

From Joseph H. Trego to Alice Trego

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Camp Greenwood

June 1st 1862

My Dear Wife[,]

I left Fort Scott on Monday afternoon in company with Lt. Col. Jenkins, Major Coffman, Chaplain Fisher, Lts. Hedden, and Kelly, Capt[.] Miller and Sixty men. We came together as far as Springfield where we stopped half a day. On Friday morning the Col. and I, with fourteen men started out for this place, the regiment having moved here some days before. We were two days coming through, a distance of 88 miles.

Houston, near which we are now camped, is the county seat of Texas County, on the road from Rolla to Genl[.] Curtis' army and the regt. was ordered here to protect the provision trains that pass over

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this road. I did not find our Company here. they went with a train to Rolla. Hope we will all go there or some other civilized place soon. We are buried up here in a forest where nobody lives and where there is nothing, but mountains, covered every where with trees so thick that we can scarcely see the sun. The teams have gone out twenty five or thirty miles to a valley for corn and will not be back for three days. The hills are awful. There are some things attractive too: the high piles of rock, fine springs of clear water running over clean white sand and gravel and the pines.

I had my tent pitched this morning -- fortunately for me it was left behind with Fairbanks, Minchell and half a dozen others who could not go with the company. Minchell

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helped me to gather a lot of pine boughs to spread over the ground for a carpet, and I am now fixed up as nice as an old maid. Yes, very like an old maid for I would like to be married.

I suppose you received the cactus plant that I made arrangements to have sent you. Sergt. Keesley is an old Quaker friend of mine who came to Kansas with Capt. Allen. Williams and Seaman have gone to Washington, it is said, and I think it not unlikely that a change for the better will be effected in this regiment.

Capt. Clark, a slaveholder in northern Missouri, who has been in the regt. since its organization was killed at Springfield a short time before we arrived there.

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Although on duty as Officer of the day, he became intoxicated and attempted to force a guard and was shot through the heart, as he should be. A house that had been occupied by a squad of

accommodating girls, changed hands and a family moved into it. Those who had been in the habit of visiting the place continued to call without knowing that the former inmates had been removed. This annoyed the present occupants and a guard was placed there to prevent intrusion. The guard did a righteous act. An old nut named Rice was in company with Clarke and fired a revolver at the guard and killed a young lady belonging to the family. Her betrothed was present and he, in turn[,] fired upon Rice, hitting him in the shoulder, inflicting a dangerous

[*written sideways in right margin*]

wound but the old sinner is likely to recover.

I don't know

[*written upside down in top margin*]

when I can get this to a post office, but I will have it ready whenever an opportunity does offer. Write me on receipt of this. [*text stricken through*] A letter may happen to come thro' very soon to Spring

[*written sideways in left margin*]

-field and I shall want to hear from you as soon as I can[.]

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Rolla[.]

Friday Morning, June 6th. I did not have an opportunity to send my letter, and yesterday I came here myself[.] We came fifty miles through forest and are all very well pleased to be out of the wilderness. Col[.] Clayton is to take command of this post and we will probably remain here for some time. We can get anything we want here, and the whistle of the locomotion sounds quite refreshing as a reminder of civilized times.

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A regiment of Dutch came up from St[.] Louis, last evening. They are on their way to Springfield. It is reported that a large force is marching on Springf[ield] and it is likely that a large additional force will be added to what is already there of our own troops. There may be a good deal of fighting yet in Mo. The Dutch that came up on the cars last evening are a part of Sigel's men.

A company of men, part from Ark. and the rest of this state, under command of one Coleman have been engaged in destroying gov. trains for some time past. The regt. was ordered into the mountains at Houston to dispense or arrest this party but they are not to be caught in the vicinity of any considerable number of Federals.

Lt. Morse took 40 men, was gone 3 days and brought in last night. Several of the party who had returned to their homes since destroying the last train that started to Genl[.] Curtis. Our company has been scattered about for two weeks in five difference places but this morning we

are all together again

*[written upside down on page 5]*

except four that are in Kansas and [MS. illegible] and one other with him who were left 30 miles west of us, hunting their horses, which escaped from them night before last when they were scouting for Coleman's men.

They have had small-pox in the Regt. but there is now no case of it in the camp. We have had rainy weather since Monday night. to-day is dull but no rain.

I hunted around on the mountains for some new flower to send you but could find nothing[.] there is not even grass there and if we had not been ordered away our horses would soon have been unable to carry us away.

Your affectionate Husband