

Little Rock, June 23, 1863.

Dear father for the first time since I have  
been out - I seat myself for the purpose  
of writing to you - I have written to Ellen  
time and again but have received no answer  
I suppose she has not received them I know  
that if she had received them she would have  
answered me - I have not heard from home  
since I left there was a fight at the  
fort in which we had about 3 or 4 thousand  
men taken we had 150 men killed and  
about 200 wounded the feds lost 2000  
killed and as many wounded it is said that  
they took them to St Louis John & Tom  
were taken Prisoners a great many of the boys  
got away some of them after they were taken  
the feds did not take or spike any of the  
guns they were scared so bad by McCantons  
with his army I have been sick over two  
thirds of the time it has been raining and  
snowing all the time since we have been in  
this state ~~now~~ I would like to have Bob  
come and stay in my place a while it is impos-  
sible for a man to get a furlough unless  
he is a favorite of the officers or he will honey  
them another reason for my wanting bob  
to come is my horse has been sick and  
is now so poor that he is not fit to use if  
bob can come he can come to Little Rock

and find out when we are going  
to Desark now or stay some time to better  
for the arroyo and will be with Col  
Parsons Regt. He (Col) can find a by asking  
at the Contrary House in Little Rock  
There will be some one coming almost  
any time if he should come I do not  
want him to stay more than one or two  
months tell Ellen that I am trying  
to contact myself as near right as  
possible I have not learned to swear  
nor drink there is not three men  
in camp but what does that give  
my love to all the family and accept  
the same yourself tell ma that I  
want some milk and butter badly let  
her come if she can by the time she  
can get here it will be getting warmer  
than it is now let him ride little grey  
a horse of his make and size and is better  
than a larger one I must close give  
my love to all my friends friends  
nothing more from your affectionate  
son

Joseph Love

Direct your letters to Little Rock  
Arkness, care of Texas Rangers