



Middletown, 14 miles from
Harpers Ferry, Monday, Sept 15.

My dear parents,

I know you must
be wondering what has become of
me. & I assure you there has not
been an hour of the day since
that I have not wished to write
to you but really every minute
of my time has been occupied.
Last Sunday, (yesterday week) we
got marching orders, about 3 o'clock
in the morning, & by 8 o'clock
were on the way south, we had to
leave most everything, only taking
rations, shelter tent, & blankets.

all little comforts & conveniences
had to be left, only one shirt, &
that on our backs, one pair of
stockings, I was very glad to hear
from you just as we left, & hope
to hear again very soon. The first
day we came 50 miles to Tenby-town
& stayed over night, next day 10 miles

To Rockville, where our whole regt
was detailed as guard for ~~the~~
Genl. McCallans headquarters, we
lay over here one day, & the next
morning the head-quarters moved
seven miles further on, next day
15 miles, & since then have
come 14 miles more, so for the
past week we have had quite a
tramp, the only effect on me
is 4 blisters on one foot, & 3
on the other, but if we can
only get one days rest, I am
good for 75 miles this week.
Well, here is our mail come & I have
got what I would rather have
than \$10, a letter from home, ~~and~~
sweet home, & now I think I
must take the last bit of paper
I have got to answer it on, though
I expected to save it for next
time. Oh! how I do love to
get a letter from home, "not
that I love my country less, but
I love home best."

I wish you could have seen
the sight. I witnessed all day
yesterday, a battle, from about
a mile distant. I got so excited
I did not know what to do, we had
a perfect view of both sides & as
one side of the other gained or lost
so our spirits went up & down,
but night closed on the scene
without any apparent victory for
either side, our men lost quite a
large number, the rebels must have
suffered severely as we saw shells from
our guns burst right in their ranks
you must not think anything of my
mentioning my not being well, it
was only for a few days & now
I feel the health & strength in every
inch of my body, I never enjoyed
such perfect health in my life.
You had not better do anything
about the box, as it will only
make a mess, & not amount to any
thing. Our Col. & Major have not

joined the regt. as you say you
saw in the paper. Your led is
Butter yet, we like him well.
I have got to cut this off.
we cant get 10 minutes rest.
all I can say is, Dont enlist
my dear father, if you have
the least regard for my
feelings, it would just kill
me. I am so sorry to have
to stop, but I will write
again, the next minute I have
do write the longest kind of
letters full of good counsel
& advice, your ever devoted
son

Fred