

Letter from Matthew Pate (1840-1863) to brother Sabe Pate (1833-1872).  
Matthew died in war. He served in Co. D, 31st Infantry with his brother John. They both enlisted 30 August 1862 for a term of three years. He had red hair, Gray eyes and light complexion. The record says he was 6" tall, an obvious error. Spelling & grammar are from the original. This Pate family originated in Jackson Co. Tennessee, moving to Jackson Co. Illinois in the 1840s. "Father" is Perlemon Pate (1810-1894) and "Mother" is Ravana Draper Pate (1809-1863).

Camp Jackson  
October 23, 1862

Dear Brother, I take this opportunity of answering your letter which came to hand last evening and which gave us much comfort to heare from you all you wrote in you're your letter that you heard that we had bin in a battle we have bin at Jackson ever since we came from Corinth we have not bin in a battle yet we looked for a fight two or three times while we was out we did not get to Corinth in time for battle by two hours we lay in line of battle two nights but did not fire a volley the Kansas Regiment lost fourteen men one eavning as we went to Ripley out regiment was in the researve you write that theyre has bin so much rain that Buckcoop and iron[?] creek is a mammoth stream it has not rained here but twice since we came here it rained while we was at Ripley it rain from one oclock in the eavning till midnight and we was without blankets or tents we have had two frosts here it is Indian summer here now we drill at seven oclock in the morning and [?] drill at three and dress parade at five a soldiers life is a harde one altho I am not bin deceived in that I am very well satisfied with my situation if it was not for one thing and that is the infernal nigger we have plenty of them here but we are not blessed so well as them that is at Corinth. Sabe you write that you had bin offered ten dollars a hundred for your tobacco that is a very good price but you do as you think best I am glad to here that you have all of it cut except that which is under the back water John and myself is well at this time Monroe is in the hospittle he is better than usual.

I want you to write to me as after you can tell Phillip and Anthony to write and Phillip Carbough and do not wait for me to write first I want you all to write and let us know how you are getting along give my best regards to Uncle Harry and Mr. Griffin and wife. Show this letter to father and mother and the other boys be certain to write there is male nerly every eavning and the other boys of the company gets letters and it appears that mine is few and scattered pleas write as often as you can.

Matthew Pate