

Camp Sugar Creek Benton Co Arakansas

March the 13 1862

Dear Wife

I once more take my pen in hand to let you
know that I am in the land of the living
I got a letter from you last night Dated
Feb the 15 it cam to me while on picket guard
I was glad to here from you but Sorry to here that
that you was not well I am well and as hearty
as a Buck I got a letter from fred last night he
was well he is still at old Port comfort You will
here of the great Battle before you get this I believe
that they call it the Battle of Pea ridge it don't
make no difference about the name it was a hard fought
B[stain] they fought for three Days Seg[hole]l fought them
the first Day he fought them and Retreated all
Day the Sixth. the 4 Iowa was camped at cross hollow
that ["night thare in" is crossed out] Co F was about 3 miles from
thare guarding a mill about 10 oclock that night
thare was a runer Sent Down to us to tell us
that old Price was advancing on us and we
thought that it was time for us to be a skedadling
out of thare So we pulled up Stakes and left
we got to Sugar creek the morning of 6 about
Sunrise we rested that Day on the 7 a general engament
took place Seagel fought them on the left and
Col Cars Division on the right Segal had
the largest force but he Did not have to fight
any harder if he Did as hard as the right Division

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they Drove us back on the right about a mile
the first Day but we gave them fits the 8 the 4 was
in the fight on the 7 that is they Did not get in
a general engagement they might some of them
got a few random shots but they did not like
to try the Black coats again as they term the 4 Iowa boys
the 4 and 5 companies of the 35 Ill Sufferd
prety severly 5 co of the 35 was all that was thare
So I understand the Ill boys fell Back after the
rebles fired about three rounds at them and left
the 4 to Stand the Blunt of the fight and they
Stood it right well to be new beginers, how long
they[previous word crossed out] we fought I dont know some says that that we was
fighting an hour and a half but I cant say it
Did not Seem long, we was a Skirmishing all Day [stain] the
hard fight Did not last more than an hour and a half [stain]
two hours the 4 Iowa lost in killed and wounded and
missing 160 thare was a great many slightly wounded
Such as my self they but me Down slightly wounded
in the hand Such wounds is not of long Duration
my hand was prety Sore for two or three Days but it is
about well now it was caused by a flatend ball or a
biece of a Bum Striking it it numbed it so that
I could not use it for a day or two col Dodge told
us that night that thare was 10 Reg and 12 pices
Of Artillery fighting against us besides their Caveldry
they had a conciderble mumber of them I guess that
that I will stop writing about the Batle as I cant

tell only from hearsay only what I saw thare
Is one thing that I can say and that is that I saw
A good many Dead Sesec I believe that they got
Whiped out right nicely thare was 19 killed and
Wonded in co F I will tell yo the names of those
that was killed and wounded, Abe Homes killed
Dead on the ground WM Debusk Died the next
day, James Sterman Died the 3th day after the
Batre that is all that is dead yet out of Co F
thare is Some more that is Severly wounded
the names of the wounded are B F Smith
J W Smith Sam Harrie James Dorrance
Sylvenis Hyatte A P Hyatte Wm Crandell
Milton Hollyday I guess that is all that is
wonde much I understand that capt Cummings
has writen to the Madisonion and he will give the
full Particulars of the fight and the force that
we had against us I understand that thare
was from 30 to 35 thousand against us we was
about 13 thousand strong if I live to get home
I will give you the full particulars we are now
about 15 miles from the Mo line we came here
Day beore yesterday Co F was on Picket duty yesterday
it is a getting quite warm weather here thare
was some misquetoies around last night the
frogs was a singing and every thing tells that
it is spring it seems that as if I had ought to
be at home plowing few corn but I expect
that I am a doing as much good as if I was
at home

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I have about run out of knews to write thare
was a tram came in from Springfield last night
and thare was several of the boys that was left Back
came along Done come with the balance he is
well and hearty I was sorry to hear that your
mother was sick but I hope that it aint
any thing serious the boys are all well from
that neighborhood Abes Back is some lame yet
from the efects of a grape shot striking
him the Day of the battle, I dont know
how long we will stay here but I expect that
we will stay till we get more reinforcements
and more Amunition and then I have an
Ide that we will take a tramp to Ft Smith
and from thare to litle rock and clean
them out as we go along through Divine
Providence and the help of old Segal I dont
think that it will be much of a job
Segal is one of the best men to fight that
thare isn the united States it cheers the boys
when they see him come along the line it cheers
them a a good deal I guess that I will have
to stop for this time as the boys are going to puting
up their tents and I have got it about full
So I will close for this time tell uncle
Ben that I never got a answer to the last
letter that I wrote to him and I would like
to have him write give my best respects to all
Inquiring friends GB Davis to Catherine Davis

write soon