Murfreesboro April 7th 1863

Dear Friend Hattie,

I read your very kind letter the first day of April and was truly glad to hear that you had resolved to be so punctual in answering my letters for you told me lots of news that no one else writes to me and you was right in judging that the letter a soldier gets are the Oasis in the desert of a soldier's life and here let me ask your pardon and make my excuse for not writing before.

That night, after I got your letter (it came about 3 P.M.) orders came to have three days rations in our haversacks and be ready to march the next morning. A daylight so we got ready and went to bed but the bugle sounded reveille at three and before daylight we were in the saddle and off to the war again. Nothing of interest happened till about four that night when our advance guard came on to the rebel pickets and drove them about four miles when
they were strongly reinforced and we went into line of Battle there was four Regiments of cavalry viz & 10th Ohio 4th Regulars 7th Pennsylvania & 4th Mich our Regiments were held to support the 4th Ohio Battery that was planted on an eminence commanding the turnpike that the rebels would have to traverse on their retreat and the ball opened in less time than it takes to write it the 10th Ohio were attacked and being a new regiment fell back but the fourth Regulars came to their support and the rebels left the field our battery fired two shots without effect and the field was ours without loss on our side the Rebs lost one killed and three wounded they carried off with them and times clock so we encamped on the field that night our Regt on picket and through mistake they shot two horses for the 10th Ohio the boys of the 10th fired on our boys as they were coming to relieve them and our boys shot better than they did and killed two horses the next morning we were in the saddle by five and on the trail after the Greybacks we found them about 10 that morning and I cant tell you all the particulars but you will know we did something when I tell you we went into line of Battle 7 times on horse and 6 times on foot that day and on the worst Mountains I ever saw my horses fell with me once while jumping a side ditch but I came out all right we killed twelve wounded 22 and took about 50 prisoners we lost 1 killed out of the 7th Penn and three wounded we fell back that night we found the rebels had a strong position in the mountains and we thought to take them from another quarter that night our Regt stood picket but saw nothing of any Rebs and in the morning when we got where the rebels was they had gone then we took after them over the hills and through the valleys following them three days then we came back to camp and I was sick two days with Billious Cholic and today being the first opportunity I have had to improve by writing these ill composed but well meant lines to you and as this is the first opportunity I have had I hope youll forgive me for not writing sooner.
before this shall reach you he will have recovered.

You wanted to know if I really thought the soldiers were forgotten in a measure I do especially by those who preached patriotism and would not let their sons go like Old Minion at Galesburg the ones that was so ready to cheer when any one enlisted but who never swelled the number any themselves but those who wrote to me I cannot think have forgotten me.

You wanted to know what I did with my letters I have to burn many of them for I cannot carry a great deal with me but much more than an infantry soldier I think that Nellie Camfield must have seen something more captivating in the Steele family than I ever did or she would have been glad to have got out of the first engagement as well as she did but Ha me there is no telling what the girls will do I hope she will live happy with her
choice and they will enjoy themselves through life.

Hattie I am glad you have got a school to teach that suits you and hope you will enjoy yourself first rate. I won't tell what you said about the folks at Pavilion Center.

I should have enjoyed a visit with Cal Streeter first rate and am glad he has so good a place to work and such good health.

You wanted to know what about furloughs. I don't know whether I can get one or not. I would like to make a visit home first rate but don't know how. I like to have anyone ask me questions in a letter as you do then I know what to write to them. Please write soon and oblige your sincere friend.

Eugene H. Brunson

To

Hattie Taylor