

July 20, 1862 - "I have had quite a job to get around with all the sick & wounded but did it all up before I stopped for a moment for rest." News of Murfreesboro from Surgeon William M. Eames letter home to his wife in Ohio



Union Coll. Hospital

July 20th 1862

Dearest wife,

It is 1 o'clock P. M. & I have just returned from dinner. . . I know you will be kind enough to read all my trash & pretend you like it so I am encouraged to try to scribble a little for you. I know you will be kind enough to read all my trash & pretend you like it so I am encouraged to try to write often in order to make up for lost time. I am here all alone today—Dr. F. having gone to Nashville yesterday for Med. Stores & try to get some letters. I have had quite a job to get around with all the sick & wounded but did it all up before I stopped a moment for rest.



There are several very bad wounds—but no very dangerous cases of sickness. The whole number of cases in [the] Hospital is about 100, there being only 116 in the whole. We sent off yesterday about 60 and 70, which thinned us out very considerably. Today they begin to come in again. Dr. M. C. Woodworth called today & left 9 sick & said he was sick & was going to try to get in to the Hospital if he could get anyone to take his place in the Reg. but the assistant is home & he is pretty much tied up.

Today Margaret & another colored woman have turned up after an absence of just a week. They all run off on the morning of the attack but three & one of them was wounded with a ball & could not run & the other two were women & were caught & taken home by their masters & one of them I have since learned was most unmercifully flogged. Margaret says she went out 10 miles & was kept hid. Her master came here from Ky. & wanted her but could not find her. Several other Slave owners were here but I did not pay them much attention. Had enough to attend to of my own affairs to keep any of the men around the Hospital from going after the rebel officers to get *paroled* as *prisoners*. John Morrison—one of the cooks—sneaked down town & came back with a cursed *rebel parole*. I told him it was the highth of meanness & that I should report him as having deserted to the enemy on purpose to be taken prisoner. All the rest of the boys are down on him & he really looks as tho' he had been sick. He came up and told me the next day that he would give a thousand dollars to undo what he had done & wanted to know what to do. I told him to do as before & if the rebels caught him again & hung him it would then *be all right*. I told them all that they had got to do duty as usual & run their *own risk*. I cant stand such infernal rascality—it is bad enough to think of the disgrace of the surrender by that miserable cowardly Lester.

But we are now safe from any further raids & Gen. Nelson is putting the rebels through on the double quick. Yesterday he issued a Proclamation ordering the

citizens having U. S. property to bring it in to the Court House by today or they would be severely dealt with & you ought to see them skedaddle to the Court House with their traps. Stacks & piles of guns—cartridge boxes, pistols—cutlasses, officers ['] trunks—mess kits etc., etc. Gen.; N. keeps the Court House full of prisoners all the time & is constantly sending them off to Nashville for refusing to take the oath of allegiance. He has impressed teams of darkeys to do the work of hauling from where the cars stoop to town & disturbs the quiet of the town generally.

The only loss we have sustained is that of our team to draw wood & water & our payroll—which was made out & signed by all except. Gen. Crittenden and it was there for him to sign when he was gobbled up. I think Gen. C. must feel big over the affair to be hauled out of bed the second night of his stay here by a lot of dirty Texas Rangers and made to canter off to Dixie for his *first* after being made a Brigadier. I think I got off remarkably well. A Capt of the 3rd Min Reg staid with me last night who had just come in from the tram pt McMinnville - & had *made his escape*. He gave a very interesting account of his adventures & must have had some hair breadth escapes. Says he paid a man 60 doll's to pilot him in by way of Wartrace. He got a suit of butternut clothes & looked as tho' he was a secesh & talked so - & was mistaken for one when he arrived at Wartrace & found some difficulty in getting away. They would not believe that he was a U. S. officer in that rig. His name is Capt. Mills.

Barnes is nearly well now & the rest are getting well—myself included. Hav'nt got so as to smoke yet. Wish you would send my *notice of appointment* as Surgeon to 21st Reg in your next letter. You will find it among some of the papers I left when I was at home last. It is a small affair but maybe the means of getting mileage from Orwell to Findlay. It is signed by Gov. Dennison or Buckingham. Send it as *quick as possible*. I may be ready to leave here in two weeks or a little more, tho' I have not heard a word whether the resignation is accepted. I fear that Col Norton's absence may make a difference but trust that it will be all right.

Yours as ever,

Wm. M. Eames

