

Letter Number 53 written by Titus Moss on 11 March 1863

Camp Near Stafford C. H. March 11

My Dear Wife,

As I have not much to write that is interesting or new I will give a short account of my picket trip yesterday. J. Brooks and myself went from our cabin, had a real spring snow to start in which lasted till noon snowing fast and melting as fast. There were 22 men at the post where our headquarters were. The men were posted in front some distance, so that the fire at headquarters is hid by a hill from the line of pickets. They are posted camp guard fashion, one in a place from ten to twenty rods apart according to the ground are relieved every two hours. Brooks and I put up our rubber blankets for a shelter made a fire in front and sat under our shelter feeling quite comfortable. It stopt snowing at noon but continued damp and rained all the time after midnight covering the bushes with ice, the first that I have seen

2. on the trees. It is very unpleasant for anyone to get around when it is so dark that you cannot see anything only to look up towards the sky and just discern the tree tops. I ran into a stream of water that I was trying to walk by the side of down a square jog four feet struck on my feet and did not do any damage. I was out four hours during the night, the rest of the time was under our blankets by a good fire. In the morning it came up clear and beautiful and cleared off the ice and the birds sang as merrily as one could wish. I heard a phoebe this morning. Our dinner answered for dinner and supper it was hard bread, beef and sauce with coffee. Brooks had a few dried apples that came from home. The same for breakfast minus the sauce in addition five small potatoes that I took out.

I sometimes think of the quiet nights at home when I am blundering among the stumps and mud or brush at night. Think I can appreciate a good nights rest when I get home as well as any one. I was suprised at meeting Frank

3. when I get into camp. I wish he was home for a month for he is not much better than he was seven weeks ago. Says he should not like to go to the ground ever again. He can have a comfortable place here. Wish I could do something to make him better but haven't any thing to do with. March 12, after breakfast. I received your welcome letter of the 6th last night just at bedtime. If I can conjure up enough to fill this sheet I shall and leave your letter to answer tomorrow. We had a few minutes of lively excitement last

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night. At ten o'clock the long roll sounded in earnest. I was fast asleep at the time but was not long getting awake and we were under arms double quick time. All that I could learn was that some rebel cavalry had crossed somewhere. Do not know where. Four companies were ordered out don't know where and the rest dismissed with orders to be ready at a minute warning to fall in line until four o'clock in the morning when roll would sound a

4. again. I was glad to get off so easy for I was tired not having slept much the night before. We sprang out in quick time when the drum beat at four everything had been quiet through the night and we stacked arms in street and went to our quarters. This is the first time we have been aroused in the night. I suppose you will hear of some rebel raid before this gets to Cheshire.

I hope that if our men get after them they will chase them so that they will stay chased a while. You asked about Lieut. Bassett the other day. There has been no official notice of his dismissal from the service. He asked an officer on Gen. Williams staff what he should do. The officer said never mind any thing about newspaper reports. Col Ross said that he would let the adjutant Gen. know that he could not discharge one of his men without a hearing. Say to all the men that like the old flag, to be wide awake this morning. I look on anyone that endorses the Hartford platform of being as good as Benedict Arnold. I feel quite hopeful thinking that a better time is coming. Titus Much love to you and my dear children.
Mofs

Top of first page I will try to send another after this tomorrow. I had all the stamps I needed and some to spare.