

Wells Hospital Near Chattanooga Tenn
Oct 7th 1863

Dear Wife - I have written quite frequently lately - since
the battle is at least since I returned from Big Springs
but I do not expect you will get the letters very
regularly - The roads are very uncertain I do not know
that any of them have been lost - but a wagon train
of three or four hundred wagons - loaded with supplies
was destroyed - Wagons and all burned and the men
killed - - Our Regiment has just returned from the
scene of the slaughter. More than a thousand men
were brutally butchered by blowing their brains out with
revolvers and carbines - they said there was a score of
them - and supplies by the thousands - Camp equipage
Officers baggage - private goods &c The Christian Commission
lost two tons of goods - principally reading matter -
several officers lost over one hundred dollars worth of
clothing - - but the deed is done and can't be helped
it was a fine sight for the Rebels - it would have been
if they could have taken it all with them - but they
had to leave in a hurry and burnt it as a last resort
they will not get a chance to do such a thing
soon again - The valley is well guarded now
and I guess we are perfectly safe though the Rebels
are camped all around Chattanooga to the
South and South East - though there is a rumor
to night that they are evacuating their position -
they ^{may} make a dash on our lines some where - and
there is a good deal of it - Knoxville is fast
making Chattanooga - what Bragg should have
done - that is a strong place - There are big hills
and little hills all round the place and they are
rather formidable - are all of them - To day a

fine Mansion was destroyed to make room
for earthworks - - The Rebels are too lazy to build
forts - or they could have held all this country
in spite of us - I had business over in
town to day - and I took time to hunt up
the 93rd Ohio - I found them through the aid
of the Army Directory - I found Bro. Jo. were
and hearty - Cousin J. W. Montgomery is in the
same Company - - Company K 93rd Ohio vol
First Johnson's Division - Billy Hatfield
is - Pratt - and Aaron Book are near by
in the 1st Ohio vol - they all seemed quite well
and looked like soldiers - They were all in the
fight and some of them hurt - I had not
time to play with them but a few minutes - but
will try and see them often while they stay
near us - I can't get away often and then
it requires a pass to get across the River
Hill when necessary I can get one -

I had intended telling something about our
movements previous to the great Battle but
I was so very busy - or couldn't get paper or
solve other trouble till the fight and then of course
everything was laid aside and hard work and bloody
work was the order of the day - some of our marches
will long be remembered - we were out first one load
and then another getting the lay of the Country -
and trying to find where the Rebs were - every little
while we'd find a big nest of them and then we'd
have to dodge back to our Camp - day marches and
night marches and such like work had hard tack
and pork and coffee taste quite good - if you will
examine the map - you will see a little town
on the edge of Georgia (marked Hogg's
ville) we went over that way one day - through
the forest - and there we found a very strong

of the Boys - but our Boys drove in their Pickets so
easy that we thought there wasn't many of them
and took the Crowd - So our Artillery was
run up on some high ground and we opened
on the town and their Camp beyond - and for
a while we got up a perfect uproar - every body left
the place - Clouds of dust up the valley away
beyond marked the place where Crowds of Cavalry
were hurrying away supplies - but after a while they
found we were not in very strong force - they commenced
firing - first one then another big gun and into
open ground beyond the town and about as high
as we were - presently a puff of smoke then two
reports - one from the gun the other from the shell
bursting half way between us and them and
just over the town, the other guns opened on
us the same way and with the same results
except one solid shot - that came crashing right
down nearly among the top of Capt. of our Regt
but doing no harm - from indication of one
kind or another the Genl thought we had
found out about as much as it was safe to
know and that the Rebels had two or three
times as many men as we had and would
leave fight as well - as we didn't come out to fight
we took the back track once more - and as it was nearly
night we only traveled about five or six miles - and
as the Boys had been started out at three o'clock in
the morning - we camped right down on the ground
in an open field carelessly leaving fires burning - that the
boys had built to make a cup of coffee - - When about
10 o'clock or all except the Pickets were sleeping soundly
whang, Bang, Boom - Came shot and shell right
up into our Camp - The boys making the best kind
subject in the war can imagine the explosion - I think
some of them were slightly hurt although I

Could not find any one that would loan it —
for my part I slept so sound that it took two
or three shots to awaken me — but I got up — rolled
up my blankets — and put them in the Ambulance — and
then got on my horse — and followed the Ambulance
back two or three hundred yards — and as the Regiment
was in line of battle between me and the Rebels
I coiled down by the roots of a tree and slept
till morning — I had plenty of company — however
near by — for soldiers when not on duty will coil
down and sleep anywhere as often as any way
not even seeking the shelter of a tree —

Next morning everything being quiet the forces gradually
took up their line of march for our head quarters —
we were almost constantly on the move — up to the
time of the battle but we shared with but little
that would interest you in paper — it will do to
tell when I get home —

The winter is just ready to start and now I
have it time to fill my sheet
Good bye (Wm. W. Henry)