

Pleasant Hill Franklin Co Ark March the 30th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I write you these few lines more to let you know how to direct your letters than for any other purpose though I will tell you what little I have learned since I wrote my last. I will first speak of the late battle at the Elk horn tavern near the line of Mo- and Ark-. What I have learned is this & I learned it from a Lieut- Martin that was a prisoner in the hands of the Fed- at the time the battle was going on and saw it all. He was from our Regt- E3. The Federal General had thrown up breast works across the telegraph road that was a mile long and expected the attack to be made in that direction but instead of taking that road our army took the Bentonville road and turned the right flank of their breast- works and attacked them on the flank and in the rear Gen- Price going to the rear. While this was being done Gen- Beigel sent to Gen- Curtis for reinforcements and artillery but he would not send it for two hours believing that the attack in that quarter was only a ploy to draw off his forces from the breastworks so that they could be taken by storm. Lieut Martin says that if on Friday evening they had been attacked by all our force the last one of them could have been taken for Gen- Price was on one side of them and Gen McCullough's brigade was on the other and it is certain that if Gen McCullough had not been killed the attack would have been made but as soon as Van Dorn heard of his death he & Van Dorn was whipped and he was the only man in our ranks except

Gen Pike's Fleet was ever whipper for all that were in it say that they were not whipped for the simple reason that they did not get so fire a gun. There was several thousand of our men that did not fire a gun.

General Brandom has lost the confidence of the army on account of the way he has acted in this first battle.

The boys are all well or were well when I heard from them last. I took the flux a few days before the reg^t left and could not go with it but I am well now and expect to follow them tomorrow.

They left here this day week for Jackson port it is at the mouth of Black River. I did not stay at winter quarters but I am two miles from there in a house where I have been treated as well as ~~it~~ it was possible. ~~Well~~

The lady is the kindest most motherly old lady I ever met. I have nothing more to write to you now. So accept the filial regards of your son

Direct your letters to Jackson Port Ark Sam