

Flemming County, Kentucky

September 27, 1863

Dear Del,

I take this the first opportunity I have of letting you know of my whereabouts. ^I I arrived here last evening in good health and spirits. Found the boys all well and very glad to see me. Some of them are like yourself. They think the time passes a great deal faster when I am with them than when I am away. I had a good chase before I caught up. I was five days on the road. We are encamped out here in the woods hunting bushwackers who have been murdering burning and stealing all over this section of ^{Ky.} ~~Kentucky~~. for some time past. I do not expect we will find them as all they want is plunder and are not ^{at} disposed to run to great risks even to get that. We will have plenty of hard riding to do, but little fighting and run but little risk except of getting bushwhacked. We will probably remain in this section of Ky. till our time is out.

I commenced this several days ago, but just as I was fairly started, I received an order to report for special duty at Mayers (?) Head Quarters. I threw the paper in my trunk and rode down expecting to be back in the evening if not before but did not till last night. I was sorry as I knew you would be very anxious to hear from me. I was sent foraging for the Batt. and succeeded very well captureing (sic) all the corn and (oats) the teams could draw. The old Rebs did not like it very much but could not help it as I had a guard of 50 men to enforce my orders. I expect to go again this evening about 50 miles from here to arrest some men who murdered four Union men near here a few weeks ago. I shall be gone four or five days, and may see some fighting as they will not be taken if they can avoid it in any way.

I feel quite lonesome without you indeed I ^(sic) scarcely know how I will stand it for six months but will ^{in the army} have to I suppose. I am as pleasantly situated as it is possible (sic) ^{for me} to be

trust you are enjoying yourself as well as possible. (sic) And you must not allow my being in the army trouble you as it will not be long till I shall be free when you will see me often enough. When you write direct to Camp Garret Co. Flemming ~~County~~ Ky. via Maysville and it will reach here ^o same time. I find it pleasant to think of you Pet, which I do when ever alone and often in company. I know that I have some one to love me which is all I want. I am promising myself all the pleasure it is possible for me to enjoy in the future. I shall expect to hear from y (sic) often and will write as often as I can. I am writing this in the woods on the ground with a log for a desk which is the best Ky affords. I will try and send you another letter by next mail. Give my love to all at home tell them I should like to hear from them very much. Now mind Pet write me a dear good letter.

Your loving^G husband,

Steve R. Clark

P.S. When the roads get bad they may move us back to the river and if they should probably I may get to come and see you or you can come and see me. But I will keep you posted as to our movements.

Steve