

11-14-1862

Letter from Robert Hanson to Jacob G. Armstrong

Robert Hanson

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then Back to Lagrange once to Jackson went that trip in the Car. the road has been repaired all through. Soon the road will be in order as far as Holly Springs 30 miles distant from here. The Boys make desert feel them now all kinds stock has been taken very strict orders has been issued and will be enforced I believe death being the penalty for destroying property. Some of the Regts have behaved worse than savages. burnt human beings. Better aim a shot to get the citizens

Head Quarters 2^d Brigade
3^d Division Army of Mississippi
La Grange Nov 14, 62

Frienc Jacob

Your letter arrived and was perused with much pleasure; also Shavilla. We are now waiting for to morrow to resume our march after Gen Price who has evacuated Holly Springs and is now some 19 miles south of that place, and it is intention of Grant to follow him up. I am perfectly satisfied but preferred to have had the fight here. We expected a fight and had every arrangement for the play but Co: when we were ready the vile bird had flown but ere long he will be cornered and will have to fight, I expect that will not be untill we drive him to Vicksburg. which we will do for we are bound to end the war in this part rebeldom before

the Holydays and will do it if we have half a chance
Lagrange. was one time a very pretty place but its
beauty is marred. and it will be many years before
it will be what it once was. Several prisoners
was sent in to day taking by the Cavalry it
seems to me that they are tired of war and gave
themselves up as an easy way to get out of it.
I wish that ~~now~~ the powers that ^{be} would keep the
prisoners that they take. as soon as they get back
they are pressed in the army and we have fight them
over again. Our Brigade is larger now than it has
been 68th Co. 18 out of 200,000 23rd Div, constitutes
the Brigade Col Leggett commanding and your
humble servant is Brigade P. M. it keeps me
very busy. Sometimes have to walk 20 miles to
get the mail. I have traveled over two hundred
miles in the past week every other day to Bolivar then well and eat a good dinner of fried chicken

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the Repts have behaved worse than savages. burnt
houses barns cotton gins. Just to get the citizens
out so that they could plunder. I have no
objections to a man killing a hog sheep or steer
but to burn property it is wrong and brings disgrace
on all. When we leave this camp I expect that the
boys will have to carry their tents or leave them
and do without I would sooner do without my
self than be compelled to carry along a heavy load.
I can march as far as any other man but do not like
to make a pack mule of myself. I do not care
what we take or how we take it so that by doing
it we can be able to finish this war before spring.
I was sorry to leave Bolivar there I had a good time
better than I expect to have again in Dixie.
I shall always have a warm feeling for the
citizens of that town. I went on Monday last
about six miles from here to see a friend four
miles then well and eat a good dinner of fried chicken

and other things. also listened to the Piano
and some vocal music done by Miss Scott they
reside in Mississippi brought back my pockets
full of apples. This afternoon we had flag
raising. Music & speeches by Genl McPherson
& Gen J A Logan. the exercises passed off
very pleasantly. Please say to Elavilla that I will
write to her in a few days perhaps by that time
I will have something interesting to write about
La Grange is full of Contrabands who availed
themselves of Lincoln's proclamation and left their
masters and are now getting ready to go north.
Their dress is very peculiar some of the women have
silk dresses and coarse breeches without hose
present quite a picture. I hope I will have
a good time Western Virginia. It is healthy there
with the pure mountain air, but awfully cold
the weather here is rather warm prospects of
rain had some rain last night.

I must now bring
my letter to a close Give my kindest regards
to the family & Yourself please write soon
and believe me yours as ever

P. Hanson

Direct 2^d Brigade 3^d Division Gen Logan
La Grange Tennessee
R. H.

November 14, 1862

Head Quarters 2d Brigade

3d Division Army of Mississippi

LaGrange Nov 14, 62

Friend Jacob,

Your letter arrived and was perused with pleasure; also Flavilla. We are now waiting for tomorrow to resume our march after Gen Rice who has evacuated Holly Springs and is not 19 miles south of that place and it is the intention of Grant to follow him up. I am perfectly satisfied but preferred to have the fight here. We expected a fight and had every arrangement for the play, but lo when we were ready the vile bird had flown but ere long he will be cornered and will have to fight. I expect that will not be until we drive him to Vicksburg which we will do now for we are bound to end the war in this part rebel down before the Holydays and will do it if we have half a chance. LaGrange was one time a very pretty place but its beauty is marred and it will be many years before it will be what it once was.

Several prisoners was sent in today, taken in by the Cavalry; it seemed to me that they are tired of war and gave themselves up as an easy way to get out of it. I wish that the powers that be would keep the prisoners they take. As soon as they get back, they are pressed in the army and we have fight them over again.

Our brigade is larger now; there it has been 68 OVI, 78 OVI & 20 OVI, 28th Ind constitutes the Brigade. Col Leggett commanding and your humble servant is Brigade P.M. It keeps me very busy. Sometimes have to walk 20 miles to get the mail. I have traveled over two hundred miles in the past week; every other day to Bolivar, then back to Lagrange. Once to Jackson went that trip in the cars. The road has been repaired all through. Soon the road will be back in order as far as Holly Springs 30 miles distant from here.

The Boys make Secesh feed them now. All kinds stock has been taken. Very strick orders has been issued and will be enforced. I believe death being the penalty for destroying property. Some of the Regts have behaved worse than savages. Burnt houses, barns, cotton gins. Just to get the citizens out so that they could plunder. I have no objection to a man killing a hog, sheep, or steer but to burn property it is wrong and brings disgrace on all. When we leave this camp, I expect that the boys will have to carry their tents or leave them and do without. I would sooner do without myself than to be compelled to carry along a heavy load. I can march as far as any other man but do not like to make a pack mule of myself.

I do not care what we take or how we take it so that by doing it we can be able to finish this war before spring. I was sorry to leave Bolivar. There I had a good time, better then I expect to have again in Dixie. I shall always have a warm feeling for the citizens of that town.

I went on Monday last about six miles from here to see a friend. Found them well and eat a good dinner of fried chicken and other things. Also listened to the Piano and some vocal music done by Miss Scott. They reside in Mississippi. Brought back my pockets full of apples.

This afternoon we had a flag raising. Music and speeches by Gen McPherson and Gen. J.A. Logan. The exercises passed off very pleasantly. Please say to Flavilla that I will write to her in a few days. Perhaps by that time, I will have something interesting to write about. LaGrange is full of contrabands who availed themselves of Lincoln's proclamation and left their masters and are now getting ready to go North. Their dress is very peculiar. Some of them have silk dresses and coarse brogans without hose. Present quite a picture.

I hope T S will have a good time Western Virginia. It is healthy there with pure mountain air, but awful cold. The weather here is rather warm, prospects of rain, had some rain last night.

I must now bring my letter to a close. Give my kindest regards to the family and yourself. Please write soon and believe me yours as ever

R Hanson

Direct 2d Brigade, 3d Division, Gen Logan, LaGrange Tennessee