

Camp of St. Peter's Bay
3/4 miles North Bay
Kennebec near Cutler
Main Dec 14th 1853

Dear Brother

I sent you a
hasty written note week
ago last Friday. We had just
got out of prison and felt
highly elated to think we were
to have a little rest. Saturday
I was very sore all day
working for we had hardly
had our boots off for 4 weeks
and the change to lay aside
tools and equipments was a
great relief. Just at night
I wrote one page of a letter to
you intending to forward it
on the morrow, but we were
called away and ordered to

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Camp of the 9 Army Corp
34 miles North East of
Knoxville near Rutledge
Tenn Dec 14th 1863

Dear Brother:

I sent you a hastily written note week ago last Friday. We had just got out of prison and felt highly elated to think we were to have a little rest. Saturday I was busy most all day washing for we had hardly had our boots off for 6 weeks and a chance to lay aside rifle and equipments was a great relief. Just at night I wrote I wrote one page of a letter to you intending to finish it on the morrow, but we were called up early and ordered to

march with blankets
and tents cloths only. We
started early marched 12 miles
We supposed we were only to
be gone two or three days but
we marched Monday 9 miles
Tuesday 14 which brought us
here and here we are now
What far is more than I
can guess. The most reason-
-able supposition is that we
came this way to push the
robs and of Henry and that we
remain here because we can
get corn meal flour & fresh
meat for man and forage
for beasts articles pretty scarce
about Knoxville. I am feeling
remarkably well now Short
rations agree with my health
better than my appetite. We started
Sunday with half a lb. of corn cob
meal made into pudding and

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march with tent cloths only. We started earky marvched 12 miles We supposed we were only to be gone two or three days but we marched Monday 9 miles Tuesday 14 which brought us here and here we are now What for is more than I can guess. The most reasonable supposition is that we came this way to push the rebs out of Tenn and that we remain here because we can get corn meal flour & fresh meat for man and forage for beasts articles pretty scarce about Knoxville. I am feeling remarkably well now Short rations agree with my health better than my appetite. We started Sunday with half a lb. of corn cob meal made into puding and

got half a lb. of fresh beef one
day's ration. Tuesday we drew
two "hard backs" which would
amount to about the same
as 3 Bakers crackers and half lb.
of beef. Wednesday half lb. of flour
Thursday half lb. of meal the
same. Friday and Sat. with
beef. But they can't starve old
soldiers so. Two meals a day
were made of roasted corn
brovored in a spider over
an old piece of tin. Officers
could only draw the same as
soldiers and I guess there was
20 bushels of corn brovored &
crunched by the men and
officers of our Division. It
tasted good and we learned
how the rebels lived and
marched on a little flour &
meat. The rebels retreated over
this road only the day before.

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half a lb. of fresh beef one days ration Tuesday we drew two "hard tact" which would amount to about the same as 3 bakers crackers and half lb. of beef. Wednesday half lb. of flour Thursday half lb. of meal the same Friday and Sat with beef. But they can't starve old soldiers so Two meals a day were made of rosted corn browned in a spider on an old piece of tin Officers could only draw the same as soldiers and I guess there was 20 bushels of corn browned & crunched by the men and officers of our Division It tasted good and we learned how the rebls lived and marched on a little flour and meal The rebls retreated over this road only the day before

us and took all they could
and take. We concluded we
must play Reb & so as soon as
jams were stacked hundreds
were stringing off for something
to eat most all took their
rifles and the first hen turkey
gase pig or calf in sight got a
bullet through its head and come
into camp. Quite quiet all the
time night & day for the first two
days we were here the country for
10 miles around was alive. Quail
soldiers and colobes are pretty
nearby within 6 miles of camp.
We have found all the mules in the
vicinity & teams pick up corn &
wheat so to day we get full rations.
I went out Thursday and dropped
a pig and a mule. Got chicken
and fish with a peck of mace potatoes.
I got out of an old peccary's potato
hole made me and my tent made
a good breakfast. They belished
well after getting up. Most all night
caching them for fear we make
the next day. In your humble
service didn't get belished out of his

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us and took all they dared [?] and take. We concluded we must play Reb & so as soon as guns were stacked hundreds were stringing off for something to eat most all took their rifles and the first hen turkey goose pig or calf in sight got a bullet through its head and come into camp double quick All the time night & day for the first two days were here the country for 10 miles around was alive with soldiers and eatables are pretty scarce within 6 miles of camp We have pressed all the mills in the vicinity & teams pick up corn & wheat so to-day we get full rations I went out Thursday and dropped a pig and a nice fat chicken which with a peck of nice potatoes I got out of an old sesech's potato hole made me and my tent made a good breakfast they relished well after setting up most all night waking them for fear we move the next day. So your humble servant didn't get checked out of his

Just boarder. I was in Co G 9th reg
was wounded in the leg flesh
wound still the old soldiers say
it was the hottest & most desperate
fought battle they have ever seen in
I don't know when I shall have a
chance to send this but may not
write any more now Dec 15th
We were on picket last night
and to-day was waked up pretty
suddenly by a terrible volley from
the Rebel & our advance pickets
4 P.M. picket firing & some shells
thrown to-day quite warm & pleasant
has been for several days Dec 16th
Last night as we were sleeping
quietly at our lines on picket we
were at 12 o'clock ordered off across
the river on double quick we found
the city mostly deserted we being ^{about} the
last troops that crossed we march
ed back to our old camp put up our
tents & more feel at home The reason
for the sudden evacuation of the city

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[?] Lieu in Co G 9th NH. was wounded in the leg flesh wound All the old soldiers say it was the hottest & most deperite fought battle they have ever been in

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Dec 15th

We were on picket last night and to-day Was woke up pretty suddenly by a terrible volley from the Rebel & our advance pickets.

4 PM. Picket firing & some shells thrown to-day quite warm & pleasant has been for several days

Dec 16th

last night as we were sleeping quietly at our lines on picket we were at 12 o clock ordered off across the river on double quick we found the city mostly deserted we being about the last troops that crossed we marched back to our old camp put up our tents & now feel at home The reason for the sudden evacuation of the city

my shoulder felt a little pain
my legs feel rather tired and stiff otherwise
am well. I was rather a dirty looking
fellow this morning almost ^{wholly} covered
with mud together with the smoke &
powder blacked me up well. We were
relieved & ordered to the city ^{about} at 10 o'clock
Last night slept in an old house.
Our Reg. have lost nearly 200 men
according to this morning reports,
we killed wounded & missing our Co
loves nearly 200 men killed Corporal
Dodge & John Smith of Hillsboro on the
field John Smith was killed only a
few feet from me by a piece of shell
which struck him in the head he
died but a half an hour. Dodge
was killed almost instantly Charles
Holt was wounded slightly. I saw
Gibson wounded A. J. Crocker wounded
by a spent ball slightly. Our Capt. &
Lieut. were not injured Col. Ho.
has a muddy suit of clothes on but
is in good spirits Don't know of both
two Capt's being ~~both~~ wounded

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My shoulder feels a little [?] morning & I feel rather tired and stiff otherwise am well. I was rather a dirty looking fellow this morning almost wholly covered with mud together with the smock & powder blacked me up well. We were relieved & ordered to the city about 6 o'clock. Last night slept in an old house. Our Reg have lost nearly 200 men according to this morning reports, in killed wounded & missing our Co loses nearly 20 men killed, Corporal Dodge & John Smith of Hillsboro on the field John Smith was killed only a few feet from me by a piece of shell which struck him in the head he lived but half a minute Dodge was killed almost instantly Charles Hall was wounded slightly A.J. Crooker wounded by a half spent ball slightly Our Cap. & Lieu's were not injured Col. H. has a muddy suit of clothes on but is in good spirits Don't know of but two Capt's being wounded