

## Letter From Hayes, John T. written Sunday, April 26th, 1863

Generated on November 15th, 2018 1:07 AM from SoldierStudies.org

Soldier: Hayes, John T.

Allegiance: Union

Unit/Service Branch: 23rd Infantry

Date Written: Sunday, April 26th, 1863

Location: Pacific, Mo.

Correspondence Type: Letter

Subjects: Camp Life, Civilians, Commanders, Daily Life, Enemy, Family, Friends, Prisoner, Rumors, Secesh, Western Theater, Wife/

Beloved Wife and Friends,

It is with reluctance that I write you this morning owing to not receiving any word from you last week. I waited until the mail came in but no messenger came for me and so as said I write once a week, I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and I hope this message will find you all well, you and my sweet baby. Will God Bless his sweet looks. I would like to see him and all the rest of you but it will be sometime if I should live before I can come home. It is true that they can give furloughs but only four at a time and I was too slow and so I can't get one got some time yet but from what I can hear, there will be some doubts about any getting to go home for some time yet.

There is going to be some stirring news from St. Louis and this district from what I can hear. This is a rumor that this is reported - some thirty thousand rebels at Fredrickton, MO but how true I have not heard all about it yet but there is trouble expected in St. Louis. Yesterday there was four or five hundred prisoners sent somewhere from St. Louis. They was guarded by two regiments and a battery of artillery placed where they form them in line so if they, that is the Rebels, if they should get up a move to release them, they would be prepared for them and they have sent all of our men from St. Louis to Pilot Nob (The Colonel being sick in Hospital but better this morning. He ate his breakfast this morning and is better.) The Major received two dispatches this morning from General Davidson. One to keep his detachments close and guard the road well, the other directing him to guard the railroad from the place to St. Louis and send all above on the road forthwith to St. Louis to his headquarters. I think I will stay here for the present at least I think we will - Co. C., Co. H., Co.G. will go to St. Louis. I reckon if ( we) leave here I will write to you again this week. If I don't, I don't know that I will answer your letter. I think I will get one from you tomorrow or soon. I think there is one on the way at least. You need not be surprised if you hear of stirring times in the state. I see it brewing but the bigger the storm the sooner we will have a calm. There is going to be hotter times here than there has been is my prediction but let them show their hand the sooner the better. The Rebels is going to organize all over the state to bring our forces back from the South but if the Militia don't all turn traitor, we can , image them but if the Militia fails, our state will once more hear the cannon roar. The clash of hostile armies for it is madness for them to think they can take this state and hold it. They can't cause that if all the militia would help them. You all rest easy for I will keep you posted. If I can I will tell you all I know but I have nothing more at this time and so I will write you as soon as I can learn anything to write. Now my advice is if any of you can read this I would not tell any one so it would comfort the Rebels if they should get to hear it. To get much sense out of what I have written you will have to guess at some things from the moment . Here all is in motion. Troops moving. Three Regiments passed here for Pilot Nob. So you can guess there is some danger anticipated but to what extent I can't say. These troops came from Rolla where we have a good many in the vacinity.

Well, Pet, as I have nothing more to write I will close for the time, bid you goodbye for the present. Be careful to put the Company and Regiment on the bottom of the letter.

John Thos. Hayes

Ever Yours until death

I will send you Isaac Canady's letter so you can see it and guess what made me write as I did. I will leave all for you to gaze. The weather is delightful here. Everything green and growing.