

Swygert Bedford County
Tenn

March 25th 1863

Genl W. H. T. A. Louis!

Dear parents!

It has been but a little while since I wrote to you but having a good chance with a good pen and ink and tolerable paper I write again that you be the more certain of hearing from me. I am not well at this time and have not been for some time past but have not felt much debilitated until within the last three or four days. I have been having Diarrhoea with loss of appetite and slight inward fever! almost the entire Regt are in a similar condition. Dick Oliver has been so for some time and is out in the country. Jim Lynch & Terry Bell are at the wagons they are however able to do duty at this time. On account of the conduct of some of the men of the various Cavalry Regts about this army we are now under tighter orders than ever before. We have Roll Call five times a day whether in camp or on the march any man missing roll call three times in succession without leave of absence from a Brigade or Major General is to be put in irons sent to the rear of the army, his horse and arms to be taken from him and be put into the nearest Infantry regt from his state and other instances where they are absent without leave for a few days they are to be considered deserters and shot accordingly. I have heard nothing from Sam. & John in a good while I have not been able to learn yet whether Phillips Brigade is with this army or not there are however about ten thousand of Vandoren's men atones about Columbia they had a fight near

Franklin some time ago in which there were some
twenty two or three hundred prisoners taken and report
has it that we lost about one hundred men killed
wounded and missing about thirty of them killed. There
has been some skirmishing along the picket lines but with
the exception of the fight at Fosterville on the half way
ground Shelbyville and Murfreesboro and Van Dorn there
has been none of any consequence since the battle of Murfreesboro.
I heard some time ago of the fall of Arkansas Ft but did not
know until lately that any of our ones were captured there.
We have heard from Philip Kennedy and Wm. Laughler Jr. and
I wrote last they were taken prisoners at Murfreesboro
and at some point as they were on their way North each of them
met a brother who had been taken at Arkansas Post - I suppose
they will be exchanged soon if it has not already been done.

There will no doubt be an important move here in a short time
& forage is getting very scarce in the vicinity of the army and
it is very hard to get in some places at all in fact considerable numbers
are destitute and it has to be hauled to them from a considerable distance.
There is therefore a necessity for a march and if Providence spare
me until I see the march through all its course I will write
you what it is. Write us often as convenient and let me know all about
home and things thereabout. I would like very much to see grand pa again. I saw Col
J. Webb a few days ago he and family were in good health they are at Acton Kings about four miles
from here now but it is hard to get an opportunity to go to see them. Come God day he is going to see
when I go out after the war - May the almighty grant us the privilege - Yours in that regard &c
I learned a day or two ago that uncle Andrew was at home by a letter from Elizabeth
written to John and Sam but directed through me take to me. } B. W. Love