

Elk River Tenn. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Uncle and Aunt,

Your ever welcome letter has come to hand and this evening I will spend it in answering it. I need not tell you how glad I am to hear from you for you already know that nothing gives me more pleasure than to read your letters. I always like to hear how you and the rest of the folks are getting along up there on the old hill, its a grand old place, and I never enjoyed myself better than I did the few days that I spent up there, but those times are all past now and I find myself a great many miles from the scenes of my ~~early~~ younger life, and no one knows save him who rules above whether I shall ever return alive or not but we know that he doth all things well and in him we must all place our trust still hoping for the best. I am in the best of health and myself as well as the rest of the boys are all in fine spirits and all getting along most finely. we have left Bridgeport at last and now we are seventy miles from Nashville guarding the railroad bridge that crosses the river at this place, we have got good quarters and everything is pleasant here, Elk river is the finest looking stream



That I ever saw the water is very clear we are  
 trying to get some boats if we get some we will  
 have great times, there is a good many wild  
 ducks and geese about the river. I have  
 been out hunting them twice but have not  
 killed any yet, I am going to try them in  
 earnest one of these days and then game must  
 come in. The bushwhackers its reported are pretty  
 plenty about here this winter. Lieut Col Rogers  
 went out with about a hundred men to rout  
 some guerrillas that were said to be five  
 miles from here prowling about the neighbo-  
 hood, they took a few men and a night  
<sup>parted</sup> pickets Nathan Danphere of Co D  
 had been on his post but a short time  
 when he was shot dead the ball passing  
 through his heart the man that shot  
 him run off as soon as he fired, he fell  
 over something and dropped his gun and  
 hat his gun had his name on the  
 stock of it, he has not been captured  
 yet but scouts are still sent out to  
 hunt him out. I was on guard the  
 day they went out and so missed  
 the chance of going, I should have liked  
 to gone out with them. yesterday Andy  
 Harris and myself went out four  
 miles looking about the country but  
 we did not see any guerrillas nor hardly



anything else we went into one old building  
 and found five men they said that they  
 were citizen's they were rough looking customers  
 and eyed our guns pretty sharp but they  
 did not meddle with us nor did we with  
 them we got back to camp just dark but  
 brought nothing with us. the citizen's are most  
 all strong seesh but they are very kind to  
 us and use us very well. the girls are all  
 seesh and we have some pretty strong  
 and lively arguments with them, but I  
 must own that we cannot get much the  
 start of them and say what we will we  
 can't convince <sup>them</sup> that the South ~~is~~ has done  
 wrong. the women here do not use tobacco  
 as freely as the women did down to bridgeport  
 hardly any of them here use tobacco. I don't  
 think you done the fair thing letting Ora  
 get married when you knew I wanted  
 her so, and had my heart so set upon it  
 you can't begin to imagine how bad I felt  
 when I heard that she was lost to me  
 I really had a good mind to jump into the  
 river and drown myself or go out in the  
 woods and bump my head against a tree  
 but finely I came to the conclusion  
 that Ora was not the only woman in the  
 world and I began to think better of it  
 I have just heard that Philo has got his



His furlough renewed, wont he have a  
 grand time, I would like to be with  
 him a few days I think I might  
 enjoy myself for a while. methinks that  
 Isaac is making some bold strokes for a  
 boy I guess that he has given up the idea  
 of going to sea without it is to see some  
 fair maiden that is the see that takes  
 my eye. I think by what I that they are  
 having pretty good times at the Academy  
 this winter. Oh when will this cruel war  
 be over and we at home again. well one  
 year more and I am confident that our  
 sorrow will be over. <sup>not</sup> if in that time  
 then we will willingly stay longer  
 for we are bound to see this rebellion  
 cleared out. but for fear you will  
 get tired of reading this ill written  
 letter I will close and wait an answer  
 to it my respects to all

from your  
 Nephew  
 Henry Welch





Mr. Franklin Gannor  
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