

Head Quarters 1st West Cav
Bethel Tenn Sept 13th 1863

197

His excellency Andrew Johnson
Military Governor of the State of Tennessee

Reposing special confidence in the integrity
and Patriotism of Wm K W Breckenridge
of Wayne County Tennessee I do hereby
nominate and appoint him Lieutenant
Colonel First Regiment West Tennessee Cavalry
Volunteers, Raised under the act of Congress
approved July 22nd 1861 and I do hereby
Recommend him to the Honorable Andrew
Johnson for Commission to bear date from
this day Hoping this will meet your
approval and that you will send his
Commission immediately. I Remain
Yours

Fielding Christ
Col. Comdg
1st West Tenn Cav

Deatsville Tenn
May 31st 1863

My dear husband

This being the first opportunity I
have of writing or rather sending a letter to you I embrace it
with the greatest pleasure. I have regretted so often I did not
start to Perryville immediately after hearing of your arrival at
that place, but circumstances being such at that time I did not
deem it prudent, but imagine my feelings when I ascertained
I could have gone with the greatest safety, but alas, at too late an
hour, for when I received this information you were far down the
River. Col Breckenridge handed me your letter the evening of your
departure, and I was happy indeed to hear from you, that you were
well, and had been taken by such perfect gentlemen, as I now believe
them to be. I was perfectly satisfied after hearing of your being taken, but
felt some anxiety about your destination, I was fearful Alton I felt
would be your fate, for heartrending it would be to any one to have this

Relations or friends sent to that place. Awful and horrid as it
 has been represented, I would like as much for you to take the
 "Oath" and come home and stay if agreeable with your feelings
 But if you do not feel as disposed, I must content myself with
 The anticipation of your soon being exchanged. And one country
 thought finds refuge in my brain. Though in prison and
 deprived of many liberties, far from home and loved one you
 are not exposed to bullets, and the many trials incident to a
 soldiers life. How hard indeed must be a soldiers life at best
 Beset with the many temptations attending a camp life, at every
 turn deprived of the luxury of home and counsel of kind friends
 how can we wonder so many have been led astray perhaps never
 to return. But may I not hope, may I will hope that you have
 been enabled to resist every temptation. Oh how I hope, and
 at an early period too, that the bouds Peace may spread her
 wings o'er our once happy and prosperous country. That we may
 be permitted to live and see tranquility restored to our land
 and a permanent peace established. Oh that the leaders of this
 horrid war would look to their Country's good instead of
 pursuing the glittering bubble of fame. But little do they
 know. Little do they consider the desolation brought
 on their land and the many thousands happy homes &
 firesides by war begot in pride and luxury. The child
 of Malice and revengeful hate. But let them have
 one look at the battle field where death may be seen in
 its most shocking and revolting form, where nought is
 heard, but the shrieks of the wounded and dying. The
 bubbling groans as the blood oozes from the death wound
 and the mournful wailing note of pain, what kind of pain
 Such as is caused by arms torn from their sockets, eyes
 put out by the bayonets thrust hearts torn from the
 yet living bodies and the wounded trampled beneath
 the iron shod hoofs of the war horse. I can give
 but a faint description for what pencil snatches from
 the hands of a friend. Could paint it in sufficiently
 horrible colors I say could they have one gaze and
 imagine loved ones a participant in such misery, I
 can not but think they would stop. And reflect in the

wild career But enough of this. Your Pa has
 just returned from Columbia where he was sent after
 Mr. Sedbetter a citizen arrested on the other side of the river
 he had him released after some little difficulty. Aunt
 Lizzy has been quite sick the past few weeks, but
 is now some what recovered. I am fearful the
 summer season will be more than she can bear
 The children are in fine health. Leland has had the sore
 eyes but they are now well. Uncle William & the family
 Grand Father & Grand Mother are all very well. Jennie J. says
 give Tom her love also Venia. Jennie has quite a
 nice bean (a soldier) from her description of him. She
 calls him her bean though she says she is afraid she
 cannot captivate him - his heart is invulnerable to cupid's
 darts But she will not despair but make good the old proverb
 "Live in hopes &c"

Estina and the family sends love to you Leland says
 "Bankes got Pa and gone Chicago" (Chicago he means)
 I know you think this is an uninteresting letter
 for I have seen the day this would be only a beginning
 I will close hoping to see you very soon. Write the
 first opportunity without fail. May the good one ever
 Guide and Protect you will bony prayer untill
 death
 affectionately your wife
 W. E. Scott

This letter was read by Mrs Scott
 to her husband a prisoner.