

Davis Mill Mill

Sunday Evening January 18. 1863

My Dear Wife

I wrote you last Sunday evening from this place, and have kept hoping to hear from you again, before writing you again, but as a week has passed and no letter, I will wait no longer. It seems very strange that I should receive only two letters from you, and Lieut-
Benton has had not less than 7 from his wife. I know that it is no fault of yours, but the letters must be miscarried, as you have not failed to write me as often as twice a week. Well may we have had rather a rough week, the past one, have had a very heavy rain, and some 4 in-

ches of snow. Mercury has been down to 8 degrees above zero, and it seems colder than zero at home. A large quantity of rain has fallen and the River has overflowed its banks, and we are on an Island without the possibility of getting off with a team to get our rations. On Friday morning with Lieut Whaley to Grand Junction and Sagrange on foot, and after two days labor, got Rations and passage by Rail Road to Davis Mill. We had no engine but got a detail of 40 men to run us through "by hand".

You will get the full particulars from my Diary which I will send in about a week. My health is still good and although I am very tired tonight still I feel well. I am of the opinion that you are feeling a little lonely tonight, I feel just as though you were in your room, with

the children and feel as though you
would much rather no one would
come in to see you tonight, but leave
you to your own meditations. Well
may I feel about that way tonight,
although it is very unusual, for I
have enjoyed life, and made it
as happy as possible, under any
and all circumstances. If we
could only spend the evening togeth-
er and our children with us, it
would be indeed a treat, but as
that cannot be in body, I feel
that we are at this moment
holding sweet spirit communion,
although hundreds of miles separate
us. I have your Daguerotypes before me
and can almost hear you speak,
but not quite. You must not think
me melancholy, for I am not, only
it does one good to reflect occasionally,
and I am in a reflective mood
tonight, surrounded by many, very

many spirits disembodied, who will
always come to my aid when most
needed. I saw Seth Thomas yesterday,
at the Hospital in Lagrange, he is
better and I expect him to be with
us again in a few days. Jim is
quite well, we are all enjoying
good health. Charles Kennedy is
getting quite hearty and is the same
gentlemanly, dutiful Soldier that
he has ever been, he is a favorite
with all the Men. Lieut. Burton
went to Memphis last Tuesday,
and has not yet returned, when
he comes I expect he will bring
my books, and the Box for the Regt.
Gen. Sumners Division in which
is the 4th is on the march for Memphis,
and is expected to go down the Mississippi
River. It is getting cold again to-
night and our horses will suffer

very much. I am going to work
to putting up Stables tomorrow and
expect that about the time we get
them completed we will get orders
to leave. Give my love to all the
friends, and accept my love for
you and Royce and Gracie. I would
like very much to hear Grace say
ain. Tell Pers he must write me
as often as possible. I wish now
that it had been our fortune to go down
the River, but it may be all for the
best. My opinion is that we will be
very apt to have some fighting with
the enemy's Cavalry, as they are look-
ing round us, their Infantry are
mostly down to Grenada. We are
in the rear, and stand a chance
to try them out, if anyone does. I have
no particular anxiety to fight them,
neither do I dread an attack.
Good night Mary and may God bless
you. Affectionately, your Husband
John W. Cheney