

Fort Sumner Oct 10th 1849

Dear Del,

I arrived here this afternoon after a hard ride of three days over the mountains. We had a large force with us and, therefore had no fighting to do as they never buckwhuck a large force.

We captured several prisoners among them, one Lieut. Colonel and two of John Mergens men the others were genuine buckwhucks. I found your very welcome letter of the 6th ready and waiting for me. It did me more good than anything has for a long time. I had heard nothing from you, or any of my friends since I left for Ky. I knew you would write as soon as you heard from me, and an answer came in good time for such an out of the way place as this is. I was glad to hear that you were well and doing as well as could be expected in my absence. You need not fear that I will not come and see you as soon as I can, for you are not any more anxious to see me than I am to see you. But when I can come (if at all) I can not say. We expect to be moved from here before long where I can not say certainly but probably to Hillsborough, on the pike (National Road) about eight miles from here.

If I can get away for a few days then I will come and visit you. but if I should not succeed in getting away I will write often two letters a week when I am in camp or any where ~~else~~ I have an opportunity. They may not be very long or very interesting, but I think if you knew the circumstances under which they were written you would excuse me. If you know how glad I am to hear from you I think you would write very often (and I think you will). I was sorry I could not be with you at your Uncle's but could not avoid it. When I return we will have a good time visiting all our friends on both sides of the house. It will be getting married again all but the ceremony, which is not the interesting part any how. I have not the slightest objection to your having our friend May or any one else you may see fit to take for an escort as I have the utmost confidence in your integrity. It would not be fair to deprive you of all company merely because you were so unfortunate as to be married to one of uncle Sam's nephews. So you have my permission to go where when, and with who ever you please. You are sound on the photograph subject for it is certainly the faces that makes the frames look well. I will write in a day or two again. Give my love to all at home. You have all my love and may give away as much as you can spare.

Your loving husband
Steve R. Clarke