

End of furlough; return to camp June 25-July 1, 1862

[June] 25th [1862] –

Night stormy, cool. Hard thunder storm from 12 to sunrise. Morning cool, cloudy. B. fair, s.e.

Rested very well. Still on the mend all round. My furlough expires today, and I must do the best I can to get to the company. Marb went out with the wagon, and Ella and I went with him to the road at nine. We had to wait till nearly twelve for the hack, and then found it full, but with “room for one more.” She got a seat inside and I one on top. We arrived in Columbia a little after one. We spent the afternoon at ‘Manda’s, and went to Ed’s to stay over night. By hard persuasion Ella put the stripes on my pants and partly trimmed my jacket with the new Braid.

Day pleasant: cloudy, warm. Breeze fair.

26th –

Night pleasant. Morning same, cloudy. B. fair.

After breakfast we returned to ‘Manda’s. Ella finished putting the chevrons on my jacket, while I made my preparations to go back to the regiment. She gave me my clothes all dirty – excepting one towel – and I have worn these I have on more than a week. I bade the folks good bye at nine, and started. Ella went out to the gate with me. She gave up the watch, and would not take it again. She would scarce speak, and when she did speak it was so cold and unfeeling that it sent a chill to my heart. When I had paid up everything that was due, with all our expenses for medicine, etc., and paid my fare to St. Louis, we had but about eleven dollars left. This we divided. She took one half and I the other.

Ella hinted, a few days ago, that she might prove unfaithful to her marriage vows and obligations, to make a living. I told her the consequences of such a course, and did all I could to induce her to remain faithful. I told her that if she would be true, and wait a little while longer, all would be well, and happiness the result, but if she abandoned her virtue nothing but ruin and misery awaited her; both here and hereafter. When I bade her good bye, she only gave me a cold shake of the hand, and an unfeeling farewell. Not so much warmth in it as if I had been a perfect stranger. I left her, with a sad heart, feeling desolate, proceeded to the post office, took a seat in the stage and started for St. Louis.

I arrived in the city about one o’clock, and went to see the doctor. I told him how his certificate was treated and he said I had not gone to the right officers. He gave me another certificate and I took it as he directed, but it was not accepted there. I then went to the transportation office to get a pass for Rolla. I was directed to Scofield Barracks: 8th and Couteau Ave. I met 2 M Sergt. Davidson, of our Regt. who said the regt. was at Rolla, but would start to Batesville as soon as he got back, and he was going in the morning. I went to the barracks to get the pass, but found myself fast before I was aware of it. I will have to wait the movement of the transportation officers, and may have to stay here a week or more. I can’t get away till they see fit to send me away. I found a Sergt. of Co. C in the barracks, in the same fix as myself.

I am heartsick for fear of Ella. May God protect, and save her from ruin. Almost everything I touch, or undertake, seems to cover with blight and mildew. All ahead looks

like ruin, desolation, unhappiness, so far as this world is concerned. O! God! Shield us from destruction!

Day pleasant: warm, cloudy. Breeze fair.

27th –

Night pleasant, warm. Morning same, cloudy. B. fair.

Rested very well, considering the circumstances. I got out a few minutes this morning and bought some tobacco. I saw the Rolla train at the depot, but dare not go to it. It is gone now and I have to wait another day, at least.

Spent the day mostly in the barracks, a close, unpleasant place, in warm weather. The fare is rather hard. Only bread, coffee, and fat meat. Once in a while beans and potatoes. The bread is very good, but the balance is poor. Some two hundred were sent to their commands this afternoon, leaving one hundred here yet.

At five, this afternoon, I got a pass and went up into the city. I bought a pair of shading glasses and some stationery. I met O. Serg't. Felt of Cop. G, our Reg't, and conversed with him a short time, and returned to the barracks.

Day warm, Generally cloudy. B. light.

28th –

Night warm. Morning same, clear. B. light.

Rested tolerably well. The boards were hard. I was up before six. I bought some milk, and made my breakfast of it and some bread. About seven a transportation pass was handed to Serg't Frost of Co. C. for himself, me, and two men of other regiments, at or beyond Rolla. We were ready for a start in a few minutes afterward. We left the barracks at 7½, and were soon at the depot. Our train started out 8½, and landed us in the town of Franklin at 10½. Here we changed cars, and were soon rolling along the S.W. Branch toward Rolla, where we landed at 5. I met with some of the boys, and shortly afterward, with some teams going to camp, some two miles and half south of Rolla. I reached the camp about 6½, and found the boys all well, but one. All appeared very glad to see me among them once more, and look so much better, than when I left the camp at Palmyra.

The camp is situated in a rough, bushy place with a small stream of water passing through it, or rather between the main camp and the mule corral. There is a good spring close by, and plenty of water for all purposes about a military camp. I inquired about my horse, and learned that he had been neglected became poor and bony, and that he had been turned in at St. Louis as unserviceable. The Capt. said he had drawn another for me. My blankets and other things, except my saddle blanket and boots, were not found. The leg had been cut out of one of my boots. I took lodging with O. Serg't Jacobs.

Day warm, mostly clear. Smart shower this evening. Breeze light.

29th Sunday –

Night warm. Morning same, clear. B. light. Rested very well in a small tent, on the ground. Capt. L. called me up this morning and gave me a gun and saber. Our old guns were turned in and we drew in their stead a gun the boys call the "Mississippi rifle." It is a first rate shooting gun, but is as unhandy to load and carry as the old ones. The saber I got was my old one with the sheath and harness changed and the knot lost. The Capt.

pointed out three horses and told me to choose one of them. I took a sorrel about eight years old. He is good looking, clean limbed and appears like a good traveler, but he is not so large nor so fat as my old one was under my care. I got a new canteen, and drew an oil cloth cape, or poncho, intended to be used as a tent in case of necessity, by splicing several together. My saddle was stripped, and turned in at St. Louis, and the Capt. offered me an old broken one, that was not fit for service. I refused to take it, and Lieut. Avery gave me one that he had been using – a good one. My blanket is not yet found. My eyes are still improving, but they are not quite well yet. Staid in camp all day, excepting to go once to the springs. There are two instead of one – twins. They are [sic] good ones, both furnish soft, or freestone, water. Day very warm, few clouds. B. light.

30th –

Night warm, pleasant. Morning same, cloudy. B. fair. Spent the day in camp, among the boys. Nothing worthy of note, excepting that there is some anxiety as to who will be promoted to the Captaincy of Co. H., made vacant by the resignation of Capt. Graham. Lieuts. Avery and Wilcox are the only 1st Lieuts who responded to the call. They are undergoing an examination before a military board for the position. Day moist, cloudy. Rained slowly, a.m. B. fair.

1st July, 1862 –

Night pleasant. Morning same few clouds. Breeze fair.

About camp all forenoon waiting for something to happen. About noon the Capt. handed me a paper from the adjutant's office, detaching me from the company, and ordering me to report forthwith at head quarters in Rolla. I got ready and went to Co. G's quarters to go up with two or three from that company who had received like orders. Soon all were ready, and we started for town. Our party consisted of Col. Glover, Maj. Gallup, O Serg't felt and Serg't House of Co. G. and myself.

Col. Glover was to take command of the district; Maj. Gallup was to be Provost Marshall Gen. of Dist. and Ordnance Officer, O. Serg't Felt was to be Clerk in the Ordnance Office and was to be his assistant, and Serg't House was to be clerk in the Provost Marshal's office. We were initiated into our respective stations and relieved the other incumbents.

Felt and I took an invoice of ordnance stores and ordnance on hand. I took charge of the store rooms, and we occupied the office together.

This evening I saddled my horse and started back to camp and not finding it, I turned back. I came almost into town again, then turned once more and got into camp about nine. I took care of my horse and went to bed.

Day warm, generally clear. Breeze fair.