

Near Camp, about 25 miles S.W.
from Shelbyville Tenn
Feb. 18th 1863

Gas Mr J A Loves:

Dear parents:

I recd your letter of Dec. 21st day before yesterday this leaves me in good health my weight is about 150^{lbs} about one month ago I weighed 155^{lbs} this is several ^{lb} more than I ever weighed in Texas - Jerry Melie has been affected very much for several days past with a severe cold which makes his breast very sore Dick Oliver Bill Lynch and in fact all the Limestone County boys are in good health except now and then a head ache back a che or some other small affliction of such kind as these. There is hardly any thing of a general news character that you would not be likely to hear before you could through a letter from me but I will write a little about our Ft Donaldson trip. First we started from Shelbyville about the last of last month and went by gary marches out by Franklin and Charlotte having very bad wet and snowy weather nearly the whole trip. We got to the Ft in some seven or eight days there was a good deal of snow on the ground but the skies were clear the evening we attacked the Ft it was attacked about One O'clock in the evening and they fought on till near night - the enemy learned that we were coming about the time we were in seven miles of the Ft and just as

we got in sight of the place two Steam boats
left in a great hurry and in a few hours gun
Boats & Mortar boats and reinforcements came
from above and below. Our boys drove the
Yankees from their rifle pits back into the Ft
and expected to renew the attack after night but
this was abandoned as soon as the reinforce-
ments came to the enemy. The Rangers were
not in the fight having been sent out on
the road towards Ft Henry to prevent reinforce-
ments from coming in that direction after
we had taken our position these Yankee cour-
iers coming from the Ft and going in the
direction of Ft Henry were captured and
one of our pickets on going to their stands
met about twenty Yankee cavalry one of them
fired on the Yankees killing one of their horses
the whole regiment then took position thinking
those they had seen were only the advance of
the enemy in force but they soon found
out that they were only a scouting party
The result of the fight was that a good many
of our men were killed and the Ft was
not taken I expect a good many of the enemy
were killed one piece of artillery cut down and
a very fine Brass piece Globe sighted and
rifled was captured by the 2nd Georgia Cavalry
and we brought it away with us. The
undertaking from the beginning was a foolish thing

Since our Brigade quit picketing above
Shelbyville at a little town called Middleton
about half way between Shelbyville and Mur-
freesboro and while we were gone to St. L.
the Yankees made a dash on the pickets
and took about 60 of them prisoners and
I am very much afraid they have got
Cousin John Webb they took old uncles man
last summer and kept him in prison till
he died because he would not take the
oath to support their government
and they threatened to hang John
if they could get him and I am very
much afraid they have got him this time

I have heard nothing from any of the
boys later than your letter we have the report
that Vandorn is coming here with about
12 000 men if this is so the boys will
possibly be here in a short time.

I got a letter from Capt. W. L. Moody at the
same time I got yours it seems that
great numbers of the boys have died out
of the old company Capt. Moody is not
well himself - The Almighty has protected
me through all the dangers that have surround-
ed me during the war and I hope will
still continue to protect me he has spared
all your family up to this time. I am
very sorry to learn that go^d Douglass is dead

From all that I can learn there is
a strong probability that we will have
peace in a short time I hope it may
be before any more fighting takes place
as I am heartily sick of such slaughter
a battle field is a horrid looking sight
and I want to see no more of them
Of course I would not want peace
except on terms honorable to our-
selves but from the tone of the Southern
papers I think the Northern people
are willing to give us whatever we
may ask for ourselves so we but grant
them free trade free navigation of the
Mississippi and make mutual
agreement to maintain the Monroe
Doctrine - the Yankee armies are
very tired of the war and I suppose are
deserting very rapidly from Mississippi
to the Potomac at least this is the
report we have here I am at the
house of a Mr. Haffery some two miles
from camp - I am out of Money just at
this time but will be payed off soon again
I have not written very often but have not
had much chance Hoping this will
find you all with I will cease writing

Yours with fraternal regard
C. W. Low

Tell Ellen I saw two of her uncles near Middleton
in Rutherford County I think