In Camp 12 miles from Brandon
August the 7th 1863

Dear Sister,

There has been an order from Gen. Johnston allowing all men out of every county five a furlough to go home or they allow all to go home but those living on the west side of the old Wiss river. But they have given furlough to several of our boys and they are going home at their own risk. They were drawn for and I was not fortunate enough to get one. Yes, I have but little news to write except what you have already heard. Everything looks very gloomy at present. Though we have a faith in the justice of our cause that makes me think that we will come out all right yet. There is one thing that causes everything to look more gloomy than the mere success of it is the desertion from our army. A very large number of our men have deserted in the last two months and it is going to make the service a great deal harder on those that are left. The desertion has been principally confined to the States of Missouri, Ill., Ken.
P. S. C. Though there has been more or less of it among all the state troops, Tennesse has had less than any of the states through there has been several distractions from our right and Whitfield's Brigade in the last six weeks. I fear not all had stay and done their duty like men instead of distracting our subjugation would have been a matter of impossibility for the if those they advance into our country the more men they will have to detach from their main force to protect their communications for our cavalry would keep the P.R.R. troops at all the time if they did not keep very strong guards at all the points and while it would be widening their force it would be concentrating ours.

I will simply state that Gen. Lee got the worst of a heavy battle in Pa. and has retreated back to Va. The extent of his losses is not known here thought there is no doubt it is very heavy. Gen. John J. Morgan and all his command went into Indiana and burned a great deal of Government Stores and it is reported with some degree of certainty that they were all captured at least it is generally believed. I do not know whether Cy was with him or not he was with Wheeler the last time I heard from him and I am in hopes that he is with him yet.

Sear. is stationed at the out post i but little to write that would be interesting and may better wait.
have to be a short one. I might write you a long letter about things that are so exciting that they would not interest you or anyone else.

We are lying in camp for a while. We may do so for some time yet, though it does not agree with me to do so for long, as I do not get well. I don't feel as well as when we are fighting.

John is able to be in camp again and I am in hopes he will continue so. I have more hopes of him now than I have had in 6 or 7 months.

Dear Tom, Pete and all the other Limestone boys are in tolerably good health.

Yes, I want you to write me how everything is getting along in the country. Generally and send it by some one of those that are on guard. I will try to get Lt. McAnn to come by Father as he is going home. There is one thing I had like to have forgot. You stated in your last letter that you had heard of something that I had been guilty of some misconduct that was disgraceful. I would not like to know what it is for I am not aware of anything what I have done that would have disgraced me at home even. I would also like to know who was the kind informant. However, it was better informed than I was for I was not aware of it. There are a few men in our ranks that will do almost anything and they at times become almost a disgrace to the Regt.
For myself I have endeavored to do nothing that I would be ashamed of here after. 

Tell me, give my love to Fannie and tell her that I would be glad to receive a few lines from her. Give my love to Mollie Serena and Lou.

The reason I do not write to any of them is because I have written several times since receiving any word from them. I will expect a letter from Mollie and Serena when the boys come back.

Give my love to all the family and relations, and tell Fannie to write to me for I have not forgotten her and I want her to consider my letters as much to her as any one of the family.

I will now have to close by sending my love to you and all the others of the relatives and friends.

Your brother Sam.

P.S. To Mother,

Pete rode in to the country and bought some of the finest sugar I ever saw in my life. The sports are as large as a Pea and I send you some in your next letter.

If you think you can send us clothing this winter let us know. As we must not buy if you attempt to send us some. Write by the freights.

Yours A.G.