

Mar 24

Camp Smith, Near Barre

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mother

Dr. W. K. Kellogg has just been up here to see me and some of the other boys before he goes <sup>back to my College</sup> which will be tomorrow morning. He told me he would take any thing I had to send with the greatest pleasure and so I will take this opportunity to write to you all as it is now added that a mail goes or comes in or from this town of Barre as all the trains are taken by the Government, and a passenger

train passes but seldom,  
We have as you will see by the  
heading of my letter returned from  
Pickett duty which was ten miles  
across the Tenn. river then we  
now are and glad we all are  
to get back for we had a pretty  
rough time of it out there, with  
but little to eat, from the Government  
and were not allowed to buy any  
thing from the farmers and  
shoot our guns off so my  
foraging was but a stop to  
and I had to share like all  
the rest, (poorly) though we all  
got fat on it so I do not guess  
it did us any harm after all  
but on the contrary did some  
of us a great deal of good.  
Of some of the boys I started out  
there half sick and returned  
perfectly well.

we were at one time within three miles of the enemy but they retreated to their gun boats, and are now on the other side of the Tenn. River.

○ We are fortifying this place (Covington) very strongly and I do not think the Yankees will attempt to attack us here. Gen. Beauregard, Bragg, and Duggles are now here with several ~~other~~ Brigade Generals, so we are pretty well off for leaders.

○ We are now trying to get a band of music for our Regt. but I have not yet succeed though we have found or fix ones already. The way to get them is thus we go to all the Companies and ask if there are any musicians

among them if there are they are  
thru' to volunteer which they  
generally do as they are then  
exempt from military duty.

We are the only Regt around  
here without a band and we  
ought to have one, as we are able  
to support it if it would cost  
\$1000. a month, as that would only  
be \$1.00 a month apiece, for there  
are 1000 men in our Regt  
now, as we had an Alexandria  
Company of our 100 men years  
the other day.

With much love  
to all I remain yours aff  
Dear & Brother

E. G. Hodge.

~~This must answer  
for all~~