with some of the enemy near Athens or near Elk river - they became after a while too strong for him and compelled him to recross both the Elk and Tennessee = when we got to the ferry (on the Tennessee) it took us about ten days to cross our forces and wagons after crossing some four or five hundred of our Regt & the Kentucky 1st Regt went on a scout and killed and made prisoners of 69 of the enemy at a place on Elk River about thirty miles from where we crossed the Tenn a few days afterwards the most of the Ky 1st & our Regt (the 1st Texas Rangers or 8th Texas Cavalry) went on another scout up Elk River and were cut off from our wagons by about 4000 of the enemy's forces consisting in part of infantry & part cavalry - we started immediately toward Winchester Tenn picking up their couriers and spies as we went until we got to Winchester we lay about that place a few days when we learned that some 1500 or 1800 of the enemy had come from Huntsville on the hunt for us we started about day light with the intention of surprising them but had not gone far when we learned that they after marching

a good part of the night were at Winchester we turned about and returned toward Winchester but were going in south of town when the enemy discovered us and shot a few shells at us doing however but very little harm - We returned to our camp and scouted about the town for some days and finally about 250 of us in making a scout concluded to attack the town or rather the enemy that were in it in the charge we were in view of town for more than half a mile - we caught 7 of their pickets in about 200 yds of the public square and charged on till the front of the column who were Kentuckians and a few Rangers were up in the square one of the Figs was killed and 3 or 4 wounded one of them mortally there was but little firing done when we retreated as we at first intended we do not know whether we killed ~~any~~ of them or not ~~Some~~ one said three were killed on the bridge as we were going in - another fellow said he saw one lying under the bridge but I saw none there - it was also said that some of them were killed in the Court house but there is no way of knowing the truth about it unless the enemy tell it themselves which they are not likely to do as they reported that they had killed 36 of us which they knew to be false in as much as they could not have known that they had killed but one of us - we camped that night in about 6 miles of them - They were so badly scared that they threatened to kill the people of the town if they were attacked that night - they started during the night at double quick for Huntsville ^{where they arrived} 45 miles distant before night of that day - we passed back through the town next day and returned to our old camping place with the view of crossing the mountains to Chatanooga We crossed the mountains the next day into Sequoia valley and the next

day we crossed the Tennessee River Gen^l Adams with the 7th Regt
Remaining in the Valley - in a few days a force of 4000 or 5000 of the
enemy came very near surprising the 7th's having crossed the Mountains
behind us a strong force came up from Huntsville between the River and
the Mountains with the intention no doubt of hemming us up in this
valley and they would possibly have hemmed the 7th's if we had not been
watching them from this side of the river - We sent a few balls from
some of our cannon at them and our boys were frequently giving them
a taste of Confield's and Sharps rifle balls - from appearances they got
in a motion it was not good policy to show themselves very much
where our boys had a chance to shoot at them - they however
would get behind shelter and fire back at us very frequently but
did no damage at all whether our boys hit any of them is not known
a part of their forces came up opposite Chatamoga and shelled the town
a couple of days but did but little harm wounding only one or two men and
injuring a few houses to the amount of about fifty dollars worth - no one knows
what harm we did them - it is reported in camp though that some body
went over after the enemy left and found three graves in two of which there
were 15 men one of whom was thought to be a field officer and in the
third two cannon that had been dismounted by our guns - this may or
may not be true - The enemy are reported by a courier of this morning to be coming
up the river again - I do not feel warranted in writing about all that I
know is going on but feel certain from what I have learned that our
Officers are well informed of the enemys intentions - It is but few
times now that we can get any information from us to you. S. B. L.
sent me his pistol - I learned also that J. W. L. had gone with the horses - Sam
was well about two or three weeks ago when the balance of this regt left
for this place - I understand that Sam & John will if they are permitted

to live
until they can do so get transports and join this
Regiment - I hope they may be able to do so
I do not know but suppose ~~it is~~ with Texas
in Arkansas. I guess it is almost impossible
for us all to get together - but I hope the Almighty
will save our lives through this war until the
Southern Confederacy is fully established and at
peace with all the other nations of the world on
good and honorable terms and let us all meet together
with you again yet if it is the will of the Deity that
we should die in defence of our cause I hope we may
be permitted to meet again beyond the confines of time
I do not expect to go back to Texas until this war
ends in a recognition of our government by the
Northern government

May the God of heaven bless and protect us from
Spiritual evils

Yours in filial regard
O. W. Love

P.S.

I am well - the Regiment is in good health and all have been
in remarkably good health since we left Corinth

Yours
O. W. L.