

Camp Washington Ark Dec = The 5<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear father as  
Mr Sharpe is going to start home in the  
morning I thought I would write you a few lines  
to let you know how we are getting on & what  
we have been doing since I wrote my last.  
I wrote from Camp Evans on the 15<sup>th</sup> of last  
month. We were then camped near the line of Mo =  
"The next day after I wrote an order come for us to  
march within two hours to Springfield. We were  
ready at the allotted time & soon on the march."  
The fourth day about 10 o'clock we marched into the  
town <sup>but we</sup> found nobody ~~was~~ there to oppose us = Gen  
McCallough sent out a scouting party to find out  
what they could about the enemy = Capt = Whites  
& Capt Bridges companies were the scouts so  
we started without any thing to eat & just as  
a heavy rain commenced falling & marched very  
fast till near night & camped next morning we  
marched 6 or 8 miles & took some union men but  
turned them loose they told us that we were  
surrounded by 5 or 6 companies of union & that 1000  
men or federal troops were in 10 miles of us & to confirm  
the report an old man that we there knew to be  
a good Southorn man told us the same & ~~from~~  
= ~~Quoted Capt. White to~~

tried to persuade Capt. White to turn back but he would not do it - but turned to the right - to see about the report went 6 miles & found that the report was false - we camped at a Mr Scotts an uncle of Mr Capt. Whites wife & he give us supper and breakfast. next morning early we were on the march for a town by the name of Lebanon 55 miles from Spr. - about 2 miles from Mr Scotts we over took 12 moving waggons & searched them for guns & found 15 or 16 guns they were moving North. We searched ~~over~~ 50 or 60 waggons during the day & found about 50 guns. We threw them all away but two Minnie rifles & 2 shot guns when we got to Lebanon the citizens of the town give us dinner & we turned back for Spr. & marched about 10 miles & camped. That night was the second that I stood guard during the scout & about 10 o'clock it commenced raining & rained till 12 & then it commenced blowing from the north & the way it was cold was not a little. next morning we started on for camp about 4 o'clock & marched 6 miles to a little town by the name of Derico. after we had gone half beyond the town the citizens sent for us to come back & they would get us breakfast so we turned back & got our breakfast. & started on our way. The wind blowing very cold. we marched on to Spr. without molestation. I shall bring this letter to a close as I have not time to write a long one.

My main object in writing this letter  
is to let you know that we are well all  
except Jasper Bowden & Frank Sharfa also  
to let you know that I had not received  
a letter from any of you the reason I  
cannot tell. Direct your letters to Fort Smith  
to the care of Captain Ross "Co. H" Stones  
regiment Texas Cavalry

Pa Sam finished his letter. & thought  
& would say a few words. partly to let the  
people of our country together with yourself  
know that & could write a short letter yet  
in a few days. & will write a general his-  
tory of our trip. All that & write for  
now is that & want something to eat &  
wish you would send me some butter a  
dozen or so of Eggs. tin about a peck of sweet  
milk up in a bag a hat full of sausages,  
when you kill hogs Pa & never hooked  
a hog in my life until & come up here  
& have been compelled to kill them up  
here we always took them from uncom men  
when we could get them - Yes & forgot  
send me a loaf of light bread made of short  
shorts & want to have a big toast out of  
the sweet milk butter & light bread

I have not been in good health for  
several weeks I had the flu about 8 weeks  
also I have had the diarrhea ever since or nearly so  
We have good clothing we have 3 good pair  
of pants & coats good boots though I believe our  
socks are about to run out. Send me a  
chew of tobacco & a pocket knife & all will  
be regular as till now and of the family good  
evening for me I havent been drunk since  
I left. now wont you send me the butter  
Good bye for to night  
John

Send  
N B Pa, when you direct your letters direct  
them to Smith cap, R. Co on Col stones. or  
Regiment McCulloch Brigade. Then we  
will get them by a direct at prep from there  
to our camp.  
J. W. S.