

Camp<sup>th</sup> Wagon  
Manassas June 25<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Dear Cousin

It has been a long  
time since I have heard from you  
and not knowing whether it was my  
fault or not I venture to write you.  
I have forgotten from what place  
I last wrote you, but think it  
was at Warrinton Va since then  
we have been transferred to Cav  
and are known as 1<sup>st</sup> Wagon  
late 19<sup>th</sup> Wagon Cav since Oct 13<sup>th</sup> we  
have been on the move not stopping  
longer than one day at a place, and  
hardly time to feed our horses.  
Oct 13<sup>th</sup> we broke camp from here to  
report to Catlets Station on the  
Orange & Alexandria R.R. on arriv-  
ing near there Recd orders to return  
to Bristol Station, which we had passed

in rows for Cattlets. We went in to Camp  
across Broad Run Creek for the night  
and next morning were ordered to  
report back to Manassas to join  
the reserve Brigade, which we did  
by noon, & then started for Bull  
Run fields, we camped on the old  
field till noon next day, & started  
again, this time for Head Quarters  
at Centreville. Centreville remained at  
Centreville till Saturday, when we  
rec'd orders to cross Bull Run Creek  
and proceed as far as Manassas as  
I hold that place if possible. All  
went very well till the advance  
came on the advance of the Rebs,  
when they opened on us with Infy.  
the order was given to charge  
when our four Squadrons started  
in full chase, & succeeded in driving  
them from the field, which we held  
till reinforcements came up.

It was the first time our Rest

was ever under fire, as a Cavalry, we  
gained much Credit from the Genl  
Comd. Considering the odds we had to  
contend with, they had one Brigade  
while our force was four Squadrons  
we lost three killed, three wounded  
& one taken prisoner, the morning we  
buried seven of their dead, among them  
one Capt. we would have made a good  
thing of it, had it not have been  
so dark as to hardly distinguish our  
men from the Enemy. On Tuesday  
we advanced up the R.R. as far as  
Cattles, & learned from the inhabitants  
that they lost in killed wounded  
& missing eighty. We arrived at Cattles  
about noon, fed our horses, got dinner  
which consisted of Salt pork & fried  
hardtack and hardly enough of that.  
After eating our very sumptuous meal  
our Squadron went on picket for  
the night, were called in at daylight  
& returned back as far as Bristol Station.

Remained there, till Friday last  
when we started for Gainsville, a  
small Va town on the Manassas  
Gap R.R. The town is about as  
large as most places that boast  
of a name, generally a house and  
two Chimneys and sometimes  
a Barn. Left Gainsville yesterday  
noon, marching all the way through  
mud and rain, reached our old  
Camp at sunset. How long we  
may stay here is more than I  
can tell, but hope to remain long  
enough to rest our horses a little  
which are getting pretty well worn  
out. The Country through which  
we have been, presents a desolate  
appearance indeed, every thing  
is taken by the Soldiers.  
If I were the G. G. I should  
pray for the Rebellion to soon close.  
I have just reced orders to have the  
Squadron ready to move at a  
moments notice. So it goes. I Reced  
a letter from Liffie last week  
she was very well, said she had  
written you <sup>some</sup> time before but had  
reced no reply. Our people were well  
when I last heard from them.