

Forest Mills Tenn. March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 64

Dear Uncle and Aunt:

I received your ever  
welcome letter yesterday, I am very glad to  
hear that you are all well up on the  
old hill, and hope this may find you  
still in the enjoyment of good health.  
I well these days and feeling frustrated  
we are still guarding the workmen that  
are taking up the Weiminville railroad,  
we are having gay old times here  
now, we move one mile every  
day, but we have very little duty  
to do. The regt in camp drills five  
hours each day, that's poor for them  
the boys laughed at us when we come  
out here because they thought they was  
going to have the best of us but now  
they have to drill and we think  
the laugh is now on our side.  
The boys are all well I believe. Phil  
has not arrived to the regt yet.



a <sup>8</sup>squad of eighty guerillas made a raid on the railroad up near where Co. E. is stationed, they tore up a rail and run the train off the track and plundered everything, they robbed the passengers of all they had watches money and even striped some of them of their cloths. Co. E. had a short skirmish with them and killed two of them they passed within six miles of us but did not see fit to make us a call our cavalry has since captured thirty of them, and put them all out of the way, they were either hung or shot after they were captured. There is no mercy shown a guerilla if he is taken, and its not likely they will show us much if they take us. The boys all say they will never be taken alive by a guerilla for my part I prefer death by shooting instead of hanging so I shall never surrender to one of these low lived cowardly guerillas. I saw a tree when we were



out to Barn's Mill where they had  
 hung three of our men, they threw  
 a rope over a limb and drew them  
 up as they would so many dogs. well  
 Aunt Polly I see that the folks up there  
 still keep getting married. I guess they  
 dont think much about the soldiers  
 boys. if they keep on I dont know but  
 I shall desert out of pure spite,  
 but on the whole I rather think not  
 for when I serve three years I have  
 served my part, and at that time  
 I shall say good bye to a soldiers life.  
 I hardly think Mary Horron done as well  
 as she would to have had Frank, but  
 I am not acquainted with Mr Blossard.  
 I know though that Frank Nelson is a  
 good fellow. we are having very nice  
 weather, it seems the same as it used  
 to up there the middle of May, the rainy  
 season is over again, and we are now  
 looking for and breaching the hot  
 weather. it is reported that Dave Rogers  
 is to put in. Lieut in our company



The boys all say that if he is they  
 will lay down their arms and refuse  
 to do duty under him, if anything  
 of the kind happens I shall not be  
 one of the backward ones in it. I am  
 always ready and willing to do my duty  
 at any place or any time. but to have  
 Dave Rogers placed over us as an officer  
 is outrageous, and if we can do  
 anything to prevent it we shall surely  
 do it. Wiley is enough for one Company.  
 you must excuse poor writing for the  
 woods is a poor place to write in. and we  
 are in the woods here, in earnest for  
 it is three miles out of them the  
 nearest way. I do not think of anything  
 more to write so I will close. good bye  
 from your

Nephew  
 Henry Welch

P.S. I will send you a ring  
 in this letter, write soon  
 Henry.





Mr. Franklin Garner  
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Washington Co.  
N.Y.