

Lewisville¹, Sep 6th

Dear Brother,

I take the oppertunity to drop a few lines to you and inform you that we are all well at present and I hope that these few lines will find you are the same state of health. We are now safe again but we have been in some perty tite plases since I have written to you. We had ben laying at Cralorchid² and chased the Rebels back three times. We got orders to go to Ridgmont³ that they wore fighting there. We started and when we got within three miles we herd that the Day was lost. We had to take another road, but it was no road. It went through the fealds and hollows and hils to get around Ridgmont. In the Morning we wore on the other side, but they had cut of our retreat and we had to take the fealds again to get around them and at we fed and wile feeding there was one of the guns went of and hit Philip Mafsner⁴ in the head, Killing him instantly. I was Detaled to stay Back and Berry him right Amongst the Rebels but I got through safe again but ...⁵ was an incident happened to me which I could help but as it is so I must take it. I was Posted on Picket with six men of our Company and our orders was to Keep two men on post all the time to wach. So I Made three parties of them and Made them wach two hours and in the Morning at three O'Clock I told them I was going to lay down and sleep and they should take there turn as I Keep awake all night and I Meerly laid down and slep. They left there Posts and all went to sleep and there was an offaser came around and found us all asleep and the Punishment is perty hard but we got through

¹ Probably "Louisville"

² Might be "Crab orchard"

³ Probably "Richmond"

⁴ Probably "Massner"

⁵ Might be "happened next"

perty safe. We expected to get into Battel that night so we wore all released only that my offas is taken from me and Jacob Basler is put in my plase, but I expect all is for the Best. The Captin says I am quite innosant and told the Collen⁶ so, but he said I must be reduced. I told him I would much rather be reduced innosant than guilty, so I felt quite easy and the Matter it is reported already that I shal be promoted again but wether it is so I do not know. We are now at Lewisville. I have commenesed this letter on the 6 and then was ordered out on a scout again and then I had no stafe Rating and go and will now finished it. We started and went 44 Miles that day and wore first on picket that same night, but the pickets fared Best that night ... Captan was ... Brought ... all as ... as we could ear wher there was names Brought in camp. Then ther was A despatch sent to Lewisville that we wore all captured and they sent us Reínforsiments but we ... to Lewisville again wher we are now. There is nothing partícular going on at present. We may be ordered away hear before long again. There is a great many Rebels in Kentuckey. At (present)⁷ they are nearly over the half state. I have Recieved the Bíbel you sent to me and was very glad to Recieve it. It is large and ... for I must put it in my Pack. The time for we are out almost all the time and have no Baggage with us. If you please you may send me A few Post Stamps. I can write to you when I Have time where I can not get my letters franked. I will now come to a Close, my love to you all.

I remain your Brother,
C T Dechant

Dyrect to Lewisville

⁶ Probably "Colonel"

⁷ Corner of document torn; word guessed