

Bloomfield Stoddard Co
Mo
May 19th / 62

Dear Father

I take this the first opportunity to inform you of my whereabouts. We left the cape the 9th of only leaving the sick and invalids to take care of the tents. We started at dark earned 18 miles the first night stoped fed our horses slept until morning started early next morning stoped in the woods at noon eat our lunch took a snow and off again stoped that night at a place called spring hill (minus the spring) only 7 miles from Bloomfield went to bed without any supper. That night the teams went out foraging got some sheep hens turkeys ducks and gees. In the morning we built fires roasted them for breakfast a kind of supper and ^{breakfast} together. This was Sunday we started again had to ford the whole river got to Bloomfield about 2 o'clock. The town looked deserted about half of the inhabitation have gone away and shut up shops. Monday morning about 400 of us started after some rebels in a swamp about eight miles from here. We went in two parties so to take them on two sides at once but after riding through swamps and brush when we got there the rebels were no where to be found. We joined a company went on some farther through a cypress swamp where the roots stick up about two feet all over the ground. We found an old rebel stoped fed our horses rested awhile and started back to camp ~~at which we reached the next morning~~ (h)

which we reached about ten o'clock. We stoped in the woods close to town hitch our horses to the trees and sleep on the ground. I have not slept in a horse but one night since we left the cape. The next morning after we got back from the rebel hunt we had dress parade raised the flag on the court house then so I went out on another scout we went in two parties on two different ways. I was in the Captains squad 20 of us in all we went to go about 8 miles into a section where no Union troops had ever been before. We had one of the home guard that lived at there for a guide and he knew the boss every time. It was about three o'clock when we made our first call the old gent was out plowing we told him he needent plow any

Direct to the Cape as usual